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**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.**

Series I: Wexner Heritage Foundation, 1947-2004.

Subseries 1: General Files, 1949-2004.

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Box  
63

Folder  
12

Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project. 1977-2001, undated.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

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**DRAFT**

February 23, 2000

Dear Friend,

The recent Life Reborn conference in Washington was a wonderful emotional experience for all who attended. You may recall that I told my story at the plenary session on Sunday morning, January 16. I was a U.S. Army Chaplain (Captain), stationed in Berlin, who was recruited into the Aliyah Bet and organized The Stettin Operation which brought thousands of DP's into the Berlin camps of Schlachtensee and Tempelhof.

When I finished, so many people - hundreds, crowded around me. Everyone wanted to talk, ask questions, or tell a story, and it was simply impossible for me to give each of you the personal attention you deserved.

So, I decided to write to each survivor who attended that session, to express my thanks for your enthusiasm and invite you to write me a letter: tell me your story, your experience; what you went through; what happened to you; or ask me any question that is bothering you. I promise to answer everyone who writes, giving you any information you want as best as I can recall. It may take some time, depending on the number of letters I receive, but please be patient.

Tell me your story. It is too important to be forgotten. I did not share your pain, but I did share the DP years. We are spiritual comrades.

Shalom and good wishes,

(Rabbi) Herbert A. Friedman

Founding President Emeritus

March 10, 2000

Dear Mr. \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for sending me your story. It was touching in its honesty and so helpful because it was so personal. As I read it, I could feel some of your pain and agony and fear.

Many books have been written about the Holocaust by great scholars; many museums have been erected; many conferences have been convened, the latest in Sweden; and a trial has recently occurred in London wherein a man has denied there ever was a Holocaust. There is great awareness in the world about Hitler's was to eradicate the Jewish people.

But all this activity becomes real only when one student, one teenager, one person today reads the story of what happened to you, personally.

Your story will make it easier for us to communicate the horror and the lessons to the next generation. The slogan "Never Again" is abstract; your personal experience is concrete. Thank you again for responding in your own words.

Gratefully yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman



October 24, 2000

Dear ,

I am enclosing two articles which appeared recently, one from The New York Times and the other from the New York Jewish Week.

If you are interested in submitting your story, which Random House might, or might not, publish, you are invited to send it to the following address:

Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project  
c/o World Jewish congress  
501 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
Attention: Charlotte Trepman Yudin

The World Jewish Congress will then send all stories to Random House.

If you would like me to save you the trouble, I will be happy to send in your story, in your name. Please let me know. Best wishes for the New Year to you and your family.

Sincerely Yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman



*This letter, plus newspaper articles,  
sent to all survivors*

Mr. Mendal Feldman  
190 Island Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

October 26, 2000

Dear Mr. Feldman,

I am enclosing two articles which appeared recently, one from The New York Times and the other from the New York Jewish Week.

If you are interested in submitting your story, which Random House might, or might not, publish, you are invited to send it to the following address:

Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project  
c/o World Jewish Congress  
501 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
Attention: Charlotte Trepman Yudin

The World Jewish Congress will then send all stories to Random House.

If you would like me to save you the trouble, I will be happy to send in your story, in your name. Please let me know. Best wishes for the New Year to you and your family.

Sincerely Yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

# 'This Is The Last Chance We Have'

Unpublished Holocaust testimonies to see light of day with \$1 million Random House grant

SANDEE BRAWARSKY  
JEWISH WEEK BOOK CRITIC

10/13/00

**A**lthough new Holocaust memoirs are published every year, many more are turned down for publication by publishers who say the market is saturated. Other memoirs exist as diaries on tissue-thin paper, stored for years in the backs of drawers, and still many others are not yet on paper.

In a major initiative spearheaded by Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, unpublished Holocaust testimonies — whether short accounts or books — will be collected and published. A project of the World Jewish Congress, the Holocaust Survivors' Memorial Project just received a pledge of \$1 million from Random House to begin its work. Wiesel serves as honorary chairman, and Menachem Rosensaft, a lawyer, poet and activist, is director and editor-in-chief of the project.

"We have done injustice to survivors who want to tell their story," Wiesel, who has been working for years to bring this project to fruition, says. "In the beginning no one listened. This is something so sacred. We have no right not to do it." He adds: "This is the last chance we have. Survivors are dying. I don't want them to die with their voices not heard."

Rosensaft says that their first priority is to reach out to survivors and their children to collect manuscripts. Secondly, they'll work with institutions like Yad Vashem in Israel and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, which have manuscripts in their archives. Once they've reviewed the material, they'll present selected manuscripts or perhaps anthologies to Random House, which will have the right of first refusal. After that, they'll offer the projects to other publishing houses or consider publishing some works themselves. Rosensaft imagines that they'll receive a few thousand man-

uscripts a year, and their hope is that the first books will be published by the end of 2001.

Jonathan Segal, vice president and senior editor of Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Random House, who is Wiesel's editor and has been working with Wiesel and Rosensaft on the project, says that Random House will also look at on-line possibilities and will consider developing a data base to make the material available to scholars.

Some have questioned whether Random House's involvement is related to criticism of its parent company, the German publisher Bertelsmann, for its wartime activities. Stuart Applebaum, a spokesman for Random House, Inc. emphasizes that the two things are unrelated.

"This isn't a dollars-and-cents issue for Random House," Applebaum says. "We are not participating in this project because we're looking for more best-sellers. We're participating because we believe that the memoirs that will be presented ought to have a voice and ought to have a potential readership. We've done well as publishers of books like Elie Wiesel's 'Night' and 'The Diary of Anne Frank.' This is an opportunity to give something of historical resonance back to this community."

Whether it's still possible to find a memoir that's a literary masterpiece, like "Night" or Primo Levi's "Survival in Auschwitz" — both of which, interestingly, were published with initial hesitation before becoming major best-sellers — remains to be seen, although all those interviewed in connection with the project believe that they might uncover some gems, but moreover that there are many compelling stories not yet told. "Every story is worthy of attention," Wiesel says, noting that survivors have "authority that no one else has."

According to Wiesel, the "most important" book they could find is one written by the eminent historian Simon Dubnow in the Riga ghetto before he was murdered in 1941. "I have witnesses who saw him writing by candlelight," he says. "If I had the means of the World Jewish Congress, I would send a delegation to Riga."

For years, at conferences and talks, Wiesel has been urging survivors to write their stories. When asked what advice he would share with first-time writers, facing the blank page with some fear, he responds with simplicity and passion: "Let your heart speak."



Elie Wiesel: "Survivors are dying. I don't want them to die with their voices not heard."



Menachem Rosensaft: "People are trusting us with their memories, their legacies."



Wiesel and Rosensaft emphasize that the Random House funding is a first step. When asked how much additional funding the project will need, Wiesel suggests \$10 million.

Recently, much controversy surrounded a book published as a Holocaust memoir, but discovered to be fictional. Two weeks ago, the Jewish Book Council rescinded its award — its first such action in its more than 50-year history — to Benjamin Wilkomirski's "Fragments," published by Knopf in 1996. Rosensaft notes that Wilkomirski's is the "unusual case" and explains that every one of their manuscripts will be reviewed by historians. "We will take every possible measure to ensure both the integrity of the manuscript and the integrity of the project."

Rosensaft, 52, seems to have perfect credentials for this task. An international lawyer who's a partner in the firm of Ross & Hardies, he was until recently executive vice president of the Jewish Renaissance Foundation, a sister foundation of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, involved with cultural and educational projects in Central and Eastern Europe. The son of Holocaust survivors who was born in the Displaced Persons Camp of Bergen-Belsen, he is the founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Holocaust Survivors, and has been a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council since 1994, serving on its executive committee. Rosensaft writes poetry, is fluent in German, French, Spanish and Yiddish and holds master's degrees in creative writing and modern European history. While a student at City College in the early 1970s, he was Wiesel's teaching assistant.

Charlotte Trepman Yudin serves as deputy director. She is also the daughter of Holocaust survivors, and her father edited a Yiddish newspaper published in Bergen-Belsen after liberation. They are in the process of assembling an advisory board.

"People are trusting us with their memories, their legacies. This is not something that can be taken lightly," Rosensaft says. "There's a certain awe and trepidation that accompanies this kind of responsibility. We can't let them down."

In praising the new effort, novelist Thane Rosenbaum, who will serve as an adviser to the project, likened it to the Yiddish Book Center's mission of saving Yiddish books — finding and preserving them for future generations, before it is too late.

But he also points out that the Holocaust memoirs were written for different reasons. "The Yiddish writers were writing in their language as artists. Here, the need to write was forced on them by inhuman atrocities. These stories are aftermath tales of personal horror and human destruction. The Holocaust made both artists and storytellers out of ordinary people."

In recent years, there have been major efforts to preserve survivors' spoken words, and oral histories are being recorded and preserved by the Sholem Foundation and the Fortunoff Video Archive at Yale. While all those involved in this new project applaud those efforts, they see the written word as distinctive. The idea of someone sitting down and spending months or even years reflecting, framing their experience, with what Rosensaft refers to as "the luxury and the burden of choosing the right word or expression, remembering things that may have been too painful to discuss with anyone" is an altogether different process, with different results, from answering questions in a dialogue.

There are also other publishing projects in the works, and Rosensaft says he is "extremely supportive of those efforts" and hopes "to work together with every publishing endeavor and every institution whose goal is to preserve and publishing Holocaust survivor memoirs."

Over the past 15 years, the Jewish Heritage Project has helped with the publication of 60 books related to the Holocaust, most of which are memoirs, published by commercial and university presses. Alan Adelson, executive director, explains that they provide editorial support, whether coaching, translating, editing, fact checking or other free services. (Some survivors choose to make contributions to the project in return.) Books they've been involved with are "To

Tell at Last: Survival Under False Identity" by Blanca Rosenberg and "Lodz Ghetto: Inside a Community Under Siege"; Adelson also directed and produced the documentary film of the same title.

Last year, the Jewish Heritage Project launched a National Initiative in the Literature of the Holocaust, to establish residencies for young writers and editors to help survivors complete their memoirs and bring them to publication.

The program is supported by grants from the Literature Programs of the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts, the borough presidents of Brooklyn and Manhattan, and the Joe and Emily Lowe Foundation. Adelson says he "rejoices" to hear of the new project, and looks forward to meeting with Rosensaft.

Alan Berger, Raddock Eminent Scholar of Holocaust Studies at Florida Atlantic University, who edits a series of books for Syracuse University Press on religion, theology and the Holocaust, explains that they receive many more memoirs than they can publish. Recently, they published "Himmeler's Jewish Tailor" by Jacob Frank, the story of a survivor — not a professional writer — who sewed an outfit for Himmeler. Berger's own new book, edited with Naomi Berger, "Second Generation Voices: Reflections by Children of Holocaust Survivors and Perpetrators" will be published this February.

Commenting about whether he saw this new project as competition in any way, he says, "I welcome it. We evidently live in a world where genocide is still acceptable. We need all the help we can get. Somewhere there have to be new models of how to be human. And stories do have the power to shape destiny."

Manuscripts can be sent to the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project, World Jewish Congress, 501 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022. □



# Random House to Aid Holocaust Memoir Project

By DINITIA SMITH

Random House has pledged \$1 million to the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project set up by the World Jewish Congress to find and publish the written accounts of those who suffered under the Nazis during World War II.

Elie Wiesel, the author of "Night," a memoir of Auschwitz, among many other works, will serve as honorary chairman of the project. "I have been urging it for years and years and years," he said recently.

As Holocaust survivors grow old and die, Mr. Wiesel's effort to preserve their memoirs has taken on a new urgency. Steven Spielberg, through his Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, and Geoffrey Hartman, through the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale, have preserved survivors' spoken memories. But despite well-known exceptions like Primo Levi's "Survival in Auschwitz," Alexander Donat's "Holocaust Kingdom" and Anne Frank's "Diary," the vast majority of Holocaust memoirs remain unpublished and in the hands of survivors and their descendants.

Others are in the archives of Holocaust remembrance institutions like Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. One aim of



Joyce Dopkeen/The New York Times

Elie Wiesel, honorary chairman of the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project, in his study.

the project will be to translate the accounts, written in many different languages.

The survivors' "stories are all unique and what they have to say nobody else has to say," Mr. Wiesel said, adding, "They should feel that people want to know what they went through."

Wherever he goes, Mr. Wiesel said, he urges survivors to write down

their memories. He said: "They say: 'We are writing. We are doing what you told us; now help us publish.' I would send the manuscripts to publishers, and they say the field is saturated." He said he hoped to bring out about 10 books a year. "And if we have the means, I will suggest more," he added.

Menachem Z. Rosensaft, director and editor in chief of the project and founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, said that the project would spend six to seven months collecting material.

Among publishers, he said, Random House will have the right of first refusal. Thereafter, the project may decide to reach an arrangement with other publishing houses or publish accounts on its own through the World Jewish Congress, Mr. Rosensaft said.

