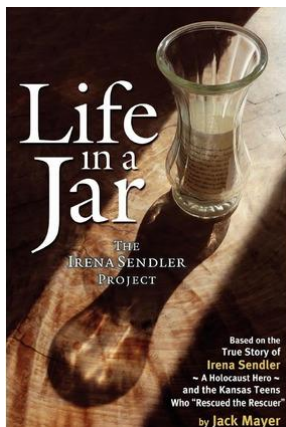




Students Megan Stewart Felt, Elizabeth "Liz" Cambers, Sabrina Coons-Murphy with Irena Sendler

Special acknowledgment and thanks to Life in a Jar Foundation for sharing the material for this play. Please consider making a donation to this nonprofit organization to ensure its continued ability to teach Irena's legacy of love and respect through educational programs.

Mail to: Life in a Jar
1 S. Main, Fort Scott, KS 66701.
Visit IrenaSendler.org
or email nconard@terraworld.net.



Recommended reading: *Life in a Jar – The Irena Sender Project* by Jack Mayer, available at www.IrenaSendler.org.

ADDITIONAL THANKS TO: Patti Kenner, Joan Kretschmer, Norman Conard, Megan Stewart Felt, Aaron Weil, Pam Kancher, Terrance Hunter, Carolyn & Allister Cameron, Martin & Mary Skala, Lloyd & June May, The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida and The Field.

www.LibbySkala.com

The courageous true story of the woman who rescued 2,500 Jewish children during WWII and the Kansas students who introduced her to the world.

Irena Sendler

Rescuing the Rescuer

A solo show by **LIBBY SKALA** Music by **STEVE MAY**

With special thanks to Life in a Jar Foundation • IrenaSendler.org

“Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world.”

– The Talmud

In February 2015, as New York City recovered from a major snowstorm, I was invited to a book talk at the Jewish Heritage Museum by trustee Patti Kenner. For months, I'd been looking forward to meeting her, after a friend suggested she might be interested in having the museum present my one-woman shows.

The book event was for *Life in a Jar* by Jack Mayer, based on the true story of Kansas high school students who in 1999 wrote and performed an award-winning play of the same title for National History Day about Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker who rescued 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto during WWII. (Sendler hid the names of the rescued children in buried jars.) Their play led the students to Warsaw where they developed a transformative friendship with Sendler and brought her to international attention, leading to her 2007 Nobel Peace Prize nomination.

Awed by the talk, I had the privilege of afterwards speaking to Norman Conard, the former Kansas high school history teacher under whose tutelage the students' project had been developed. Mr. Conard encouraged me to write a show about Irena Sendler and invited me to Kansas to visit Life in a Jar Foundation, a non-profit he founded that works with students and teachers around the world to develop unsung hero projects that demonstrate *tikkun olam*, a Hebrew phrase, meaning “repair the world.”

That spring, I went to Kansas, heard the transformative first-hand account of the students' friendship with Irena Sendler and their journey performing *Life in a Jar* for international audiences. Their mission to teach the power of one person to reach over the walls of bias and prejudice to change the world moves me deeply. I am infinitely grateful to Norman Conard and Megan Felt for entrusting me with their stories and for giving me the opportunity to share them with others.



LIBBY SKALA (playwright/actress) premiered her newest play *Irena Sendler: Rescuing the Rescuer* at the London Fringe, where the *London Free Press* called it “Simply gorgeous.” Libby has enchanted audiences internationally with critically acclaimed solo plays about her notable family members: *Lilia!*, about her grandmother, Oscar-nominated actress Lilia Skala, *A Time to Dance*, about her great aunt, dance therapy Pioneer Elizabeth Polk, and *Felicitas*, about her great aunt “Lizi”, a tough-love baby nurse. *Lilia!* ran off-Broadway, produced by Mirror Repertory Company at the Arclight Theatre. *A Time to Dance* won “Best Solo Performer Award” at London Fringe Theatre Festival. All three shows have toured internationally.

Libby's non-solo work includes readings with Rosemary Harris and Marian Seldes from books published by The Feminist Press at the Jewish Museum in NYC. Regionally, she played Viola in *Twelfth Night* at St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival. Film work includes *Birth* with Nicole Kidman. Libby is a graduate of Oberlin College and is an award recipient of The Pandella Cultural Fund in Switzerland. Upcoming performances and more info at www.LibbySkala.com.



STEVE MAY (composer/musician) has been playing music since the tender age of three, when he made his first make-shift violin out of a ruler taped to a cereal box in his native Kentucky. His background includes classical, rock, country, Celtic, bluegrass, folk, jazz, and Brazilian music. As a multi-instrumentalist he has performed in venues ranging from small cafes up to large festivals. His interest in various musical traditions has led him to a variety of recording and performing projects. He composed and performs the music for two of Libby Skala's one-woman plays: *Felicitas* and *Irena Sendler: Rescuing the Rescuer*. Other credits include: Joe Bayer Band; Erica Sunshine Lee; Beltaine's Fire; Steve Ferguson and the Midwest Creole Ensemble; The Clearing; Three at Last; and Lisa Redfern. More info at www.SMay.net.

