



HOLOCAUST MEMORY RECONSTRUCTION: A Sacred Culture Rebuilt

A collection of visual history collages meticulously composed
by Holocaust survivors and their families.

Commentary by: Shana Nys Dambrot

Compiled and designed by:

Lori Shocket

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A Human Element Project

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WITH HEARTFELT GRADITUDE TO:

Participating Holocaust survivors and their families
and

Alpert Jewish Community Center, Long Beach, CA

Cafe Europa, Los Angeles, CA

Freda Mohr Center, Los Angeles, CA

Generations of the Shoah International, Las Vegas, NV

Holocaust Survivors Group of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

Jewish Holocaust Centre, Melbourne, Australia

Jewish Home for the Aging, Los Angeles, CA

Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore, MD

Museum of Tolerance, Los Angeles, CA

Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles, CA

USC Shoah Foundation, Los Angeles, CA

HOLOCAUST MEMORY RECONSTRUCTION:

A Sacred Culture Rebuilt

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Survivors are listed in alphabetical order by last name

Forward	Dortrow, Al
Elemental Humanism	Dubsky (Kafka) Anna
Adler, Hans Gunter (John)	Einhorn, Benjamin
Abel, Boris	Einhorn, Henia
Asher, Hedy	Engelson, Morris
Basner, Yakob	Feniger, Saba
Basset, Janina	Figueres, Thomas
Berger, Gusta	Finkelstein, Hanka
Berger, Sol	Fintel (Goldman), Bela
Bialek, Adek	Fintel, Nathan
Bierzynski, Natalia	Fintel, Stephanie
Blicblau, Mendel	Fiol, Raymonde
Bodlander, Walter	Firestone, Renee
Borenstein, Dora	Fizzman, Franka
Borenstein, Leo	Fizzman, Moshe
Braitberg, Ester	Fogel, Jack
Braunstein, Ernest	Friedman, Saul
Brettler, Eva	Friedman, Bella
Brody, Sonia	Fuchs, Ilona
Bron, Israel	Fuchs, Morton
Brooks, Leon	Gal, Klara
Brooks, Marysia	Galor, Vered
Buch, Henry	Gardner, Andrew
Bugalski, Malka	Geller, Elane
Bugalski, Zelig	Gerard, Jerry
Callwood, Sabina	Gemander, Robert
Chaskiel, Scaja	Gleitman, Regina
Charpot, Chiam	Goldberg, Abram
Chrapot, Sarah	Goldberg, Cesia
Cohen, Aaron	Goldberg, Luba
Cohen, Abraham	Goldman, Louis
Cohen, Betty	Goldstein, Rena
Cohen, Moshe	Gompertz, Rolf
Daniels (belowitz), Peter	Greenstein, Avraham
Danko, Abe	Greenstein, Dorothy
Danko, Edith	Greenstein, Jean
Davids, Harry	Greenwald, Joseph
De Haan, Jozeph	Grinwald, Paul
Deane, Wolf	Groch, Leon (Lolek)
Drajer, Max	Groch, Mela
Drotow, Barbara	Gruenbaum, Ludwig

[Hacker, Adele](#)
[Hacker, Ernst](#)
[Hacker, Samuel](#)
[Hammerman, Michael \(Adi\)](#)
[Harvey, William](#)
[Heller, Sabina](#)
[Hess, Joe](#)
[Hirshorn, Bella](#)
[Holston, Ruth](#)
[Ilan, Eddie](#)
[Jachimowicz, Harry](#)
[Jones, \(Weinberg\) Francis](#)
[Josem, Sabina](#)
[Juskovic, Artur](#)
[Kaganovitich, Moses](#)
[Kaganovitich, Tzipora](#)
[Kalman, Arie](#)
[Kalman, Floris](#)
[Kamieniecki, Ben](#)
[Karin, Gabriella](#)
[Katz, Gunther](#)
[Kaufman, Marie](#)
[Keller, Ruth](#)
[Kern \(Kernberg\), Oswald](#)
[Klar, Edith](#)
[Kleiner, Chiam](#)
[Kleiner, Zofia](#)
[Knop, Siegfried](#)
[Kohn, Maly](#)
[Kolski, Abraham](#)
[Kolt, Judy](#)
[Korn, Henri](#)
[Krakowski, Motek](#)
[Krakowski, Rosa](#)
[Kun, Agnes](#)
[Kushinski, Hannah](#)
[Arye Kwait](#)
[Kwait, Sala](#)
[Kwiaitek, Boris](#)
[Lamovie, John](#)
[Lermer, Wilhelm](#)
[Levy, Stephan](#)
[Lewin, Jack](#)
[Lewin, Regina](#)
[Lewit, Maria](#)
[Lewkowicz, Hana](#)
[Lewkowicz, Rewen \(Berek\)](#)
[Light, Tilly](#)

[Linden \(Lindenberg\), Edith](#)
[Lindenberg, Fred](#)
[Lipson, Tuvia](#)
[Lux, Dave](#)
[Mahler, Frank](#)
[Mahler, Irene](#)
[Maisel, Joseph](#)
[Maisel, Philip](#)
[Majtlis, Mania](#)
[Majtlis, Morris \(Moniek\)](#)
[Manheimer, Adela](#)
[Mann, Elisabeth](#)
[Margolis, Szyja](#)
[Michalowicz, Shimon](#)
[Mileikowski, Zvi](#)
[Moyal, Zelda](#)
[Nagel, Gitta](#)
[Nagel, Jack](#)
[Natan, Mary](#)
[Nathan, Vivane](#)
[Nissen, Doris](#)
[Nowack, Alfred](#)
[Nozick, Suzanne](#)
[Nudelman, Israel](#)
[Nutowits, Bezalel](#)
[Nutowits, Cipora](#)
[Oehlbaum, Perry](#)
[Orbach, Fischel](#)
[Oster, Henry](#)
[Perelberg, Abram \(Adas\)](#)
[Perelberg, Romana](#)
[Perlmutter, Avraham](#)
[Pick, Alex](#)
[Pick, Veronica](#)
[Popik, Mike](#)
[Price, Morris](#)
[Prince, David](#)
[Prince, Ella](#)
[Prochnik, Leon](#)
[Rassaby, Hajnal \(Dawn\)](#)
[Resofsky, Alex](#)
[Resofsky, Judy](#)
[Rogers, Bella](#)
[Rosa, Albert](#)
[Rotstein, Sol](#)
[Rosenthal, Shmuel](#)
[Rubens, Stan](#)
[Russell, David](#)

[Russell, Paula](#)
[Rutman, Renia \(Stefa\)](#)
[Rutman, Rubin](#)
[Saaroni, Liszer \(Lewi\)](#)
[Saaroni, Saba \(Sarah\)](#)
[Schaeffer, Imre](#)
[Schlesinger, Eugene](#)
[Schlesinger, Eva](#)
[Schlesinger, Julius](#)
[Schmideg, Margit](#)
[Schmedig, Zoltan](#)
[Schnall, Jacob](#)
[Schnall, Lea](#)
[Schweitzer, Fredzia](#)
[Schweitzer, Nachum](#)
[Seeman, Charolette](#)
[Seifer, Gerda](#)
[Singer, Edith](#)
[Singer, Michael](#)
[Slagter, Chelly](#)
[Sochaczewski, Abram](#)
[Sokolowicz, Aron](#)
[Sokolowicz, Cyla](#)
[Solowicz, Cesia](#)
[Solowicz, Kuba](#)
[Spiegel, Vivienne](#)
[Stawski, Wolf](#)
[Stawski, Zosia](#)
[Stern, Max](#)
[Stocker, Marta](#)
[Stodel, Max](#)
[Stone, Abram](#)
[Stone, Bella](#)
[Szarmari, Andrew](#)
[Szarmary, Olga](#)
[Szmulewicz, Ksiel](#)
[Szmulewicz, Rachel](#)
[Teicher, Hadassa](#)
[Toporek, Faye](#)
[Toporek, Harry](#)
[Trenk, Eva](#)
[Ungar, Gloria](#)
[Ungar, Victor](#)
[Voorzanger, Jack](#)
[Wajsenberg, Sonia](#)
[Weber \(Kosjer\), Serena](#)

[Weinberg, Amalia](#)
[Weiner, Mashe](#)
[Weiner, Symcha](#)
[Weiss, Ernest](#)
[Weiss, Cathy](#)
[Weiss, Laszlo](#)
[Weiss, Magda](#)
[Wetter, Dr. Jack](#)
[Zaidman, Renate](#)
[Zaidman, Wolf](#)
[Zilberberg, David](#)
[Zilberberg, Sheva](#)
[Zinger, Rona](#)
[Zwass, Bernard](#)
[Zylberman Halina](#)
[Zylberman Max](#)
[Zylberszpic, Hena](#)
[Zylberszpic, Isydor](#)

Elemental Humanism

by Shana Nys Dambrot

Collage is the noble conquest of the irrational, the coupling of two realities, irreconcilable in appearance, upon a single plane. - Max Ernst

One thing art does better than language is to express paradox. Apparent contradiction and impossible simultaneity can possess forms that co-exist in visual art in a way they cannot in language. Art can take darkness, and make it real, while also communicating equally real hope and joy in the same image. Art can invite the past and the future onto the same plane, into the same present moment, thus allowing us to see all things as one, to collect and give shape to the nuances of living history.

The specific genre of collage is particularly well suited to this iteration of art's task, which has partly to do with the perceptual and psychological processes for which we use the term collage as an analogy. But it also deals directly with art history, as the genre of collage itself was invented and popularized by the European and later the American avant-garde in the years before, during, and after the War. What makes this particular exhibition even more timely and salient, is that the art of collage itself is currently experiencing a major resurgence in popularity among new generations of contemporary post-internet artists and critics, ranging from the analog embrace of craft to analytical conceptualism at the highest levels.

The invention of collage as an expression of the modern condition at the dawn of 20th century, especially in European cities, happened as artists and writers searched for a new visual language, for an appropriately unconventional way of greeting and depicting the world. In France, Germany, and elsewhere, artists started culling photographs and printed matter from the urban landscape of newspapers, magazines, advertisements, propaganda and so on, and reassembling these materials in an interpretive and fractured accumulation that spoke to what was already considered information overload. They created original metanarratives that carried more critical, subversive, individual messages. This art historical trend flourished in the Post-WWII visual culture, as artists including Wallace Berman, Bruce Conner, George Herms, Robert Rauschenberg, and Betye Saar, embraced collage for its qualities of the mass-produced and the vernacular, as well as the fact of its intended contents, formulating social critique from as eclectic an array of sources as one might imagine. That is the impulse a new generation has revived, along with an honoring of the patient, analog way in which collages are made.

Studies have shown that we see on average 10,000 images each day. A sensibility of radical juxtaposition, of everyday surrealism, of literally layering disparate elements to make a cohesive statement that contains multitudes within it - this is how the world is now, and it shows in our art. When it comes to bringing together the past and the future, to introducing the Human Element into the modern condition, there's nothing better suited to the task than the practice of art. There never has been.



Hans Gunter (John) Adler

Goldberg, Germany

Ja91

I, Hans Gunter Adler, was born in Germany in 1923, the only child of Jewish parents. At the age of 13, I was no longer permitted in German schools. On Kristallnacht, November 1938, mass arrests of Jewish men began. In 1939, my parents fled to Shanghai, China. I immigrated to a kibbutz in Palestine. In 1941, I volunteered for the British Army serving in the Sahara Desert and European campaigns. In 1946, I regained contact with my parents who survived the war in a Shanghai refugee camp. They emigrated to the USA in 1948; I followed the same year. I lost too many relatives in the Holocaust to forget and forgive.



Boris Abel

Ponevez, Lithuania

Ba99*

Boris Abel was the second youngest of seven children. Boris was born in Ponevez, Lithuania in 1915. As a young man he worked in his family's rope factory, until the Nazis invaded their neighborhood. He was moved to the ghetto and all his family's belongings were taken. In the camps he endured torture and lost most of his family. After the war, he moved to Salem, MA where he began his new life. He started his own business as a brush maker. Boris was a spry 98 year old man when he passed away in May 2014. We had the honor of living with him for five years after our Bobbie passed away.



Hedy Asher

Vienna, Austria

Ha90

I was born in 1924 in Vienna. Father was a prosperous businessman. He owned a store with a huge apartment above. Our family consisted of my mother, father, sister and brother. In 1938, my father sensed it was time to leave Vienna. He had been preparing for two years to go to Shanghai. We left when I was only 14. At my brother's Bar Mitzvah there were seventy family members. After the war, there were only a handful left. In 1947, my husband and I left Shanghai and came to the United States and had one son, Michael.



Yakob Basner

Riga, Latvia

Yb87

My Bar Mitzvah was the last celebration with my family. Within months, the Germans occupied my hometown of Riga. There was no more school, sports or social life. I was denied the use of sidewalks and I had to wear a Star of David. Soon after we moved to the ghetto, my entire family was killed. After two years in the ghetto, I was sent to five concentration camps. After having my own children, I tried to provide them with the childhood I didn't have. I want them never to give up hope, to take charge of their own life and not indifferently observe what is going on around them. I want to inspire them and teach them to inspire other people to build a better world.



Janina (Nina) Bassat
Lvov, Poland

Jb76

We who survived, Sara and Masza Przyuska, Hadassa Katz (Teicher), Samuel Wargon, and I Janina Katz (Bassat) were mandated to remember Israel Rubin ben Yaacov ha Cohen - Izydor Katz, Moshe Mordechai ben Avraham - Moszek Wargon, Chaia Ruchel bat Rachmiel - Chaja Wargon, Saul ben Moshe Mordechai – Saul Wargon, Israel ben Moshe Moedechai - Izrael Wargon, Majlich Boruch ben Lejba ha Cohen - Mietek Przysuska. Now I, Janina (Nina) Bassat am mandated to ensure that you, the members of my family, Robert Bassat, Sara, David, Avi, Elisheva, Naomi and Bezalel Gillis. Andrew, Natalie, Matthew, Jack, Ben and Emma Bassat, Paul, Sharon, Joel, Jasmine and Jeremy Bassat remember **מדור לדור** From generation to generation. The torch of memory is now in your hands. Guard it safely and pass it on.



Gusta Berger

Tarnopol, Poland

Gb92

My name is Gusta Berger. I was born January 23, 1923 in a small town in Poland called Tarnopol. I had two sisters and one brother. My sister Mina and I grew up on a farm with our grandparents. In 1943, Mina and I left the farm posing as Poles. I survived the war living as a Pole. I married my husband Sol in 1945. Our son Jack was born in 1946 in a relocation camp in Italy. We emigrated to the U.S. in 1950. Our daughter Marlene was born in 1951. I am so grateful to have two wonderful children, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. My hope is that they will always live in freedom and happiness.



Sol Berger
Krosno, Poland

Sb95

I was born in 1919 in a small Polish town called Krosno. I was one of nine children. In 1938, my younger brother Michael and I wanted to join our two older sisters in the United States. Unfortunately, the war began in 1939, and we were unable to leave. I avoided the German edicts by disguising myself as a Polish Christian fighting with the Polish Partisans. At the end of the war, my beautiful wife and young son Jack emigrated with me to the U.S. where we established a new life with our daughter Marlene, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I hope this family will be blessed for the rest of their lives.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Navigation Act.
Form P.—2.
15-1-43
662

PASSENGER LIST—INCOMING PASSENGERS.
of Passengers Brought to the Port of MELBOURNE from Places Outside Australia.
(This form prescribed in Duplicate)
Name, Age, Sex, Class, and Date of Birth

Genoa	BIALEK	Adek
	BIALEK	Estelle
		Rita
		Pola

DEATHS IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA
Registered by Louis Philippe LIPONNE
No 6771

1 No.	No 6771
4 Name and surname of father and mother (maiden name, if known), with occupation	Izwi Herman Bialek Rachel Bialek maiden name Komelgorn Textile Merchant
7 Signature, description, and residence of informant	Certified by M. Bialek 16 Bethune Street East Hawthorn 3123 Son
8 (1) Signature of Registration Officer (2) Date and (3) Where registered	<i>Louis P. Liponne</i> 2 April 1984 Melbourne
9 If burial registered— (Adapt as required) When and where buried Undertaker by whom certified	8 March 1984 Chevro Kadisha Cemetery Springvale W. Goldberger H. Handel Jewry
10 Name and Religion of Minister, or names of witnesses of burial	
11 (1) Where born and (2) Age at date	Pabjanice, Poland 34 years Married
12 (1) First marriage Details unknown Second marriage Hanover, Germany 33 years Paula Jurkewicz (2) At date	Married

Our father was a kind, friendly and loveable man.
He had a wonderful sense of humor, loved to dance and enjoyed the company of people.
He was a hard worker and loved to be on the road delivering.
Inside work was not on his agenda.
Even though he had suffered through losses and personal indignities during WWII, he always tried to make our lives fun.
He was a wonderful dancer, a flirt and a great story teller.
Loved and laughed at wrestling on TV.
Loved soccer.
His children and grandchildren provided him with some of his happiest moments.
Life was an adventure for him.

Estelle, Rita and Michael

VOLUNTEERS OF THE HOLOCAUST CENTRE

Bialek, Adek. Was in Lodz when the war broke out, a member of the Polish Army. He worked in the Lodz Ghetto until it was liquidated. His parents had died in the ghetto. He was deported and went through several concentration camps: Auschwitz, Flossenburg, and finally Dachau. While on the march, he escaped and hid: he came out to find the American troops. Active in communal work, he was involved in organising the first Holocaust exhibition. As Honorary Secretary he fulfilled different tasks. Generous with help and energy, he put great effort into preparing for the official opening. He collapsed on the same day.

**THE RETURNED SERVICE'S LEAGUE
VICTORIAN BRANCH**

NATIONAL PRIDE FLY THE FLAG
MEMBER'S CARD

Adek Bialek

Pabjanice, Poland

Ab95*

Our father was a kind, friendly and lovable man. He had wonderful sense of humour, loved to dance and enjoyed the company of people. He was a hard worker and loved to be on the road delivering. Even though he had suffered through losses and personal indignities during WWII, he always tried to make our lives fun. He was a wonderful dancer, a flirt and a great storyteller. He loved and laughed at wrestling on TV and loved soccer. His children and grandchildren provided him with some of his happiest moments. Life was an adventure for him.



Natalia Bierzynski

Krakow, Poland

Nb78*

My mother Natalia Bierzynski (née Jumińska/Judenfreund) was born in Krakow, Poland in 1916. She, her mother and two sisters and young brother were “christened” in 1940 and lived in Krakow until a neighbor denounced them. The eldest sister was not home when the family was arrested and put on a truck to Auschwitz. The truck broke down and the family walked the rest of the way with other Jews as well as with a contingent of Polish political prisoners. When they entered Auschwitz, they were all registered as Polish Political Prisoners. My grandmother and uncle went straight to the gas chambers. My aunt and mother survived. My mother says that in a way, the SS guard saved their lives. I will never forget my mother’s tattoo, No. 39364.



Mendel Blicblau

Lodz, Poland

Mb77*

Mendel Blicblau was born in Lodz, Poland in 1923. He was the fourth of five children born to Chaya Frimet and David Leyb. He grew up in a warm, loving, traditional Jewish family. His father was a butcher and chazzan and his mother was an invisible mender. From the Lodz Ghetto, he was sent to Auschwitz Birkenau, Furstengrube, Nordhausen Dora, and Bergen-Belsen. He arrived in Melbourne, Australia, March 1947 and rebuilt his life working as a clothing manufacturer. He was devoted to his wife Erika and children David and Helena, who were named in honour of his parents who were murdered. He adored his in-laws Jeanette and Arnold and his five grandchildren; Eli Shlomo, who was named in honour of his brother, Tal, Michael, Stephen and Netta.



Walter Bodlander

Breslau, Germany

Wb94

Dear Vati: The terrible pressure of the Nazis and your worry about the safety of your family was too much for you, and you died of a heart attack in 1936. You did not see that both mother and I got out of Europe alive, and the West finally went to war against the Nazis. I ended up in the U.S. Army and participated in the invasion of Normandy. I entered Dachau with my unit, just five hours after liberation and saw the horror of the methodical killing of the inmates. Almost seventy years later, I work with the Museum of Tolerance to help ensure that events like these will not be forgotten and hopefully, never be repeated.



Dora Borenstein

Vienna, Austria

Db93*

Dora Borenstein (née Nagler) was born in Vienna, Austria in 1909. She was an only child from an affluent family. She married Leo in 1936 and had their first son, Kurt. When Dora and Leo realized it was time to leave Europe, her parents would not leave with them. They both ended up in camps where they perished. Life was difficult for them in the States, they never were as successful as they had hoped. Dora had another boy in 1941. They tried to create the best life they could for their children, always emphasizing education. Dora and Leo were married for 52 years. She passed away at the age of 93 in Providence, R.I.



Leo Borenstein

Lipsko, Poland

Lb85*

Leo Borenstein was one of eight siblings. His family moved to Vienna where he met his wife Dora and married in 1936. Leo's mother passed away before the war began. He realized it was time to leave Europe, but his father did not want to leave. Leo's brothers were all in the States. His sister left Vienna for Palestine, but their ship was turned back, and she ended up in a camp where she perished. Leo's life was difficult, never really achieving great success, which he wanted for his family. He had a law degree from Europe, but he was not able to make use of that in the States. Leo passed away in 1988 at the age of 85.



Ernest Braunstein

Rastenburg, Germany

Eb90

I was born in Rastenburg, Germany, but spent most of my youth in Hungary and Romania. My first encounter with the Nazis was when I was sentenced to a labor camp. Our captors abandoned the camp and moved us from Yugoslavia to Germany on foot. Once we arrived, we were put into cattle cars and sent to Auschwitz. From there, I went to many camps - I was never tattooed. After the war, I remained in Germany and worked as a police chief at the site of Bergen-Belsen, which was made into a displaced persons camp. I helped reintroduce survivors back into their normal lives. When I returned to Romania, I found my brother and father. I'm not a hero, merely a survivor!



Eva Brettler

Cluj, Romania

Eb78

My mother was murdered during a forced march. I survived Ravensbrück and because of the compassionate care of fellow survivors, I was liberated from Bergen-Belsen. The Red Cross reunited me with my father. In 1956, I escaped the Hungarian Revolution and came to the U.S. I married fellow survivor, Marten Brettler. I pray my children and grandchildren never witness such hatred and intolerance. My testimony keeps the memory of my family alive. My daughter Linda shares, "What strikes me is how my mom regresses to that child when she tells her story - full of wonder, bravado, nonchalance, hurt and hope."

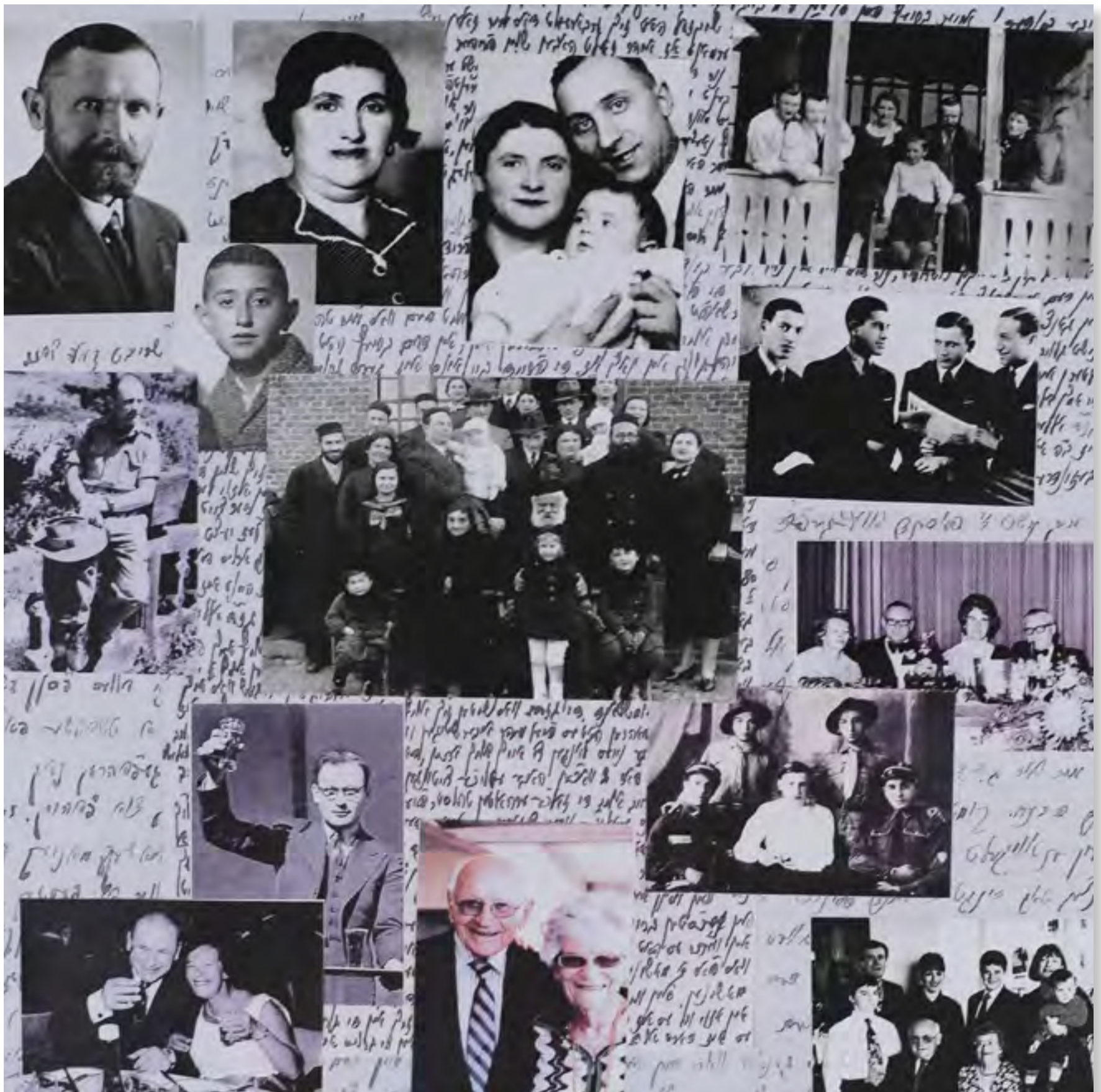


Sonia Brody

Prague, Czechoslovakia

Sb80

Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, I was 5 years old when Hitler invaded. My mother, sister and I escaped to France. During the war, we were separated from my father. Thanks to the French family who hid us, never betraying us as Jewish, and to my mother's courage, I survived the occupation brought up as a little French Protestant girl. To my children and grandchildren: You are the legacy I leave to this world. Make it better through the way you live your lives. Remember to fight off discrimination, evil, hatred and violence, so the atrocities that killed many of our family are never again repeated.