"We might want to do an anthology of a particular camp or particular ghetto," he said. He added that he hoped that the first books would be published at the end of 2001 and that the project would secure "substantially more" funds.

Random House's parent company, Bertelsmann, has been accused in the past of misleading the public about its activities during the Nazi period. In January an independent commission appointed by the company to investigate its corporate history issued a preliminary report say-

An effort to preserve testimony before it is too late.

ing that Bertelsmann had been closed during the war not because it opposed Hitler, as it had claimed, but because it was deemed not critical to the military effort. The commission reported that Bertelsmann was the largest supplier of books to the German military, and that Heinrich Mohn, a leader of the company, contributed money to the SS.

Peter Olson, the chief executive of Random House, said that criticism of the company had nothing to do with its decision to support the publication of the accounts. "This is a project Random House would have done on its own," he said, calling it "a project of unique historical importance."

Mr. Rosensaft said that manuscripts could be sent to the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project, the World Jewish Congress, 501 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

"We want every survivor to know that if a manuscript arrives, it will be reviewed and kept in a special place with great respect," Mr. Wiesel said. "I want eventually to establish a principle that every manuscript should be published."



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
212 355 6115  
Fax 212 751 3739

Ms. Charlotte Trepman Yudin  
Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project  
c/o World Jewish Congress  
501 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

November 20, 2000

Dear Ms. Trepman Yudin,

As per our phone conversation a couple of weeks ago, I have dropped off some of the survivors' stories at the World Jewish Congress for the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project. I have written the survivors name and address on every envelope in order for you to send them an acknowledgement letter explaining the program in more detail.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 212-355-6115.

Thank you and I hope this important project is very successful.

Sincerely,

*Jamie Goldberg*

Jamie Goldberg  
Wexner Heritage Foundation

# HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' MEMOIRS PROJECT OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS



Honorary Chairman  
ELIE WIESEL

Director, Editor-in-Chief  
MENACHEM Z. ROSENSAFT

Deputy Director  
CHARLOTTE YUDIN

501 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10022  
TELEPHONE: (914) 722-1880  
e-mail: SurvivorsMemoirs@aol.com

December 1, 2000

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
c/o Wexner Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 11022

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

Thank you so much for your interest in the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project, and for your efforts in encouraging survivors to send us their stories. We are honored to receive them and promise you that they will be read and reviewed with the deepest respect.

As you may have read, we will be spending the next several months gathering manuscripts of Holocaust survivors, and reaching out to the international community of survivors and their families to help us in this mission. We will then be in a position to determine how best to proceed with our publishing program. Of course, we will stay in touch with you and let you know how we are progressing.

Once again, our most heartfelt thanks for your confidence in us and for all your help. Special thanks to your delightful assistant, Jamie Goldberg. It has been a pleasure dealing with her!

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Menachem Z. Rosensaft

We truly appreciate your  
support and encouragement -  
I hope to see you again  
soon. Best regards -

551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
212 355 6115  
Fax 212 751 3739

Cantor Leo Fettman  
1317 North 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68132

November 7, 2000

Dear Cantor Fettman,

Thank you for responding to our letter about sending your story to the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project at the World Jewish Congress. I am writing you to confirm that we received your book, Shoah. Journey from the Ashes, and we will forward it to the World Jewish Congress in your name. This is an important project that will help preserve the testimonies of you and other survivors, so the lessons learned and the people who perished during the Holocaust are never forgotten.

As per your request when we spoke on the phone, I have enclosed a copy of Rabbi Friedman's book, Roots of the Future. Please enjoy it!

If you have any other questions or concerns, feel free to contact me, Jamie Goldberg, Rabbi Herbert Friedman's Assistant, at 212-355-6115. You may also contact Ms. Charlotte Yudin at the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project at 914-722-1880.

I hope you are having a healthy and happy New Year!

B'Shalom,

Jamie Goldberg



The Wexner Heritage Foundation

551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

CANTOR FETTMAN



**Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman**  
The Wexner Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10022

Personal

10022%3212



33<sup>USA</sup>



answered  
9/23 and  
ordered his  
book



Cantor Leo Fettman  
1317 North 57th Street  
Omaha, NE 68132  
(402)551-6609 Email: CantorLeo@aol.com

B"H

November 1, 2000

Dear Rabbi Friedman,

Thank you for the information about the Random House Project. My book, "Shoah, Journey from the Ashes" was published in 1999. It is possible that part of the book can be used in their anthology.

I would certainly appreciate if you would send in my story, in my name.

In your letter of 9/23 you said that you ordered my book from Six Points Press, Inc. That order was never received, therefore I am sending you this copy today as a gift.

Please send your book, "Roots of the Future." We are looking forward to reading it.

Thank you for your interest.

Shalom,

*Cantor Leo Fettman*

Cantor Leo Fettman  
cantorleo@aol.com



FYI

# THE HOLOCAUST



EXPERIENCE  
LIVING HISTORY...

Learn about the Holocaust  
directly from a survivor  
of Auschwitz

Cantor Leo Fettman  
*Lecturer*

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**Building a Beautiful  
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your class or group, please contact:

Cantor Leo Fettman  
1317 N. 57th Street  
Omaha, NE 68132  
(402) 556-7107  
CantorLeo@aol.com

moved to the Beth Israel Synagogue in Omaha, Nebraska in 1974. In addition to his cantorial duties, he served as Educational Director, Shabbatonim Director, and as a teacher and hospital chaplain. He retired in 1992, but has returned on several occasions when his talents and experience were needed.

Cantor Fettman was destined to live to tell his story, something he has done before hundreds of audiences across the United States. He has been interviewed by the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation which was established by Steven Spielberg, director of the movie *Schindler's List*. The foundation's purpose is to videotape as many survivors' stories as possible. They recognize, as we all must, that the generation of survivors is aging. Soon, the story will no longer be able to be told by their lips alone.



**"The Holocaust didn't start suddenly, and it wasn't the work of a lone mad-man," according to Cantor Fettman. "Rather it was the inescapable culmination of centuries of hatred and bigotry."**



## About Cantor Fettman...

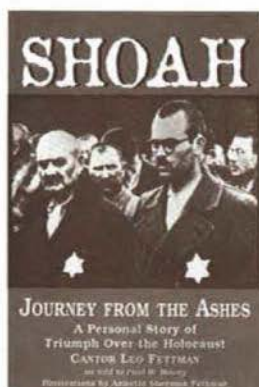
The story of Cantor Fettman's survival against unfathomable odds and horrific conditions has inspired audiences of all ages and of all faiths. Torn from their home in a small town in Hungary in 1944, Cantor Fettman and his family were first confined in a ghetto and later shipped by boxcar to Auschwitz where most of the members of his family were quickly murdered.

He was ordered to work in the crematorium, and from there was sent to Dr. Josef Mengele (the infamous "Angel of Death") for "medical" experimentation. Afterwards, he was shunted from one forced labor camp to another. Falsely accused of a crime in one of those camps, Cantor Fettman was led to the gallows by Nazi SS officers. The rope broke and he fell to the ground, still alive after having endured so much.

Following the war, he returned to Nyíradony, but found the memories there too painful, and so he eventually emigrated to Canada in 1948. He studied at the Maor Hagolah Rabbinical Yeshiva in Montreal, and was ordained as both a rabbi and cantor. He served as a cantor in both Montreal and North Bay, Canada.

In 1960, he moved to the United States, first to Gary, Indiana, and later to Madison, Wisconsin, where he began with the Beth Israel Center in 1963 and later

**An uplifting message of hope  
for today's generation of  
adults and their children...**



In Cantor Fettman's new book **SHOAH: Journey from the Ashes**, an historical prologue chronicles the 2000 years of anti-Semitism which led inexorably to the Holocaust. Then he lays out his life's story, from the beau-

tiful Jewish family traditions in his small hometown in Hungary through the horrors of the Holocaust.

*...I began to get tears in my eyes as I heard another voice join in the singing, and then another. Soon there were many voices and I added mine to this most unlikely of choirs in this most unlikely of places.*

From Chapter Five, "Rails to Slaughter"

His book includes a look into the hate groups proliferating in the United States today and ends with an uplifting message of hope for today's generation of adults and their children.

**SHOAH: Journey from the Ashes**

Illustrated by sculptor

Annette Sherman Fettman

Published in 1999 by  
Six Points Press, Inc.

Produced by  
Five Star Publications, Inc.

551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
212 355 6115  
Fax 212 751 3739

Mr. Mendel Feldman  
190 Island Drive  
Palto Alto, CA 94301

November 9, 2000

Dear Mr. Feldman,

Thank you for responding to our letter about sending your story to the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project at the World Jewish Congress. I am writing to you to confirm that we received your letter, story, identification cards from The Holocaust Museum, and the information about your interview at the Shoah Foundation, and we will forward it to the World Jewish Congress in your name. This is an important project that will help preserve the testimonies of you and other survivors, so the lessons learned and the people who perished during the Holocaust are never forgotten.

You and your wife share a very inspiring story. Through survivors written testimonies, we will forever have eyewitness accounts of the horrors of the Holocaust and learn from it so nothing like the Holocaust will ever happen again.

Again, we want to thank you for sharing your story. If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to call me, Jamie Goldberg, Rabbi Herbert Friedman's assistant, at 212-355-6115. You may also contact Ms. Yudin at the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project at 914-722-1880.

I hope you and your family are having a happy and healthy New Year.

B'Shalom,

Jamie Goldberg





**Mendle**  
**By Talya**

**AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES**

What a good chess player my grandpa Mendle is! He beats everyone! I like to play chess with him (even though he always beats me.) Yiddish is his first language. I like when he comes to my school.

He worked on the railroad as a young man. He survived the Holocaust. Mendle lives with us. He lived in Maryland before.

Mendle is short but strong. He is 83 and almost bald.

I love him!



*Talya-8 Years-01*



Shalom: Rabbi + Family.

How are you?

We are OK my wife + family are OK. I am sending you a copy of a speech I gave to J.C. Raly ALTO. They want to write a book but I am too old for that.

Rabbi you can make copies and give to any one wants that. Rabbi if you come to California stop by us we will talk more about D.P. Camps.

You should go see my son Dr. Fred Feldman. He likes to know more about the D.P. Camps. This is only 5% of our life story.

We love you! Shalom  
Rabbi God bless you  
you are a good man.  
Mendel Frieda Feldman + Family.

3-20-01-650-322-4422

Please answer,

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES



3-2001

Shalom Rabbi Friedma &  
Family; How are you?  
we are ok;  
my wife and children  
grand children are ok,

I am sending you a couple  
of my speeches I gave to  
LCC, and this is only  
5% off my life story,  
they want to write a  
book but I am too  
old for that. If you  
come to California come  
visit us I will tell  
you more,

Shalom Rabbi I hope  
to see some time  
last year in Washington  
I did not have a chance  
to see you, I thank  
the new director Rabbi  
Lehok Greenberg is  
my cousin I train to

Call but he does  
not answer,  
I wish you the best  
Mendel Frieda Feldman  
& family

Rabbi if you have  
time write me.



---

## FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

---

To: Mendel Feldman

Date: February 27, 2001

From: Margarita Orozco

Fax Number: (650) 322-4434

Number of Pages (including cover sheet): Three (3)

Re: Preliminary Story for Reading March 4, 2001

Dear Mr. Feldman,

I will not be able to see you this week since I am leaving the country and will not return until mid-March. However, I have completed the attached very short version of your experiences in Poland. My teacher, Sheila Dunec, would like to meet you and have you read the attached 2-page story.

If you are willing, please go to the Jewish Community Center, 655 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto shortly before 1:30 PM. Please go to the Boardroom. Ms. Dunec and other people who will also be reading stories will be gathered together.

If you are willing to read at the Jewish Community Center, I ask that you first carefully read what I have sent you. If there are any factual errors, please make corrections right on these papers I am sending you. If you would fax the 2-page story, along with your corrections, back to me. I will correct any errors and see to it that you have a corrected copy.

In addition, if you plan to read at the Jewish Community Center, please make an opportunity to read your story out loud so that you will become familiar with it and so that you practice speaking in a loud, clear voice. If you can practice, you will be less nervous on March the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your help. If I were not scheduled to be out of the country, I would be sitting in the front row to hear you read. When I return, we will meet again, so that we can complete the story which will appear in the anthology.

