Honoring D-Day
By Ruth Chevion

June 6th marks one of the most important events in modern history. In 1944, on June 6, the allies landed in Normandy to begin the liberation of Europe.

On a personal scale, the day has particular significance in my family because June 6th is also my mother's birthday.

In 1944, my mother had been in hiding in an apartment in Krakow Poland for over a year. The woman who was risking her life to hide her, and others as well, was Alicia Moskalska, a young Polish woman who took no money, but did it out of altruism and Polish patriotism. She was doing her part in the war against the Nazis.

On the morning of June 6, 1944, Alicia said to my mother, "I'm going out to go out to the black market to see if I can find something for your birthday, maybe an orange."

She returned empty handed, and said to my mother, "I didn't find an orange, but I have the best birthday present for you…The allies have landed in France!"

To celebrate June 6, we always get together and of course have a nice dinner, and then we watch the movie "The Longest Day." My mother loved the part in the movie when Eisenhower risks launching the invasion despite bad weather. We always remember Alicia with gratitude, and we honor and thank the many soldiers who died in that invasion.

Alicia Moskalska, the Polish woman who hid my mother for the last 2 years of the war.