Leon Brooks

Kalicz, Poland

Lb98*

Leon Brooks (1915-2013) was born in Kalicz, (Kalisz) Poland to Moshe Alter and Hinda Borek. He had two brothers, Max and Chaim and an older sister, Leah who was married with a daughter Malinka. They were a close and traditional orthodox Jewish family. Leon arrived in Australia in 1936, thus avoiding serving in the Polish Army and in 1938 he managed to bring his brother Max and wife Pola to Australia. He enlisted in the Australian Army as soon as he became an Australian citizen. He met Marysia on a blind date at a Kadima puppet show and they married soon after. He was an extraordinary man with a positive love of life that left no heart untouched. He loved Australia, the people and the country and his warm smiling disposition attracted people from all walks of life.



Maryisa Brooks

Krakow, Poland

Lb90*

Marysia Brooks neé Kamsler (1924-2013) was married in Melbourne after escaping the horrors of post war Europe. Through an act of will and an amazing insight, she turned her life from the terror of the Holocaust to happiness. Her secret diary began post war and concluded by celebrating her great love for “a husband with a golden heart.” Marysia, known as Mimi by her family, was born in Krakow, Poland to Leon and Elly Kamsler (neé Stiansy) Her mother was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia in 1891 and her father’s family was from Poland. In the early 1920’s her sister Emilia died at age two. Marysia was a much loved child and extremely close to her parents. She survived Auschwitz to live out her full life with her husband Leon, two daughters Elly and Lorraine and three grandsons, Michael, Daniel and Joshua.



Malka Bugalski

Wolomin, Poland

Mb75*

Malka was born in Wolomin, Poland in 1916. Her father was a baker. He died when she was 1 and her mother took over the business. At 12, she had to leave school and work as a machinist. When war broke out she fled to Russia with her mother and two brothers. In Russia, she met her husband Zelig. In 1942 her first son Mendel was born, but at 6 months, he died of Pneumonia. In 1945 her son, Chaim was born in Almaty, Kazakhstan. After the war she went back to Poland and eventually went to Germany where they stayed in a displaced persons camp. Her son Isaac was born there in 1947. In 1951 she came to Australia where her daughter, Gita was born in 1951. Family was very important to Malka. Her message would be to have many children and work hard.



Zelig Bugalski

Kutno, Poland

Zb75*

Zelig was born in May 1915 in Kutno, Poland where he lived with his parents until the war broke out. His only schooling was at the Cheder. When the war broke out, he fled with his younger brother Mendel to Bialystock. Conditions were very poor and his younger brother returned home. He went to Russia where he met his wife Malka and had their first son Chaim. After the war, he returned home to find that his entire family had perished in Chelmno. He lived in a displaced persons camp in Germany for several years where his second son Isaac was born. In 1951, he arrived in Australia, where his daughter Gita was born. Zelig's message to his family: *Be grateful that you live in a wonderful country that gives you freedom and opportunities. Be hard working and and keep the laws of the land. Keep the Jewish tradition.*



Sabina Callwood

Antwerp, Belgium

Sc78

I forgave the Nazis even though they tore out a chunk of my soul, so that I can forgive myself for being a survivor. I, Sabina Callwood, daughter of Jetta and Salomon Wagschal and brothers Samuel and Jack, was born in Antwerp, Belgium. The occupation began May 10, 1940. Thus began deep darkness in the lives of the Wagschal family journey. My siblings and I were placed in ghetto orphanages, and survived with the help of Mrs. Rosi Rothschild. My mother survived Auschwitz-Birkenau, and my father survived Gurs Concentration Camp. We were all reunited after the war in 1945. My oldest brother, Israel, died before the war. My sister Sara-Golde, was born after the war in 1950.



Szaja Chaskiel

Antwerp, Belgium

Sc86

I was born in 1929 in Wielun, Poland the fifth of seven children. I was 10 years old when the Nazis invaded Poland. I was taken to a labour camp in Posnan. I escaped and a priest took care of me for six months. I went to the Lodz Ghetto to find my family and I found my older sister. We were deported to Auschwitz Birkenau in August 1944. In January 1945, I was in the Death March to Buchenwald and liberated 11 April 1945. My parents and three siblings perished. I came to Melbourne, Australia in 1950, married and had two children and five grandchildren. I'm proud to be Jewish and my family brings me much joy.



Chaim Chrapot

Krascowicze, Poland

Cc88*

Chaim was born near Wielun, Poland in April 1928 to Sara (Weissfellner) and Yaacov Chrapot. He had two brothers and seven sisters. In 1939, just after the war broke out, he left home with his brother Mordche and returned to find his home ransacked and his family taken away. He was never to see his parents again. He was sent to several camps from which he escaped and eventually taken to Gross-Rosen labour camp and went on his first of two first death marches to Herzbrook. His second death march was to Dachau but with the approach of the Americans, he was able to slip away into the shed of a German farmer. In May 1945, he came across an American tank with Jewish soldiers. He left Poland for Germany and remained there until he and his wife Sara and their two-year old son Jack migrated to Australia.



Sarah Chrapot

Wielun, Poland

Cc87

Sara was born in May 1928 to Tzirel (Fuks) and Michal Michalowicz in the village of Jajczaki, close to Wielun, Poland. She had four brothers and three sisters. Her father died when she was nine and her mother managed by selling fruit from their orchard. Wielun was bombed in September 1939, two days before the school year was to begin. In April 1942, when the Jews were being rounded up, she ran into the forest along the river Warta with her mother and siblings. Her mother, sister and her baby went to Czestochva and subsequently perished in Treblinka. In 1943, she went in a cattle train headed for Blechemmer concentration camp for selection where she was separated from her brothers and sent to Neusalz. From there she was sent on a death march to Bergen-Belsen. The British liberated her on 14 May 1945.



Aaron Cohen

Gorna Djumaya, Bulgaria

Ac85

Believe in yourself, believe in the goodness of people and remember that goodness will always prevail over evil. Be proud of your heritage and cherish it. It is so rich in history. Let it be the foundation of your future endeavors. Never forget the tragedy of the Holocaust. Teach your children about it, but do not let it become dominant in every aspect of your life. Know too, that out of the dark days of the Holocaust, there were miraculous stories of survival – a tribute to the strength and faith of your forefathers. Be proud of this great country. Cherish your freedom and never be taken for granted.



Abraham Cohen

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Ac55*

October 26, 1942: "As I begin this diary, 103 days have passed since I have withdrawn from a life in society. Wednesday, July 15, 1942, we arrived at our hiding address. How is it, in G-d's name, possible that people hunt people because they have a different religion?" If I ever get the opportunity to give this diary to my children, they will not be able to believe my experience. **April 4, 1944:** I was shocked. We were caught. **October 1946:** "When I was a child, I was already frightened of having to lose my parents, brother and sister, but through the betrayal of one Dutchman, they were murdered." Translated from Dutch to English.



Betty Cohen

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Bc94

After being in hiding for two years, my parents, fiancée, grandma, aunt, brother, sister-in-law and my in-laws were caught and sent to Auschwitz. My head was shaved and I was tattooed. I no longer had a name. I was selected among a group of women to be sterilized so no more Jews would be born. My fiancée and I were the only survivors. We were married in 1945. I fooled them, as we had two beautiful Jewish children, a son, Jerry and a daughter, Hedy. I have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Never leave your loved ones without saying good-bye. I did not get that chance.



Moshe Cohen

Rhodes, Greece

Mc85

I was born in Rhodes, Greece. My father was a merchant, and I remember helping him transfer goods and bring them to stores to sell. I had just turned 15 when the Germans took my father and the other Jewish men. Days later, they asked their families to turn in their precious belongings in order to see them again. I was the only survivor of my family. My father, mother, sister and brother were killed in Auschwitz. After I was liberated, I fought in the war for Israel. Hitler killed six million Jews, and he started the war by speaking words of hatred, words which became action.



Peter (Berlowitz) Daniels

Berlin, Germany

Pd78

I was born in Berlin, Germany after the Nuremberg Laws were passed and all civil rights of German Jews were taken away. After my father disappeared, I lived with my mother until we were arrested and deported to Terezin (Theresienstadt). I was placed in the children's section where I remained for two years. My mother worked in the adult section. We were allowed to visit once every other month for an hour. Terezin was liberated in May 1945. My mother and I were two of the lucky ones that survived. After 2 years in a displaced persons camp, we came to America where I attended school for the first time.



Abe Danko

Chenstachova, Poland

Ad76*

Born Abraham Dankovitz in Chenstachova, Poland, May 24, 1924. Abe lived in Krakow, returning to Chenstachova's "Jewish Ghetto" in 1940. Captured by the Nazis when smuggling bread into the ghetto, he was sent to Blachamer Labor Camp. For four years he repaired roads and built bridges as a slave. In 1945, he was transferred to Hertzberg, Kresselhausen and Kurvinkel Labor Camps. From our Abba, we learned the virtue of hard, selfless work. He survived concentration camps, poverty picking oranges in the pioneering days of Israel, and economic deprivation in America. Not devout, he taught us the true meaning of Judaism, dedication to family and heritage.



Edith (Herskovitz) Danko

Selesc, Czechoslovakia

Ed91*

Edith was born on Purim 1921, in Selesc, Czechoslovakia. Witnessing Hungarian troops murdering her family, she hid in a forest, but was arrested in 1941. In the Chust Ghetto, she was forced to be a domestic maid for SS officers until 1943. Sent to Boitzenberg as a slave laborer, Edith lost part of her hand while building aircraft parts. In 1945, she was deported to Auschwitz for liquidation. Discarded among the corpses, she was saved by Soviet liberators. From our Eema, we learned to appreciate the smallest of life's gifts. She recalled all the loving aspects of her shtetl life. She especially remembers holidays, her mother's cooking and sharing food with all her neighbors, Jew and non-Jew.



Harry Davids

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Hd72

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing.” The world is full of good people, but most tend to be bystanders, so evil prevails. Good people living in The Netherlands who chose to be UPSTANDERS saved me in December 1942, by sheltering me from the Nazis when I was only 14 months old. If more good people had been UPSTANDERS, perhaps my parents, grandparents and fifty-eight other family members might also have survived. My hope is that more good people will choose to be UPSTANDERS and make this world a safer and more humane and peaceful place for future generations!



Joseph de Haan

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Jd93

I, Joseph de Haan was born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands on 12 October 1922 the younger son of Judith and Michel. In October 1942, at the age of 20, my father and stepmother were forcibly removed from our home and transported to Poland. I never saw them again. My name was not on the deportation list and that is why I was left behind. At this point, I decided to go into hiding. Initially I was hidden in Amsterdam with the Soeters family and thereafter at various places in Friesland and finally on the Heskampen Farm with the Rosier family. I was liberated on 15 April 1945. The Rosier family was honoured as Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem.



Max Drajer

Gdansk, Poland

Md93*

Max Drajer was born in 1919 in Gdansk, Poland and moved with his family to Paris in 1929. He joined the French Army in 1940 and was wounded during the German invasion. He escaped capture and travelled to Vichy, France in the South. Max joined the Resistance and organized false papers for his family who were in hiding. They survived but all his extended family perished. Max married Rywka (Regina) Katz in 1945. She was the only survivor in her family. Riwka had false papers and was a courier for the French Resistance.



Barbara Drotow

Lodz, Poland

Bd81

I was 5 years old when the war started. After my father was killed in 1939, we were taken from our apartment to the ghetto. A Catholic friend smuggled my mother, sister and me out of the ghetto into Russia in exchange for the deed to our family textile factory. We went from Siberia to Uzbekistan. After my mother died, my older sister and I walked to a nearby orphanage together. My sister returned for me after the war and 'took me out for a walk', and we never returned. We went to a kibbutz in Israel. My mother and father's entire family perished and only one uncle survived from my father's side.



Al Drotow

Kovno, Lithuania

Ad76*

This collage honors the memory of my husband, Al Drotow. Many knew him by his Yiddish nickname, Abke del Litvak. He was a loving father and a devoted husband for forty-seven years. Al was a Holocaust Survivor. He endured the living hell of the Nazi occupation of Lithuania. He survived the Kovno Ghetto and several concentration camps including Kaiserwald in Latvia, Stutthof in East Prussia and the infamous Dachau. He was a courageous and compassionate man. Al was liberated by the U.S. Seventh Army on April 28, 1945, while on the Death March from Dachau. He weighed 69 pounds, almost a skeleton.



Morris Engelson

Vilno, Poland

Me79

Four 'Honorable' Men: My grandfather, *Shraga Feivel*, paid a Polish farmer though there was no legal basis for a debt. He was killed for the crime of being a Jew. *Adam Sienkewicz*, risked his life multiple times to save us from certain death. He is inscribed among the righteous. *Heinrich Himmler*, in charge of exterminating the Jews proclaimed, "We remain pure, there is no defect within us." 'Honorable' Himmler committed suicide. *Otto Ohlendorf*, chief of the Einsatzgruppe C proudly testified to use expert marksmen to prevent suffering of those killed. The compassionate Ohlendorf was hanged.



Saba Feniger

Lodz, Poland

Sf91

I was lucky to survive. My family spent four and a half years in the Lodz Ghetto where I lost my father in 1941. I endured two weeks of terror and dehumanization in Auschwitz-Birkenau, where my stepmother and Aunt Gucia were gassed. I then spent nine months in Stutthof, where my beloved maternal Aunt Pola died. My eldest sister Hela, her husband and baby were murdered by the Einsatzgruppen. I lost 21 members of my extended family. My middle sister Eda and a cousin Sabina were the only survivors. I carry guilt for the death of my two aunts, having registered for “resettlement” from Lodz Ghetto, instead of hiding. We light candles on Yom HaShoah to honour their memory.



Thomas Figueres

Uzgorod, Czechoslovakia

Tf87

When Hitler called the Bulgarian King Boris to Berlin and told him that he was sending the trains to Bulgaria to take the 50,000 Bulgarian Jews to Auschwitz, King Boris told him not to bother because he is not letting them go. The Head of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church threatened that if the trains came, he will lie down on the rails and they will have to go over his body before they sent anyone to Auschwitz. King Boris paid with his life for not letting Hitler have the Bulgarian Jews. Hitler poisoned him with an untraceable poison in Berlin and he died three days later of poisoning.



Hanka Finkelstein
 Warsaw, Poland

Hf 99*

As I sit here trying to reconstruct memories of the past, so many cherished moments come flooding back. My mother and father and their stories are all that remain from the world that was. It is therefore, for you, my children and your future generations, that I gather some of these memories with the hope that when you look at them, you will always be reminded of generations past. Our hopes and dreams for your future are that you live in a world of peace and that you are kind and loving to one another. May you never experience the horrors of the past, but never forget them.



Bela (Goldman) Fintel

Brezny, Poland

Bf35*

Bela Fintel was born June 25, 1924 in Brzezany, Poland to Leon and Rosa Goldman. In 1939, Bela's father and her older brother traveled to Palestine where they remained during the war. Rosa bribed a farmer to hide her and Bela in their cellar. After the war, Bela went to Germany to study dentistry. She met a fellow survivor, Nathan Fintel. They married and in 1951, emigrated to the U.S. where Bela attended NYU Dental School. Bela died in 1957. In 1959, Nathan married Stefanie Blauzeid, a Holocaust Survivor from Poland, Bela's classmate at NYU. Nat and Stefanie had a son Edward. Stefanie raised Diana as her own.



Nathan Fintel

Rovno, Poland

Nf93*

The boy with the “Golden Hands” was born in Rovno, Poland in 1920. Nat had a childhood of happy memories where his creativity and scholastic achievement flourished. His parents told him and his younger brother to leave, as Germans were approaching. They escaped to Samarkand and attended agricultural school. In 1945, he attended Munich Technical University and graduated as an Architectural Engineer. He met his wife Bela, in 1949. Although he was a secular Jew, he was extremely proud to be a Jew. It was most important to him that his children and grandchildren be proud of their Jewish heritage.



"I have a smile on my face, but there is pain in my heart."

Stephanie Fintel

Warsaw, Poland

Sf70*

Stefanie Fintel was born June 8, 1924 in Warsaw, Poland to Maximilian, a physician and Ernestine, a dentist, Blauzeid. Her father was killed before Hitler's invasion of Poland. Her mother moved with Stefanie, her sister and grandmother into the Warsaw Ghetto. In 1942, she jumped off a train headed to Treblinka and hid in the Carpathian Mountains. When the war ended, she attended dental school in Germany. In 1959, she married Nathan Fintel, a Holocaust Survivor whose wife died in 1957, leaving him with a 2 year old daughter, who she raised as her own.



Raymonde Fiol

Paris, France

Rf78

Stefanie Fintel was born June 8, 1924 in Warsaw, Poland to Maximilian, a physician and Ernestine, a dentist, Blauzeid. Her father was killed before Hitler's invasion of Poland. Her mother moved with Stefanie, her sister and grandmother into the Warsaw Ghetto. In 1942, she jumped off a train headed to Treblinka and hid in the Carpathian Mountains. When the war ended, she attended dental school in Germany. In 1959, she married Nathan Fintel, a Holocaust Survivor whose wife died in 1957, leaving him with a 2 year old daughter, who she raised as her own.



Franka (Franciska) Fiszman

Krakow, Poland

Tf95

Franciska (Gotlib) Fiszman was born in Krakow, Poland in 1920. When war broke out, Franka and her family were forced to move in to the Krakow Ghetto. She was forced to perform manual labour for the Nazis. Everyone was given only 200 grams of food daily and famine set in. In 1940, she married her boyfriend, Henryk Diczek, but in 1941 he and his family were selected for transport and murdered at the Belzec Death Camp. Her parents and two brothers were moved to Chmielnik, and in 1942 were deported to Treblinka and murdered. She was transported to Plaszow concentration camp. In January 1945, she went on a death march to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belzen, Venusberg, and finally to Mauthausen, where she was liberated by the American Army in May 1945.



Jakob (Jack) Fogel

Turek, Poland

Jf90

Jack was born in 1924 in Turek, Poland, a small town near Lodz. He had three brothers and a sister. His mother's name was Yehudit, and his father Szlomo was a tailor. After war broke out, a small ghetto was set up in Turek. Jack was sent to a labour camp, and throughout the rest of the war was relocated to various concentration and labour camps, including Auschwitz. Towards the end of the war, he was sent on a death march, and was on one of the smaller boats during the bombing of the Cap Arcona. At the end of the war, Jack spent five years in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, and eventually immigrated to Australia. He met Ruth Gershon at a dance in Melbourne, and married her in 1957.



Saul Friedman

Radom, Poland

Sf94*

My father, Saul Friedman, was born in 1919 in Radom, Poland. In the ghetto, he was a young married man with a toddler daughter. They were taken from him at Treblinka. He survived the camps and the torture along with his sister and brother. Not wanting to marry again, and a devoted Zionist, Saul wanted to fight for Israel to become a state. He met Bella before departing and fell in love again. The ship he would have been on, the Altalena, was blown up when it reached Israel. Their meeting was bashert. Bella and Saul had three children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Bella Friedman

Radom, Poland

Bf87*

My mother, Bella Friedman [née Frydman], was born in 1925 in Radom, Poland. In the early 1920s, her mother's family left for the Americas. They begged the family of six to come, but my grandfather was doing well as a jeweler and didn't want to leave. Then it was too late. My mom was the sole survivor of the family. As a young child, she always told me her story - the ghettos, the camps, the torture, the survival, losing her entire family. She had a happy ending with three children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. In 1996, she participated in the March of the Living. "I want people to know our story and to remember."



Ilona Fuchs

Kis Tokaj, Hungary

If96

I hope that my son, my daughter, and my four grandchildren have a healthy and happy life. My wish is they should help each other. Sometimes it is difficult to remember the whole family, but many times during the night we remember our grandfather, uncles and aunts. It's a good feeling to remember who they were. Sometimes it is very hard but very important if you can remember what happened during the war. To survive you have to work very hard and have lots of patience. Many times you feel you are going to give up because you cannot do it anymore, but then you have to continue.



Morton (Miska) Fuchs

Tokaj, Hungary

If 88*

My grandpa was a wise man. As I grew into the woman I am today, I now know just how wise he was. He taught me about kindness and how important it is to be kind to others. "Never wait for people to say hello, you say hello to everybody." I have lived by his words and have practiced kindness and spread it to others. My mother and I both think about my Grandpa a lot and whenever we are writing stories about him, the words come so naturally. Grandpa is always on our minds, always in our hearts and we continue to live by what we have learned from him.



Klara Gal

Budapest, Hungary

Lg 90*

In her older years, Mom would reflect on her life and say she had “a wonderful life except for a bump in the road,” by which she meant her Holocaust experience. Mom would cup her two hands together and say, “I always felt G-d carried me in his palms like this.” She wasn’t a religious person, but had a deep faith in a higher power. Mom lived a life true to her values. Her credo called for determination and courage, dedication and consideration, which she exacted matter-of-factly, with humility, and a smile. May we all have what it takes to follow her example.



Vered Galor

Preshov, Czechoslovakia

Vg72

I was born in August 1942, in Czechoslovakia. Both of my parents survived the concentration camps. The rest of the family, except one brother and one sister, died in the camps. My mother was in Ravensbrück, a death camp for women in Germany. My father was in Mauthausen, a slave labor camp in Austria. We moved to Israel in 1947, and I believe that, in spite of the hardship, it was the best thing that could have happened to us. We learned that Jews can and should have a national homeland and a pride as a people. We all understood that 'Never Again' is not only a phrase, it is a life's philosophy!



Andrew Gardner

Gyongyos, Hungary

Ag 89

I leave this message for my family and future generations. All of us alive today remember and know the horrible losses we suffered in the Holocaust. Six million Jews perished. Had there been a State of Israel, it would not have happened. Remember to support Israel so that the Jewish state will always be strong. Throughout history, Jewish people did a lot of good for humanity, especially Israel. Whenever there is a natural catastrophe, Israel is the first to send their doctors, nurses, and medical equipment to help save lives and restore health. It is our duty to remind the world loud and often of this fact.



Elane Geller

Vodjeslav, Poland

Eg78

I was born in a small town in Poland, April 4, 1936. My memory of my childhood started in the Holocaust. I am not sure when I realized that this was home. I became comfortable begging and stealing. In my travels, I learned to be afraid. I went from camp to camp with my aunt, since most of my family had already left my life. I began my new life at 8 years old when I was liberated by the British at Bergen-Belsen. I did not recognize my father and brothers when we were reunited in a refugee camp, April 1946. We came to the USA on the first boat of refugees. I married and had two children and amazing grandchildren.



Abram Goldberg

Lodz, Poland

Ag91

I was the youngest of four siblings, born into a politically and socially active family in Lodz, Poland. The Nazis murdered my family, and only me and my older sister survived. On 29 August 1944, I arrived with my mother at Auschwitz-Birkenau. I remember the last words my mother told me before we were separated. She said, "Do everything humanly possible to survive. When you do, wherever you will find yourself, tell the world what happened to your family and other Jews." She believed I would survive. I have devoted my life to this work. When I stood in front of the Angel of Death, Dr Mengele, 90% of the men were sent to their deaths. His finger didn't point at me, which is why I consider my survival 99% luck, because all Jews of Occupied Europe had a death sentence.