Thank you very much

*Please call if you experience transmission problems.*

---

Margarita Orozco

1346 The Alameda # 7-153

San Jose, California 95126

Telephone (408) 947-1787 Fax (408) 947-1646

e-mail: margarita99@earthlink.net



**My name is Mendel Feldman**

**In 1936, two events occurred that would change my life. My father died, leaving my mother to raise her four remaining children and run the grain business he had begun. It was time for me to go to a kibbutz but I couldn't leave my mother and my brothers and sisters so soon after my father's death. I decided to stay in the town of my birth Sokolow Podlaski, in central Poland..**

**The second event that would change my life was that I met Frieda Altman. Frieda was a beautiful girl with big brown eyes who liked to get dressed up. We were both 19 years old when we met and started dating.**

**We knew that war was going to break out. We wanted to run away but felt trapped by our loyalties to our families and by the fact that we were poor and felt like we had no where to go. Life got worse in Poland, especially in Sokolow Podlaski.**

**In September, 1939, I was 22 years old. Frieda and I had become engaged to marry. Through the Jewish & Hebrew newspapers we knew that the Germans had entered Poland and that they were moving in our direction. We knew some things about Hitler but we didn't believe the Germans would kill the Jews. No one knew that the Nazis were going to make gas chambers and kill everyone.**

**On the Thursday before the Germans arrived in Sokolow Podlaski, they bombed our town. Their bombs killed 500 of our citizens. The Germans arrived in Sokolow Podlaski 6 days later, preceded by a female German soldier riding a horse and followed by many German soldiers and tanks. Jews were not allowed to go out on the street. We were always afraid of being beaten or killed. The German soldiers plundered our homes and businesses, taking or destroying whatever caught their fancy. Families would gather together to spend the night, feeling less vulnerable if they were together.**

**On the night of September 20, 1939, Frieda was in hiding in the ghetto with about 100 women when three Gestapo soldiers came in with guns in their hands. They forced Frieda and two other girls out to the back of the building. There the German soldiers raped my Frieda and the two other women at gunpoint.**

**The next day when I went to see my Frieda, she was crying and very upset. She was convinced that I no longer would want to**



marry her because she had been raped. I calmed her and asked her to tell me everything. I knew immediately that we must leave because I feared that the Germans would return and that more rapes would follow. I began to plan our escape to the Russian controlled part of Poland because I feared that the Germans would return every night..

I told my mother that Frieda and I must leave our town, but my sense of shame about the rape was so great that I never told my mother why. My mother understood. She could tell that I was trying to protect Frieda, and didn't have to know all the details.

There were some Polish farmers who had sold us some of their grain and I had worked on the railroad with their son. I felt I could trust them to take us into the Russian controlled part of Poland. Frieda, her mother, her sister, and I hurriedly gathered together our things once the arrangements were made. On the way out of town we stopped at my mother's house. She gave Frieda and me her blessing and instructed me not to marry anyone but Frieda Altman.

We traveled during the day in the farmer's horse-drawn wagon. It was too dangerous to travel at night. We took the round-about way out of town in order to avoid the German soldiers. It was a 30 mile trip to the Bug River where we were put on a boat to cross the river. Finally, we entered Bialystok, Poland which was occupied by the Soviets. The town was overrun with refugees. We were unable to communicate with our families to let them know that we were safe. On November 14, 1939, in a very humble ceremony, I married my Frieda.

Many years later, our children asked me all the time, "Daddy, what gave you the courage to leave mother and brothers and sisters and run away, even from the Germans?". For 40 years I did not want to tell our children why we had left because I still wanted to protect my Frieda. It has taken me many, many years before I could talk about that terrible night of September 20, 1939 when the Gestapo came to our village. Now our story can be told. I must tell it because my Frieda, she has Alzheimer's disease and, thankfully, does not remember any more. But we must not forget.

When and where were they married?

German troops entered our town, Sokolow Podlaski, Poland on September 20, 1939.

I, Frieda Altman, was huddling, frightened with family and friends in a shelter, when three Gestapo soldiers came in with guns in their hands. They forced me and two girls to go out to the back of the building. There they raped us at gunpoint. I did not think my fiancé, Mendel Feldman would still want to marry me after that. But Mendel understood.

I, Mendel Feldman, came the following day to visit Frieda and she cried. Tell me the whole story, what happened with the Gestapo yesterday. She was in a room with 100 women, at night. Three Gestapo came in with guns and took out Frieda with two girlfriends and raped them at gunpoint. So I, Mendel Feldman, told Frieda that I will plan the escape to the Russians because they will come every night. I rented a horse and buggy from Polish people and they took us over the river Bug to the Russians sent us to Siberia but we survived the Second World War.

I told my mother: I will go with Frieda to the Russians. She told me: You bring Frieda to me and I will bless you. My mother told me: Don't marry any other woman. Only Frieda Altman Feldman. I took Frieda, her mother, her sister and sister's boyfriend to the Russian's side. They all survived the war, thanks to me.







# B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

## Senior Housing and Services

ACTIVE  
RETIRES IN  
ISRAEL

AUG 29 2000

Dear

*Mr. Feldman*

As the coordinator of the ARI program, it is my pleasure to congratulate you upon your acceptance to ARI 18-the B'nai B'rith Active Retirees in Israel program for Fall, 2000.

The group will leave from Newark International Airport in Newark, NJ. on Wednesday, October 18, 2000, 7:30 pm, El Al flight #18 arriving in Tel Aviv Thursday, October 19 at 12:55 pm. The return date is Wednesday, November 15, 10:50 am, flight #17, arriving in Newark, NJ same day - 3:45 pm.

Hotel accommodations are as follows:

*Pls. note correct dates*  
✓ October 19-November 10  
The Mercure Blue Bay Hotel  
37 Hamelachim St.  
Netanya 42228 Israel  
Tel: 011-972-9-860-3603  
Fax: 011-972-9-833-7475

✓ November 10-November 15  
Jerusalem Gate Hotel  
43 Yirmiyahu St.  
Jerusalem, Israel  
Tel: 011-972-2-500-2225  
Fax: 011-972-2-599-2121

Enclosed you will find the Information Handbook which we suggest you read carefully as it will answer many of your questions. One week prior to departure you will receive tags, participants' list and name badges as well as airline tickets for those traveling with the group.

Please remember that the balance of the cost is due 30 days prior to departure. We do not bill so please note when payment is due. Any additional travel expenses and single supplement fees are also due with your final payment.

On another note, some of you have called for information and prices on the optional tour to Eilat and Petra. November-7-9. Although the price is subject to change based on the number of participants, expect to pay approximately \$380 for the tour. The single supplement for 3 nights will be an additional \$60.

In addition, there will be optional concerts available for participants. All arrangements for optional tours and concerts will be made after you arrive in Israel, and must be paid in cash. The tour operator does not accept credit cards. Please see your madricha (counselor) for more information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (202) 857-2793 or Rose Akman-(202) 857-6584 or Janel Doughten -(202) 857-6581.

Sincerely,

*Eugene Fogel*  
Eugene Fogel  
Director

enc.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
1640 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3278  
202-857-6584 FAX: 202-857-0980 E-MAIL: ari@bnaibrith.org





**Avenidas**  
Serving Today's Seniors

# Senior News

Published by Avenidas  
450 Bryant Street

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Vol. 25 No. 6  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

September 2000

## What's Inside

Health and Wellness .....	3
Ed/Rec Classes and Events .....	5
Trips and Tours .....	9
Computer Classes .....	11
Person to Person .....	13
Calendar .....	15

## Fabulous Features of Fall 2000

### So much to do in the Fall Quarter:

**Education and Recreation** brings a myriad of events for your growth and pleasure this fall. Your favorite classes, lectures, and recreational activities are back, along with the addition of some exciting new ones!

Keep your body fit with your choice of **Gentle, Back, or Aerobic Exercise**, or **T'ai Chi**. The options for creativity are many; try **Creative Expression Through Writing**, or writing **Life Stories**. Be creative through fine arts; paint with **Watercolors** or the **Oriental Brush**. Be crafty; learn all kinds of **Needlework**. For you frustrated actors, try **Play Reading**. Music lovers can **Celebrate Great Composers** or gain **Opera Insights**. And for cultivation of your intellect, you won't want to miss any of the Stanford Scholars of the **G. Derwood Baker Distinguished Lecture Series**.



Allen Ginsling (right) contemplates his next move as opponent Eileen Gronachon looks on.



Chess Instructor, Mendel Feldman, shows off the First Runner-up Trophy of his own, won at a recent tournament.

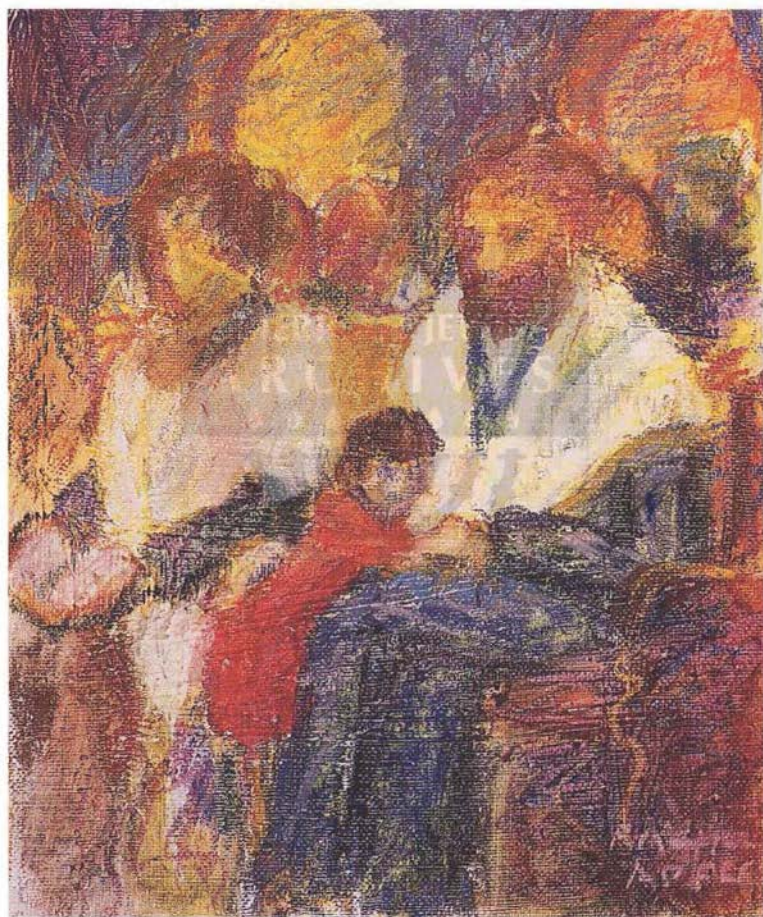
Want to really challenge your mind? For the ultimate in cerebral stimulation, you can learn to play **Chess**. Expert instructor **Mendel Feldman** has been teaching this strategic game to students age nine to ninety for many years. Add an element of mystery with **Readings and Discussion in Literature**.

Want to venture out? Take one of our exciting day or overnight trips to destinations near and far. Or, if you want to relax, but remain engaged, go to the movies. **Tuesday Movies After Lunch** is the best deal in town! Don't miss out - see the **Classes and Events** listings inside! For information, call Judith at 326-5362, ext. 19.

From **Computer Learning Services**, it's a Back to School Special: Mac and PC classes specially designed for seniors and taught by seniors. September 18 starts

*Continued on Page 2*







Shalom, Rabbi Friedman & family I teach Chess Palo Alto,  
How are you? now I am in Canada since my Menlo Park seniors  
by my son Irving for a week For free I love to teach chess  
October 18-2000 I am going to Israel for 4 weeks with group if you Rabbi choose to  
Bnei Brith. We leave Newark one stop by us, I tell every  
10-18-2000 7:30 PM If you not to  
for you can come see me I  
fly to my son Fred 10-16-00  
than he will take me by  
car to, Newark, N.J. to Airport  
I have a sister & children  
did not see them 30 years  
in Israel. My wife and I are  
OK my wife is Nursing Home  
I live by my son Boas for  
4 years & college 3 low school  
I am sending your information  
Raisers

לשנה טובה תכתבו

MAY ROSH HASHANAH  
AND THE COMING YEAR  
HOLD SPECIAL HAPPINESS  
FOR YOU AND YOURS.

A.P. Camps after the war  
with they need lot of help  
have Happy healthy new  
year. Mendel Frieda  
Feldman

# AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



Name: Sarah Rivka Felman

Date of Birth: 1923

Place of Birth: Sokolow Podlaski, Poland

One of seven children, Sarah was raised in a Yiddish-speaking, religious Jewish home in Sokolow Podlaski, a manufacturing town in central Poland with a large Jewish population of some 5,000. Sarah's parents ran a grain business. In 1930, Sarah began attending public elementary school in Sokolow Podlaski.

1933-39: After graduating from middle school in 1937 at the age of 14, Sarah helped out her now widowed mother in the family's grain business. Two years later, Germany attacked Poland. German aircraft bombed Sokolow Podlaski's market and other civilian targets. German troops entered the town on September 20 and burned the main synagogue three days later. The Germans then confiscated the family's grain business.

1940-42: Over the next two years, the Germans imposed restrictions on the Jews, eventually ordering them to wear an identifying Jewish star on their clothing. On September 28, 1941 the Germans set up a ghetto and concentrated the town's Jews there. About a year later, on the most solemn holiday in the Jewish religion, the Day of Atonement, the Germans began to round up the people in the ghetto. Those who resisted or tried to hide were shot. Sarah, her mother and younger brother were herded onto the boxcar of a train.

On September 22, 1942, Sarah and her family were deported to the Treblinka extermination camp. She was gassed there shortly after arriving. She was 19 years old.





