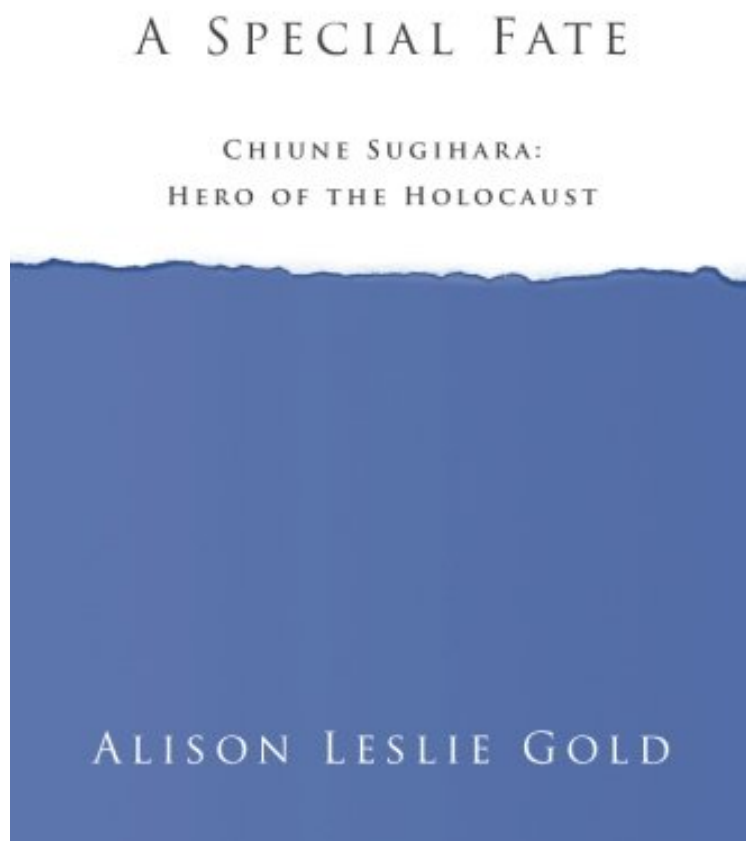


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A Special Fate: Chiune Sugihara: Hero of the Holocaust

Alison Leslie Gold

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Alison Leslie Gold : A Special Fate: Chiune Sugihara: Hero of the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Special Fate: Chiune Sugihara: Hero of the Holocaust:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A shining light in the darkBy Jojo RoseAlison Leslie Gold has written a moving, no heart wrenching, book about a dark time in European history. She weaves together the life stories of Chiune Sugihara) a Japanese diplomat) and the bleak lives of the Lithuanian jews that he eventually saves through his great heroism. Alison writes tenderly of Japan and Sugiharas early life there. When this book first came out in print I read it cover to cover in one sitting. Alison Leslie Golds books never disappoint. Searching for titles on the

Holocaust to assign to my children I found this gem available on my Kindle. I especially appreciate that it is a Japanese man and his wife Yukiko who risk all to save the lives of the suffering Jewry. This angle helps pre-teens and teens alike to see that, although we were in armed conflict with the Japanese in WW2, people are not defined by their governments views. We are all free to make our own ethical choices, even if that freedom involves risk. I recommend this book and Alison Leslie Gold's other Holocaust themed books to all teachers and parents of young adults. They are wonderful historic primers for WW2 based study. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. JAPANESE SCHINDLER By Floyd J. Nelson I loved this story. To me it was the ultimate example of giving. To paraphrase Churchill, So many owed so much to ONE MAN. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I liked the book very much. By Arlene G. I liked the book very much. It covered the story of what happened in Kaunas during WWII very well. You can tell by her writing in several spots that she was writing for a very young audience. Adults who want to read a short book on this subject will like this also. I liked that she wove in the stories of two survivors as it gave more details of what was happening during that time.

When Chiune Sugihara was growing up in Japan, he had never even met a Jewish person. There was no way Chiune could know that he would one day save the lives of thousands of Jews - and become a great hero to the Jewish people. Chiune Sugihara was a diplomat who left Japan to work in Lithuania, a small country in Eastern Europe. Part of his job there was to give people permission to leave the country. At the time, Lithuanian Jews were suffering under Nazi rule, and many hoped to escape before they could be taken to concentration camps. Chiune knew he had to help. Going against the wishes of his boss, Chiune allowed nearly 6,000 Jews to leave Lithuania and escape the Nazis.

From School Library Journal Grade 5-10-A moving account of an unlikely hero. Sugihara single-handedly saved thousands of Jewish lives during the Holocaust. With the support of his wife, he issued exit visas while stationed as a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania. Risking his own life and those of his family members, he responded to the call to help fellow human beings. Ignoring the orders of the Japanese foreign ministry, he handwrote thousands of documents so that Jews could flee Lithuania to travel through Russia to get to Japan and freedom. Sugihara was eventually transferred out of Eastern Europe but not before he and his own family experienced the internment camps of Russia. Eventually, he was fired from the foreign service for his bravery and had to find work elsewhere. At the end of his life, he wondered if his act of compassion had any impact. He was rewarded by learning that many of the survivors had been searching for him to thank him for his gift of freedom. Although Sugihara passed away in 1986, Gold was able to interview his widow as well as two people who were saved by his act. Thus, the many details of the book are authentic. The narrative alternates between Sugihara's story and those of the two survivors, rendering the sacrifices and suffering of each person all the more poignant. This thought-provoking title joins the growing number of fine Holocaust titles for young people. Carol Fazioli, formerly at The Brearley School, New York City Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist It's one of the great Holocaust rescue stories. Chiune Sugihara, Japanese consul in Lithuania, defied his government and personally wrote transit visas for about 6,000 desperate Jewish refugees, visas that allowed them to travel across Russia and escape the Nazis. Ken Mochizuki's *Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story* (1997) was an immediate account for younger readers but left them wanting to know more about the man and the history. Gold's biography fills in the details. She draws on interviews with Sugihara's wife and other witnesses. She also weaves in the stories of two Jewish refugee families. Unfortunately, the awkward, plodding style almost buries the drama. A map would also have helped: where exactly did the refugees go, and how did they get there? Still, the exciting facts will hold readers' interest in the heroic story of one man who did so much. A moving epilogue describes how, after years of grief and disgrace, Sugihara was finally honored in his own country and in Israel. Hazel Rochman About the Author Alison Leslie Gold was born and grew up in New York City. She was educated at the University of North Carolina, Mexico City College and the New School for Social Research in New York City. She has published fiction, non-fiction and journalism, and has also written for radio and television. She has often lived abroad, and presently divides her time between New York City and Greece.