Cesia Goldberg

Dabrowa Gornicza, Poland

Cg86

What we are doing is very important for future generations. They need to know about the Holocaust and not to forget. I am really excited to be able to tell the story. As I sit here at the table having an interview, I look around and see my children and grandchildren - to me it is a great achievement. I didn't believe that I would live until my age of 86 and could still talk and tell my stories. I am sure all the survivors are thinking the same thing. What we went through - and now I'm here looking at my children and great-grandchildren, it's such a great achievement.



Luba Goldberg

Ciechanowiec, Poland

Ag 92

Luba Goldberg (née Wrobel) was born in Ciechanowiec, Poland in 1923. She was the only member of her family to survive the Holocaust. At the time of the Nazi invasion, Luba was living in Sokoly. Luba ran into the forest surrounding Bransk and joined the Partisans. Life for Luba was extremely treacherous and she encountered many near death experiences. In 1945, upon liberation, Luba was left homeless and orphaned. She met Chaim Goldberg, married and immigrated to Australia in 1949.

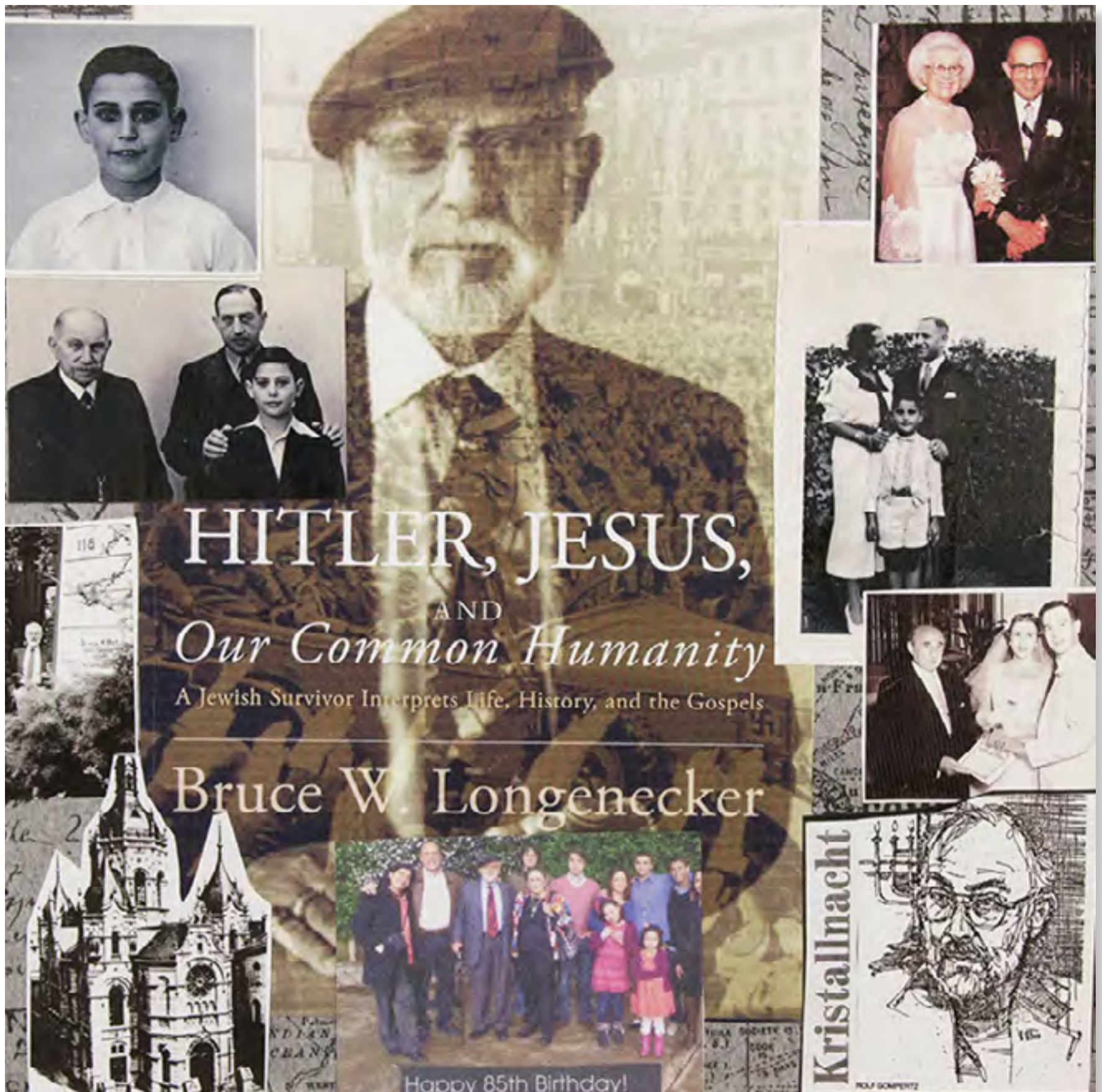


Louis Goldman

Ciechanowiec, Poland

Lg 70*

Louis Goldman was born in Germany to Polish parents and raised in Paris. He was eighteen in 1943 when the family fled over the Alps into Italy. Captured in a Nazi S.S. raid in Florence, Louis and his brother, Harry, boldly escaped. Their father, Pinkus, was deported to Auschwitz. Florence's cardinal and his priests hid the brothers in an orphanage. Their mother Mina was hidden in a convent for the duration of the war. Louis entrusted me with his manuscript and the haunting images, which only the future photographer could have committed to memory, each a metaphor for an innate Italian humanity and the divine disobedience of his protectors.



Rolf Gompertz

Krefeld, Germany

Rg 86

I was born in Krefeld, Germany, the son of Oscar and Selma Gompertz. We lived through Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938, the start of the Holocaust when the Nazis came to destroy our home. My father confronted the head Nazi, held up his Iron Cross medal from WWI and shouted, "Is this the thanks I get for having served the Fatherland?" The two stared at each other for what seemed like an eternity, then, the Nazi signaled his men, and they left without breaking one dish. In case we are forced to choose between ideology and our common humanity, we must choose humanity.



Avraham Greenstein

Otwock-Kielecki, Poland

Dg 84

I was born in Opatow-Kielecki, Poland. When the Nazis came in 1939, I was taken to several labor camps. I was 14 years old. When the ghetto was liquidated in October 1942, the Jews were taken to the death camp, Treblinka. When the Russians advanced, the women and mostly men were taken to Buchenwald, Germany. While in Buchenwald, I worked in caves with ammunition. My older brother was with me. We were both liberated in May, 1945 by the American Army. I speak to students at UCLA about my experience and I hope they will retell my story.



Dorothy Greenstein

Otwock (Warsaw) Poland

Dg84

I was born the youngest of ten in Otwock [Warsaw], Poland. My father was a Rabbi, a judge and a shochet. Starting at age 9, once a week, for over two years, I snuck out from the ghetto to buy potatoes, bread and salt for my family. In August 1942, my father sent me from the ghetto to the Polish side to save me. I never saw my parents again. I was liberated in January 1945 in Krakow. Seven months later, I was reunited with my sister. I speak to thousands of people hoping that they will re-tell my story of perseverance and survival. My hope is that my children and grandchildren will remember my heroic deeds during WWII.



Jean Greenstein

Velky Series, Czechoslovakia

Jg 90

I was born July 1924, in Velky Sevlus, Czechoslovakia. My father was a dentist, WWI veteran and a prominent member of the community. When the German Army took control of Hungary in 1944, I attempted to rescue my family by going into hiding – but it was too late. They were all transported to Auschwitz, where all but my sister perished. I hid in a basement until captured. I escaped and joined the Zionist underground in Budapest in the guise of an SS officer and distributed schutzpasse to people being shipped to Auschwitz, thereby allowing them to escape. After the war, I fought for Israel's independence.



Joseph Greenwald

Szeszta, Hungary

Jg 60*

I learned about the Holocaust at an early age. I knew that unlike other children, I didn't have any grandparents. My parents and their friends spoke with accents and often lapsed into Hungarian to communicate. I learned that my father's parents were killed in Auschwitz, and that my mother's parents were killed while they were in hiding in a forest. I believe in 'Never Forget'. I get very angry with Holocaust deniers and people who have no knowledge about the Holocaust and are not interested in learning. We need to teach about the importance of the State of Israel. As racism of all kinds still plagues the world, it is important to remind people what could happen if we forget or turn away.



Paul Grinwald

Paris, France

Pg 82

I was born in Paris, France on 9 March 1933. I was the eldest child born to Polish parents who moved to France for work opportunities. Life started to improve until the Germans invaded France. Amongst other restrictions, those that affected me the most were that I could no longer use the public library and that I missed three years of schooling. We escaped the Vel d'Hiv round up in July 1942 and were smuggled across to unoccupied France just ahead of the Germans. We hid near Lyon until the end of the war, first on a farm and then in a country hut. After the war, we returned to Paris before migrating to Australia, arriving in November 1946. I was able to finish my education and received a university degree by the time I reached twenty years of age.



Leon (Lolek) Groch

Lodz, Poland

Lg92*

Leon (Lolek) Groch was born in 1912 in Lodz, Poland. He had one brother, Shmuel (Shlamek). Lolek looked after his father Joseph, a fuel merchant and his mother Tzivia in the Lodz Ghetto until they were selected to go on the last transport to Auschwitz. He never saw them or the rest of his family again. Lolek was one of the last 850 survivors of the Lodz Ghetto. After digging their own mass graves in the Lodz Cemetery in December 1944, he and the others remaining, hid in the empty bunkers surviving due to a blizzard and the “miracle of snow.” He and Mela married in Lodz in March 1945 and had one daughter, Marysia. He was a gentle hero, a man of great integrity and courage. His legacy was the regeneration of the family who perished in the Holocaust. He has two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Mela Groch

Sieradz, Poland

Mg 96

Mela (Mirele) Groch was born in Seradz, Poland in 1919, the youngest of seven siblings. Her father Leib died of cancer in 1940 and her mother, Sarah Rivka, her three sisters and the rest of the family all “went to the ovens”. Mela was sent to slave labour in the Lodz Ghetto with two of her remaining brothers. She met her husband Lolek while working on the Bahnhof Radogast Railway Station. Together, they were among last 850 survivors of the Lodz Ghetto. They were liberated January 1945 by the Soviet Army. She and Lolek married in March 1945 and had a daughter Marysia. Mela has two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Her wish is for her descendents is to remember her as a beautiful woman and to remember her life story as one of courage and determination.



Ludwig Greunbaum

Kuppenheim, Germany

Lg 45*

Ludwig Greunbaum was born in Kuppenheim, Germany in 1900. He had one sister named Berta. Ludwig's father was a cantor in the synagogue. Ludwig married Tilly in 1938 and escaped on one of the last ships leaving from Holland. They disembarked in Singapore, where their daughter Edith was born. In 1940, the British rounded up the Germans living in Singapore and detained them in Tatura, Victoria as enemy aliens. Ludwig volunteered for the Australian Army Employment Company in 1942 and worked as a fruit picker. This enabled his wife and daughter to be released. Unfortunately, Ludwig died a few years after the war, aged only 49.



Adele Hacker

Lackenbach, Austria

Ah 56*

Adele Hacker was born April 8, 1888 in Lackenbach, Austria. She was a housewife and everyone loved her Austrian food. She was gassed on July 11, 1941 at Birkenau, killed the same day as her brother. Her son, Ernst and her brother-in-law were in Auschwitz at the same time. She always taught her sons to be good boys. She is always remembered for her virtuous nature.



Ernst Hacker

Schwarzenbach, Austria

Eh85

I was born in Schwarzenbach, Austria, April 29, 1929. We lived in a kosher home and I would take the chickens to the shochet (butcher) for my family. I was 9 when Hitler rose to power. The SS came to our door and forced us to leave our home and leave all our belongings behind. I wore a yellow Jewish star and people threw rocks at me. I was sent to Theresienstadt. In the ghetto, I worked in a shoe factory. I was transported from place to place and fixed shoes for people on the way to Auschwitz. After the war, I joined the Israel Defense Force (IDF). I have three sons and five Jewish grandchildren.

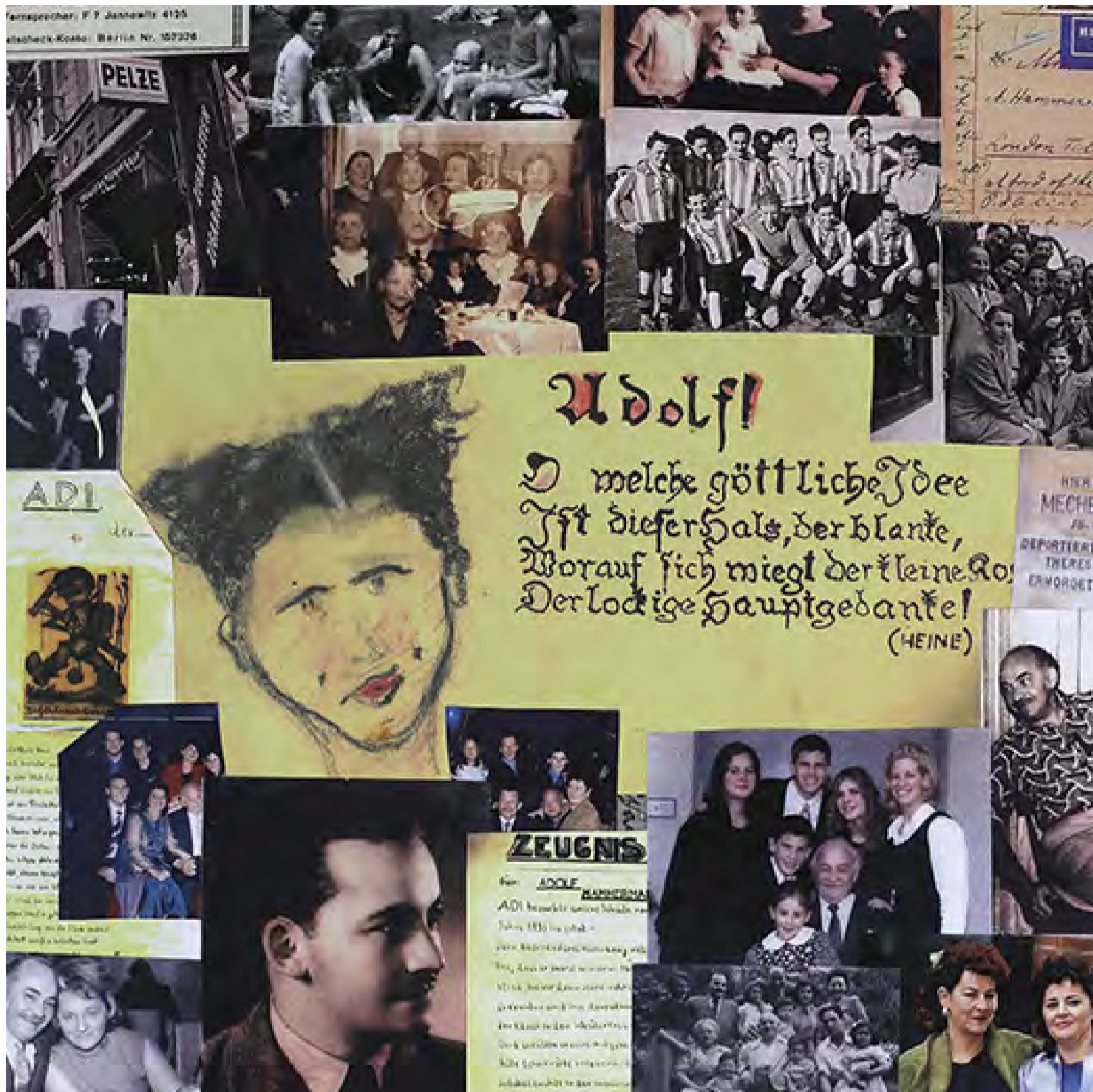


Samuel Hacker

Schwarzenbach, Austria

Sh 62*

Samuel Hacker was born on April 18, 1882 in Schwarzenbach, Austria. Before the war, Sam had a bakery. He made animal shapes for breakfast rolls. He saved people by giving them bread. In 1942, he was sent to Theresienstadt. In 1944, he was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and on July 10th, he was gassed. Sam had two children and only one survived. He risked his life to save others.



Michael (Adi) Hammerman

Berlin, Germany

Mh 85*

The second born son of Samuel and Batya (Betty) Hammerman, Adolf (Adi) was born in Berlin on January 4, 1922 into a traditional orthodox family. His parents moved from Kalush, Poland (now the Ukraine) to the German capitol in 1909. From 1933 all efforts were concentrated on getting the family out of Nazi Germany. His older brother Bernhard left Germany in 1933 and eventually came to Australia in 1937 and intensified efforts to get the family out. Adi, at 16 years, left Germany in July 1938, traveling alone, arriving in Sydney in September 1938. His parents and sister Mulli arrived in July 1939.



William Harvey

Berehove, Czechoslovakia

Wh 90

I was born May 20, 1924 in Berehove, Czechoslovakia, the youngest of six children. In the spring of 1944, at the age of 20, me and my family were taken to live in the ghetto. After six weeks, we were transported in cattle cars to Auschwitz where my parents, aunts, and cousins were exterminated. The Americans liberated me in 1945 when I was 21 years old. At 22, I emigrated to NYC with a broken heart and soul. In order to make a success of my life, I had to learn to forgive my enemies and not dwell on the past. I want my children to know to be loved by others is wonderful, but to give love to others is far more rewarding.



Joe Hess
Fulda, Germany

Jh82

I was born in Fulda, Germany. In March 1939, my parents took us to Frankfurt where we said our tearful good-byes and were placed on the Kindertransport for England where I lived with a foster family. After the war, I learned that my parents had perished in the Holocaust. Anti-Semitism, as well as discrimination, is developed at the kitchen table where children who were born 'tabula rasa' are taught to hate. It is up to our schools and religious institutions to teach the history of intolerance and its devastating effects. Name-calling and ethnic humor are too prevalent in our society and should not be tolerated. Be proactive. Stop discrimination wherever and whenever it is encountered.

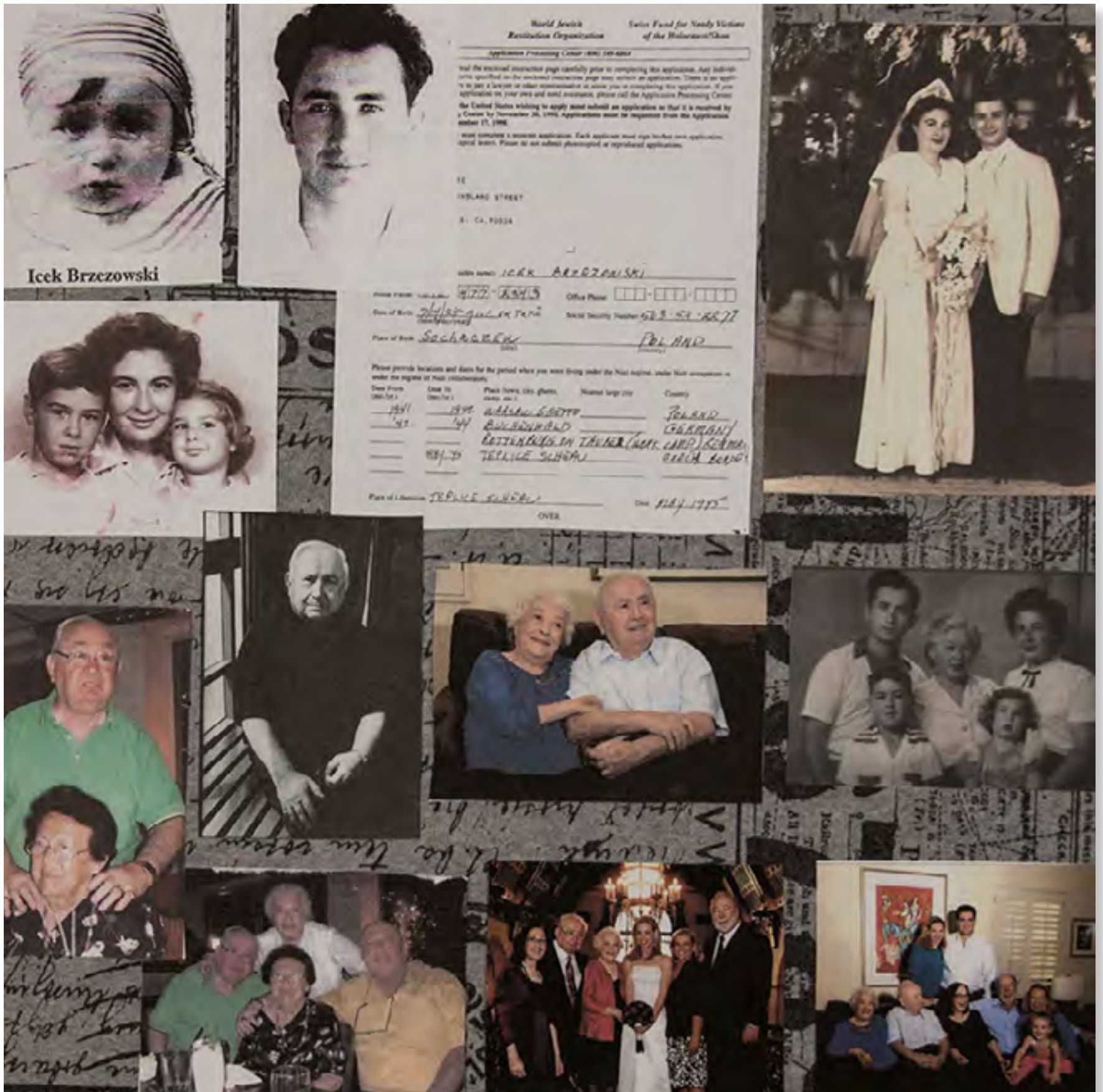


Ruth Holston

Paris, France

Rh89

To my dearest grandchildren, Olivia and Dylan. When you look at this, think of what has been important to me all my life. Be kind to one another and never turn your back on injustice. My brother and I were fortunate not to suffer the Holocaust directly, but many of our relatives, uncles and cousins, died in France and Poland in concentration camps. We must never forget that these horrors happened. Let us rejoice in life, in loving one another and fighting hatred of any kind. And for you my dears, I wish you a beautiful life with loving and being loved.



Eddie Ilan

Sochaczew, Poland

Ei86

My family was forced into the ghetto. I smuggled food to save them. I escaped, was hidden by a Catholic priest, then caught and sent to Buchenwald. I escaped from a train, was shot, and hid in a German village, pretending to be Christian. When I was liberated by the Soviets, I was 17 years old and weighed 65 pounds. I met soldiers from the Jewish Brigade, stayed in a displaced persons camp in Paris, and ultimately was brought to the USA by American soldiers. Gloria and I married in 1947. We have two children, Jay and Leah, and one granddaughter, Danielle. I want each and every child to remember.



Harry (Jacobs) Jachimowicz

Leczyca, Poland

Hj76

Harry Jacobs, born Szaja Hersz Jachimowicz was born 25 November 1902 in Leczyca, Poland. At he age of eleven, he started to work as a tailor in Lodz and at the start of WWII, he married Fejga who had two children, Leon aged eight and Rutka aged five. Harry was confined to the Lodz Ghetto from May 1940 to April 1944 and then sent to Auschwitz sub camps, Jaworzno and Blechhamer until liberated by Russian troops on 25 January 1945. Harry's wife and children perished at Chelmno in August 1942. After liberation, Harry stayed in Poland until January 1946, then moved to Sweden and subsequently immigrated to Australia arriving in Adelaide on 27 December 1946. After settling in Melbourne, Harry married Chawa Rogozinska and started a new life together.