Name: Fischel Felman

Date of Birth: 1911

Place of Birth: Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland

Fischel was the oldest of seven children in a Yiddish-speaking, religious Jewish family. When he was a small child, his parents moved the family to Sokolow Podlaski, a manufacturing town in central Poland with a large Jewish population of about 5,000. Fischel was sent to study at a religious school. In 1932, when he was 21 years old, Fischel was inducted into the Polish army.

## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

1933-39: After two years in the Polish cavalry, Fischel returned to Sokolow Podlaski, where he apprenticed to become a carpenter and also led a local Zionist organization. He married and set up a carpentry shop in his home where he made furniture. When Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939, Fischel was called up by the Polish army. He was captured by the Germans, but was allowed to return home after fighting ended in October.

1940-42: For almost two years, Fischel managed to keep his carpentry workshop open although Sokolow Podlaski was occupied by the Germans. Then on September 28, 1941, the Germans set up a ghetto in the town and concentrated 4,000 Jews there. About a year later, on the most solemn Jewish holiday, the Day of Atonement, the Germans began to round up the people in the ghetto. Those who resisted or tried to hide were shot. With his wife and child, Fischel was herded onto the boxcar of a train.

On September 22, 1942, Fischel and his family were deported to the Treblinka extermination camp and gassed there shortly after arriving. He was 31 years old.





Name: Chinka Schwarzbard Felman  
Date of Birth: 1891  
Place of Birth: Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland

One of six children, Chinka was raised in a Yiddish-speaking, religious Jewish family in the town of Ostrow Mazowiecka, where her father was a wine maker. In 1910 she married Ephraim Isaac Felman, and a few years later the couple moved to Sokolow Podlaski, where Chinka helped her husband run a grain business. The Felmans had seven children, two of whom died in infancy.

1933-39: Chinka's husband died in 1935, and she took over the grain business with the help of her children. That same year, her oldest daughter emigrated to Palestine. When the Germans attacked Poland on September 1, 1939, her son Fischel left to serve in the Polish army. On September 20, German troops entered the town and soon after, set the main synagogue on fire. In November her son, Mendel, fled to Soviet-occupied Bialystok.

1940-42: Chinka remained with her two youngest children, 17-year-old Sarah and 14-year-old Moishe. The Germans had confiscated the family's grain business. On September 28, 1941, the Germans set up a ghetto and concentrated the town's Jews there. About a year later, on the most solemn holiday of the Jewish religion, the Day of Atonement, the Germans began to round up the people in the ghetto. Those who resisted or tried to hide were shot. Chinka, Sarah and Moishe were herded onto the boxcar of a train.

On September 22, 1942, Chinka, Sarah and Moishe were deported to the Treblinka extermination camp. They were gassed shortly after arriving.





Name: Mendel Felman

Date of Birth: April 24, 1917

Place of Birth: Sokolow Podlaski, Poland

One of seven children, Mendel was raised in a Yiddish-speaking, religious Jewish home in Sokolow Podlaski, a manufacturing town in central Poland with a large Jewish population of about 5,000.

Mendel's parents ran a grain business. As a teenager, Mendel liked to play chess, and he completed his public schooling in Sokolow Podlaski in 1931.

1933-39: After finishing middle school, I went to work in my parents' business. When I was 18, I fell in love with Frieda Altman who was in the same Zionist organization as I, and we became engaged. On September 1, 1939, the Germans invaded Poland and entered our town on September 20. That November, I fled with Frieda and her family to the city of Bialystok in the Soviet-occupied part of Poland. There, Frieda and I got married.

1940-44: In January 1940 the Soviets sent us, along with many other Jewish refugees in Bialystok, east to work camps in Siberia. I was assigned to cut trees in the Ural Mountains. Then Frieda and I were sent to the Crimea to work on a collective farm where I became a tractor driver. But the Germans invaded the USSR in June 1941 and reached the Crimea by September. Knowing what the Nazis were doing to Jews, the Soviets evacuated the Jews to the Caucasus, first to Azerbaijan and then to Armenia.

Mendel and his family returned to the Crimea after the Germans retreated in 1944. After the war, the Felmans returned to Poland, and then emigrated to the United States in 1949.



3. Residence at the beginning of persecution: / Wohnort bei Beginn der Verfolgung:

Place / Ort

Country / Land

Since when / seit wann

Sokolow Podlaski

Poland

1939

4. Where were you during period of persecution: / Aufenthalt während der Verfolgung:

	From / von	To / bis	Type of persecution (KZ, Ghetto, life in hiding, life under conditions resembling imprisonment) Please state precisely: / Art der Verfolgung (KZ, Ghetto, versteckt gelebt, Leben unter haft-ähnlichen Bedingungen) bitte genau angeben:	Place of persecution within the indicated time periods: / Ort der Verfolgung im genannten Zeitabschnitt:
1.	Sept. 1939	May 1941	Ghetto, Life in hiding	Sokolow Podlaski, Poland
2.	May 1941	June 1941	Life in hiding - Paid a Polish man to take me over the River Bug to Russmannside.	Sokolow Podlaski, Poland
3.	June 1941	Oct. 1941	Lived in Kolkhoz, Politadelec, Saky Region	Kolkhoz, Politadelec, Saky Region, Crimea
4.	Oct. 1941	March 1944	After German occupation of Crimea, fled to Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan, Russia
5.	March 1944	March 1946	Lived in Crimea, Kolkhoz, Politadelec, Krimea	Kolkhoz, Politadelec, Crimea
6.	March 1946	June 1946	Refugee	Kamenia-Gora, Poland
7.	June 1946	Oct. 1949	Displaced persons Camp	Linz-Wels, Austria

5. All countries of residence after persecution until today: / Alle Wohnländer nach der Verfolgung bis heute:

Country / Land

From / von

To / bis

USA

1949

Current

Country / Land

From / von

To / bis

Country / Land

From / von

To / bis

Country / Land

From / von

To / bis



### Siblings

1. Brother, Feldman, Fischel, Felman, Born - 1911, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland, Date and Place of Death - 1942, Treblinka, Poland.
2. Sister, Feldman, Sarah, Felman, Born - 1923, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland, Date and Place of Death - 1942, Treblinka, Poland.
3. Brother, Feldman, Moses, Felman, Born - 1926, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland, Date and Place of Death - 1942, Treblinka, Poland.
4. Sister, Schwarcbord, Rose, Felman, Maiden Name - Feldman, Born - 1914, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland.



### Detailed Description of Persecution

When the German army (Nazis) occupied my home town of Sokolow Podlaski, Poland in 1939, I went into hiding in the ghetto. The Nazis abused the Jews. They beat people and shot many of them. They made life miserable for Jews so that we could not go out on the street. They robbed everything but of homes and stores and sent it back to Germany. They took my brother Fishel prisoner. They raped Jewish women including my fiancée at the time Frieda Altman. Ghetto life was miserable. There was no food and we were always afraid of being found and beat up or killed.

- I ran away with my fiancée in May 1941, when we left Poland and ran away to Bialystok, Russia. We were married in Bialystok on June 2, 1941. We then went to Crimea (Saky region; Kolkhoz; and Politadelec). When the German army took Crimea in October 1941, we left the Kolkhoz (collection farm) where we were hiding and went to Baku in Azerbaijan. It took us three months to walk there, running away from the German army the whole time. They were by then way behind us.

We were in Azerbaijan until Russia took back Crimea from the Germans in 1944. The Russians sent us back to Crimea where we stayed from 1944 to March 1946. In March 1946, we went back to Poland. I finally returned to Sokolow Podlaski, Poland to look for my home and family in May 1946. All my brothers and sisters that I had left and my mother had been sent to their deaths on a death march to Treblinka.





# Yale University



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
FOR UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

ALISA M. MASTERSON

Telephone: 203 432-1947

Fax: 203 432-0587

E-mail: [alisa.masterson@yale.edu](mailto:alisa.masterson@yale.edu)

ASSOCIATION OF YALE ALUMNI

P.O. Box 209010

New Haven, Connecticut 06520-9010

September 2000

Boris Feldman '77, 80JD  
190 Island Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94301-3126

Dear Mr. Feldman:

We are pleased that you will be representing the School of Law as a Delegate to the AYA Assembly for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2000. On behalf of the Board of Governors and the staff of the AYA, I would like to extend our congratulations on your new alumni role. The role of each AYA representative is essential to the mission of the AYA which is to engage alumni actively with Yale. Delegates provide a vital link between alumni and the university by bringing questions and issues of concern to campus through the Assembly and returning home with information for alumni.

What is the AYA Assembly?

As you may know, the Assembly is the primary vehicle for realization of the delegate role, and it meets in October and April of each year in New Haven. You will receive a preliminary program for each Assembly at least a month in advance of the gathering. Upon first glance, the Assembly schedule may seem a bit overwhelming. The educational sessions, meetings and information sharing opportunities are certainly intensive and fast-paced.

Delegates describe their Assembly experiences as enlightening, entertaining and very rewarding, a singular means of contributing to Yale and the greater Yale Community. The information exchange that occurs at each Assembly among faculty, students, University officials, and alumni simply cannot be duplicated in newsletters or online. As a delegate, you are one of a small number of alumni who have the opportunity to meet regularly with Yale's senior administrators and faculty as well as other committed alumni.

Each Assembly is developed around a broad subject area. The first two Assemblies of your term are scheduled for October 26 - 28, 2000 and April 20 - 22, 2001. The fall Assembly has as its topic "The Performance Arts at Yale," while in the spring we will begin the celebration of Yale's Tercentennial Year with an Assembly to be held in conjunction with the Alumni Leadership Reunion entitled "300 Years of Creativity and Discovery." You might also want to look at the AYA web site for Assemblies at [www.aya.yale.edu/assembly/index.htm](http://www.aya.yale.edu/assembly/index.htm).



## The Role of the Delegate

AYA delegates first contribute to the Assembly experience by attending. Your presence in New Haven is a vital component of the link between the University and alumni. The fall Assembly begins on Thursday with a New Delegate Orientation Luncheon about which you will receive more information in September. At that luncheon, you will gather with other new delegates to learn more about the Assembly, how it operates, and your role within it.

As a delegate, you are responsible for bringing the thoughts, questions and concerns of Law alumni to the Assembly. While in New Haven, you are provided with many opportunities to raise those issues and receive a thoughtful response directly from members of the Yale community. In the many panels, breakouts, meetings and other sessions, you will learn about what is new at Yale and how Yale is approaching the questions it faces everyday. Other delegates, as well as students and members of the faculty, administration, and staff, will also provide you with insights and information about Yale and the alumni community.

After you attend an Assembly, your primary responsibility as a delegate is to write a report on your experiences to inform your constituency your personal observations, both of Yale and the Assembly topic. This report may take the form of an article for a newsletter, an on-line posting to a listserv, an oral presentation at a meeting of your constituency, or some other medium. An Executive Summary of the proceedings is provided to you after each Assembly, and sample reports and other tools are also made available in hard copy and on our Assembly website. It is critical to the success of our communication mission that you pass on the information you gather while in New Haven and we ask that you send us a copy of your report for our files.

The preliminary program for the Assembly will give you information on accommodations, which the AYA blocks out at area hotels at a significant savings. Delegates should not make hotel reservations independently, but rather through the form in the mailing. The AYA makes and guarantees the hotel reservation on your behalf, which you pay for directly upon check-out. The Board of Governors of the AYA also asks for a voluntary contribution of \$200 per attendee to help defray a portion of the costs involved in hosting the Assembly. We ask that your constituency assist you in these expenses, if necessary, though there is some financial assistance available through the AYA if the costs still present a hardship. Finally, accommodations and travel expenses do qualify for a tax deduction. If you have any questions now about the Assembly or your Delegate role, please feel free to call me at 203-432-1947.

I hope that you will put the upcoming Assembly dates on your calendar so that you will not miss this unique opportunity to participate in the life of Yale. The Fall Assembly mailing and registration packet will reach you before the end of the month. I look forward to greeting you at the New Delegate Orientation Luncheon.

Sincerely,



Alisa Masterson

cc: Toni Hahn Davis





Name: Moishe Felman

Date of Birth: 1926

Place of Birth: Sokolow Podlaski, Poland

The youngest of seven children, Moishe was raised in a Yiddish-speaking, religious Jewish home in Sokolow Podlaski, a manufacturing town in central Poland with a large Jewish population of some 5,000. Moishe's parents ran a grain business. Moishe attended a Jewish school and began public school in Sokolow Podlaski in 1933.

## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

1933-39: Summer vacation had just finished and 13-year-old Moishe was about to begin another year at elementary school when the Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. German aircraft bombed Sokolow Podlaski's market and other civilian targets before German troops entered the town on September 20. Three days later, they set fire to the main synagogue. Later, the Germans confiscated the family's grain business.

