

Holocaust Survivor Speakers



Representatives of the Neuberger's Survivor Speakers' Bureau, 2010. Image courtesy Sylman Photography.

Amek Adler was born in Lublin, Poland, in 1928 and grew up in Lodz. After Nazi occupation in 1939, his family escaped to Warsaw and then to Radom. In 1943, Amek was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and from there was eventually shipped to Dachau, where his father and one brother perished. Amek was liberated on April 28, 1945. Amek worked with the Israeli Irgun Tzvai Leumi to help illegal immigrants into Palestine and immigrated to Canada in 1954.

Claire Baum was born in Rotterdam, Holland in 1936. She survived in hiding with her sister from 1942–1945. Separated from their parents, they were raised as Christians by a Dutch family. At the end of the war, the sisters were miraculously reunited with their parents. Claire credits their survival to the courage and heroism of her parents and to the members of the Resistance.

George Berman was born in Lodz, Poland, in 1923. From 1940–1944, George and his family were interned in the Lodz Ghetto. In late 1944, they were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where his parents were murdered. Within a week, George was taken to Gorlitz, where he spent nine months. In the chaos preceding the advance of Soviet Forces, George escaped. He was liberated by the Soviet Army in May 1945. George immigrated to Canada in 1956.

Hedy Bohm was born in Oradea, Romania in 1928. In 1944, Hedy was deported from the local ghetto to Auschwitz-Birkenau. An only child, she saw her parents, many relatives and friends murdered by the Nazis. She was selected and shipped to Fallersleben, Germany, to work as a slave labourer at an ammunitions factory. She was liberated by the US Army in April 1945 and immigrated to Canada in August 1948.

Felicia Carmelly was born in Romania in 1931. In October 1941, Felicia and her family were deported to the camps in Transnistria. She was liberated by the Soviet Army in 1944, and returned to her home in 1945. After living under Communist rule in post-war Romania, Felicia immigrated to Canada in 1963. She is the author of the award-winning book, *Shattered! 50 Years of Silence, History and Voices of the Tragedy in Romania and Transnistria*.

Howard Chandler was born in Wierzbniak, Poland in 1928. He was a prisoner in Starachowice Labour Camp between 1942 and 1944, then in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Buchenwald and Theresienstadt between 1944 and 1945. He immigrated to Canada in 1947 as a war orphan with other children from England.

Judy Weissenberg Cohen was born in Debrecen, Hungary in 1928. She was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944 and survived Bergen-Belsen, a slave labour camp and a death march. She was liberated in 1945 and immigrated to Canada in 1948. Judy's website, www.womenandtheholocaust.com, is an acclaimed scholarly resource.

Anne Eidlitz was born in Antwerp, Belgium in 1936. She lived with her parents, Kiva and Liba Jacobowicz, and younger sister, Rosie. Anne's father was deported in 1942, and the family went into hiding. After their mother was arrested by the Gestapo, Anne and her sister remained in hiding until they were smuggled into Switzerland. They returned to Belgium in 1946, and were adopted by family. The sisters both immigrated to Canada in the early 1950s.

Alexander Eisen was born in Vienna, Austria in 1929. After the Anschluss in 1938, the Eisen family fled to Hungary. At the border crossing, Alex's father was arrested and later fled to Palestine, leaving his wife alone with their three children. Alex and the rest of the family endured the hardships of the Budapest Ghetto, but later managed to escape and live in hiding until being liberated by the Soviet Army in 1945.

Max Eisen was born in Moldova in the former Czechoslovakia, in 1929. In 1944, his family was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau from Hungarian-occupied Slovakia. Max worked in slave labour with his father and uncle, but in September 1944, the two were selected out. Max survived a death march to Mauthausen, Melk and Ebensee. He was liberated by the US Army in May 1945. He returned to Czechoslovakia and stayed in an orphanage for three years. Max immigrated to Canada in 1949.