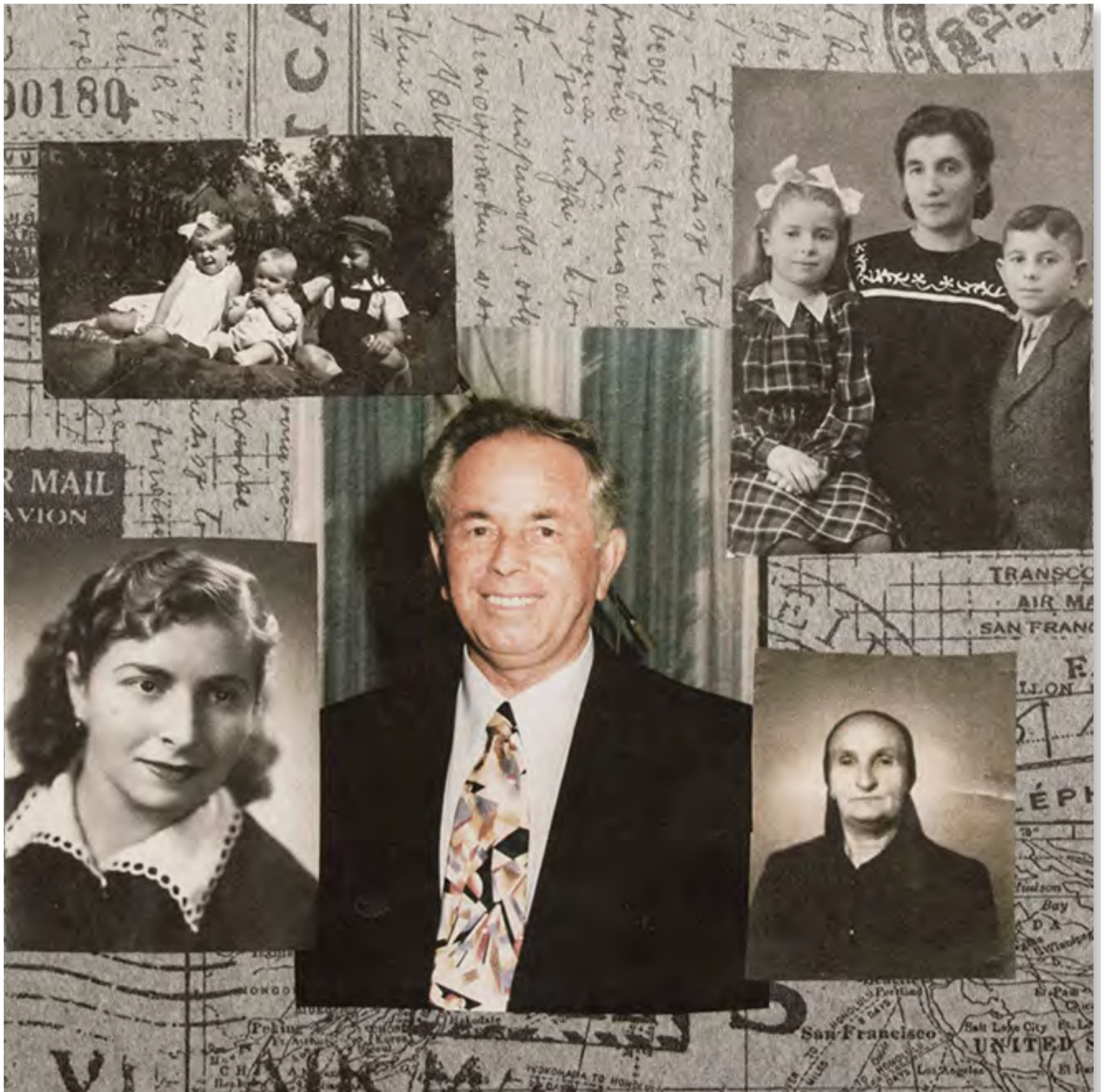


Frances “Fanny” (Weinberg) Jones

Cologne, Germany

Fj89*

Frances “Fanny” Weinberg Jones was born in Cologne, Germany, March 22, 1924, and emigrated to France right after Kristallnacht. She spent the war years as a hidden child. Her uncles sent her to live with a French farm family. She spent time at various homes for Jewish children, refugees, and children whose parents were on the run or arrested by the Nazis. Frances was on the move throughout the war, always ahead of the Vichy forces. Her father died at Auschwitz; her mother survived Theresienstadt. The Quakers brought her younger sister to the United States in 1939. Frances moved to the United States in 1949. She married Ray Jones and had one daughter, Georgia.



Artur Juskovic

Kosice, Czechoslovakia

Aj76

I was raised in Backov, Czechoslovakia by my parents, Ernest and Berta Juskovic. In 1942, our family was forced to move to a ghetto camp in Zilina where we stayed for nine months. My grandmother bribed a Nazi officer with gold and money to help me, sister, Eva, mother, and grandmother escape. While hiding in the countryside, my mother was accused of being partisan and was abused for weeks until she was released. After hiding in the countryside, we were ultimately caught and sent to a work camp in Sered until we were liberated in May 1945. My father died in Auschwitz.



Moses Kaganovitch

Vilna, Poland

Mk87*

My father was born in Vilna, Poland. He was in the Vilna Ghetto when he met his wife Tzipora. While in the same camp together, she saved him twice - she threw him a sweater over the fence to the men's side to keep him warm, and she threw bread for him to eat. Later they were separated and sent to different camps. He thought Tzipora had died, but they found each other after the war in Bergen-Belsen and were married. His entire family was killed in the camps. She convinced him to move to Israel where he worked as a scientist at the Weizmann Institute.



Tzipora Kaganovitch

Glaicia, Poland

Tk 90*

My mother was born in Galicia, Poland. She grew up with her grandparents in a big city. She was aware of the advent of the war and went back to convince her parents to escape to Russia. She returned to Poland hoping to join a Zionist group and go to Palestine. She was caught by the Germans and sent to Vilna. From there she was sent to many camps. She and her husband-to-be were separated but found each other in Bergen-Belsen at the end of the war. They married and moved to Israel. Most of the family survived because of the move to Russia.

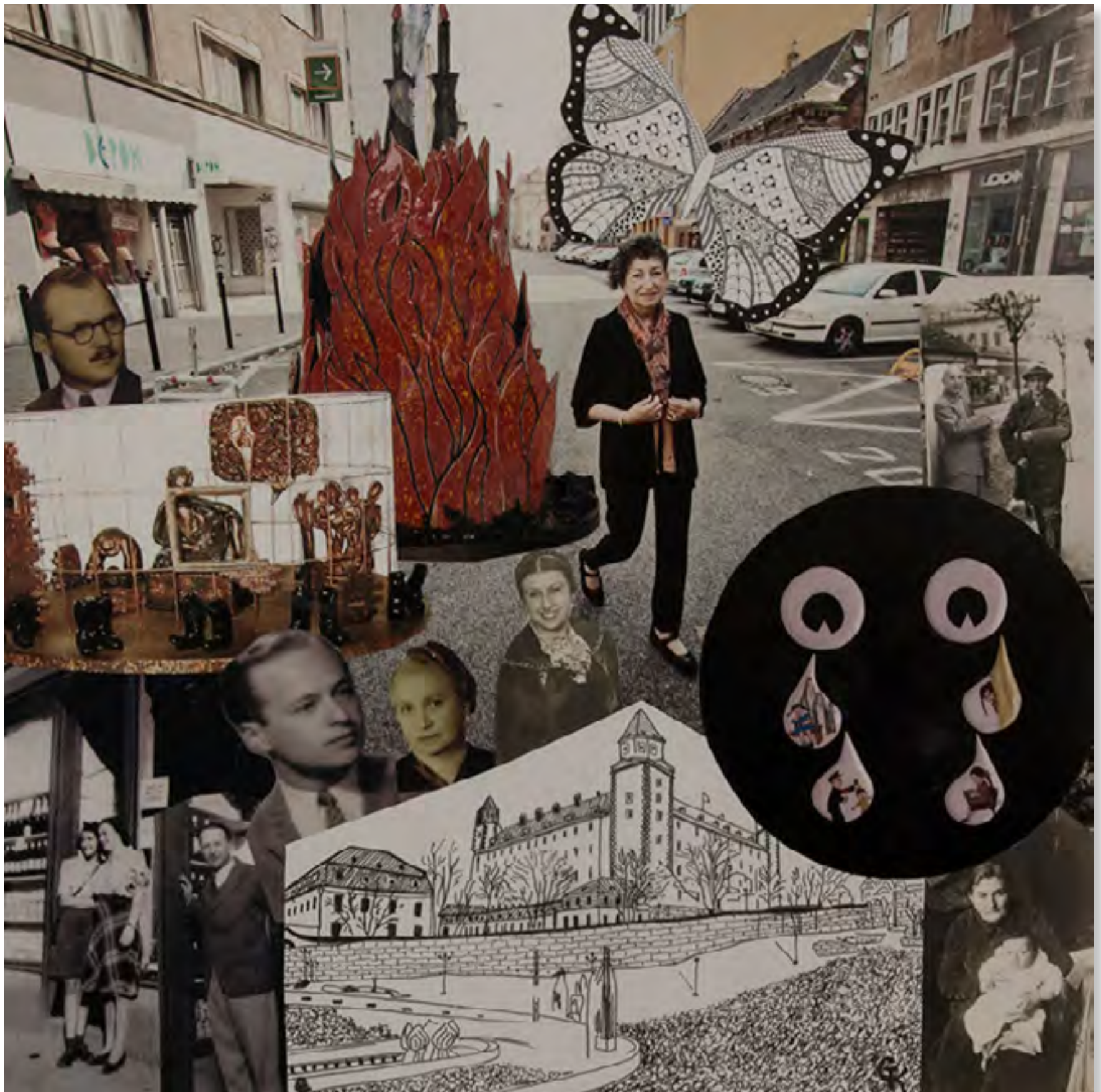


Floris Kalman

Brussels, Belgium

Fk81

I was born in Brussels, Belgium in 1934. My parents were from Warsaw and my father made leather gloves. I was eight years old in summer 1942 when I was separated from my parents and younger sister and went into hiding. Over the next two years, I lived with strangers in six different places in Brussels. Thanks to these people, I had a rich life, a wonderful marriage, a loving family, children and grandchildren. I have learned how important it is to appreciate every moment of life, to have loving relationships and to respect and be compassionate to others no matter how different they may be.



Gabriella Karin

Bratislava, Czechoslovakia

Gk84

I was 8 years old when WWII started. The deportation of Slovenia started in 1942. I was put in a convent that was run by nuns, and I had false papers with false identification. I didn't make friends in fear of Anti-Semitism. I cried myself to sleep every night for two years. During the war, I was hidden in an apartment building in Bratislava across the street from the Slovak Gestapo office. After the war, I moved to Israel and then to the United States. My message for others is that everything can be taken away from you, but nobody can take away what you have in your head.



Marie Kaufman

Albi, France

Mk73

I was born on March 19, 1941, in the beautiful red clay city of Albi, located in southwest France. The area was known as Vichy - a free zone before the war occupation. I was hidden with my mother and sister by the entire village of Milhars, and especially by two Christian families with five teenagers between them. The children, ages 13 -18 years old, were responsible for hiding me, risking their own lives. My father was hidden in a cave protected by surrounding farmers who never turned him in. We all survived! And now there are two children and four grandchildren!



Ruth Keller

Vienna, Austria

Rk 83*

My mother, Ruth Keller, (née Advokat), was born in Vienna in 1928. Her family fled after Kristallnacht, arriving in Belgium and eventually into France. Her parents were deported and perished in the Holocaust. Ruth was saved in the village of Chabannes through the efforts of the Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE). She was never far from those with whom she survived at Chabannes. Neither time nor distance could sever her deep ties to her 'other family'. Seeing this special attachment to her fellow Children of Chabannes, I grew up learning the importance of friendship, connectedness, trust and devotion.



Oswald (Kernberg) Kern

Vienna, Austria

Ak86

I was born in Vienna, Austria, to Hersch Samuel and Frieda Kernberg. My father owned a knitting factory and we lived a middle class life. In 1938, Germany annexed Austria and life changed drastically. Jews were stripped of their possessions and ostracized. In March 1939, I was sent to France where the Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE) placed me in four different children's homes. I was chosen to leave France on a children's transport to the USA. My parents and brother were deported from Vienna to Opole on February 26, 1941, and shortly after were deported to Sobibor where they were killed.



Edith Klar

Vienna, Austria

Ek77

My name is Edith Klar, (née Steiner). I was born in Vienna, Austria to a loving family who had great dreams for the future. Unfortunately, in 1938, Adolf Hitler marched into Vienna and life became a nightmare. Many of my family members were either killed or sent to camps. I was sent to a convent. I was 4 years old, and I screamed in my room every day because I didn't understand why I was being punished. My mother took me out of the convent just hours before it was raided. Sixty Jewish children and all the nuns were taken to be gassed. I constantly ask myself how this could have happened to humanity.



Chaim Kleiner

Czestochowa, Poland

Ck76*

Chaim Kleiner was born in Czestochowa, Poland to Jenta (Yochevet) and Shlomo Kleiner on 15 May 1917. He was one of nine children. He was enlisted into the Polish Army just before the Second World War. He was taken to a number of concentration camps and on to a death march. He survived by hiding with a friend in a sewer. He met wife Zofia in Belgium after the war ended. As his daughter, I realized after he passed away in 1994, that he carried guilt for being the only one of two in his family of eleven to survive. Despite this, he always made others laugh and feel loved beyond words. He cherished his children and grandchildren more than anything in the world.



Zisla (Zofia) Kleiner

Dzialoszyce, Poland

Zk94

Zisla (Zofia), daughter of Mindel (néé Schulczman) and Israel Zeev Wolfowicz, and sister to Sara, Chili and Chaim, was born 20 May 1921 in Dzialoszyce, Poland. During the war she was at Grunberg Labour Camp, from which she ran away and escaped after all the beatings and starvation. After the war she married Chaim Kleiner and moved to Israel to fulfill her father's dream of being in the homeland to the Jewish nation. She has two children, Miki and Serge, and three grandchildren, Elisse, Dane and Dana. Her family and friends admire her Zionist passion and positivity. Above all, she is a true fighter with inner strength to fight all odds, and enjoy life with her family.



Siegfried Knop

Saafeld, East Prussia (Germany)

Sk88

I was born in Saafeld, East Prussia. It was a small town with only three Jewish children. My father worked at the sawmill. In 1936, I was sent to Auerbach Orphanage in Berlin where I stayed for two years. Under the auspices of the Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE), I was sent to Chateau de Quincy sous Senart in France until the occupation. After the occupation, I was sent to the Chateau de Chabannes where I lived until I emigrated to the United States. My entire family perished. To my children and grandchildren: embrace your heritage; know who you are as a Jew, and invite each day as a new opportunity.



Abraham Kolski

Lodz, Poland

Ak89

Abraham Kolski was born in 1919 in Lodz, Poland. Abraham and his older brother Shmuel were barbers like their father Herman. His sister Nadia left for Palestine before the war broke out. The rest of the family was incarcerated in the Lodz Ghetto where Herman was killed, and mother Genia died from starvation. Abraham and his brothers Shmuel and Szymek hid in the ghetto until August 1944. They were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and then sent to hard labour in a coal mine. The brothers endured a five-month death march until liberation, after which Szymek died. Abraham went to Palestine on an illegal boat and fought in Israel's War of Independence. He married Lola Weinberg, a neighbor from Lodz, and had two children, Harold and Ofra. They immigrated to Australia in April 1958. Abraham and Lola both passed away in 2009.



Judy Kolt

Lodz, Poland

Jk79

My name is Judy Kolt (born Iska Jablonska). I am a child survivor of the Holocaust. After the liberation, we child survivors' were expected to carry on as if life were normal. It was sad we were too young to remember, too young to feel and too young to understand. Yet we did know and we felt and remembered, and carried our pain in all our waking hours and in our dreams at night. We brutally became adults at the age three or five or twelve. We never had the luxury children deserve. We could not run home to Mummy so she could make it better - we just had to learn how to survive. Many of us felt unreasonable shame for having survived. For some, the burden became too heavy and suffocated them. The five children that my father miraculously saved have now created sixty-three descendents. That is my JOY and my REVENGE.



Henri Korn

Wuppertal-Elberfeld, Germany

Hk86

Henri was born in 1929 in Wuppertal, Germany. By the time he was eight, he was expelled from school, and later from Germany for being Jewish. He spent much of his childhood in a Catholic reformatory in Belgium with his sister, but separated from his parents. Upon moving to Australia as a refugee, he met his wife Sandra. They have been married for 57 years. As his six grandchildren, we've grown to appreciate the difficulty and complexity of his childhood. It has helped us to understand how lucky we are to grow up in Australia. Zaide serves as an inspiration and teacher to us. Written by grandchildren Adam, Brad and Nicki Serry.



Motek Krakowski

Miedzyrzec, Poland

Mk72*

Motek was born in Międzyrzec Podlaski, Poland in 1922. He had two sisters and two brothers. His family had a brush manufacturing business, which was a main industry of the town. Motek's father was a chazzan, a cantor who led prayers. During the war, Motek was in Majdanek and Treblinka. Out of the family, only he and one brother survived. After liberation, he went to Germany as a displaced person, and met his Rosa. However, they parted and were reunited in Israel where they married. In 1960, the Krakowskis immigrated to Australia with their two children. Motek passed away on 25 September 1994.



Rosa Krakowski

Konieczpol, Poland

Rk89

Rosa was born in 1926 in Konieczpol, Poland, and grew up in Bedzin with three sisters and one brother. Her parents had a leather goods shop. On 3 September 1939, the family, except for the eldest sister Lola who had fled to Russia, was sent to the Bedzin Ghetto. From there they were relocated to the Markstadt camp, a sub-camp of Gross-Rosen in Germany. In 1944, Rosa was sent to the Peterswaldau camp, in which the conditions were much harsher. From there, Rosa was liberated on the 8 May 1945. Only her sister Lola, and her older brother survived. In 1960, Rosa immigrated to Australia from Israel with her husband Motek and their two children. *"I have seven great-grandsons. Hitler didn't survive long enough to kill me too. We are all the same. Do not discriminate!"*



Agnes Kun

Satu-Mare, Romania

Ak88

I am the only child of a bright, outgoing mother and a generous, intellectual father. My childhood was happy and privileged. In September 1940, life changed. May 1, 1944, I graduated high school, but on May 3rd, my 18th birthday, the ghetto was established, On June 3rd, we were sent to Auschwitz. My mother was gassed, and my father died later. After liberation, I married Andrew Kun, a childhood friend. We came to the U.S. in 1962. We have two daughters, three granddaughters, one great-grandson and a great-granddaughter coming. My message: fight hatred, it's destructive and self-destructing.



Hannah Kushinski

Czestochowa, Poland

Hk90

I am the only child of a bright, outgoing mother and a generous, intellectual father. My childhood was happy and privileged. In September 1940, life changed. May 1, 1944, I graduated high school, but on May 3rd, my 18th birthday, the ghetto was established, On June 3rd, we were sent to Auschwitz. My mother was gassed, and my father died later. After liberation, I married Andrew Kun, a childhood friend. We came to the U.S. in 1962. We have two daughters, three granddaughters, one great-grandson and a great-granddaughter coming. My message: fight hatred, it's destructive and self-destructing.



Sala Kwait

Zelva, Poland

Sk 79*

I am not able to place even the smallest flower on the graves of my family, as I don't know their location. It was in 1939, three months before the war when I left Zelva on Aliya Bet to fulfill a lifelong dream of living in Haaretz. I remember every path, every street, and every corner of Zelva. We had a very warm home with much love. Our parents always spoke and explained things to us. I pray that my children and grandchildren will learn about the Jews of Zelva, the town where I grew up, Your mother and grandmother, Sala Kwait



Boris Kwiatek

Sokolow Podlaski, Poland

Bk70

Boris Kwiatek (Shimon Yankev Tspilevicz) was born on 15 May 1915 in Sokołów Podlaski, Poland. He had many brothers and sisters and was born to an orthodox Cohenim family. During WWII, Boris conscripted into the Russian Army where he was mainly in Siberia. After the war, he went back to his hometown where he discovered he had lost his whole family in Treblinka. In the early 1950's, at age 40, Boris came to Australia on the Surriento ship from Genoa, Italy. He married Sonia Beilis in Melbourne in 1961. In 1962, they had one daughter, Goldie. She married Irving and they had three children, Allan, Matthew and Rebecca.



John Lamovie

Paris, France

J179

John Lamovie (Szlamowicz) was born in Paris in 1936 into a Polish Jewish family. After the German invasion of France in 1940, his father left Paris to avoid arrest and joined the resistance. John's mother and sister tried to escape but were caught and deported to Auschwitz where they were murdered. John joined his father in Lyon, which was under the control of the Vichy regime. They were arrested but John was saved by a French woman. His father eventually escaped from the camp. John hid with various members of his family until liberation in 1944. Other members of his family, his grandparents and two uncles were murdered in Majdanek.



Wilhelm Lermer

Krakow, Poland

WI92

I was born 24 September 1923 in Krakow, Poland. My sister Dusia was born April 1929. My father ran a kosher restaurant before the Holocaust. During the war, I moved to Myslenice to be with my grandmother, then was sent to Plaszow Labor Camp. In 1944, I was in Auschwitz-Birkenau and sub camps of Dachau. I was liberated in Dachau in 1945 by the Americans, I worked for the American military to 1947 and the American Jewish Joint Distribution (AJDC) until 1950. My message to all who see this is: Don't be a bystander. Never allow anyone to be infected with the disease of hatred.



Stephan Lewy

Berlin, Germany

SI89

I was born in Berlin, Germany in 1925. Following my mother's death, my father sent me to the Auerbach Orphanage. On November 9, 1938, Kristallnacht, one hundred children were herded into the synagogue and almost gassed to death. It was then I knew that life would never be the same. I left on a Kindertransport to France on July 4, 1939. The American Quakers helped us to escape to Chabannes in unoccupied France; we were cared for by the Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE). In June 1942, I was reunited with my father in the United States. I joined the U.S. Army under General Patton until the end of the war.



Jack Lewin

Lodz, Poland

JI87

I was born on April 13, 1927 in Lodz, Poland. I was 12 years old when my family and I were sent to the Lodz Ghetto, the hell that lasted the longest. I worked in a fur factory until the ghetto was liquidated in July 1944. I was deported to Auschwitz and fortunate to survive. I was liberated by the Soviet Army on January 27, 1945. I married Regina, a Holocaust Survivor, and we moved to Australia and then to the USA. I am a Holocaust speaker. When I see all of the students at the Museum of Tolerance, I feel hope for the future.



Regina Lewin

Bendzin, Poland

RI87

My name is Regina Lewin. I was born in Bendzin, Poland on October 3, 1927. In May 1942, the Nazis forced all the Jews to gather, and I was taken away. That was the last time I saw my parents. I worked for three years as a slave, hoping always to see my parents after liberation. They did not survive. They are always in my thoughts. I wish to share some thoughts with the younger generation. Please do not forget them, remember everyone always. Do not carry any hate, because hate grows hate. We will not forgive, but I do not believe in revenge. G-d Bless.



Maria Lewit

Lodz, Poland

MI91

Maria Lewit was born in 1924 in Lodz, Poland. Her father was beaten by an SS officer and died in the first months of the war. Maria and a few family members survived the war at her non-Jewish aunt's house near Warsaw. By hand, they dug a makeshift cellar behind rabbit cages. Maria and Julian and their young son Joe left Europe in 1948, immigrating to Australia. Their second child, Michael, was born in 1953. Maria studied English and attended writing workshops in order to fulfill her dream of becoming a writer. In 2011, she was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her services to education and literature.



Hana (Alterwein) Lewkowicz

Sosnowicz, Poland

HI 94*

Hana Lewkowicz was born in Sosnowiec, Poland. She came from an orthodox family and had eight siblings. Her grandfather was a Shoichet and her mother wore a sheitel. During the war Hana was at Markstadt and Peterswaldau camps in Germany. Her job was to put clocks into bombs. She and her sister were liberated 8 May 1945. Her brother survived Buchenwald. Hana and her husband Berek immigrated to Australia in 1958 with their two children Suzanne and Morris. Hana was a very courageous woman, she had great wisdom and a lot of patience for everyone. Her family was her life. She was often sad and refused to speak of her past. Hana made many good friends and had a good social life. She liked to entertain and her cooking was the best.



Ruwen (Berek) Lewkowicz

Bedzin, Poland

RI93

Berek was the last Jewish survivor of the little fortress, a small prison inside the notorious concentration camp at Terezin/Teresienstat. Berek survived Hitler and cheated Eichman who tried to murder him. Liberated in 1945 after almost six years of brutal and dehumanizing imprisonment, Berek was determined to start his life again. He moved with his wife Hana to Paris and later moved to Israel. Berek served in the IDF in the 1956 Sinai war. They immigrated to Australia with their two children Suzanne and Morris. Berek's message: *"Be aware at all times and educate yourself. Always stand up for your beliefs and be proud of who you are and your heritage. Do not allow history to be distorted or altered, you are the guardians of our history. Don't hate but never forget. Treat people the way you would like to be treated."*



Tilly Light

Hof, Germany

TI57*

Tilly Light (née Heiser) was born in Hof, Germany in 1913. She was one of three sisters. Her father died fighting for Germany in WWI. Her mother, Emma Heiser, raised the girls alone. Tilly married Ludwig Gruenbaum in 1938 and escaped on one of the last ships leaving from Holland. They disembarked in Singapore, where their daughter Edith was born. In 1940, the British rounded up the Germans living in Singapore and detained them in Tatura, Victoria as enemy aliens. They were released in 1943 and moved to Melbourne. Tilly's mother could not escape Germany and was murdered during the Holocaust. Tilly somehow maintained a positive attitude to life, despite all the adversities she had faced.



Edith (Salzerberger) Linden

Vienna, Austria

EI74

Born in Vienna, Austria 12 February 1928

"Shanghi was no paradise, but if we stayed in Europe, we would have ALL ended up in smoke"

"If we don't still show our values and Jewishness, then Hitler wins"

"Australia was good for us but we were good for Australia"



Fred (Salzberger) (Lindenberg) Linden

Vienna, Austria

FI 83*

Fred Linden was born on 25 September 1921 in Vienna, Austria. In 1937, Jewish male youth were being rounded up for labour camps by the Nazi regime. Fred's parents sent him on a journey from Vienna to Shanghai. He traveled alone through Russia, Siberia and finally Shanghai where he was later reunited with his parents and married Edith. Together, in 1947, they left for Australia where they had two children and established a blouse manufacturing business "Contessa". Fred passed away November 2014.