1940-42: Over the next two years, the Germans imposed restrictions on the Jews, eventually ordering them to wear an identifying Jewish star on their clothing. On September 28, 1941, the Germans set up a ghetto and concentrated all of the town's Jews there. About a year later, on the most solemn holiday of the Jewish religion, the Day of Atonement, the Germans began to round up the people in the ghetto. Those who resisted or tried to hide were shot. Moishe, his mother and sister were herded onto the boxcar of a train.

On September 22, 1942, Moishe and his family were deported to the Treblinka extermination camp. He was gassed there shortly after arriving. He was 16 years old.

SURVIVORS OF THE SHOAH Visual History Foundation  
S L A T E

DATE: September 3 1997  
MONTH DAY YEAR

SURVIVOR: Freida Feldman  
FIRST LAST NAME NOW  
Altman  
LAST NAME AT BIRTH

INTERVIEWER: Dina Cohen

CITY/STATE: Rockville MD COUNTRY: U.S.A.

LANGUAGE: English

SURVIVOR MIC ON CHANNEL 1

INTERVIEWER MIC ON CHANNEL 2 • NON-DROP FRAME

Display at head of first roll ONLY



SURVIVORS OF THE SHOAH Visual History Foundation

S L A T E

DATE: September 3 1997

MONTH

DAY

YEAR

SURVIVOR: Mendel Feldman

FIRST

LAST NAME NOW

Felman

LAST NAME AT BIRTH

INTERVIEWER: Dina Cohen

CITY/STATE: Rockville MD COUNTRY: USA

LANGUAGE: English

SURVIVOR MIC ON CHANNEL 1

INTERVIEWER MIC ON CHANNEL 2 • NON-DROP FRAME

Display of head of first roll ONLY

SURVIVORS OF THE  
Sִּהְיָוָה  
VISUAL HISTORY FOUNDATION™

29 September 1997

Mendel Feldman  
6060 California Circle #108  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Feldman,

In sharing your personal testimony as a survivor of the Holocaust, you have granted future generations the opportunity to experience a personal connection with history.

Your interview will be carefully preserved as an important part of the most comprehensive library of testimonies ever collected. Far into the future, people will be able to see a face, hear a voice, and observe a life, so that they may listen and learn, and always remember.

Thank you for your invaluable contribution, your strength, and your generosity of spirit.

All my best,



Steven Spielberg  
Chairman



SURVIVORS OF THE  
שִׁחָאוֹ אִשָּׁה  
VISUAL HISTORY FOUNDATION™

26 September 1997

Freida Feldman  
6060 California circle#108  
Rockville, MD. 20852

Dear Ms. Feldman,

In sharing your personal testimony as a survivor of the Holocaust, you have granted future generations the opportunity to experience a personal connection with history.

Your interview will be carefully preserved as an important part of the most comprehensive library of testimonies ever collected. Far into the future, people will be able to see a face, hear a voice, and observe a life, so that they may listen and learn, and always remember.

Thank you for your invaluable contribution, your strength, and your generosity of spirit.

All my best,



Steven Spielberg  
Chairman

*The United States  
Holocaust Memorial  
Museum*

September 22, 1992

MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE

2000 L Street, NW  
Suite 717  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone (202) 822-6464  
FAX (202) 861-0520

Mr. Mendel Feldman  
6060 California Circle #108  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mendel:

On behalf of the Museum I want to thank you and Frieda for allowing the Museum to use your family photos in the ID Card project. Now that the Museum photographer has made the necessary copies, I am now able to return your originals.

It is with profound thanks that I return your photos. Also included are the following:

- 1) draft copies of the ten ID Cards that I have written based on our meeting of August 26, 1992;
- 2) some copy prints of your original photos that Suzy Goldstein arranged to have done;
- 3) the Museum's standard release form authorizing us to include your story and photos in the ID Card Project. Please sign and return it to me.

Please review the draft ID Cards for correct spelling and possible errors, and make any corrections that you believe necessary and return them to me along with the release form.

Thank you once again for participating in the ID Card Project and sharing your story with us. Thank you also for your kind hospitality.

With best regards,

*Anthony Di Iorio*

Anthony Di Iorio  
ID Card Project





### Siblings

1. Brother, Feldman, Fischel, Felman, Born - 1911, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland, Date and Place of Death - 1942, Treblinka, Poland.
2. Sister, Feldman, Sarah, Felman, Born - 1923, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland, Date and Place of Death - 1942, Treblinka, Poland.
3. Brother, Feldman, Moses, Felman, Born - 1926, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland, Date and Place of Death - 1942, Treblinka, Poland.
4. Sister, Schwarchbord, Rose, Felman, Maiden Name - Feldman, Born - 1914, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland.



Ralo Alto California 94301,  
190 Island DR. Tel 650-322-4422,  
Mendel Feldman, 5-16-2000.

Dear Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
I am sorry it took me so  
long to answer your good  
letter I moved to California in  
my age is a big problem to  
move I am 83 years old, I am  
married more than 60 years  
me and my wife survived the  
Nazis we were together in  
the D.P. Camp in shleor and  
Wels Austria Three years,  
but my wife is now in a  
Nursing home she has Hold-Timers  
we have 4 children two were  
born in Russia two in U.S.A.,  
Dzler in lowers, one my son  
Dr Fred Feldman was with  
me in Washington at the consular  
I am sending to let off papers  
with you ● can learn ● a bout



2.  
me and my family I also send Courpes  
to Had Weshem, Jerusalem,  
from my Town in Poland  
Sant Sakolow Poddaski Poland  
If you want to meet me you  
can come to California and see me  
or you can get in touch with  
my son Dr. Fred Feldman.  
I am sending its address.

Dr Fred & Randy Feldman

2589 Cold Spring, R.D., Lansdale, P.A.,  
19446. Tel: 215-699-5325 Fax: 215-699-5347.

I received a second letter last week  
from you. Thank you keep in touch  
with me and also with my son.  
Dr Fred, Feldman,

Please answer me,

Mendel & Feldman,

My name before the second  
war was Shmuel Mendel  
Felman,

● my spelling is no good ●



June 1, 2000

Mr. Mendel Feldman  
190 Island Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Mr. Feldman,

I received your most interesting letter and other papers. You have had an extraordinary experience, more complicated than most survivors. Hiding in the ghetto; living in the Kolkhoz in Crimea; walking three months to Azerbaijan; and finally winding up in a DP camp in Austria. You and your wife had tremendous courage and strength and persistence to keep going through all these hardships.

I am sorry to learn that your beloved wife of 60 years is now suffering from Alzheimer disease, but I hope she is comfortable and well taken care of in the nursing home. She might not be able to recognize you, but at least you can make sure that she is receiving good care.

The story of what you have accomplished in teaching chess is wonderful. It shows what character you have. After all the hatred and pain and persecution you suffered in your young years, you might have turned into a mean person, hating the world, and eventually hating yourself. Instead you developed into an idealistic teacher of the young - giving them an intellectual outlet and enriching their lives. I compliment you for acting with such a Jewish passion for performing mitzvot. Good for you!

I noticed that you put your four children through college. That is a marvelous accomplishment, and I hope you feel very proud of such an achievement. Only a small percentage of the population can claim such a record. I read that one son, Boris, graduated from Yale. That was a thrill for me, because I also graduated from Yale in 1938. In those years it was quite unusual for a Jewish boy to be admitted to Yale. My

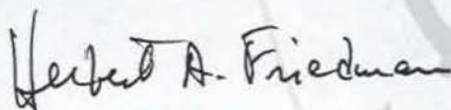


incoming class contained 750 men, including 22 Jews - just 3%. I hope Boris is enjoying his life, and the same for your other children.

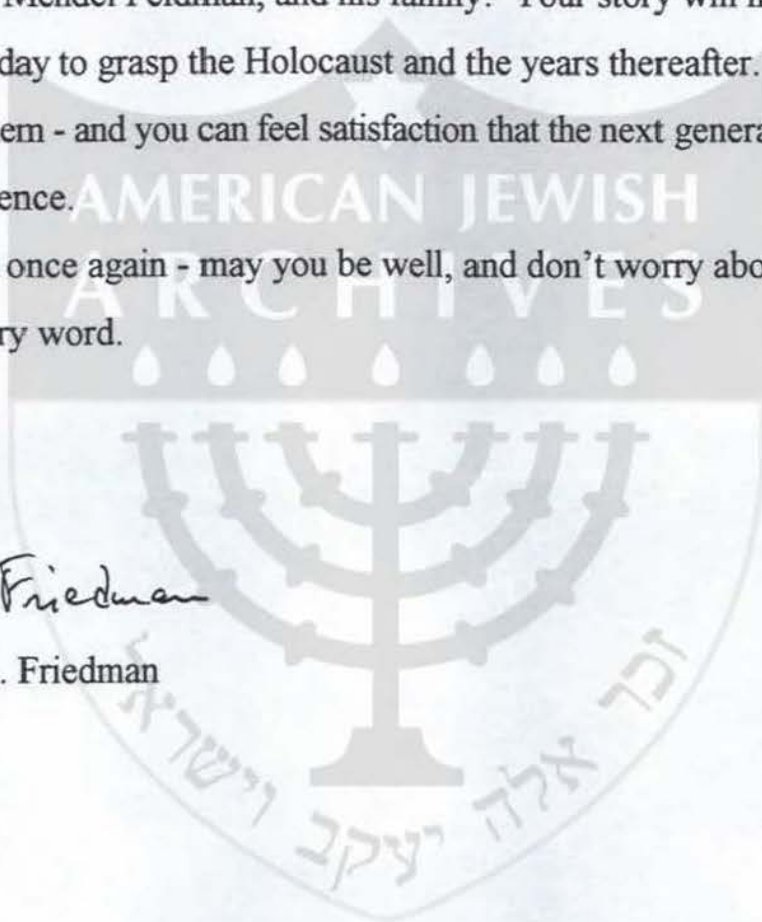
Let me finish by saying "thank you" for all the papers you sent me. I have spent my life teaching young people what happened between 1933-1945, and how it was possible for so many millions of our people to have been killed and other millions persecuted. But talking about millions is hard to understand. Now I will tell them the story of one man, Mendel Feldman, and his family. Your story will make it easier for young students today to grasp the Holocaust and the years thereafter. Your story will make it real for them - and you can feel satisfaction that the next generation will benefit from your experience.

Thank you once again - may you be well, and don't worry about your spelling. I understood every word.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman



# LABOR

SEPTEMBER 7, 1977

## A Railman's Pride: Puts Four Children Through College

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Railroader Mendel Feldman of this city, who's a post-war immigrant



from Europe, is a proud father these days. He has put four children through college. The fourth, Boris, received his B.A. degree from Yale this year, having graduated

"summa cum laude"—that is, with one of the highest ratings. He's also a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the scholastic fraternity.

Boris' graduation from Yale was aided by a four-year scholarship from the Penn Central Women's Aid Society. Employed currently with the Civil Rights Commission in Washington, he plans to enter the Yale Law School in the Fall.

Of the other three children, with B.A. and advanced degrees, son Fred is engaged in hemophilia research, son Irving in accounting, and daughter Charlotte in journalism.

Their dad, 60, is now with Conrail after working 25 years for its predecessor lines, mostly as an operator of track tamping equipment. Also, the elder Feldman "has been a proud and enthusiastic member of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees for three decades."



Palo ALTO CA - 11-8-2000. Tel 650-322-4422

Shalom; Rabbi Friedman + family

How are you?

Thank you very much for the letter  
of 10-26-2000.

I see you are very interesting in our  
past life after and during the war.

I send you some papers and did send  
you some before about the time  
we were by the Germans Nazis from  
1939 To 1945.

as you know we were by the Germans  
from September 1939 to November 10, 1939  
then we escaped to Bialystok Russia

you need all my papers what you getting  
now. I had some cases. 20 or 30 years  
back which I have does my children have  
copies off all of them I also send some

to YAD-VASHEM to Jerusalem, if you are  
interested in them I can send you some  
the best thing is to talk to my children  
Dr. Fred Feldman: 215-699-5325. Son,

1-800-394-1290 EX 4032. KING OF PROSSIA. P.A.

Charlotte Feldman Jacobs - 301-983-2567,  
Office 202-797-0007. Washington, D.C. Daughter,  
Holocaust Museum in Washington

If you came for vacation to California  
came to Palo ALTO I have lot to talk to  
you about the D.P. Camp I was 3 years  
in AUSTRIA - 1946 To October - 1949. my son

Dr. Fred was with me he loves to talk to  
you by that time it was not honey  
does years you are a very good man.

You can give my papers to any one  
you wish to give you have my permission  
Shalom Mendel Feldman



WWW Feldmans.ORG.  
USER buddy PASSWORD: buddy 99  
on The Internet

Fax 650-322-4434  
E-MAIL Boris @ FELDMANS.ORG,





HELP DISABLED



WAR VETERANS

E Mogilensky  
7121 Park Heights Ave Apt 305  
Baltimore, MD 21215

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

11/1/00

First, let me thank you for your beautiful book. It is absolutely wonderful - you have lived and continue to live, a most exciting and varied life and write just beautifully about it all.