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Anita Ekstein was born in Lvov, Poland in 1934, to Edzia and Fischel Helfgott. Her mother was murdered in October 1942 in the Belzec death camp. In October 1942, Anita was placed in hiding with a Christian family, then in April 1943, hidden by a priest. Her father was murdered in 1943. Anita was liberated in 1945 and immigrated to Canada in 1948 with a surviving aunt.

Esther Fairbloom was born in the ghetto in Tarnopol, Poland in 1941. When the Nazis began deporting Jews from the ghetto, her sister hid on one of the farms. Her mother asked the Mother Superior of the Catholic Orphanage to hide six-month-old Esther. After the war, Esther learned that her parents had been killed. At the age of five, she was rescued by an aunt and uncle. Ten years later, she moved to Toronto.

Shary Fine Marmor was born in Bistrica, Romania in 1927. She was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in early 1944, transferred to Plaszow labour camp where she worked in the stone quarry, and transferred back to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Later she was deported to the Stuttgart area in Germany for slave labour. Shary survived a death march to the Alps and was liberated by the US Army on April 29, 1945. She immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Edward Fisch was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1933. In 1942, his father was conscripted into the Slave Labour Battalion in Hungary; his mother was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in the spring of 1944. Together with his younger brother, he survived in Swiss protected houses, and then in the Budapest ghetto until liberation in January 1945. Edward's mother survived but his father was murdered by the Arrow Cross. Edward immigrated to Canada in 1948.

George Fox was born in Berdichev, Russia (later Poland) in 1917, where he lived with his family. The Nazis forced his family into the Brzeziny Ghetto, where they remained until its liquidation in 1942. George was sent to the Lodz Ghetto until 1944, and then to Auschwitz-Birkenau. He was liberated by the US Army after a death march to Flossenbürg, Gross Rosen and Pocking, in Bavaria. The only survivor of his family, George immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Miriam Frankel was born in Dunajska Streda, Czechoslovakia in 1927, and raised in Italy. After expulsion from her childhood home in Italy, she was trapped in Hungarian-occupied Czechoslovakia for the next four years. Her father was taken to a forced labour camp; the family was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in May 1944. Surviving two additional concentration camps, Miriam was liberated in Germany in April 1945. The sole survivor of her family, Miriam immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Gerda Frieberg was born in Upper Silesia, Poland in 1925. In October 1939, her father was taken away. In 1940, Gerda, her mother, and sister were deported to the Jaworzno Ghetto. In 1942, she was sent to the Oberaltstadt concentration camp, where her sister was interned. Her mother joined them in 1943. Gerda worked in the machine shop of a spinning mill until liberation on May 9, 1945. After immigrating to Canada, Gerda dedicated herself to Holocaust education.

Arnold Friedman was born in 1928 in Chudlovo, Czechoslovakia. His whole family was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944. His parents, younger brothers and sisters were all murdered. In January 1945, Arnold survived a death march to the Gross-Rosen and Dachau concentration camps. He was liberated in May 1945 by the US Army. He immigrated to Scotland in 1946 and then to Canada with the assistance of Canadian Jewish Congress in 1947.

Rosalind Goldenberg was born in Antwerp, Belgium in 1939. Her mother arranged for Rosalind to be hidden with a member of the underground resistance, and then Rosalind was placed with a Catholic woman and her granddaughter. After the war, Rosalind went to live in Dublin, then moved to London, and eventually immigrated to Canada.

Edith Gelbard was born in Vienna, Austria in 1932. She lived with her parents, sister and grandmother. After the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938, her family fled to Belgium and then to France. In 1942, her father was murdered in Auschwitz. Edith and her brother were hidden in an orphanage. She was liberated in 1945 and reunited with rest of her family. After the war, she lived in Paris and immigrated to Canada in 1958.

Bill Glied was born in Subotica, Serbia in 1930. He was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944 along with his family. He was later transferred to the Dachau concentration camp in Germany and worked as a slave labourer. Bill was liberated by the US Army in April and immigrated to Canada as an orphan in 1947.