Tuvia Lipson

Lodz, Poland

TI90

Tuvia Lipson was born in 1925 in Lodz, Poland the youngest of five. Tuvia was 14 when German forces occupied Lodz. By May 1940, the family moved into one room apartment in the Lodz Ghetto. Tuvia was sent to Auschwitz in 1944. Upon arrival he was separated from his family and taken to Rybnik, then to Mauthausen and finally Ebensee. In 1946, Tuvia sailed to Palestine as a refugee, fought with Palmach and the IDF. In 1960, he immigrated to Australia and was reunited with two siblings. It is our responsibility to perpetuate his memory to future generations to ensure his legacy continues.



Dave Lux

Negrovic (Slovakia) Czechoslovakia

DI81

I honor my parents and keep their memory alive, for their courage and bravery, which saved my life and my brother's life from the Nazis. A sacrifice beyond my understanding. To my children who were deprived of their grandparents, my parents: Do not forget where you are coming from. You are the second and third generation Holocaust Survivors from the 669 children saved by Sir Nicolas Winton. If it weren't for him, you wouldn't be here today. The 669 survivors have now grown to 6,000 and growing.



Frank (Marlow) Mahler

Svetla Sazavou, Czechoslovakia

Fm85*

In 1939, my father was an attorney in Prague when Hitler arrived. He escaped by traveling through Italy, eventually finding refuge on a Turkish coal freighter along with hundreds of other Jewish refugees. The freighter took them to Haifa where they were released to the British. My father joined the Free Czech Army under the British, and fought for them for nearly five years. While on leave in London, he met my mother who was a German refugee. He lost his entire family in Theresienstadt. When the war concluded he returned to his home in Svetla Nad Sazavou. My parents emigrated to Canada in 1946.



Irene (Levy) Mahler

Waldbreitbach, Germany

Im92*

My mother began her many attempts to escape her home in Germany when she was 14 years old. She finally succeeded at the age of 18 by crossing the English Channel. An English family sponsored her to work on their farm as a housekeeper. Once there, she was injured and rendered disabled from earning her keep. She was eventually sent to live with other German refugee girls. She was the only member of her household who survived, along with two young male cousins who survived various concentration camps. In London, she met my father, a Czech refugee. They married in 1944.



Joseph Maisel

Horodzieg, Poland

Jm46*

Joseph Maisel, the older brother of twins Phillip and Bella, survived the Holocaust in France. He was hidden by Marcel Verdier who was a farmer in Bollene Provence. Unable to study in Poland due to anti-Semitism, he studied electrical engineering in Grenoble at the Ecole Superiere in Paris. After the war Phillip and Bella miraculously found one another and settled in French occupied Germany. Joseph who served in the French Army joined them there for a few weeks. Phillip and Bella immigrated to Australia in 1949, but attempts to bring Joseph were unsuccessful. Joseph passed away in Bollene in 1962.



Phillip Maisel

Vilno, Poland

Pm93*

Against insurmountable odds I survived the Holocaust. This miracle enabled me to keep the pledge made to my dear friends during the darkest moments in my life, that if I survive, **I will tell the world what happened.** Working at the Jewish Holocaust Centre, I record and use the testimonies of Holocaust survivors to warn people about the destructive power of hatred. This important project also allows me to teach the message of love, tolerance and acceptance. Being able to share my life with my family, which I love and cherish has enriched my life beyond any description.



Manya Majtlis

Strzemiezyce, Poland

Mm57*

Mania Majtlis (Kochen) was born 25 December 1925 in Strzemiezyce, Poland. She lived with her parents Rubin and Leiba Kochen (deceased 1930), her brothers Heniek and Shmulek and sister Perla. Mania was interned in Blechhammer, Bobrek and Bergen-Belsen, where she was liberated. After the war, she was united with her brothers and sister in Landsberg, Germany. She married Morris Majtlis in 1947 and her first-born child Esta was born in 1949. In 1951, she immigrated to Australia and had two more children, William in 1955 and Caroline 1957. Mania was very kind and down to earth, she loved nothing more than to be surrounded by her children and grandchildren. Sadly, she passed away too soon in 1982. Her family and friends sorely miss her.



Morris (Moniek) Majtlis

Wolbrom, Poland

Mm95

Morris Majtlis was born 2 February 1920 in Wolbrom Poland. He lived with his parents Mordechai Wolf and Esta Freidl. He had one sister Khala and two brothers Vicotor and Itcha. In 1942, Morris was taken with his father to Rzeszow to work in a labour camp. In 1943 they were sent to Plaszów, where his father perished. From Plaszów Morris was sent to Czestochowa where he lived until he was liberated on the 2 January 1945. He was the sole survivor of his family. Morry lived in Germany after the war where he met his future wife Mania Kochen. Their first-born daughter Esta was born in 1949. They immigrated to Australia in 1951 and had two more children, William and Caroline. Morry's attitude about life is to live it to the fullest and to respect all mankind.



Adela Manheimer

Dombrowa, Poland

Am93

I was born in 1921 in Dombrowa Gorniche, Poland, where my father owned a tailor shop. I went to accounting school before the Germans invaded in 1939. I worked sewing uniforms for the Germans, hoping this would keep me from being shipped to Germany. In 1942, the women were gathered up and taken to Grunberg to work 12-hour night shifts weaving blankets. In winter 1945, I was forced on a five-month Death March all the way to France. I was rescued by French POWs and treated in an American field hospital. I weighed 77 pounds when I arrived. I was reunited with my fiancé, and we were married in 1947.



Elisabeth Mann

Kecskemet, Hungary

Em88

I was born in Kecskemet, Hungary in 1925. I grew up in a home with lots of music. My father played the violin and my mother would sing. Her voice was like silver. After they were murdered, I never played the piano again. The wisdom I have for future generations is to stay Jewish and never forget the history of the Jewish people and their spirit of survival. No matter what happens in life, don't give up your faith in G-d because He is always helping. Never give up hope. Evil will never win. Always protect Israel.



Szyja (Sam) Margolis

Bialystok, Poland

Sm76*

Sam (Szyja) Margolis was born in a Jewish farming village in 1914 and was the youngest of six children. At age 19, he moved to Bialystok and became a weaver. Almost his entire family perished in the Nazi gas chambers, including his mother, wife and baby daughter Liba. Sam was one of only 200 Bialystoker Jews who survived the concentration camps. He immigrated to Australia in 1948 where he met his beloved Dolly. Together they had three children they doted upon. He joined his brother Max to manufacture ladies dresses, which were sold throughout Australia. Sam died of cancer at 76, still haunted by the war.



Shimon (Simon) Michalowicz

Weilun, Poland

Sm84*

Shimon Michalowicz was born in 1929 in Wielun, Poland. His loving family were Gerer Chassidim and Shimon fondly remembered standing next to his uncle, the chazzan in shul. On 1 September 1939, Wielun was the first town bombed. Shimon spent years in various labour camps until 1942 when he and his younger brother Zeesel were separated from their mother and sent to Auschwitz. Shimon was deemed fit to work but Zeesel was too little. In 1944, Shimon endured a death march from Blechhammer to Gros Rosen to Buchenwald. He was liberated from Buchenwald on April 11, 1945. Migrating to Australia in 1948, Shimon married Esther Lubinski in 1951, created two daughters and a happy, loving family. Shimon was full of life and song. A beautiful soul, he died in May 2014.



Zvi Mileikowski

Vilna, Poland

Zm85*

Zvi Mileikowski was born to Golda and Yechiel in Vilna, Lithuania. He was the youngest of four siblings. They lived in a single room apartment on the outskirts of Vilna. In 1941, without warning, the family was forcefully moved into the Vilna Ghetto. They lived there for two years with 40,000 other Jews in cramped, appalling conditions. Periodically, Zvi would escape through a hole in the ghetto wall to find food for his family. On 23 September 1943, Zvi escaped 20 minutes before the Nazis exterminated the ghetto. Zvi and his brother found refuge in a gentile's home and were hidden under floorboards for nine months until the Russians liberated Vilna.



Zelda Moyal

Vilna, Poland

Zm 86

I had to grow up quickly after being forced to live in the Vilna Ghetto at only 12 years old. My sister and mother were taken from me, and then my father and I were rounded up and taken to Kaiserwawld. My father went to a death camp and I went to a work camp. I later learned that my mother and sister were taken back to the Vilna Ghetto, and killed when the ghetto was liquidated. I ultimately survived seven different camps and was liberated by the Russians. Eventually, I went to Palestine and lived on a kibbutz and learned to dance. I have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Even when I'm not dancing, I move my feet a little bit.



Gitta (Ehrenfreund) Nagel

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Gn70+

I was born in Amsterdam. Destined to be murdered in July 1942, in Mauthausen, my life was spared by the courage of my Oma, and the beauty of my mother, and the grace of G-d. After surviving the Holocaust with my parents and sisters, I came to the United States in 1951. After knowing Jack for only seventeen days, we married in 1955, and I embarked on my biggest and most rewarding project, raising our four children, Ronald, Esther, David and Careena. They and their children will continue our legacy of Holocaust Remembrance as Trustees of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, supporting the Jewish Federation and the Nagel Family Pediatric Pavilion at Shaare Zedek in Jerusalem.

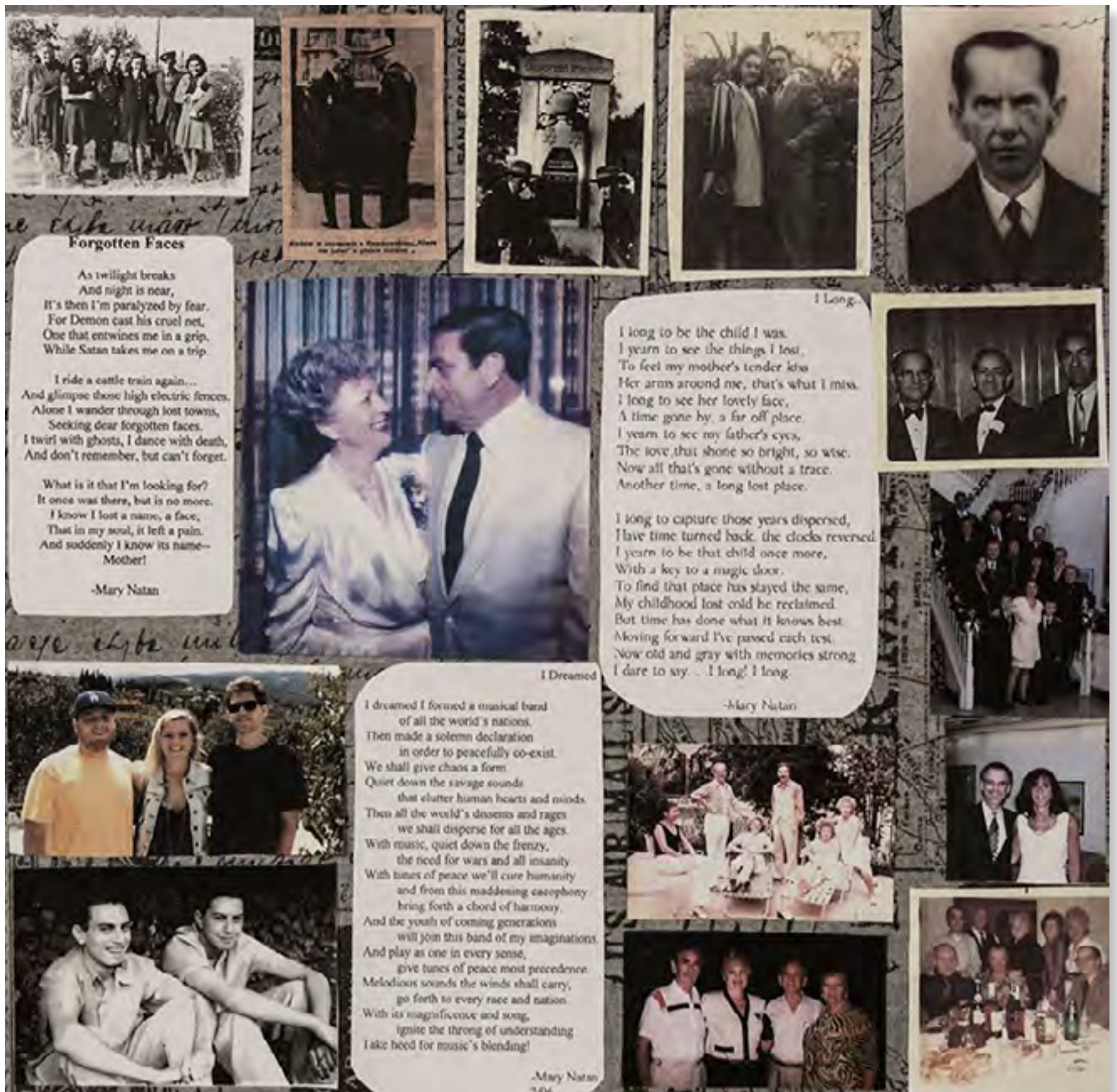


Jack Nagel

Krosno, Poland

Jn90+

I was born in Krosno, Poland. I survived several extermination camps including Auschwitz and Dachau. After the Nazis murdered my parents and two brothers, I realized there was no future for me and my younger sister in Europe. I came to the Blessed United States in 1947 as a Rabbinical student. I married Gitta in 1955, and we raised four children, fifteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Believe Life is full of Miracles. Be Motivated to help others. Be Charitable. Persevere to reach your goal. Support Israel and Jewish Education everywhere, to guarantee our continuity as a People. Always be grateful to Hashem.



Mary Natan

Lodz, Poland

Mn85

I was born in Lodz, Poland, the youngest of five children. We were an assimilated family. Friends of German descent encouraged us to escape, but we stayed. I spent four years in the Lodz Ghetto, a true "hell on earth". I survived Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen. The Nazis took our dignity and the lives of our loved ones. My siblings and I survived. I was liberated at Meltoire Factory. My mind races and rejoices at the possibilities of the human intellect, but my heart is concerned. As long as there is hatred and prejudice, there is potential for its abuses. Thus, I am cautiously optimistic.



Viviane Nathan

Boulogne Sur Mer, France

Vn74

Although I was too young to remember and understand the significance of my camp experience in Belgium, I now realize the profound effect that my history had on my view of the world, and in forming my Jewish identity. Now, as a mature adult, I am very grateful to be living in a democracy where I can feel safe. I have the comfort of knowing that we now have a Jewish homeland that will never abandon us.



Doris (Heymann) Nissen

Berlin, Germany

Dn86*

Doris (Dotie) Heymann was born in Berlin in 1921 to Benno and Gertrude. A younger sister Eva completed their family. They lived on Kurfurstendamm Str. Benno was a dentist and high-ranking officer in the German Army. Gertrude was a nurse and sang in the choir of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Church on Kurfurstendamm Str. Doris studied art. The family fled after Krystallnacht. They left all they had behind them. I never asked if Benno locked the door. After arriving in Australia early 1939, Benno died of a heart attack. Doris went off to work folding socks in a factory and never painted again. Doris married Harry Nissen and had two children. Doris was passionate about Aboriginal art and culture to the end of her days.



Alfred Nowack

Berlin, Germany

An84

I was born on March 29, 1930 and lived in a suburb of Berlin where there were only three Jewish families. On the eve of Kristallnacht, their businesses were completely destroyed and my life radically changed. My uncle, with the help of the Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE) helped hide me in France. I wondered how my parents were able to make such a difficult decision to send their 8 year old son away. I keep wondering if all the good things that came out of my past were attributed to just plain luck, being in the right place at the right time, or was it G-d who helped me?



Susanne Nozik

Ujpest, Hungary

Sn91

Susanne Nozik was born 18 February 1924 in Ujpest, Hungary. She had one brother, George Coleman. Her mother, Iboya was a housewife and her father, Mor was an architect and builder. The Germans marched into Budapest on March 1944. She was rounded up by the Arrow Cross and was taken to the basement 60 Andrassy Utc (which was occupied by the Nazi Party) along with her mother and other Jews. Here, they were tortured. They were then marched naked to Danube River, lined up and shot into the river by the Arrow Cross. Miraculously, Susanne survived this ordeal, but her mother did not. Her brother George, her cousin Johnny and her grandmother survived. Susanne came to Australia in 1948. Her message to her children is that family is important. Cherish each other and honour your parents.



Israel Nudelman

Bricen Bessarabia, Moldova

In94

My father, Israel Nudelman, was born September 1927, in Bricen, Bessarabia. He had three sisters and one brother. In 1939, the family was deported to the concentration camp of Bershad. His sister dressed him as a girl so the Germans wouldn't send him to a work camp. My father and his siblings survived but his parents died of typhus in the camp. They emigrated to Israel but were intercepted and had to spend two years in Cyprus. My father never lost his joy of life and his will to live a simple and happy life. He has two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Bezael Nutovits

Muhkz, Czechoslovakia

Bn82*

Bezael Nutovits (A-9358) was born in Muhkgz, Czechoslovakia. In April 1944, his entire family was taken to the ghetto, and by the following month, he was in Auschwitz-Birkenau. His mother, father and four of his brothers and sisters were murdered in the gas chambers the day they arrived. Bezael was sent to several concentration camps and forced to walk in the Death March to Buchenwald. He was liberated by the American Army in April 1945. "If something like that happened in our time and to innocent people, just because they were born Jews, then who knows what else is still waiting in this world."



Cipora Nutovits

Hajdunanas, Hungary

Cn82

I was born in Hajdunanas, Hungary in 1933. In January 1944, I went to stay with my aunt in Budapest. In March 1944, we were put in the Budapest Ghetto. We had very little food to eat and I became very ill. We were liberated in February, 1945 by Russian soldiers. We obtained a certificate to go to Israel. I married a Holocaust Survivor, Bezalel Nutovits in 1952 and had two children. I now have two grandsons. Every day I write poems and stories drawing my inspiration from family, nature, Judaism and children. I get great joy from the creative process and I love to share my poems and stories.



Perry Oehlbaum

Miskolc, Hungary

Po82

My name at birth was Piroska Weinstein. I later changed my name to Pircha (in Hebrew) or Perry (in English). I was only 12 years old in June 1941, when I was taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau with my father, stepmother and sister, Aviva. Later, I was sent to Bergen-Belsen and then to Rochlitz camp to work in an airplane factory. In 1945, because of air raids, we were taken on a Death March. We were all starving, and every day there were fewer of us. Our German guards fled when we were finally liberated by Russian troops. In July, 1945, my sister and I took a train to Budapest where we were reunited with my aunt and uncle.



Fischel Orbach

Szczecinski, Poland

Fo88*

My father was born August 15, 1919 in Szczecinski, Poland. He had three brothers and three sisters. As the Nazis were approaching Poland, his parents sent him to live with a sister and her family. He was captured and was a prisoner in five concentration camps and liberated from Gross Rosen. He came to the United States via the port of Baltimore. He moved to Boyle Heights, California, and lived across the street from the Breed Street Shul. He met my mother Ethel on a blind date. They had three children. My father was a very religious man and went to Shul several times a week for his entire life.

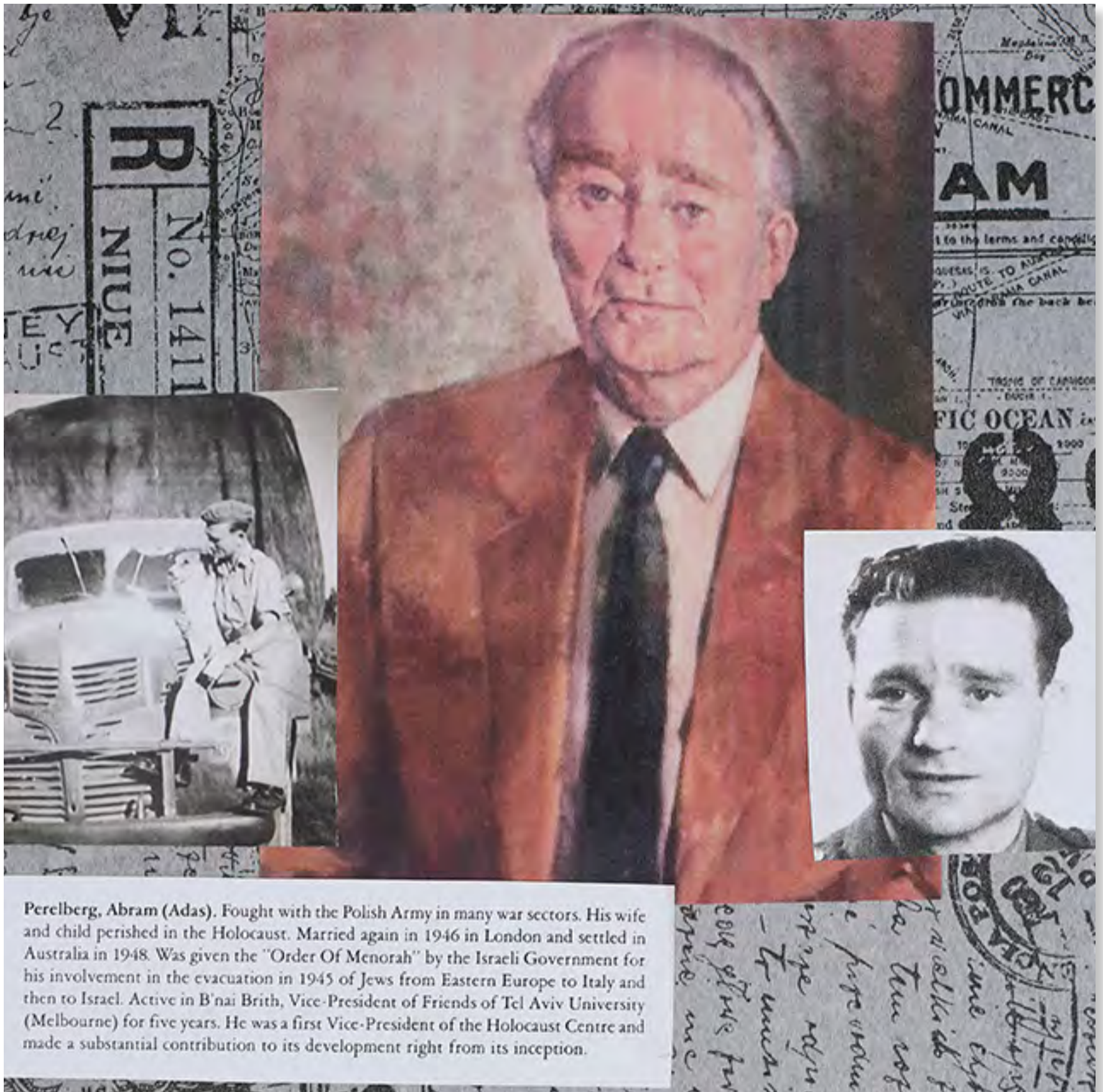


Henry Oster

Cologne, Germany

Ho86

As the sole survivor of more than 2,000 Jews who were deported from my native city of Cologne, Germany in 1941, I fail to comprehend my improbable good fortune. I never stop asking, "Why me?" But there is no reasonable answer. I can only say that the experience provided a lasting lesson and a sense of what is truly important in life... relevance, reflection, patience, love and survival. Of these, perhaps reflection, patience and love will ultimately provide an acceptable solution.



Perelberg, Abram (Adas). Fought with the Polish Army in many war sectors. His wife and child perished in the Holocaust. Married again in 1946 in London and settled in Australia in 1948. Was given the "Order Of Menorah" by the Israeli Government for his involvement in the evacuation in 1945 of Jews from Eastern Europe to Italy and then to Israel. Active in B'nai Brith, Vice-President of Friends of Tel Aviv University (Melbourne) for five years. He was a first Vice-President of the Holocaust Centre and made a substantial contribution to its development right from its inception.

Abraham (Adas) Perelberg

Warsaw, Poland

Ap81*

Abram Perelberg was a founding Vice President of the Jewish Holocaust Centre. He provided the funds for the acquisition of land upon which the museum stands. He was in the Polish Army at the outbreak of the war in 1939. He was captured and survived the Gulag Komissar and then joined the Anders Army in 1941. He fought in the Italian campaign including Monte Cassini. Subsequently, he met and married Romana Eizenberg. She was in a displaced persons (DP) camp in Milan. In Warsaw, she jumped from the Treblinka train and survived in the forests of Poland making her way over the mountains and into Italy in 1944.