I must apologise for not writing to you before, but things got hectic around here with all the holidays (we keep all of Sukkot), with lots of guests and company. It is always very good and satisfying - but also tiring!

Thank you for sending me copies of the two articles re the Randomhouse grant. I have now finished my book (I hope!) and will send a copy to the World Jewish Congress, with the hope that it may get published. Thank you for your offer also.

I trust that you and your family are all well and survived all that "Yom Tao" food. My best wishes to you and yours for a happy, healthy and successful New Year. Did you ever get to see my video?

Sincerely

Emmy Mogilensky

7121 Park Heights Avenue #305  
Baltimore, MD 21215

7/27/00

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
The Wexner Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

Thank you for your very kind letter of 7/14/00. I was truly amused by your salutations - I have never known a man called 'Emmy' and I have not been called 'Corporal' since 1946! Since I was married for almost 30 years and even though I have been a widow for some time now, addressing me as 'Mrs' would be just fine.

Let me comment on one section of your letter: I am delighted that your mother had the 'Chesed' to take three German-Jewish boys into her home, but these boys came here in 1936, needed passports, visas and a guarantor in the U.S. to make certain that they would not become a burden to society.

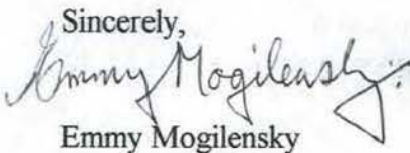
At the behest of the Chief Rabbi of England, and with the approval of the King, England took in almost 10,000 mostly Jewish children from Germany and Austria between 'Kristallnacht' and the outbreak of the war on September 3, 1939, without passports, visas or guarantors. The Chief Rabbi told the King that the entire Jewish community of Great Britain would stand surety for these children and indeed not one single child became a public charge.

These children's transports were encouraged to come by Parliament as well, something that cannot be said for Congress.

Thank you for giving me Mrs. Wexner's address, I shall write to her shortly.

Whenever you get this letter, I hope you and your wife had a wonderful and restful vacation in Vermont.

Sincerely,

  
Emmy Mogilensky



tel- 410-358-0332

7121 Park Heights Avenue #305  
Baltimore, MD 21215

7/3/00

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
The Wexner Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

Thank you for your lovely letter of 2/25 and I do regret not having responded to you before. I attended the Life Reborn conference in Washington, partly as a survivor (not of the DP camps) and partly as a volunteer for the Red Cross Holocaust Search Center. I attended your most moving lecture and loved to hear of the rebirth of Judaism in all its forms. Many of the facts you mentioned I already knew, of course, but some I did not and I thank you for adding to my knowledge and understanding.

In May 1939 I was sent out of Germany by my parents on a 'Kindertransport' to England. My final memory of my parents is of their anguished faces on the train platform in Munich. When my own children were small and asleep at night, I would often stand in their room and wonder if I would have the courage to send them away. To this day I do not have the answer.

Right now I am in the midst of writing a book - my memoirs. I have no idea if it will be publishable, but if not, it will be a legacy for my children, grandchildren and with H's blessing, for my great-grandchildren.

In 1981 I attended the first reunion of Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem, together with my brother who came to England on another Kindertransport in August, 1939. At that time I lived in Albany, NY and a small commercial TV station sent a crew of 4 with me to film my reaction to the various events and to interview me. I did a great deal of talking there and they edited a 1-hour TV program out of all the tapes they brought back with them. The program, called 'Emmy - A Journey from the Past' was shown twice without commercial interruptions and is now owned by the Reform movement, whose headquarters are not far from your Foundation. For years they have distributed copies of it to their Hebrew schools all over the country as a living lesson of the Holocaust. Some day, when you have an hour with absolutely nothing to do (!) you may want to see it in their tape library.

I spent 4 ½ years in the British army but was stationed only in England. I reached the 'exalted' rank of corporal, cooking for 2000 men during part of that time!

My work at the Red Cross Holocaust Tracing Center right here in Baltimore, entails trying to find people still being searched for by relatives of friends. Having kept meticulous records, Germany has millions and millions of records, now stored in 3 huge buildings in Arolsen, Germany and the

German government pays the salaries of 400 employees who do nothing but try to make matches. Every Red Cross chapter, both here and abroad, participate in these searches. The Search Center has been in existence for about 10 years and in that time, after all these years, we have made over 100 reunions. Sometimes we find the searched-for person and sometimes we discover their children or cousins - family members the searchers never knew existed! It is a most rewarding volunteer work for me. Should you wish to learn more about this, just contact the New York Red Cross Chapter.

I did not intend for this to become a 'Megillah', just a thank-you note.

With all best wishes for a wonderful future for you and your whole family

Shalom,

*Emmy Mogilensky*  
Emmy Mogilensky





3102

Emmy Magilensky  
7121 Park Heights Avenue, Apt. 305  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

8/16/00

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

I received your book yesterday - thank you so much. As soon as I get a chunk of time (probably Shabbat) I shall start to read it. My own book is coming along quite well, although it will need to do quite a bit of editing before I can even show it to a publisher. But I have some amazing documents and photographs which could illustrate it.

Have you seen the video yet? I look forward to hear your comments.

Thank you again for sending me your "Roots of the Future".

Sincerely  
Emmy Magilensky

Will send  
her Book  
in a couple  
Months

11/8



797  
Johanna J. Neumann  
357 Crescendo Way  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

January 9, 2001

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
The Moxnes Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Ave.  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Friedman,

Sorry that I am only now responding  
to your letter of October 26, 2000.

I have just now completed my book,  
which I call: "Via Albania - A Personal  
Account". Indeed, I would be most  
grateful to you if you would be so  
kind as to submit my book to

the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs  
Project. I am sending you a copy  
under separate cover and hope that it  
will get to Raudens House that way.

Please let me know if you need additional  
copies.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

I am

Sincerely yours,

Johanna J. Neumann





357 Crescendo Way  
Silver Spring, MD 20901

May 18, 2000

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
The Wexner Heritage foundation  
551 Madison Avenue - 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Friedman,

Please forgive me for replying to your February 25th letter only today.

Yes, indeed I was at the plenary session and heard you speak. My own story is that I was born in Hamburg, Germany and left in March 1939 with my parents for Albania. We remained in Albania until September 1945, when we were allowed to leave and were taken to Tricase Porto, a DP camp in Italy.

I wrote a little book about our life in Albania, which is not published, but which I printed and distributed among family and friends. The title is "Via Albania". I have given copies to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Yad Vashem, Hebrew University Library, Leo Beck Institute, Simon Wiesenthal Center, the University of Hamburg, and a few others. I am at the moment in the process of making slight revisions, since over the years, I have been able to make contact with an Albanian friend of mine, who now lives in Italy. She was able to fill me in on some names and places which I did not remember. If you are interested, I would be very glad to send you a copy as soon as the revised book has been printed.



-2-

Incidentally, the Albanian family who helped us and in whose home we were hidden during the German occupation of Albania, have been honored by Yad Vashem as Righteous Gentiles Among the Nations.

We remained for 11 months in Tricase Porto, where I witnessed the miracle of rebirth! Among the 840 young men and women, most of them representing the only survivor of their family, new families had begun! Many, many couples had gotten married or were about to and many were expecting their first child. That was the miracle of all miracles - how did they have the strength and confidence in the future to pick up and start from nothing! We were the victors, not Hitler!

I agree that the conference was a wonderful experience, however, I felt that certain opportunities were missed, which given the age of most of us, will be lost for ever.

It was very kind of you to write and I hope that I was able to give you a small sample of my experiences.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Johanna J. Neumann*



23 May 2000

Dear Mrs. Neumann -

Many thanks for your letter, which was quite unusual and interesting, due to the geography. Not many Jews found refuge in Albania, nor were there many DP camps in Italy. Those facts made your story unique, and I would be happy to receive a copy when the revised edition is published.

Meanwhile, I would like to reciprocate by offering you a copy of my book, which is a biographic memoir of my life. It contains, of course, the period of the war and post-war - but in addition it has all other things I have done in a long life. Should you be interested, just drop me a note at the above address, and I will be happy to mail it to you.

Once again, my thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,  
(Rabbi) Herbert A. Friedman

370-2

Esia Friedman  
149 West Ridge Drive  
West Hartford, CT. 06117

8/8/00

Shalom,

Considering your busy schedule I will update you on our American-era accomplishments. First, please read the attached biography, which I use whenever I am the guest speaker at events.

Secondly, you will be interested in my brothers' accomplishments.

After liberation, Warren joined the Jewish underground and led transports out of Russia. We settled temporarily in a DP camp in Austria. Warren was then recruited by the Bricha through the Betar and continued his underground missions until he was betrayed, caught by the British, and escaped from a detention center in Germany. For Warren's work, he was awarded a medal by the Israeli government. Because the British were searching for Warren, we left Europe as quickly as possible.

My grandfathers, father, and Warren were active members in the Betar in Vilna. As a matter of fact, Menachem Begin was a frequent visitor to our home.

In the United States, Warren became an X-ray technician, a teacher, and an engineer, with the education that goes with all of those accomplishments. He returned to Columbia University to study Political Science and continued his advanced studies at Trinity College, graduating from there two weeks before he passed away. Warren was born on Shevuos and died on Shevuos.

Warren's wife is a graduate of Brooklyn College, University of Hartford, and St. Joseph College. They had two sons; Mark is a medical doctor who has two sons and two daughters, all attending religious day schools. The sons are active in the junior Betar leadership programs. Eric, the younger one is a graduate of Boston University with a degree in communication and theatre. He has won several awards for his artwork. Presently he is keeping company with a very nice girl.

We were looked down upon here as "greenhorns" and have the capabilities to accomplish the American dream.

May Hashem bless you with a good year.

Sincerely,

Esia



## ESIA B. FRIEDMAN

**ESIA** was born in Vilna, Poland, where she lived with her parents and older brother. Esia is a hidden child Holocaust survivor. She and her family survived the Holocaust and came to Meriden, CT in 1946. Her education in America began at Meriden High School. She continued her education at the University of Connecticut and the University of Hartford, graduating with a B.S., M.Ed. and a Sixth Year Certificate in Education. Her subsequent career as a teacher in the Meriden Public School System spanned 30 years. She was elected to "Who's Who in Child Development Professionals." She was active in Meriden politics and served as Vice Chairman of the Meriden Republican Town Committee.

She is currently a member of the Yom HaShoah Commemoration Committee of the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center, Vice Chairman of the Greater Hartford Holocaust Survivors and Families and Vice Chairman of the Greater Hartford Holocaust Survivors Speakers Bureau. She also lectures extensively on Jewish persecution over the last 2000 years and about her personal experiences in the Holocaust. In March, 1999 she was honored as a "Woman of Valor" by the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

Esia is the immediate past commander of the New Britain Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadron, in which she holds the grade of Advanced Pilot.

She is married to Edward L. Friedman, who is Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering at the University of Hartford. He is the commander of the Hayes-Velhage Post 96 of the American Legion in West Hartford and a member of the Hartford-Laurel Post 45 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America.

Esia and Edward have two sons, Dr. Barry David Friedman and Rabbi Cary Alan Friedman. Barry is a professor of Political Science, an engineer and an author. Cary is an orthodox rabbi, an engineer and an author. They are also the grandparents of Elisha, Adina, Ayelet, Akiva and Elisheva, their pride and joy.

17 April 2000

Shalom Herbert,

Although I attended the conference of "Life Reborn" in January, I missed the opportunity to update our lives since we last met.

More than 50 years ago, we celebrated our first nos in Meriden with you and the Schwartz family, our mutual relatives. My uncle Robert Sheag had brought us to the U.S. after surviving the Holocaust.

Enclosed is a copy of a picture that was taken in Woodmont, that shows my brother, Warren's



The Western Wall



# Shalom

among the group of the Schwartz  
Cousins,

If you have the opportunity  
to visit Connecticut, my  
husband and I would welcome  
you into our home. We can  
retrieve memories and our  
history.

I hope that you and your  
family have a happy 2002.

Sincerely,

Esia B. Friedman

49 West Ridge Dr  
West Hartford CT 06117

(860) 231-8733



The Tower of David

Richard's  
brother-in-law

Richard

Herbert

Selig

Warren

Ed





Esia B. Friedman  
49 West Ridge Drive  
West Hartford, CT 06117

May 2, 2000

Dear Esia,

It was a great surprise to hear from you, and to see that ancient photo at Woodmont. I was sorry to read that your brother has passed away, as has Selig Schwartz. That leaves Ed (whom I haven't seen in decades) and Richard whom I have seen at Woodmont once or twice over all these years.

My first wife (Elaine Schwartz) and I were divorced in 1961, and each of us re-married subsequently. She died several years ago. I have three children from that marriage and two more with Francine. The oldest child is 51 and the youngest is 33.

Thank you for the invitation to visit you in Connecticut. I make so many trips in the course of my work, that we seldom have the opportunity to make trips for social purposes. But who knows what life brings us tomorrow.