Mel Goldberg was born in Biala Rawska (southeast of Warsaw), Poland in 1942. As an infant, his parents placed him with a Christian family to be hidden to save his life. His parents and four siblings were likely murdered in Treblinka. First sent to an orphanage in Otwock, Mel came to Canada at age six, and was adopted by his relatives in Toronto.

Mendel Good was born in Nowy-Sacz, Poland in 1925. He was first sent to Rosnow where he was able to escape. He also survived the Nowy-Sacz Ghetto, a labour camp, the Tarnow Ghetto, Plaszow, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Mauthausen, Melk and Ebensee. He was liberated in 1945 by the US Army and immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Elly Gotz was born in Kovno, Lithuania in 1928. His father worked in a bank and his mother was a nurse. Beginning in 1941, Elly spent three years in the ghetto/camp in Kovno and then one year in Dachau concentration camp, where he was liberated by the American army in 1945. After the war, he lived in Germany, Norway, Rhodesia and South Africa. Elly immigrated to Canada in 1964.

Pinchas Gutter and his twin sister were born in Lodz, Poland in 1933. In 1939, his family was forced into the Warsaw Ghetto. In April 1943, they were deported to the death camp, Majdanek, where the whole family was murdered on arrival, except for Pinchas. He was sent to a work camp, then to Buchenwald, and then on a death march from Germany to Theresienstadt. He was liberated by the Soviet Army in May 1945.

Denise Hans was born in Paris, France in 1938. In 1942, after her father, aunt and uncle were taken from her home and murdered, her mother sought places to hide her six children and two nieces. Denise was hidden twice with farmers and then in a convent. She and two sisters stayed there until 1948, when they were reunited with their mother and siblings. Denise immigrated to Canada in 1956.

Magda Hilf was born in Maly Kevesd, Czechoslovakia in 1921. After Nazi occupation in 1944, her family was driven to the nearby ghetto in Sátoraljaújhely, Hungary. Shortly after, they were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where all were killed except for Magda, who was sent for slave labour. In April 1945, she was forced onto a death march, but she and four friends managed to escape. One month later, they were liberated. Magda immigrated to Canada in 1953.

Lou Hoffer was born in Vilnitz, Bucovina, Romania in 1927. He lived with his parents and his younger brother, Yosel. In 1940, Soviet forces occupied his town, and the entire family was deported to Transnistria in 1941. Lou was liberated by the Soviet Army in 1944, and his whole immediate family survived. After spending several years in various Displaced Persons camps, Lou immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Jerry Kapelus was born in Lodz, Poland in 1929. In 1939, his family was interned in the Lodz ghetto, where Jerry worked as a slave labourer. In 1944, he was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where the rest of his family was murdered. In 1945, he was sent on a death march to Buchenwald concentration camp. He was liberated in April 1945 by the US Army. After the war, he was sent to a French orphanage, and then immigrated to Canada.

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Howard and Nancy Kleinberg were born in the village of Wierzbnik, Poland and were raised in traditional, observant homes. By October 1942, their lives had changed forever. Before either of them had turned 20, Howard and Nancy endured years of forced labour, hunger, hardship, cruelty, forced marches, as well as internment in several concentration camps. After liberation from Bergen-Belsen in April 1945, they learned that their parents, most of their relatives and friends had not survived.

Mark Lane was born in 1929 in eastern Czechoslovakia. In 1939, with the division of the country, the area was ceded to Hungary. In the spring of 1944, he and his family were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where his mother, two brothers and sister were murdered. He remained in Birkenau until January 1945 when he was taken on a death march. He was finally liberated in May 1945 from Günskirchen. Mark immigrated to Canada in 1951.