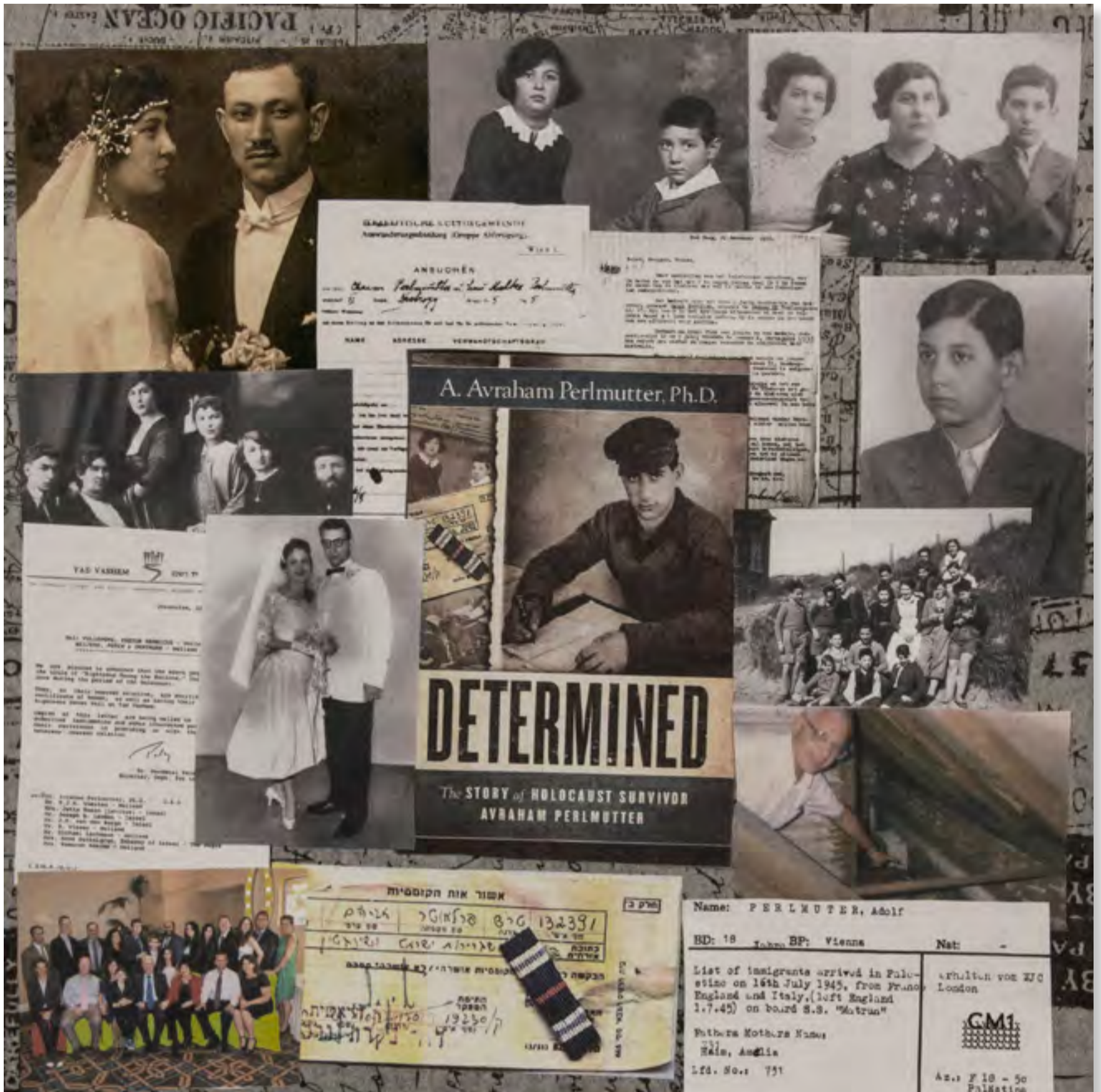


Romana Perelberg

Warsaw, Poland

Rp77*

Romana Eizenberg was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1918. She lived at Chmielna 128. In 1942, she jumped from the Treblinka train near Malkynia and hid in the forest until the Soviet forces liberated Lublin in 1944. She found her way across the mountains into Italy. She met her future husband, Abram Perelberg at the displaced persons (DP) camp in Milan. At the time, he was in General Anders Army. They married in London and immigrated to Melbourne, Australia.

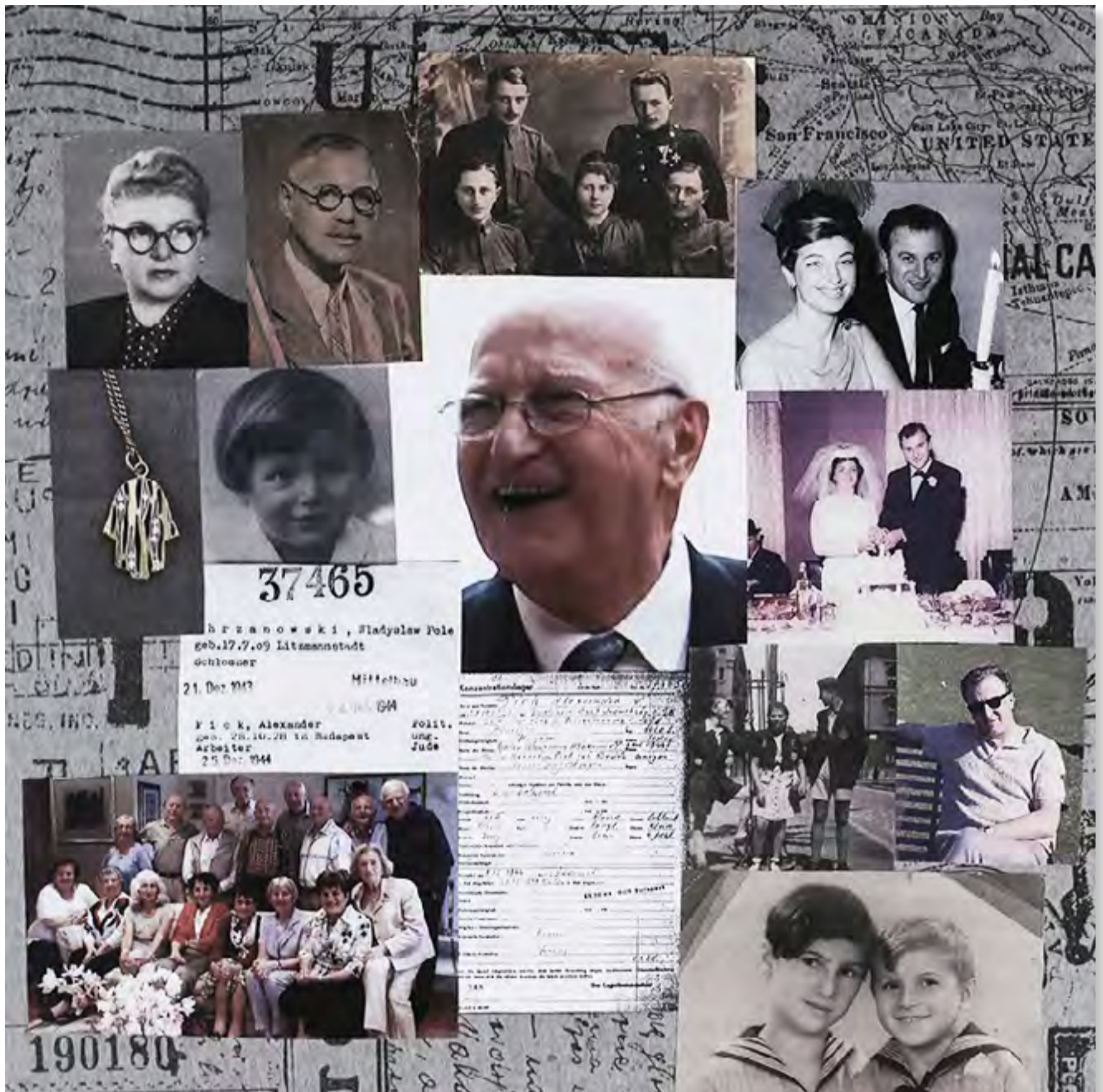


Avraham Perlmutter

Vienna, Austria

Ap87

After the Nazis arrived in my hometown of Vienna, Austria, my parents sent me to The Netherlands via the Kindertransport. The Germans followed, and I experienced harrowing captures, daring escapes, tortuous hiding and heartbreaking losses, but also the kindness of strangers. After the liberation, I fought in Israel's War for Independence. I moved to America and earned a PhD in Aeronautical Engineering. Be DETERMINED to do whatever it takes to overcome a difficult problem. Be DETERMINED to PROCEED from any challenging situation and never give up hope.



Alexander Sandor Pick

Budapest, Hungary

Ap83*

Alexander Pick was born on 28 October 1928 in Budapest, Hungary. When the Germans invaded and were determining who to kill and who could be put to work, Alex was able to lie about his age and was put to work in the ammunition factory. Though he rarely spoke of his time in the concentration camps, he began to tell the story of how he would deliberately break the machine so ammunition couldn't be produced. After liberation he began a new life in Melbourne, Australia. After mourning the loss of his wife in 2011, he began to volunteer as a speaker and survivor guide. He only managed to guide for a few sessions before his sudden passing in June 2012. He was a true gentleman and loving husband, father, family member and friend - his sense of humour and love of life is missed by all who knew him.



Veronica Pick

Budapest, Hungary

Vp75*

Veronica Pick was born 29 October 1936 in Budapest, Hungary. Losing her father to illness at just five years of age was her first experience of loss. Fortunately, she and her mother were saved witnessing many of the atrocities that others suffered through the Holocaust by having been saved by Raul Wallenberg. After liberation, they traveled to Melbourne, Australia by boat where her mother prided herself on making new outfits in their tiny ship cabin for her daughter. She married Alex Pick in 1963 and had two daughters. A week shy of her 75th birthday she passed away from ovarian cancer. Her tenacity, kindness, laughter and amazing cooking are missed by all who loved her.



Mike Popik

Levice, Czechoslovakia

Mp83

I was born in Levice, Czechoslovakia. My family lived happily in a small town until the Hungarian occupation in 1939. In May 1944, we were deported by cattle car to Auschwitz. My mother and younger brother went straight to the crematorium. Six weeks later, I was separated from my father and other brother and never saw them again. I survived four concentration camps. I was liberated from Gungkirehen, the filthiest human garbage dump. My father left me with the strength to rebuild my life with hope. I was privileged to fight for the War of Independence for the State of Israel.



Morris Price

Walbrom, Poland

Mp87

I was born April 1, 1927 in Walbrom, Poland. I was born the youngest of six children. When I was 15, I was separated from my family. In March 1943, I was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. I remained there for eighteen months. In October 1944, I was put in a cattle car and sent to Dachau. The American Army liberated me on May 1, 1945. In September 1949, I came to the United States. When I speak to the young and old at the Museum of Tolerance, I see tears in their eyes. When they shake my hand or hug me, I know that they will remember me and the Holocaust.



David Prince

Lodz, Poland

Dp90

David and his twin brother Henry were born in Lodz, Poland in 1925, and were raised in a traditional Jewish home. Their happy childhood came to an abrupt end when the Germans marched into Lodz on 8 September 1939. The family was incarcerated in the horrific conditions of the Lodz Ghetto in February 1940. In August 1944, the Prince family was put on the last transport to Auschwitz. The twins and their father were separated from their mother and never saw her again. The three men were sent to work in Friedland Camp from where the three were liberated in 1945. *“Always cherish and value that you were born in Australia. Follow the examples of your parents in every aspect of your life, in particular, Jewish life. Don’t postpone the things you want to do and achieve – do them now.”*



Ella Prince

Warsaw, Poland

Ep86*

Ella Prince was born in Warsaw, Poland on 14 February 1927. Her parents were Rosa Zalcberg (née Gringlas) and Isaac Zalcberg and her younger brother was Samuel Zalcberg. They were all together in the Warsaw Ghetto. Samuel was deported to Treblinka in July 1942 and Ella and her parents survived the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Afterwards, they were deported to Majdenek, where Isaac perished. Ella and Rosa were sent from Majdenek to Auschwitz-Birkenau to Ravensbruck. They survived the death march. When the war ended, Ella and Rosa moved to Munich. Ella began her university studies in dentistry where she met David while studying pharmacy. They immigrated to Melbourne, Australia in 1950. They have two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Ella passed away in December 2013.



Leon Prochnik

Krakow, Poland

Lp81

I was born in 1933 into a Jewish family that owned the second largest chocolate factory in Poland. Until the age of 6, I enjoyed a privileged existence. In 1939, we fled Nazi occupied Poland. For a year and a half, we traveled through Lithuania, Russia, Japan and Canada before finally reaching the United States. When I speak as a Holocaust Survivor, I tell students about the giant tub of melted chocolate that kept reappearing inspirationally in my thoughts and dreams. They draw my story, making them witnesses to a time that must never be forgotten. Even in the worst of times, keep swimming!



Hajnal (Berkovits) Rassaby

Sighet, Romania/Transylvania

Hr89

Because of hatred and prejudice towards Jews, my life has been defined by loss. My family was deported from Sighet, Transylvania to Auschwitz in May 1944. My parents and three of my brothers were murdered. I think of them constantly. My message is that everyone should treat everyone else as equals without regard for religious belief, skin colour, or any other perceived difference. That is the only way to prevent a repeat of the tragedy of the Holocaust.



Alex Resofsky

Nyirbator, Hungary

Ar89

Alex Resofsky was born in 1924 in Nyirbator, Hungary. He was the second child to his parents Mor and Berta Resofsky. He survived with his eldest sister Margaret Privler. Alex's father was a highly respected man in the city both as a businessman and learned member of the community. Alex and his family were rounded up in the Sirna Pusata Ghetto before being deported to Auschwitz in May 1944. His mother and young siblings did not get through the selection and were murdered. Alex went through Funfteichen Gross-Rosen, Dora, and Ehrlich. He was liberated in Bergen-Belson. He was involved with the Bricha immediately after the war, smuggling Jews from Romania through Hungary to Israel. He sailed to Australia in 1949 with his sister and future wife Judy.



Judy Resofsky

Nyirbator, Hungary

Jr89

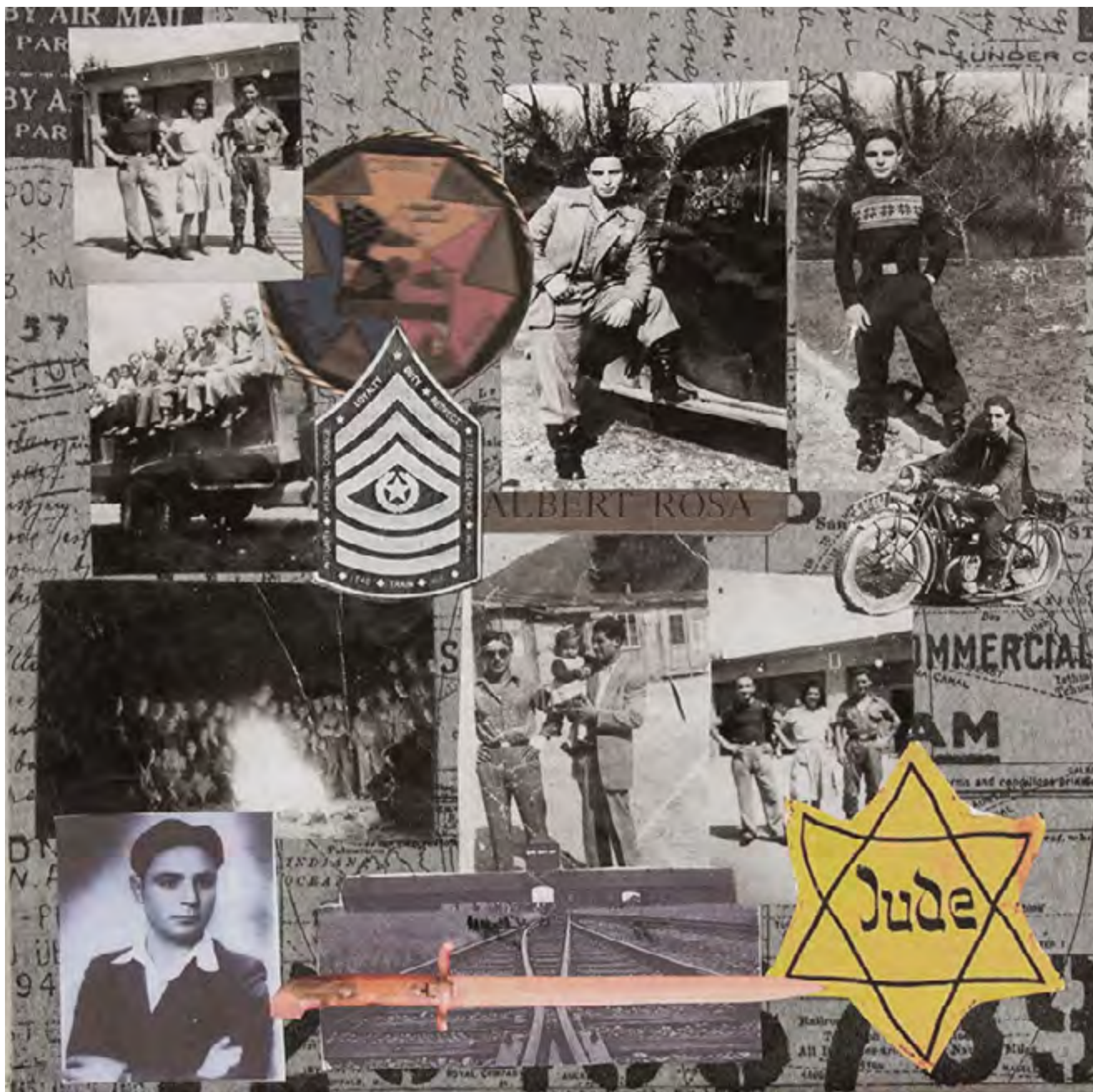
Judy Resofsky (neé Winkler Frisch) was born on 5 July 1926 in Nyirbator, Hungary. She was the first-born child to Adolph and Berta Winkler. With the rapid growth of the family to eight children, Judy was adopted by a childless uncle and aunt, Jenő and Berta Frisch. Within weeks of the Nazi occupation, the community was interned in the Sirna Pusata Ghetto awaiting deportation to Auschwitz where she was separated from all her family. From there she was sent to work in heavy construction in Stutthof, then Praust and was finally liberated by the Russians whilst a prisoner on a death march from Praust. After liberation, she learned that no other member of her family had survived. She was alone in the world.



Bella Rogers
Stanislawow, Poland

Br85*

Bella Rogers (née Speier) was born on 12 March 1921 in Stanislawow, Poland. Her family moved to Karkau at the start of WWII and Bella was confined to the Krakau Ghetto from June 1941 until December 1942. From that time, until her liberation by the Russians on 25 March 1945, Bella survived three concentration camps including Auschwitz. Following her liberation, Bella discovered that her parents and siblings (aside from a sister who had migrated to Palestine in 1938) had been exterminated. Bella moved through various displaced persons (DP) camps in Germany until she started working for the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in Munich. Bella decided in the early 1950's to start a new life and arrived in Melbourne aboard the SS Cyrenia in 1952.



Albert Rosa

Solonika, Greece

Ar90

My name is Albert Rosa. I was born in Solonika, Greece on January 25, 1925. I watched my brother be hungry and my sister beaten to death. I was sent to Auschwitz and witnessed many atrocities. I went to fight in the U.S. Army and was awarded a Purple Heart and four other medals. When I was 20, I met my beautiful wife Betty. One night when I had a nightmare, I dreamt that she was a Nazi and accidentally hit her. I spent three months in a psychiatric facility. I only try to help people that cannot help themselves. Never give up. If you have to die, die like a man. Die fighting for your life.



Sol Rotstein

Warsaw, Poland

Sr39*

Sol Rotstein was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1923 to parents Hudes and Josef. He had two younger brothers, Motel (Max) and Moishe (Mel). To escape the Nazi uprising, his family sailed to Cuba in hopes of entering the United States. The rest of the Rotstein family who remained in Poland perished. Sol and his family lived in a small Jewish neighborhood in Havana, known as Polandia. Sol helped his father, who worked as a shoemaker. His family was granted entry to the U.S. in 1939. Sol served in the U.S. Army. After the war, Sol married his wife Ruth and had three sons.



Shmuel Rosenthal

Vilkvishkis, Lithuania

Sr81*

My father, Shmuel Rosenthal was born in 1903 in Vilkvishkis, Lithuania. He was an orphan, his father was killed during WWI and his mother died shortly thereafter. Before the German occupation, my parents, Rone and Shmuel lived in Kaunas. Both my parents and my uncle were active members of the ghetto underground resistance movement. My parents were among thousands of ghetto inmates deported to German concentration camps in July 1944. My mother who perished in Stutthof (No. 41091), had rescued many ghetto children. My father was sent to Dachau in 1944, (No. 84851). The American Army liberated him and he returned to Lithuania after the war. He was barely alive and spent months recovering. He died in 1984 in Vilnius.



Stan Rubens

Enschede, The Netherlands

Sr82

I was 8 years old when the Second World War started. One day my father told me to pack my clothes because we were going into hiding. That night, my life changed. The landlord turned in the family of eight that hid us so that they could receive reward money. It was music that helped me keep my sanity. Eventually, I pursued a career in music and became a prolific composer and lyricist. I lived through ignorance and perseverance; the ignorance of not knowing my future, and the perseverance to remain calm and alive ahead of the persecution. I am grateful to all the people who jeopardized themselves for my safety and survival.

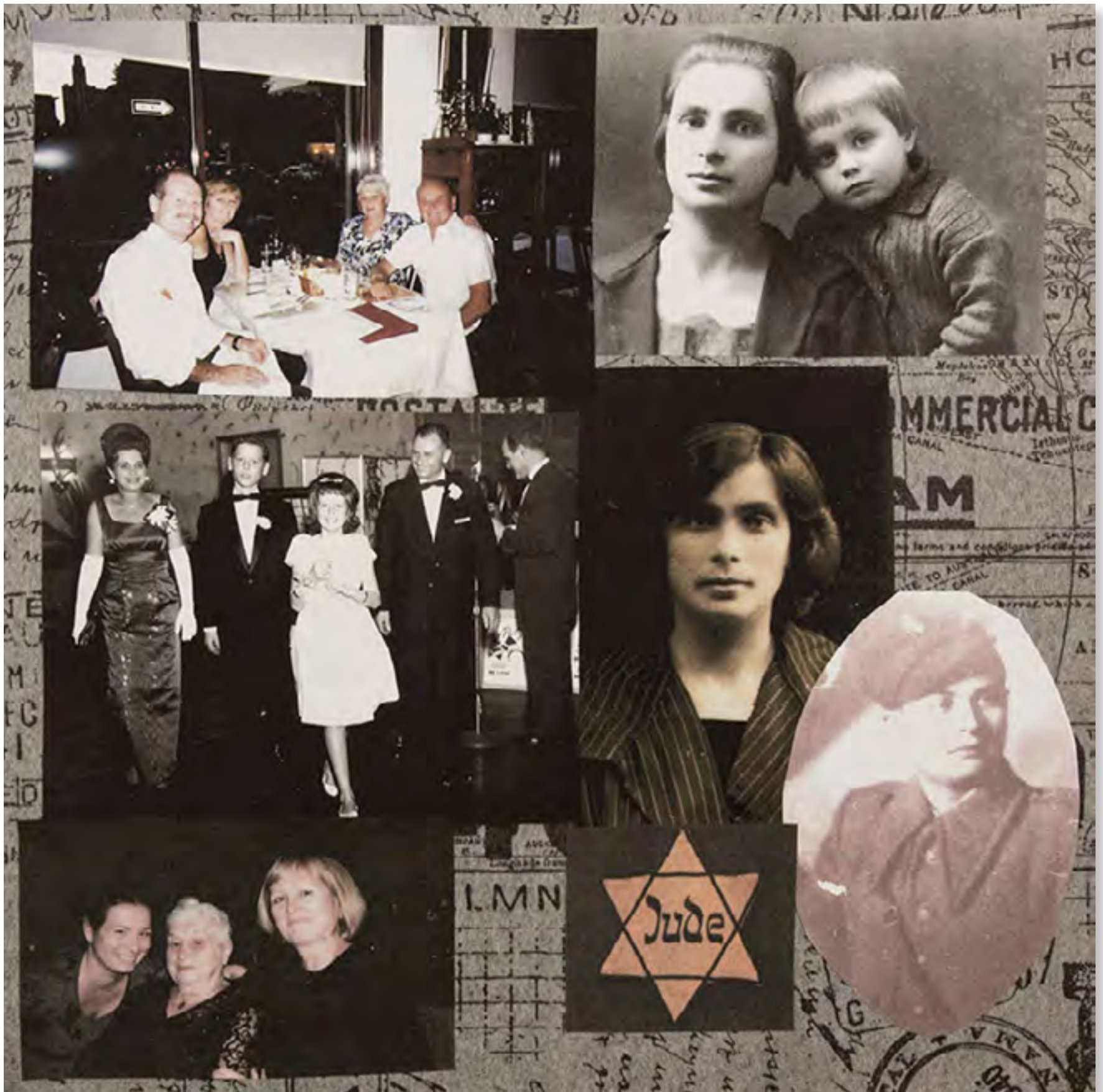


David Russell

Rovno, Poland

Dr82

David Russell was born in Zahajke, Poland. He was one of five brothers. When the war broke out, he went into the forest and became a Partisan. He fought the Germans during the war. After the war, he joined the Polish Army. He met his wife Paula after the war. They got married and moved to Israel. They had two children. In 1960, they came to America to find a better life. A life without wars.