Best regards,

Herbert

February 25, 2000

Dear Friend,

The recent Life Reborn conference in Washington was a wonderful emotional experience for all who attended. You may recall that I told my story at the plenary session on Sunday morning, January 16. I was a U.S. Army Chaplain (Captain), stationed in Berlin, who was recruited into the Aliyah Bet and organized The Stettin Operation which brought thousands of DP's into the Berlin camps of Schlachtensee and Tempelhof.

When I finished, so many people - hundreds, crowded around me. Everyone wanted to talk, ask questions, or tell a story, and it was simply impossible for me to give each of you the personal attention you deserved.

So, I decided to write to each survivor who attended that session, to express my thanks for your enthusiasm and invite you to write me a letter: tell me your story, your experience; what you went through; what happened to you; or ask me any question that is bothering you. I promise to answer everyone who writes, giving you any information you want as best as I can recall. It may take some time, depending on the number of letters I receive, but please be patient.

Tell me your story. It is too important to be forgotten. I did not share your pain, but I did share the DP years. We are spiritual comrades.

Shalom and good wishes,

(Rabbi) Herbert A. Friedman

Founding President Emeritus

*Dear Rabbi Friedman;  
Thank you for your printed note. I did attend the recent Life Reborn Conference in Washington D.C. I am a survivor of the German WWII camps. I also was part of a small group that assisted Jewish people to "move" from Stettin to West Berlin. My WWII story is described in a recently published book "The Vanished Kingdom: Travels Through the History of Prussia" by James Charles Roy Westview Press. Best wishes for a Happy New Year Arnold D. Korn*

*August 24, 2000*



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
212 355 6115  
Fax 212 751 3739

Mr. Joseph Finkelstein  
1650 Arch Street  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19108-2097

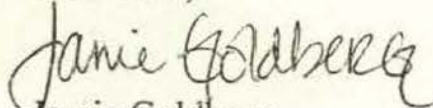
November 14, 2000

Dear Mr. Finkelstein,

Thank you for responding to our letter about sending your parent's story to the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project at the World Jewish Congress. I am writing to you to confirm that we received your speech about you parent's lives during the war, and we will forward them to the World Jewish Congress in their names. This is an important project that will help preserve the testimonies of your parents and other survivors, so the lessons learned and the people who perished during the Holocaust are never forgotten.

Again, we want to thank you for sharing your parent's story. If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to call me, Jamie Goldberg, Rabbi Herbert Friedman's assistant, at 212-355-6115. You may also contact Ms. Yudin at the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project at 914-722-1880.

B'Shalom,

  
Jamie Goldberg

# Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP

1650 Arch Street  
22nd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2097

T: 215 977 2000  
F: 215 977 2334  
www.wolfblock.com

Joseph S. Finkelstein  
Direct Dial: 215-977-2082  
Direct Fax: 215-405-2982  
E-Mail: jfinkelstein@wolfblock.com

November 13, 2000

**VIA FAX**  
**AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
The Wexner Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Herb:

Thank you for your letter of October 26, 2000 regarding the Random House Memoir Project. I would appreciate it if you would send in my parent's story in my name. I think something coming from you would likely receive closer attention.

Thank you. Best regards.

Sincerely,

Joseph S. Finkelstein

JSF:jc

DSC:754808.1



## Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP

1650 Arch Street  
22nd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2097

T 215 977 2000  
F 215 977 2334  
www.wolfblock.com

Joseph S. Finkelstein  
Direct Dial: 215-977-2082  
Direct Fax: 215-405-2982  
E-Mail: jfinkelstein@wolfblock.com

November 13, 2000

**VIA FAX**  
**AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
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551 Madison Avenue  
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Sincerely,

Joseph S. Finkelstein

JSF:jc

## Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP

1650 Arch Street  
22nd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2097

T: 215 977 2000  
F: 215 977 2334  
www.wolfblock.com

**Date:** November 13, 2000 **Number of Pages** (including this cover): 2

**To:** Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

**Company:** The Wexner Heritage Foundation

**Recipient's Fax #:** 212-751-3739

**Recipient's Phone #:** 212-355-6115

**Sender:** Joseph S. Finkelstein

**Sender's Phone #:** 215-977-2082

**Sender's Personal Fax #:** 215-405-2982

**Special Message:**



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Client: 999999

Matter: 999999

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Date sent: Tue, 02 May 2000 09:59:19 -0400  
From: \* "Joseph Finkelstein" <jfinkelstein@wolfblock.com>  
To: <Salome@wexner.org>  
Subject: For Herb Friedman Please Forward

To: Herb Friedman c/o Salome Gonzalez

Herb, my father recently mentioned to me that after you met him and my mother at the Holocaust Museum's Displaced Persons Conference, he received a letter from you. The letter invited him to write up his stories, for inclusion in a book you are preparing.

My father has misplaced the letter, but told me he did want to send you something. Yesterday I spoke about my parents' experiences at a Yom Ha Shoah program at my synagogue. The remarks are attached.

Is this what you are looking for? Perhaps with judicious editing you may be able to incorporate it in your work. Of course, this is only the barest outline of what they went through, but it hits the "highlights," so to speak.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance. Thanks.

Joe.

Joseph S. Finkelstein, Esquire  
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5/5/00  
I called him  
and left a  
message of deep  
gratitude for his  
efforts. HAP

**YOM HASHOAH REMARKS  
BETH AM ISRAEL  
MAY 1, 2000**

**By Joseph S. Finkelstein**

I have been asked to share with you some of my family stories about survival during the Holocaust. The stories which I am going to relate are of two survivors, my parents, Sol Finkelstein and Goldie Cukier Finkelstein.

I want to preface these remarks by mentioning that while these events are very much part of my family history and my identity, I knew nothing of these matters while I was growing up. The Holocaust was never discussed, nor were probing questions ever asked. I knew the names of dead relatives, the towns where my parents grew up, a little about life before the war, and the names Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, where my father and mother, respectively, were prisoners. I also knew my father had a tattoo on his arm. Mostly, I knew something very terrible had happened Over There, and it was so horrible that no one could talk about it. This wasn't a stated rule, we just knew that it was this way.

I first learned these stories in 1989, when I had been chosen by the State of Israel Bonds organization to be honored. I was to be given the "New Life/ New Leadership" award for being a successful and communally involved child of survivors. To my mind, it wasn't me who was really being honored but my parents, for their survival and rebuilding of Jewish life. The chairman of this event asked my parents to tell their stories, something I was unable to do, and at the age of 37 I found out for the first time a little bit of what Over There meant. So, these family stories go back about 60 years, but it was only after 50 years had passed that things could be told, and now I can speak about them as well.

I will relate just a few stories, first about my mother, and then my father, and I will conclude with reading to you a portion of the remarks my father made at this Israel Bonds event, when he spoke publically for the first time about what it meant to survive the Shoah.

My mother was ten years old when the Nazis entered her town of Sosnowiec, Poland, on the third day of the war. She was the second of four children of Joseph Cukier, for whom I am named, and Miriam Goldstein Cukier. First was Toby, three years older than my mother, then my mother, her younger brother Ateek, and her baby sister Gutcha. My mother was then in fifth grade. She lived a privileged life in a home with servants, cooks, and annual vacations in the country.

For a considerable period of time they were able to remain in their apartment. My grandfather was a wealthy merchant, in the wholesale dry goods business, and was able to bribe the Judenrat not to take his family in the early transports. In early 1943, my mother and her older sister Toby were walking together on the street and were captured in a raid, or Aktion, by the Germans. They were being taken to a camp as slave laborers. My grandfather gave bribes to the Judenrat, and it was arranged that his daughters would be



released; the Nazis did not care which Jews it took, so long as the quota was met. When they got to the gate of the camp where their father was waiting, the SS Captain who was in charge at the gate saw this and said, "What is this, two sisters? Only one may be released, you must choose." My mother stepped up and said she should stay in the camp, and Toby should be released and brought home by her father. Goldie was 13 and looked much younger, and my aunt Toby was 16 and a mature and beautiful woman, who would be at greater risk. My grandfather had to make this awful choice and he chose Toby.

My grandfather kept trying to get my mother out, but before he could my mother was sent to a labor camp called Graben, in Germany. When the girls arrived they were made to strip and 400 young girls stood naked in the winter weather while the Germans terrorized them and humiliated them. The Germans took all of their photographs of family members and made a bonfire. They were given back clothing, but not their own, the tall girl was giving a short girl's clothing, a small girl large clothing, and so on, and the Germans constantly inflicted cruelties and humiliations on their enemies, a group of adolescent girls. The girls were housed in wooden bunks, three to a bunk not big enough for one, and if someone in an upper bunk was sick, the people below her slept in her excrement. They received enough food for them to slowly starve to death.

My mother worked for a long time as a slave laborer in a flax factory, making materials for rope and fabric to be used by the German army. For a time, she even received some letters and packages from her family, but these stopped in August, 1943.

As the war started going against the Germans, they brought their Jews deeper into Germany. My mother was transported to Bergen-Belsen. This camp was not an extermination camp in the sense that there was no gas chamber, but it was a notoriously brutal camp with few survivors. My mother was very pretty, now 15 years old, and her hair had not, for some reason, been cut. Since she looked better than most, she was assigned to clean the latrines and quarters of the SS guards. They did not molest her, and when she talked back to them, as she naively did, they just laughed and were amused. They called her "The Little Gypsy" and treated her as their pet. She was able to steal food and bring it to her friends.

As the SS ran from the camps, when the Allies approached, they poisoned the water and many people contracted typhoid and died. My mother was one of the people very sick with typhoid, but she was recognized by a girl from Sosnowiec who was friends with her sister Toby, and Sabina, Toby's friend, carried her to a hospital inside the camp. The doctor in charge, Hadassah Bimko, a dentist before the war, recognized my mother and said, "Are you Miriam Cuckier's daughter?" Dr. Bimko was from Sosnowiec and she had known my mother's family. Dr. Bimko took special care of my mother, giving her medicine and juices to drink, since the water was contaminated, and did not allow her to die.

My mother was kept going by the belief that when the war was over, she would be reunited with her family. She learned after the war that her family was gassed at Auschwitz in August, 1943, in the last big transport to that camp from Poland. She was the sole survivor of her family, no siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins. Thus, by being



separated from her family

when my mother was chosen to stay and Toby to be released, my mother lived, as the sole survivor of a large extended family, and did not die in Auschwitz with the rest of her family.

My mother was liberated by the British Army on April 15, 1945, the first day of Passover.

My father's war began on September 8, 1939, when the German army crossed the Vistula River and occupied his home town of Radom, Poland. He was 14, in 10th grade, and the youngest of five children. His father was Jacob, mother Golda Warshenbrot Finkelstein, and he had three older brothers and an older sister. Their names were Avrum, Aaron, Hannnah, and Yosef. His family was middle class, very Zionist, and his two oldest brothers were university students, something rare for Jews in Poland in the 1930's.

My father was grabbed off the street immediately, and made to push trucks for the German army. A few days after the occupation, the Germans ordered that all Jews wear the yellow arm band, "Jude." The decree was issued, deliberately, on Yom Kippur.

My grandfather and the two oldest sons fled to the east, to Lvov, thinking this would be a safe haven for the few weeks it would take the Allies to push back the Germans. Jacob returned to his family, but the two oldest brothers stayed east, working as Hebrew teachers. When Germany invaded Russia in 1941, the Germans entered this town, and a mob of Ukranian anti-Semites, who welcomed the German army with joy, beat my uncles to death with clubs and shovels.

The family was shoved into a Ghetto, and from there to work camps. My father got separated from them and was working in a camp where he was falsely accused of stealing gasoline. He was ordered to be executed by shooting. He got word of this to his mother, and his sister Hannah, then 19, went to the head of her camp, a Major who despised the Nazis, and told him he had to save her brother. When he said he could do nothing, my aunt said, "You have a car, my brother is a mechanic." So a lieutenant was dispatched to bring my father back as the special mechanic for the Major. My father knew absolutely nothing about cars or machines. As he was leaving the camp, the Nazis shot another Jew, since someone had to die as an example.

Later, my father was sent to Auschwitz, and was assigned to a satellite camp as a slave laborer making anti-aircraft guns. There was a Polish woman who befriended my father, and he traded linens which he had stolen for bread. The linens belonged to the SS commander of the camp, and when it was discovered what happened my father, now 18, was brought to the commandant's office. Asked if he had stolen the linens, my father said it wasn't theft because he was hungry and needed food, a modern-day Jean Valjean. The commandant said, "Jew, you have a choice, you can be shot or you can be hanged." My father answered, "If I have a choice, I choose to live."

Just then the phone rang and the commandant took the call. My father said the Nazi turned pale and was visibly shaken. The commandant then sent my father back to



barracks, and ordered a lockup of all inmates. Whenever an execution was to take place, this was the procedure, all inmates were locked up, and then made to stand in formation to watch the execution. My father told his brother and father, who were with him, that this lock up was for him, and he said goodbye to them. They waited and nothing happened. Finally, after a long time, the inmates were ordered to march out of camp. The Russian army had broken through on the eastern front and was approaching Auschwitz. The phone call to the Nazi was the order to evacuate. In the confusion, my father's execution was overlooked.

