

Inspiring others to act is exactly why I have been speaking for over two decades about my father's rescuer who saved him and over 100 Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust. When people hear the story, they not only are moved by the compassion and courage of this individual, but are also beckoned by the story to consider what they would have done. Many of them have told me, "I hope I could have done the right thing under those circumstances" or "I would hope that I could have that kind of courage to help not just a family member but a complete stranger."

The truth is there are circumstances in everyday life that give us opportunities to do the right thing, to help each other. After all, we're all part of the same human family. My friend Jon shared the perfect metaphor, the Banyan tree. "It's not just one tree. Its roots cascade down to the soil and grow another tree off the side. As it reaches out it keeps expanding. It's symbolic of the tree of humanity."

Talking with the elementary school kids and sharing a few stories my kids wrote about their wonderful grandfather, it became clear just how powerful stories can be. The students laughed and resonated with what my kids said. Despite coming from different families and different cultures, the students saw themselves reflected in my family's stories and perhaps were inspired to tell and write their own.

Marta Fuchs, a marriage & family therapist and librarian, is the author of "Legacy of Rescue: A Daughter's Tribute" (available on amazon.com and blurb.com) and co-author with her brother Henry of the multigenerational extended family memoir, "Fragments of a Family: Remembering Hungary, the Holocaust, and Emigration to a New World."