Paula Russell

Rovno, Poland

Pr89

I was born in Rovno, Poland on February 8, 1925. I was an only child. My father passed away when I was 3 years old. My mother and her family raised me. When I was 16, the war broke out, and because farmers hid me, I survived. All my family members were killed. I met my husband in Austria after the war. We were married and then emigrated to Israel. We had two children. In 1960, we came to America. We settled in Michigan, where my husband worked and my children went to school. After my children graduated, they moved to California. I joined them after my husband passed.



Renia (Stefa) (Bialylew) Rutman

Warsaw, Poland

Rr93*

Renia was born in Warsaw in May 1921, the youngest of six children to Fryda (née Szpacenkopf) and Efraim Leizor. Their home was in the Jewish quarter which was later in the ghetto. In 1942, she went into hiding in Warsaw with her mother and two sisters. All had false Polish identities. In August 1944, Renia was transported as a Pole named Stefa to a work camp with Gorlitz, Germany. She was liberated by the Americans in May 1945. Renia/Stefa, her mother and four siblings miraculously survived. Her father died in the ghetto. They left Poland as soon as they could, living in Paris before all migrating to Melbourne to lead a wonderful fulfilling lives. She had married Rubin Rutman in 1947 in Warsaw. Stefa passed away in 2014 leaving 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Rubin Rutman

Radon, Poland

Rr86*

Rubin was born in Radom, Poland in September 1914, an only son with two sisters, Dola and Ewa. His father, Abram had nine siblings and his mother, Helena (née Szotland) had 8. In September 1939, Rubin left his family and went east as instructed by the Polish government. He was transported to Siberia where he survived until 1941. After the Amnesty, he ended up in Bukhara, Uzbekistan until the war was over. On returning to Warsaw, he learned that all his immediate family had been murdered. He met Renia Bialylew, they married, went to Paris and had their first daughter Helen. Assisted by the Joint, they sailed to Melbourne on the Eridan, arriving in January 1949. Their second daughter, Julie was born in 1952. Rubin passed away in 2001, leaving his wife, two daughters and six grandchildren.



Liszer (Lewi) Saaroni

Leczna, Poland

Ls64*

Lewi Saaroni (né Uszer Bankchalter) was Born in Leczna, Poland to an impoverished orthodox family. Lewi was gifted musically, but he abandoned any personal ambitions when he started working at thirteen to help support his family. During the war, he spent two years in a working camp in Siberia and then joined the Polish Army. He changed his name after arriving in Palestine and helped fight for Israel's independence. He was a devoted loving husband to Sarah and father to Gideon and Adina. He was hard working throughout his life and was fiercely dedicated to his family. He died at the age of sixty-four.



Sarah (Saba) Saaroni

Lublin, Poland

Ls89

After surviving the Holocaust, I felt guilty that all of my family in Poland had been murdered. I desperately wished to be part of a family and to belong. I was proud of having actively participated in the creation of Israel. When Lewi and I married and then immigrated to Australia, we were able to provide for our children opportunities that had been denied us. Eventually, I achieved my secret desire to sculpt. I am proud of who I am, happy and surrounded by my loving family. The Nazis didn't win – we are free and alive with a Jewish homeland.



Imre (Schäffer) Schaeffer

Beled, Hungary

Is89*

My father was one of three children born in Beled, Hungary. During the war, he was sent to work in an all Jewish Hungarian labor camp until they moved the laborers west to Ravensbrück. When the Russians liberated him in 1945, he weighed 81 pounds. Just before his liberation, Eichmann's Death Train rolled through Beled and killed his entire Family along with hundreds of other Jews. Immediately after the war, he met my mother, Rozália Goldberger, also a survivor of Ravensbrück. They were married on my father's birthday in 1945. In 1956, during the first days of the Hungarian Revolution, my parents escaped to Austria and were on the first plane (a converted B-29 bomber) to America.



Eva Schlesinger

Zeliezovce, Czechoslovakia

Es87

I was born in 1928 in Zeliezovce, Czechoslovakia. Our family owned a farm, a hardware store and a gas station. My mother, Helen, was a great businesswoman and ran most of the family businesses with my father, Peter Resnick. My parents were always giving. We housed many travelers each week, and my mother always made extra challas for the poor. I was 14 when we were forced to leave our home. I lost forty-two members of my family including my parents and grandparents. Nazis murdered my brother, Shmuel and my little sister, Veronica. My sister, Sonya, and I survived sharing moldy bread. I learned from an early age we should always help those less fortunate.



Eugene Schlesinger

Chata, Czechoslovakia

Es89*

Translation of a postcard written by Sidonia Schlesinger (mother) to Eugene Schlesinger (son) as she was being transported to a concentration camp. The card was placed in an envelope that was only marked "If you find this, please deliver to my son, Eugene."

My dearest whole life, we are in a boxcar. They are talking us somewhere. We don't know where. I am giving your brother Julius' address to you. Please write to him. If you survive, write to the town hall. If we both survive, both of us should look for each other through the town hall. Everything is happening because G-d wanted it this way. Never give up. We will never give up our hope. We will survive this because G-d wants us to survive. G-d be with you. We dearly love you. Your loving mother, and all in the family.



Julius Schlesinger

Zalaba, Czechoslovakia

Js66*

Julius Schlesinger was born February 14, 1925 in Zalaba, Czechoslovakia. Born to Ernest and Sidonia Schlesinger, he was the youngest of the three children. The family business was a poker parlor and a small chicken farm. Julius survived by escaping and hiding. He was transported to the camps and escaped three times. His parents did not survive, however, his two siblings did. After the war, his Uncle Morris, who lived in Detroit, Michigan, brought him to the United States. He worked three jobs, saved his money, and drove to California where he was reunited with his brother, Eugene.



Zoltan Schmideg

Jasd, Hungary

Js71*

Zoltan was born 16 December 1912 in Jasd, Hungary. Zoli was a serious and responsible person, a good balance to our mother's carefree ways. At the same time, he had a calm and happy nature. Despite a life filled with tragic losses, illnesses and displacements, he never complained. To Zoli, family meant everything and his face would glow when surrounded by his loved ones. He was always stressing kindness and harmony and never missed an opportunity impart his pearls of wisdom: *"Make sure you never agree with your brother, or if you have a disagreement with your wife, be sure to make-up before you go to bed."*



Jacob (Janek) Schnall

Krakow, Poland

Js75*

Jacob Schnall, also called Janek, survived the Krakow Ghetto as well as the following labour and concentration camps: Proszowice, Julag I, Plaszow, Mauthausen, Melk and Ebense. For many years, Janek worked as a Holocaust survivor volunteer at the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne, Australia and president of the Krakow Memorial Committee of Melbourne. Janek built the monument for the Krakow Ghetto at the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha Cemetery. Janek worked tirelessly for remembrance so that the Holocaust would never happen again. Jacob Schnall passed away in January 2000, aged 75.



Lea (Lucy) Schnall

Lodz, Poland

Ls37*

Lucy Lea Schnall (née Kalowska) was incarcerated in the Lodz Ghetto with her sister Esther and her parents. Her parents died from starvation. The sisters were relocated to Auschwitz. After the war, Lucy followed Esther and her husband, Morry Sheppet to Australia. Janek (Jacob) Schnall followed Lucy to Melbourne and they were married in August 1949. Lucy died at the age of 37 in 1966. Lucy had four children, six grandchildren and now one great grandchild to honour my mothers' memory.



Fredzia (Zajac) Schweitzer

Sosnowicz, Poland

Fs91

I was born in Sosnowiec, Poland in 1924. My parents had their own tailoring business. My two older brothers, my younger sister and I enjoyed a very happy home life where education was highly valued. I was sent to Parshnitz concentration camp in Czechoslovakia in 1942. My father and my brother Max survived and we were reunited in Bergen-Belsen. I was heavily pregnant when Nachum when I arrived in Australia to start our new lives. We have proven Hitler wrong by rebuilding our lives and enjoying many, many simchas. I continue to be surrounded by family, including my three amazing great-grandchildren. Stand up and be counted when you encounter injustice.



Nachum (Szwajcer) Schweitzer

Bedzin, Poland

Ns85*

Nachum was born in Bedzin, Poland in 1925 into a loving orthodox family. He had four siblings and his family had a grocery business. He was transported to Auschwitz with his family in 1943 and only he and one brother survived the initial selection. Ultimately, Nachum was the sole survivor. In Bergen-Belsen he met and married Fredzia, the love of his life. In 1949 they immigrated to Australia (as far away from Europe as possible) and built a wonderful life. His two sons were his pride, his four grandchildren his joy, and he lived to see the birth of his first great-grandchild. *"Never Give Up"*



Charolette Seeman

Vienna, Austria

Cs94

I was born in Vienna, Austria, to Mina and Bernard Leiter. On March 15, 1938, I was walking to school amid shouts of "Heil, Hitler." I saw Adolf Hitler riding by in a car. The Anschluss, or annexation of Austria, had begun. On November 9, 1938, Kristallnacht, there was a loud knock on the door. It was the SS looking for my brother. The next day, I saw piles of books smoldering on the street and the shuls vandalized. My brother, Israel, immediately left for Holland, and I soon joined him. Eventually, we went into hiding with the help of the Kolek family. In May 1945, we were liberated. As long as G-d will give me, I will live.



Gerda Seifer

Przemysl, Poland

Gs87

Until September 1, 1939, I was a Polish girl. Once the Germans occupied Przemysl, I became a sub-human Jew. For the next year and a half, Eastern Poland was occupied by the Soviets. My father became an enemy of the state, Bourgeois, and all our possessions were taken from us. My father moved us to Lwow, and in 1941, we were forced to live in the ghetto. In 1942, I spent six weeks in hiding in a pitch-dark cellar. When I returned to the ghetto, I was told that that my mother was sent to Belzek. After the war, I learned that my father had perished at the hands of Nazi police for helping to save fellow Jews.



SABOTAGE

by Edith Singer
(Slomovits Etlu - Huzist)

The second time I was more scared than sorry. One day, a high officer from the Wehrmacht, who was an expert on the Panzer Faust, came to our factory. A good missile could destroy a tank, but one with the smallest defect would miss the target. The officer spoke to the German foreman and I understood every word he said. He was very angry and shouted "Who is sabotaging in this factory? Many of the Panzer Fausts from this factory are not performing. They explode before reaching the target. Many go completely off target!" He went on and on. My heart pounded wildly. I wanted to shout to everyone, "I am doing it! I am fighting the Nazis!" Slowly, I regained control of myself and continued my work.

I resisted the Nazis. We all resisted the Nazis. Whether it was open sabotage or quiet suffering, it was resistance. Every one of us who survived resisted.

Edith Singer

Chust, Czechoslovakia

Es88

I was born in Chust, Czechoslovakia on August 18, 1927. Exactly seventeen years later, on August 18, 1944, the Germans ordered me to be tattooed with the number A-13215. Upon arrival to Auschwitz, I was separated from my father and my brother. To this day, I do not know what happened to them. I was also separated from my mother and sister, Lilly. My mother was ill and I was concerned that she would die. When liberation came, I received news that she was alive. I am convinced that an angel took care of her. Against all odds, I never gave up. My mother survived. My sister survived. I survived.



Michael Singer

Sarny, Poland

Ms95

Many memories came up to the surface while talking about my life with my friends and family in Sarny. Despite the bad economy, the rampant Anti-Semitism and the knowledge of the inevitable war in Europe, my father had been making plans to make aliyah to Palestine. He planned to sell the hardware store and our house and use the money to buy land in Palestine. Unfortunately, by the time he sold the store and home, it was too late to emigrate. We were trapped. I managed to escape, but the entire family was killed by the Germans, with all the other Jews.



Chelly Slagter

Apeldoorn, The Netherlands

Cs74

There were hundreds of family members on both sides of my family, yet I never met any of them, other than my father, who as a widower survived the concentration camps, Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen. Born in Holland, I was hidden for two years by some very brave Dutch people, and transported to them by a young man who saved thirty-three Jewish children when he was 18 years old. My wish for our future is that our children remember these proud, religious, respectful and G-d-fearing families, and their children should do the same. Be a 'bracha' for the future of our Jewish people. Am Yisrael Chai.



Abram Sochaczewski

Kutno, Poland

As89*

Abram was born in Kutno, Poland to a chasidic family in 1915. In 1918, his father Lieb passed away. His mother Pesia re-married a good man, Shimon. At the age of nine, Pesia saw that Abram preferred playing soccer and the street life, so she sent Abram to Lodz to learn the fur trade. Learning that death was imminent for all Jews in Poland after Germany's invasion, Abram considered refuge in Russia. Pesia protested, before relenting, "If you want to go, then go." Abram did - by bicycle - all the way to Russia where he eventually worked as a furrier. His remaining family perished in Chelmno. He continued to speak Yiddish and Russian throughout his life. He cared deeply about soccer and Israel and lived to see three generations.



Aron Sokolowicz

Bialystock, Poland

As87*

Aron Sokolowicz left an incredible legacy in founding the Holocaust Centre. Born to a chassidic family in Bialystock, Poland, he grew up with a deep commitment to Jewish tradition and culture. After surviving three years in Auschwitz, he began to collect photographs and memorabilia, all of which would become the basis of the permanent Holocaust Museum. In speaking about the museum, Aron said, *"This memorial will soothe our spirits and give us a place to honour and commemorate our dear ones who have no graves of their own."*



EDITORIAL

As this second issue of "Centre News" happens to coincide with the first anniversary of the establishment of our Holocaust Centre, it seems appropriate to give some thought to what was accomplished in that year. To ponder upon the question of whether the efforts of the "Centre's" founders, and its group of volunteer workers, brought about the realization of all plans, projects and ambitions? Whether the achievements justified the energy invested, and fulfilled our own expectations and those of the community at large?

The experience of this first year teaches us that, it is impossible to meet everybody's expectations. There are voices in our Jewish community (even among survivors) expressing serious doubts, as to the importance and historical effectiveness of dwelling on the horrors of the Nazi era, and instilling hatred in the hearts of our young generation. There are also others, (and they constitute the overwhelming majority) who are fervent supporters of the attitude of "not to forget and not to forgive".

It is to be assumed that the attitude of "non-forgiveness" is gradually becoming less relevant, (due to the aging and passing away of the direct holocaust sufferers and the direct Nazi criminals) therefore, the main objective of this Holocaust Centre should be: — to find a means by which those who are to take over the world after us, namely, the second generation, will develop a vital interest in preserving the memory and evidence of the Jewish tragedy in the Hitler era, and will make good use of the historical lesson to be learned from it.

Most post war Jewish children grew up with the awareness of the holocaust event, but what of the young, non-Jewish generation? The future soldiers, politicians, law-makers. Aren't they overwhelmingly the ones who will be in the position to prevent history from repeating itself?

Our Holocaust Centre is becoming an important and unique source of information, for a generation of youth, to whom the holocaust was until recently, no more than a small section of a history subject, in their school syllabus. Forty two schools from all over Victoria, have so far visited our museum. From the students' feedback letters and from their comments in the Visitors book, we learn about the tremendous impact the visit to the Centre had, on their young minds. Photographic evidence of atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis, against defenceless human beings for political ends, focuses their attention on the workings of dictatorship, and could be a powerful lesson for young people, in understanding the advantages of a democratic way of life. It can teach them retrospectively, how to fight, in the post-holocaust world, not to let inhuman systems come into power and coerce normal decent people into committing hideous crimes.

If we believe that it is in our power to do something, to influence the course of history, this is the right path for preventing another holocaust, be it against Jews or any other people. Even if we had to admit that our H. "Centre" did not attain all its objectives in the first year of its existence — in one very important area, of educating the youth, it has admirably fulfilled its commitment.

Cyla Sokolowicz

"Six million were wiped off the face of the earth. There is a danger that they will also be annihilated from our memories. Are they doomed to a two-fold annihilation?"

ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESHI

Holocaust Centre 1984

Aron and Cyla Sokolowicz with their daughters Mooky and Nuritt, 1983

Cyla Sokolowicz

Lodz, Poland

As80*

Cyla Sokolowicz (née Goldman) was born of a chassidic family in Lodz. Her father was a great scholar and Rabbi who imbued in her a love of learning, which was to endure all of her life. She supported Aron in his efforts to establish the Melbourne Holocaust Centre and became the founding editor of the Centre News. Her editorials were always labours of love and very thought provoking. In her personal diaries, Cyla expressed her admiration for Aron's energy, single mindedness and obsession with his mission to create a permanent Holocaust museum.



Cesia Solowicz

Lodz, Poland

Cs100*

Cesia was born in Lodz, Poland to a large family with three sisters and a brother, as well as half-siblings. Her father Mechel was a builder and plumber, and her mother Beila looked after the family. Mechel died in the early days of the Lodz Ghetto. Beila, and nearly all of Cesia's siblings were deported to their deaths. Cesia's brother Naftuli served in the Polish Army and was never seen again. Out of the extended family, only three cousins and an uncle were alive at the end of the war. Cesia and Kuba met before the war and they married in the Lodz Ghetto in 1940. The couple ended up in the Landsberg Displaced Persons' Camp for three years, where their daughter Esther was born. They immigrated to Australia in 1949.



INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION
AREA 5
LANDSBERG

APO 178 US ARMY

January 17th, 1949

To: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: Solewicz Kuba, born on 14.5.12. in Pinczow (Poland)



Noworemontowane
Pokoje umeblowane i noclegi
A. Solewicz Łódź, Nowomiejska 4
Szybka obsługa.
נירעמאנטירטע
מעבלירטע צימערן און נאכט-לעגער
א. סאלעוויטש לאדז, נאומיעיסקא 4.
טאלידע בעהאנדלונג 1494.1



living in our D.P. Center

ORIGINAL 676024 *
UNITED NATIONS DISPLACED PERSONS REFUGEE
IDENTITY CARD
For resident of International Refugee
Organization (IRO) Assembly Center

Solewicz Kuba 14.5.12.

Handwritten signatures and stamps on the identity card.



D.V. Police
Detain Center
Landsberg/Lech

Tröbsberg/Lech, April 13, 1949

DER ARBEITER DER BUNDE
IN LITAMENSTADT!

Arbeits-Ausweis N^o 1494.2

Es wird hiermit bescheinigt, dass
Herrn Kuba Solowicz
geboren am 14.5.1912
in Pinczow, Provinz Warschau, geboren am 14.5.1912
in Litamenstadt, am 13. April 1949

Arbeitgeber: [illegible]

Signature: [illegible]

OTTO WASCHEK
1494.2



Kuba Solowicz

Pinczum, Poland

Cs75*

Kuba was born in Pińczów, Poland. His family moved to Lodz, where they ran a kosher guesthouse. In 1940, the family was incarcerated within the Lodz Ghetto. Kuba's father Alter Shimon died of starvation, and his mother Esther and brother Motel were deported and murdered. Kuba's sister Rivka died of typhoid fever soon after the war ended. Kuba and his future wife Cesia had met before the war and they married in the Lodz Ghetto in March 1940. After the ghetto was liquidated, they ended up in the Landsberg Displaced Persons' Camp for three years, where their daughter Esther was born. Relatives sponsored the family to come to Australia in 1949. Kuba and his wife started a successful catering business in the 1950s known as Armon Hall.



Wolf Stawski

Czestochowa, Poland

Ws85*

Wolf, (aka Wowek) Stawski was born in Czestochowa, Poland on the 17 June 1913. He was the youngest of three sons. Only Wolf and his eldest brother survived. His brother Chaim was also his best friend. All were in camps during the war. Dad was married before the war and they had one daughter. Both his wife and daughter died in the camps and he never spoke to us about them. Dad was a positive thinker who believed every person should be treated as equal no matter what color, religion or status they had. He also believed strongly in helping others and was on the Czestochowa Landsmanshaft Committee. He helped others from Czestochowa migrate to Melbourne and brought them food and furniture.



Zosia Stawski

Sosnowiec, Poland

Zs70

Zosia (Sophie) Stawski (née Rosenkranz) was born in Sosnowiec, Poland 5 October 1918. She was the only daughter and had two brothers. Only one brother, Raphael survived the war and he settled in Palestine (Israel). Mum was very close to her brothers and was really a 'Yiddishe Mama'. She loved to cook and bake and was known for her cheesecake and kugels. She loved people and was always entertaining. Mum was a real peacemaker and tried to make everyone happy. She was a most generous human being and instilled in her children the value of family and Yiddishkeit. Sophie was an observant Jew and a true friend.



Max Stern

Bratislava, Slovakia

Ms94*

Max Stern was born 2 March 1921 in Bratislava, Slovakia into an observant Jewish family. He was the eldest child of seven children. Both parents and his younger brothers, Josi and Robi, were murdered in Auschwitz. Max survived Sachsenhausen concentration camp after the death march and hiding in the attic of a movie theatre. In 1948, Max and Eva Stern were married and came to Australia. He established Max Stern & Co. stamp dealers, which became one of the best known in the world. Awarded the Order of Australia in 1999, he is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. *"Whilst I want to forget but I can't, you must remember and never forget"*.



Marta Stocker

Breslau, Germany

Ms49*

My family lived in Germany for hundreds of years. My grandfather fought in the WWI and considered himself a German and his religion was Jewish. They lead a very comfortable middle class life. When Hitler came to power, my grandparents and two aunts left to go to Israel. My mother who was married to a non-Jew decided to stay. She managed to get false papers and was protected by her mother-in-law. They lived in a small village in Bavaria until the end of the war. Anti-Semitism was still very strong and she was never able to reveal that she was Jewish. In 1952, she left to join her family in Australia.



Max Stodel

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Ms91

I was born in Amsterdam, Holland and was one of seven children born to Betje and Izak Stodel. Before the war, I loved playing soccer in the streets with my friends. I was deported from Holland to Germany the day after I got married to Jeannette van Praag. I was sent to nine concentration camps but spent most of my time in Blechhammer, Germany. Before the war, I had a big and close family and was the youngest of seven children. After the war, I came back to realize I was the youngest and the oldest. The Holocaust stripped me of all my family and friends.



Bella Stone

Radom, Poland

Bs94

Bella Borenstein was born in Radom, Poland. Her parents were Mendal and Rivka and she had one sister, Nacha and two brothers, Shrulek and Yankel. Bella's father was a tailor. They were a traditional Jewish family that kept the holidays. Bella was hidden in a neighbor's home under a false identity while smuggling food to her family in the Radom Ghetto. In 1939, Bella was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp where she stayed until eight months before liberation when she marched to Bergen-Belsen. Bella and her brother Shrulek were the only survivors. Shrulek came to Melbourne in 1936 and arranged for Bella to come at the end of the war on the SS Derna.



Andrew (Szatmari) Satmary

Bekescsaba, Hungary

As67*

Our father was born in Bekescsaba, Hungary. He was one of four boys. He and his oldest brother survived, but his two younger brothers and his mother died in Auschwitz. Our father passed away at the age of 67. We remember our father as a smart, strong and capable man - a man of his convictions. During the war, he was involved in saving lives by helping many to escape Germany by smuggling them out in an ambulance. He was an officer in the UNRRA. When he came to the U.S., he was trained as a mechanic and had his own car dealership in Los Angeles. He taught us to follow our instincts, and the importance of survival and independence. Our father, Daddio, believed that humor was the best medicine.