My father was then part of group on a death march. He hasn't talked about it, only to say that 2000 men started out and 400 were left. He was sent to a brutal camp where he worked 12 hour shifts in a slave camp building V-2 missiles, nine stories below ground in chalk mines. Many died from the treatment at this camp.

Eventually my father, grandfather, and uncle were sent to Matthaussen, a camp in Austria from which almost no Jews survived. When he and his brother and father arrived at Matthaussen, he and his brother Joe were offered a "good job" which would entitle them to more food. It was to work the crematorium. My father refused because he wouldn't take any job that separated him from his father. My father was beaten and clubbed by a guard who yelled, "Stupid Dirty Jew" as he fractured my father's skull. The job was given to another set of brothers named Myer.

As punishment, they were ordered to a grave detail, where they buried Russian prisoners of war in a mass grave, one layer arranged head toe, toe head, then covered with lime, and another layer of bodies.

My father and uncle noticed that political prisoners had red triangles and wore hats. They stole some red material and hats, and became "prominents" who could walk freely around camp. They worked cleaning the latrines for Spanish Civil War prisoners, and hid their father and brought him food. Since they weren't recognized as Jews anymore, their ability to survive increased dramatically.

As the American army approached, however, a Czech who knew my father tipped him off that the SS was looking for the Finkelstein brothers to shoot them, as they were killing off the witnesses to war crimes. The Myer brothers who worked the crematorium had already been shot. My father needed a place to hide, so he took his brother Joe, who was too sick to walk, and carried him to the grave, where they hid themselves under the dead bodies. They lay there for half an hour, until they heard Patton's 101st army enter the camp. It was May 5, 1945.

The liberation was not a happy one, however. My uncle and my father had gotten separated from their father, and left alone he died a few days after liberation from starvation.

I would like to conclude by reading you my father's words when he first spoke publically about his life at the Israel Bonds dinner. This is what he said:

"I would like to recall the words of the prophet Yesheskial, Ezekiael. In his prophecy thousands of years ago, you can read it in Chapter 37, he said that God told the prophet to go to the valley full of bones, and God promised to open up their graves, and put flesh on the bones, and put breath in them, and lift them up to a new life. That's what God did to me. When I was liberated I was 19 years old and weighed 60 pounds. If you remember the pictures from the Nuremberg trials, that's how I looked, nothing but a skeleton. I escaped at the end by hiding in a grave with my brother, under the corpses. God fulfilled the prophesy—he lifted me out of the grave, put flesh on my bones and gave me a new life and spirit. He allowed me to live again, to continue to rebuild Jewish life. For that, I am grateful to God."





Ms. Henny Lukas  
2192 Jackson Blvd.  
University Heights, OH 44118

April 10, 2000

Dear Ms. Lukas,

I have your letter, in which you ask for a copy of my presentation at the Life Reborn conference in Washington last January. I spoke from a few notes plus memory. I'm sorry there is no manuscript.

Your main question concerns Stettin and I can tell you the whole story in detail, because I dealt with the Stettin-Berlin route for many months in 1946. So, permit me to tell you the story, and then if you have more questions, we can speak by telephone.

The travels of your parents was absolutely typical of hundreds of thousands of Jewish people. When the Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939, as many Jews as had the foresight to flee and could possibly do so, ran eastward. Stalin was willing to let them into Russia because he needed civilian labor. Typically they were free to move around, but actually they were slave labor and were sent far beyond the Ural Mountains into Siberia, exactly as happened to your parents. And also typically, they were put to work cutting lumber for the wooden ties needed to support thousands of miles of railroad track all the way to the far Pacific Ocean. They must have been strong to endure the hard work, bad food, terrible cold.

As Hitler broke the pact he had earlier made with Stalin, and invaded Russia in 1941, the fighting was furious and the Russian army and government paid less attention to these Jewish slaves in Siberia, so it was easier for them to drift south. They must have been brave, took a chance and fled to the country of Azerbaijan (which you spelled Andajohn) one of the 15 provinces of the Soviet Union, which had a large

population of native Jews, even though Azerbaijan was mostly Moslem. A large population of Polish Jews, like your parents, found refuge there and had a normal life, even if not lavish, for the next several years, until 1945, when Hitler was finally defeated.

Then, some people went eastward to Shanghai where there was a Jewish refugee colony, but most went westward to get back home to Poland. It was very difficult to stay there. Three million Polish Jews had been taken to the murder camps, and the country felt like one big cemetery. What to do? I doubt if your parents went back to Warsaw, which was totally destroyed. They might have gone to Cracow. How long did they stay there? About one year is not accounted for, from July 1945 to July 1946. You wrote that they (and you at six months old) were in Kielce (Keltz as you spelled) on the day of the pogrom, July 4, not July 7, 1946.

O.K. now I can pick up the story again.

I was also in Kielce about a week later. I was a Jewish Chaplain (captain) in the U.S. Army, stationed in Berlin. My commander ordered me to go to Kielce to find out what happened (42 Jews murdered), and to try to make a prediction as to the mood of the Jewish people. Would they start a mass movement, running further westward to get to the American Zone of Germany, where it would be safe? I returned to Berlin and predicted that there would be 100,000 to 150,000 Jews during the next year trying to get in to Germany under American protection. The commander reported to President Truman, who ordered that all Jews should be allowed to enter Germany.

Now, an explanation is necessary. How did the movement of Jews, beginning in Azerbaijan and ending in Germany actually work? In Palestine (no State of Israel yet) there was an underground Jewish army called Haganah. They set up an organization in Europe called Bricha (flight). The men of Bricha arranged a whole process of transportation, identification papers, sleeping and feeding, bribing to get



across all borders, etc., etc. The expenses of Bricha were paid by Haganah in Palestine and the Joint Distribution Committee (UJA) in the United States. It was a brilliant operation and moved more than the 150,000 Jews from Siberia to Germany. (Look at map) There were two destinations on the German border - Stettin in the far north, almost at the Baltic Sea, which led to Berlin; and Salzburg in the South, which led to Munich. Your family was brought by the Bricha to Stettin. Technically, that is on Polish territory. Stettin was a holding area for hundreds and thousands. Across the border was Germany - the Russian Zone - and the Palestinian men of the Bricha did not want to break the border.

Here is where I came into the story again. I was a U.S. Army captain, in uniform. Secretly, I was a member of Bricha. I had six trucks in the back yard of my headquarters in Berlin. I had drivers, gunners, mechanics, etc. and we drove out of Berlin each day at dusk, reached the Stettin border-crossing point at midnight; loaded 50 people on each truck (total 300 people); paid the bribes to the Polish guards on their side and the Russian guards on their side; one carton of cigarettes (worth \$150 on the black market) per each Jew; then drove back to Berlin by dawn. There was a large D.P. camp in Berlin named Schlachtensee, and we unloaded our passengers in the camp. That's exactly how your family got from Stettin to Berlin and safety. I am certain that we carried you and your family in one of our trucks sometime during the second half of 1946.

The rest of the saga I don't know. My guess is that your parents decided they wanted to go to the U.S. and not wait until there would someday be a free sovereign Jewish State, which wasn't born until May 1948. My guess is that you were in Schlachtensee (or Tempelhoff - a second D.P. camp also in Berlin) sometime during late 1946 - and possibly got visas to the U.S. within a year or two.

The story has a happy ending. Thank God.

With my best regards,

*Herbert A. Friedman*



Ms. Henny Lukas

2192 Jackson Blvd.

University Hts., Ohio 44118

Dear Ms. Lukas,

I have your letter, in which you ask for a copy of ~~the~~ <sup>my</sup> presentation at the LIFE REBORN conference in Washington <sup>last</sup> January. I spoke from <sup>a few</sup> notes <sup>plus</sup> memory. <sup>I'm sorry</sup> ~~so~~ There is no manuscript.

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The ~~story~~ travels of your parents was absolutely typical of hundreds of thousands of Jewish people. When the Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939, as many Jews as ~~could possibly do so~~ <sup>to flee</sup> and had the foresight <sup>to flee</sup> and could possibly do so, ran eastward. Stalin was willing to let them into Russia because he needed civilian labor. Typically they were free to move around, but actually they were slave labor and were sent far beyond the URAL mountains into Siberia, exactly as happened to your parents. And also typically, they were put to work cutting lumber for the wooden ties needed to support thousands of miles of railroad track all the way to the Far Pacific Ocean. They must have been strong to endure the hard work, bad food, terrible cold.

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They must have been brave, took a chance and fled to the country of Azerbaijan (which you spelled Andajohn) <sup>one of the 15 provinces of the</sup> where there was Soviet Union, a large ~~Jewish~~ population of native Jews, even though Azerbaijan was a Moslem area. ~~And there~~ In addition, a large population of Polish Jews, like your parents, found refuge there and had a normal life, even if not lavish, for the next several years, until 1945 when Hitler was finally defeated.

Then, some ~~few~~ <sup>people</sup> Jews went eastward to Shanghai where there was a large Jewish refugee colony, but most went westward to get back home to Poland. It was very difficult to stay there. Three million Polish Jews had been taken to the murder camps, and the country felt like one big cemetery. What to do? ~~They apparently~~ I doubt if they went back to Warsaw, which was totally destroyed. They might have gone to Cracow. There is about one year not accounted for from July 1945 to July 1946. You wrote that they (and you at 6 months old) were in Kielce (Keltz, as you spelled) on the day of the pogrom, July 4, not July 7.

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46  
[Signature]



Now, a new factor enters the picture. How did the movement of Jews, beginning in Azerbaijan and ending in Germany, actually work? In Palestine (no state of Israel yet) there was an underground Jewish army ~~which~~ <sup>was</sup> called Hagana. They set up an organization in Europe called Bricha (flight). The men of Bricha set up a whole process of transportation, ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> identification papers, sleeping place and feeding, bribing to get across all borders, etc., etc. The <sup>expenses of</sup> Bricha ~~men~~ were paid by the Hagana in Palestine and the Joint Distribution Committee (USA) in the United States. It was a brilliant operation and moved more than the 150,000 <sup>Jews</sup> from Siberia to Germany.

(Look at map) There were two destinations on the German border - Stettin in the far north, almost on the Baltic Sea, which led to Berlin; and Salzburg in the south, which led to Munich. Your family was <sup>brought</sup> ~~led~~ by the Bricha to Stettin. Technically, that is on Polish territory. Stettin was a holding area for hundreds and thousands. Across the border was Germany - the Russian Zone - And the Palestinian <sup>men</sup> ~~boys~~ of the Bricha ~~would~~ did not want to break the border.

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(4)

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The story has a happy ending. Thank God.

With my best regards

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# Henny Lukas (Lukawiec)

March 29, 2000

Rabbi Friedman  
c/o Wexner Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

I am so pleased to get your letter. I have been searching and searching for anyone with any Stettin experience and have been told that because it was on the Eastern front that little record exists of the Stettin Operation. Unfortunately I arrived a bit late and must have missed your presentation. (If a written copy exists I would love a copy.

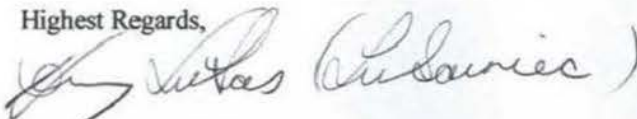
My parents and I (I believe) were involved with the Stettin Operation as DPs and lived somewhere in the camps and or in the surrounding area. I have conflicting recall about my parents experience (no longer alive) and remember that they stated that they resided "near" the camp, but may have lived within the camps for a while. My father was a bookbinder and found work in nearby German towns. I am very excited about the possibility of learning more from you about the camps how they were organized, and whatever you can offer on the subject. I'm sure you do not remember my parents, but if you did would like to hear whatever your recall provides.

Brief history on my parents: My parents originally came from Warsaw, Poland (1938) and left to Russia following bombing of that city. They proceeded to Swerdlot -- I believe and then to Russia where they were transported to northern Russia to a labor camp near Siberia where they spent several years laying rails for the railroad. They traveled south and worked, picking fruit and doing other jobs for food. Ended up in Andajohn (spelling) where they remained several years, until they heard of the defeat of Germany. They traveled back to Poland and Stettin is the location they mentioned. One additional fact is that my mother went to Keltz to determine if family was alive (her family resided in Chemelnick -- 1 1/2 hour from Krackow). She and I (6 months old at the time) happened to be there for the Keltz pogrom on July 7 1946. She and I were two of the survivors.

I have little to remember my parents by and no way to collect the information about their difficult history. My mother died in 1961 and my father died in 1988. I went to the conference to seek out anyone that had knowledge of Stettin and any details that could help me learn more. I hope to hear from you regarding a phone conference.

If you would let me know of a good time to call, perhaps on a Sunday, or if you would be able to visit (I could drive to New York) I would be so pleased.

Highest Regards,



Henny Lukas (Lukawiec)