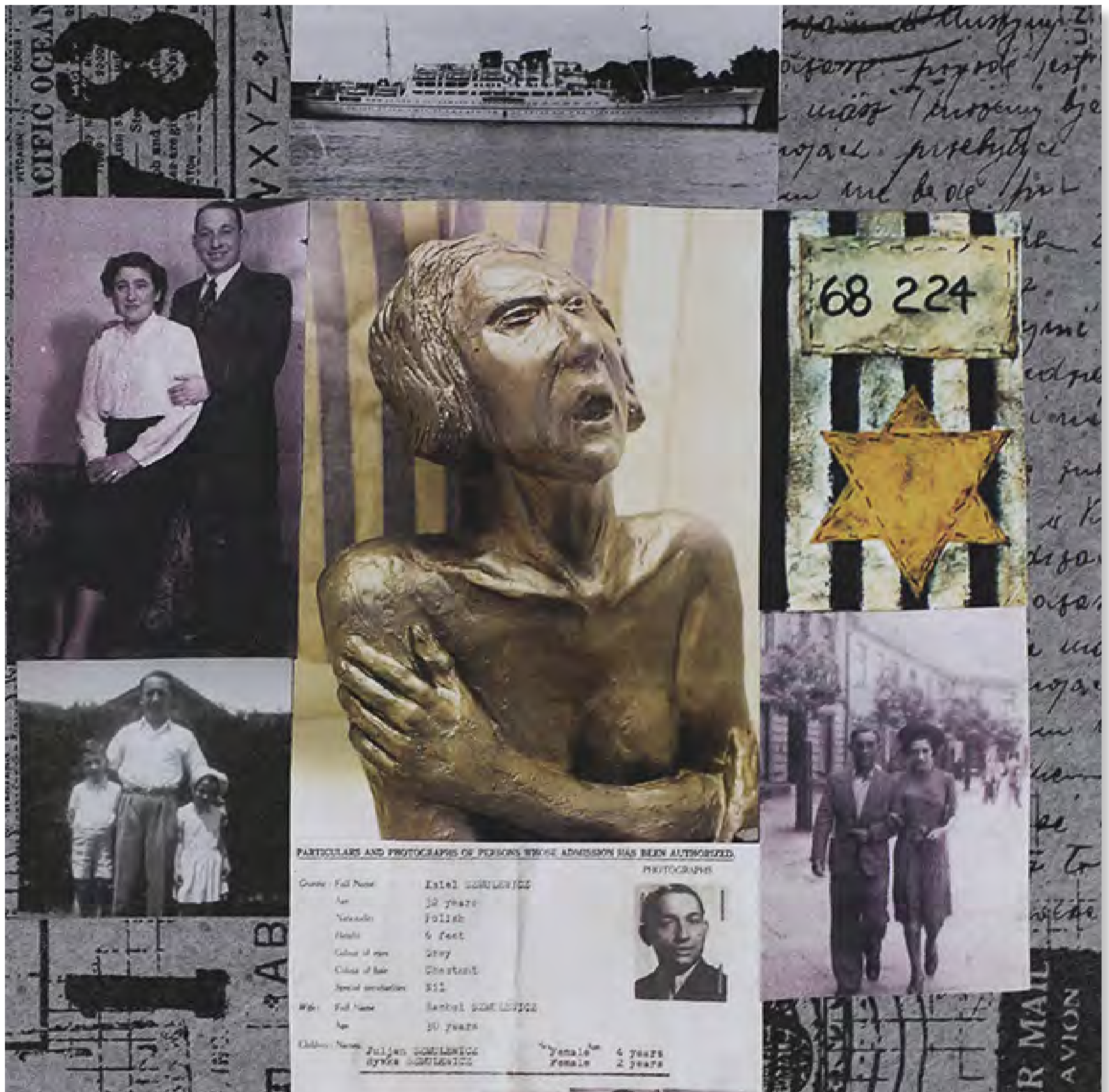


Olga (Szatmari) Satmary

Vari, Czechoslovakia

Os90

I was born in Vari, Czechoslovakia. I was 19 when my mother, sister and I were separated from my father and brothers and taken to Auschwitz. Our tattooed numbers were consecutive, A6902, A6903 and A6904. I promised my father that I would take care of my sister and mother. I never gave up believing in G-d. I believed that I had a special G-d that took care of us. We were liberated by the Red Cross in 1945. I have two daughters and four grandchildren. I tell them that it was because of my willpower and my belief in G-d that I survived. What you have in your head and heart can't be taken from you.



Ksiel Szmulewicz

Lodz, Poland

Ks94

Rushela and Ksiel Szmulewicz left Lodz, Poland in 1939 and went to Russia where they lived for six years and had their son Yoel in 1944. Their daughter Rivka was born in Germany in 1946. They lived in Paris, France from 1946-1950 and then came to Australia. Ksiel worked hard and provided well for his family and instilled the Yiddish culture of music and literature to his children John and Regine.



Rachel Szmulewicz

Lodz, Poland

Rs75

It was short of a miracle. My mother thought her entire family had perished during the war, but her brother Mayer never gave up looking for his sister. Mayer 51 and Rachel 54 who were separated in 1939 were brought together after being separated 33 years thanks to a newspaper ad Mayer had placed in a Jewish newspaper in Israel. Someone from Melbourne saw it, knew my mother and the connection was made. After 33 years, they met at Kennedy Airport in New York and both were speechless. Their tears, their embraces and their laughter said enough. The joy in their meeting is indescribable.



Hadassa Teicher

Lvov, Poland

Ht 94*

“To lead lives which were unimaginable in 1945 and not to be defined solely by the Shoah”; that is the triumph. In Melbourne, in Sydney, in Tel Aviv, and in all places that welcomed us and presented us with limitless opportunities, the most priceless was the opportunity to be normal. We created families and communities. We retained our cultural roots and traditions and at the same time celebrated the present. We learnt to look forward to the future with the memory of what happened in the past, rising above those memories to build lives of joy and creativity. -Nina Bassat-



Faye Toporek

Lask, Poland

My parents endured unimaginable horrors. Both my parents were born in Lask, Poland and were 16 when WWII began. They endured ghettos and multiple concentration camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau. They were 22 when the war was over. They lost their parents, siblings, extended family and friends. They were all murdered by the Nazis. Despite everything they went through, my parents never taught me to hate. Instead, they taught me about respect, resilience and love. I see these qualities in my children so I know my parents' legacy will live on.



Harry Toporek

Lask, Poland

Ht91

My grandpa is one of the strongest people I know. He survived unimaginable horror during his youth, things nobody should be forced to endure. Not only did he survive, but he saved his brother Sam and another young man. After the Holocaust, he again found the strength to care for a sick wife. He made a new start in a new country, speaking a new language. Throughout it all, he never lost his love of life and desire of peace. My grandpa taught me the true meaning of resilience, strength and love.



Eva Trenk

Kosice, Czechoslovakia

Et74

I was born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia and raised in Backov. Life was beautiful until 1942 when all Jews were ordered to evacuate to a ghetto camp in Zilina. My father was forced into a concentration camp and ultimately murdered in Auschwitz. We escaped to Zemianska Kerta and bought Christian identity papers. I became Margaret Sabor. We were eventually caught and taken to a work camp in Sered. Although I lost 80% of my family during the war, the biggest tragedy for me was the later loss of my son, Peter. I am grateful for the U.S. Veterans for liberating my country. I speak about the Holocaust at UCLA.



Gloria Ungar

Krosno, Poland

Gu 84

My revenge to Hitler is my wonderful family, my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I have risen from the ashes of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen and I am stronger than ever.



Victor Ungar

Kosice, Poland

Vu 90

I was born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia, September 26, 1924. In March of 1944, the Germans occupied Hungary and started deportations. My father was president of the Jewish Orthodox Community and dealt with the German authorities. In 1944, two weeks before the deportations, the underground provided me with false papers and smuggled me into Slovakia where I spent three months in the woods. The city was liberated in January 1945. I went back to my house and found these pictures. I came to New York in 1948 on the Queen Mary.



Jack Voorzanger

The Hague, The Netherlands

Jv 84

I was fortunate to survive the Holocaust because of the courage of my mother. When the trucks came to collect the Jews from my neighborhood, she told me to jump off to save myself... I did. I lost my parents during the Holocaust and hid with a non-Jewish family who treated me as their servant. But I always held on to hope. Hope for family. Hope for love. Today, my hope is that my children and grandchildren never forget the sadness of the past, but always continue to dream of a brighter future. Sadly, there will always be evil in this world, but the strength of hope, family and love will always be more powerful.



Sonia Wajsenberg

Bialystok, Poland.

Sw 92

I was born on 2 August 1923 in Bialystok, Poland. My grandfather was a shul gabbe and owned a substantial timber mill in Suprasl. Our large extended family lived around Zlota Street. I survived the Holocaust thanks to my husband Mietek, my mother in law Fania, and several Poles who helped us. Mietek smuggled me out of the Bialystok Ghetto on 15 September 1943 (our wedding day) and took me to his mother in Warsaw where we lived on Aryan papers. Apart from my aunt Rochl, who had emigrated to Melbourne in May 1939, my entire family, including my six year-old sister Alla, perished. Rochl brought us to Australia after the War. I've always remembered and found the good in people. I was lucky!



Szerena Weber

Vari, Czechoslovakia

Sw79*

We called our grandmother Bubbie. She was born in Vari, Czechoslovakia and had a successful farming business with her husband prior to the war. She had two daughters and two sons. After being taken from the ghetto, the women and men were separated. Both her sons, as well as her husband, were taken and killed in Auschwitz. She survived multiple camps with her daughters, Olga and Eva, until she was liberated in 1945. She spent six years in Sweden before moving to the U.S. She was everyone's Bubbie and a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother until she passed at seventy-nine.



Amalia (Matzner) Weinberg

Vienna, Austria

Aw80*

Amalia Matzner Weinberg was born on May 10, 1896, in Vienna, Austria. She moved to Germany as a young woman where she met Joseph. They settled comfortably in Cologne where they were active in their temple and had extended family and friends. Amalia and Joseph fled to Amsterdam in 1939. After Holland fell, they found themselves in a transit camp for Jews and sent to Theresienstadt. Joseph died in one of the last transports to Auschwitz. Because of their tattoos, she believed that they were in the same camp. She never spoke of her camp experiences. Amalia moved to Paris after the war and came to Los Angeles in 1951.



Mashe Wiener

Stolpce, Poland

Mw96

Mashe was born in Stolpce, Poland in 1920. It was an obscure town full of Jewish culture, scholarship and organizations - a jewel in an agrarian community. She was the only daughter of six children. The Germans came and a ghetto was formed and she became a slave labourer. After escaping the third massacre and the town's Jews obliterated, she hid and ultimately joined the famed Bielski Partisan Camp where 1250 Jews were saved. After liberation, Mashe and her husband immigrated to Australia in 1948. She worked very hard and served the Jewish community dutifully in a voluntary capacity and was one of the original founding members of the Holocaust Centre.



Symcha Binem (Bono) Wiener

Lodz, Poland

Sw75*

Symcha Binem (Bono) Wiener, one of the founders and co-presidents of the Jewish Holocaust Centre (JHC) was born in Lodz, in Poland in 1920. As a youth he was active in the Jewish Labour Bund. During the war he was active in the Jewish underground in the Lodz Ghetto and took on a leadership role. Both parents perished in the Lodz Ghetto. Bono was deported to Auschwitz and then sent to the Mauthausen and Gusen camps. After liberation he was reunited with his brother Pinches and they immigrated to Australia in 1950. Bono continued his political activism and community leadership in Melbourne until his death in 1995.



Catherine Weiss

Satu-Mare, Romania

Cw88

I was born in Satu Mare, Romania on June 12, 1926. I was an only child to loving parents. In 1940, the Nazis closed my father's business. I was fortunate to finish high school and graduate in April 1944. Then in May, we were forced into the ghetto. Two weeks later, we were taken to Auschwitz. My mother and grandmother were killed immediately. I survived the selection. Around October, I was sent to Schlesiersee, and then on a Death March. Only nine of the two thousand girls survived. In 1946, I married and we had a son. My husband died at age sixty-one. Please don't be prejudiced.

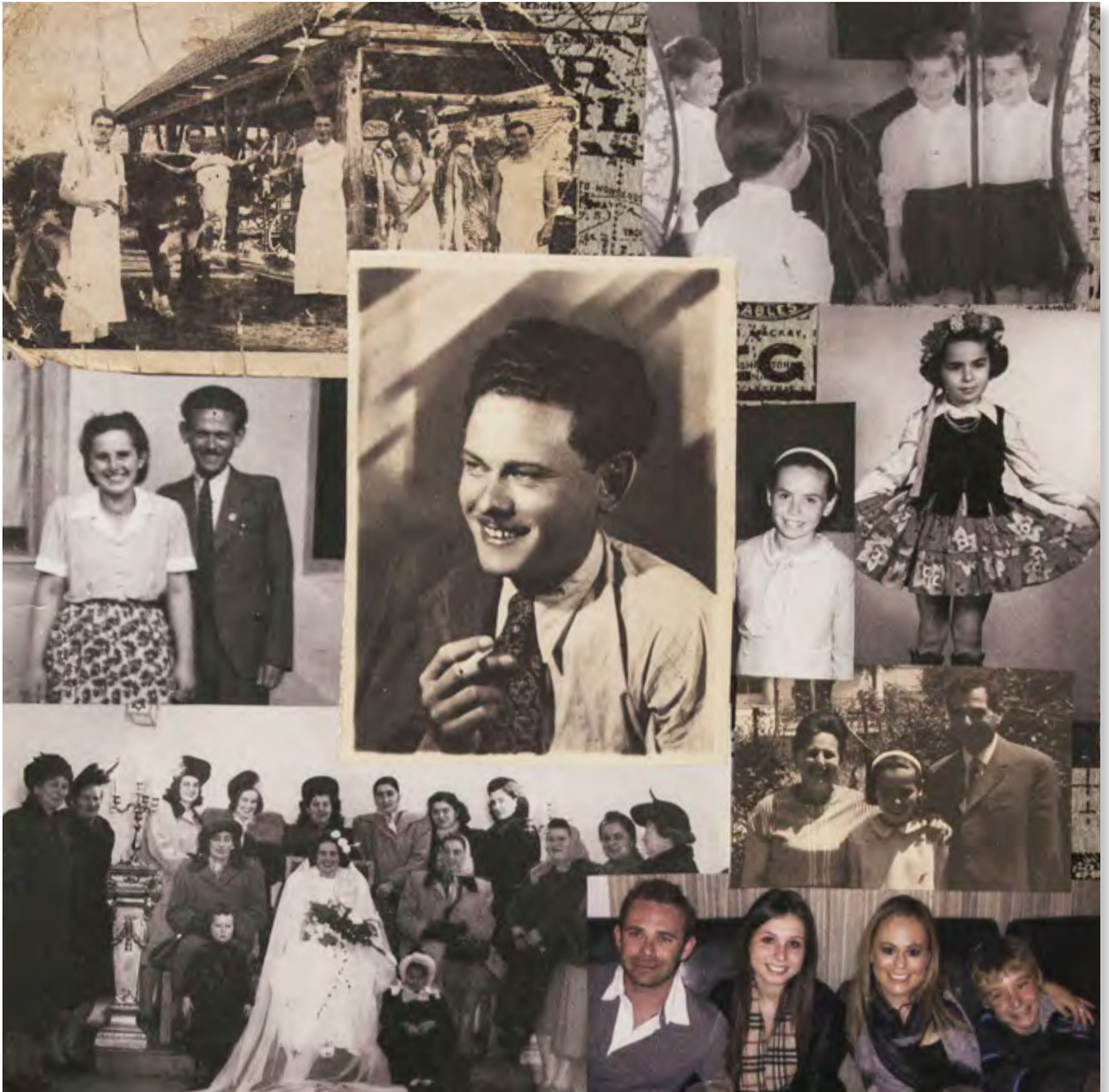


Ernest Weiss

Munkacs, Czechoslovakia

Ew87

I was born in Munkacs, Czechoslovakia, in 1927. We were a family of five. Only one brother and I survived. In February, 1944, our family was taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau. That was the last time I saw my mother. From then until 1945, it was hell. My father, brother and I were sent to Warsaw to clean up the demolished ghetto. In 1945, my brother and I met going back to Munkacs and escaped the Russian-Hungarian occupation. We found our way to a kibbutz group in Budapest and made it to Palestine. The American Joint Committee settled me in Pittsburgh, PA. Five and a half years later, as a U.S. citizen, I found my way to Los Angeles and made a good life.

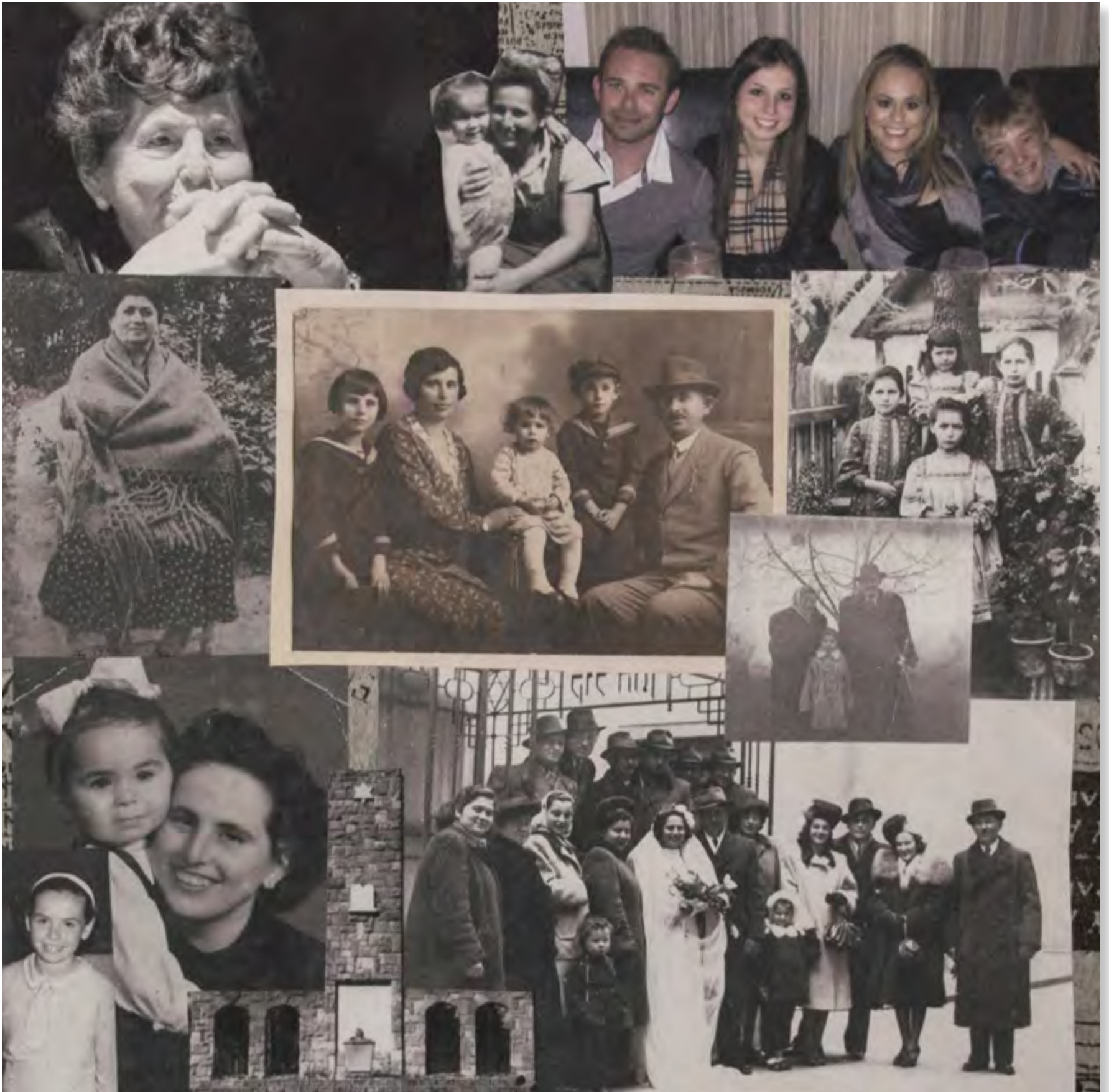


Lászlo Weiss

Kál, Hungary

Lw86*

Lászlo Weiss was born in Kál, Hungary in 1914. He was drafted into the forced labor battalions and was the sole survivor of his family. His brother and parents perished. After he married Magda Blau, they lived in Kál where he was a butcher. He was a quiet, hard-working man. In 1966 with his wife and two daughters, he emigrated to Israel where they lived for two to three years before moving to New York. They eventually settled in Los Angeles. When asked what would Lászlo's message be to his grandchildren, Magda said, "He would say life is hard, listen to your parents, be good, and be passionate in what ever you pursue in life."



Magda Weiss

Olcsva, Hungary

Mw92

I was born in Olcsva, Hungary in 1923. I was deported with my family to the Mateszhalka Ghetto after Pesach in Spring 1944. After several weeks, we were deported to Auschwitz. My mother and my younger brother were sent directly to the crematorium. My older brother and my father were sent to Austria to serve in the forced labor battalions attached to the Hungarian Army. In December 1945, I was liberated by the Russians and was the sole survivor in my family. I married László Weiss in 1946. In 1966, we emigrated to Israel with our two daughters. My message to my children and grandchildren is to pray and don't leave your Jewishness. Pray, so that everything should be well.



Dr. Jack Wetter

Brussels, Belgium

Jw71

I was born in Brussels, Belgium. At the time of my birth, my parents had already been in hiding in a basement rented to them by a Gentile woman. I was not exposed to the light of day for the first two years of my life. Although I do not consciously remember those years, the effects continue to have a significant impact on my entire life. I believe that people learn to hate much quicker than they unlearn it. The only antidote is to educate; educate about the Holocaust, educate about prejudice and educate about what respect truly means.



Renate Zaidman

Dombrowa Gorniche, Poland

Rz100*

My mother, Renate Zaidman, was born to Faigla and Moshe Kochman in Dombrowa Gorniche, Poland on July 10, 1912. As the eldest of six children, she helped her mother raise her siblings and work long hours to bring home food and rent money. Wanting not to leave her parents in the line leading directly to the gas chambers at Aushwitz, her parents pleaded for her to get in the line for forced labor. A survivor of three camps, she weighed 96 pounds before being liberated at Bergen-Belsen. A mother of two sons, one born in Bergen-Belsen. She was the very essence of a Jewish mother.



Wolf Zaidman

Dombrowa Gorniche, Poland

Wz98*

My father, Wolf Zaidman, was born to Mendel and Rifka Zajdman in Zytno, Poland, on August 12, 1914. He was raised in Bendin, Poland where he led a normal life until the Nazis arrived. His parents, three brothers and two sisters perished at Auschwitz. He was the only survivor. He faced death many times in the camps. Once digging his own grave with a gun to his head only to be kicked into it as the Gestapo walked away laughing. Liberated at Bergen-Belsen, he soon met my mother, married, and started a family. He was a kind and peaceful man. His sense of humor brought joy to so many.



David Zilberberg

Dombia, Poland

Dz59*

David Zilberberg was born on January 15, 1917 in Dombia, Poland. He was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust through his wits, physical energy, and willingness to join commando units against the Nazis. His parents and brother Dov, were deported from Dombia to death camps while David fled into the forests of Poland. He hid and joined the Partisans to set up anti-Nazi camps from 1939 to 1944. He returned to Dombia after the war, where he met his future wife, Sheva. They immigrated to Israel in 1950 with their son Mark and their daughter Esther.



Sheva Zilberberg

Dombia, Poland

Sz84*

Sheva Zilberberg was born into a family of privilege in Dombia, Poland. In 1949, at age 14, her world collapsed when the Nazis invaded. Her parents, brother and two sisters were separated and sent to camps, where they died. Sheva survived Auschwitz and Gross Rosen, enduring forced marches in bitter cold without warm clothes, food, or water. She suffered gangrene and was operated on by the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele, who didn't use anesthesia. Liberated at Bergen-Belsen, Sheva returned home and married survivor David Zilberberg. In 1950, they began a new life in Israel with their two children. Sheva and her story of survival remain a guiding spirit to her family.



Bruno Zwass

Breslow, Germany

Bz92

I was born in Breslow, Germany on April 27, 1923. My parents came from Galicia. We owned a small store of workman's clothing. I had one older brother. Just before the outbreak of the war, my parents joined my father's family in Tarnow. In late 1939, my parents escaped from Tarnow to east Poland. In 1942, my father and I were rounded up along with other Jewish men, loaded into cattle cars and taken to a forced labor camp. My mother and brother were both gassed in German murder vans in Belcyce. In May, 1944, my father and I were liberated by the Soviet Army. I was 90 pounds. All those that survived the Holocaust have lived in its shadow all their lives.



Max Zylberman

Lodz, Poland

Mz88*

Having lost so many, I feel grateful to have survived so much and established a family that I am so proud of. Despite my experiences, I never lived with any type of anger, hatred, resentment or bitterness to those who caused so much suffering and loss. As I am nearing the end of my life, I count my blessings. I had a wonderful marriage that lasted 61 years. I have two beautiful children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren who fill my life with such joy, happiness and pleasure. I never would have believed that when I was in the concentration camps that I would have lived this long, achieving so much.



Hena Zylberszpic

Lodz, Poland

Hz91

Hena Zylberszpic (née Miedzyrzecki), was born in Lodz, Poland on 19 September 1924, the daughter of Moishe and Chana and brother to Motek. Hena survived five years in the Lodz Ghetto, but her father and brother perished. In August 1944, she was transported to Auschwitz. She survived the gas chambers thanks to a German officer saying, 'let the little girl go'. Hena went to the left and her mother went to the right. She was transported to Neukolln to work in a munitions factory, then on to Ravensbruck from where she was saved by the Swedish Red Cross. In Australia she married Izydor Zylberszpic and had two sons, Benjamin and Reuben. She has always been a joyous soul whose default setting is laughter. For this reason, she has been an inspiration to her sons and to all that know her.



Izydor Zylberszpic

Stazow, Poland

Iz71*

Izydor Zylberszpic was born in Stazow, Poland on 24 September 1912. He was the son of Benjamin and Zisla (née Ginceberg) and brother to Chaim, Nahum and Hena. Izydor started and ended his professional life as a photographer. On September 1939, he fled to Russia on his bicycle. He returned, albeit briefly, and unlike his family who believed they would be safe, he departed again to the east. He was the only survivor. He spent the war years safe, but living in abject poverty in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. In Australia, he married Hena Miedzyrzecki and had two sons, Benjamin and Reuven. His experiences during the Holocaust forged his enduring drive to ensure his families security. He worked tirelessly to that end. He was a loving, intelligent, witty and gentle soul.