Manny Langer was born in Lodz, Poland, in 1929. Manny was forced to live in the Lodz Ghetto before being transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps. After liberation, he immigrated to Canada. Manny regularly volunteers as a survivor speaker at the Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Joe (Joseph) Leinburd was born in Suceava, Romania in 1922. In 1941, the Romanian Fascist Regime, collaborating with Nazi Germany, deported the entire Jewish population of Northern Bucovina and Bessarabia to Transnistria, an area in southwestern Ukraine. Miraculously, his entire family survived a death march from Moghilev to Murafa and was liberated in 1944. After spending two-and-a-half years in Displaced Persons camps, Joe and his wife immigrated to Canada in 1949.

Nathan Leipziger was born in 1928, in Chorzow, Poland. He survived the Sosnowiec Ghetto and the camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Fünfteichen, Gross Rosen, Flossenbürg, Leonberg, Mühldorf am Inn and Waldlager (two sub-camps of Dachau). Nathan and his father were liberated in May 1945, and immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Alex Levin was born in Rokitno (Volyn), Poland in 1932. He survived a massacre at the Rokitno Ghetto where his parents and younger brother were murdered. He managed to escape into the forest with his older brother. He was liberated by the Soviet Army in 1944 and immigrated to Canada in 1975. His memoir, *Under the Yellow and Red Stars*, received the 2010 Pearson Prize Teen Choice Award.

Faigie (Schmidt) Libman was born in Kovno, Lithuania, in 1934, an only child. In 1941, she and her family were forced into the Kovno Ghetto. When the ghetto was liquidated in 1944, her father was taken to Dachau, where he perished. Faigie and her mother were transferred – first to Stutthof, then to three slave labour camps – before they were liberated by the Soviet Army. They immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Rose Lipszyc was born in 1929 in Lublin, Poland. On October 14, 1942 Rose escaped forced deportation. She survived the war under a false identity, posing as a teenage Polish child worker in Germany. Rose's mother, father and two brothers were murdered by the Nazis. After liberation, Rose and her future husband Jack immigrated to Israel in 1948. They immigrated to Canada in 1952.

Judy Lysy was born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia, in 1928. She lived with her parents, sister and grandmother. In March, 1944, Judy and her family were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and from there to various slave labour camps. She was liberated in May, 1945, by the US Army. She immigrated to Canada, in 1952, with her husband and daughter.

George Lysy was born on a farm near Nové Zámky in Czechoslovakia in 1916. In 1939, he was conscripted into the Hungarian army, in a separate Jewish slave labour battalion. He served 45 months and then escaped to Budapest, where he lived with false papers as a Catholic. He was liberated by the Soviet Army in February 1945.

Martin Maxwell was born in Vienna, Austria in 1924. His whole family (including four siblings) witnessed the Kristallnacht pogrom. Martin and his brother were sent on the Kindertransport to England, and adopted. Martin joined the British army in 1942, and fought in the liberation of Holland, where he was wounded and captured. He was freed in May 1944, but two of his sisters died in concentration camps. Martin immigrated to Canada in 1952.

Eva Meisels was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1939, an only child. After her father was taken to a forced labour camp in 1942, Eva and her mother were sent to the Budapest Ghetto and eventually, a safe house. They obtained false papers from Raoul Wallenberg and were liberated by the Soviet Army. After the war, Eva went back to school and immigrated to Canada in 1956.

Leslie Meisels was born in Nádudvar, Hungary in 1927. He lived with his parents, two brothers and both sets of grandparents. He survived the ghetto in Debrecen, slave labour and the eventual deportation to Bergen-Belsen. He was liberated in April 1945 by the US Army. His mother, father and both brothers also survived. Leslie immigrated to Canada in 1967.

Henry Melnick was born in Lodz, Poland in 1922. He was deported for slave labour shortly after the Nazi occupation of Poland in 1939. He was transferred to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen. When his parents were murdered in the Belzec death camp, he became the sole survivor of his family. After liberation, he fought in Israel's 1948 War of Independence and immigrated to Canada in 1965. Henry is the author of *By My Mother's Hand*.

Andy Réti was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1942. He survived in the Budapest Ghetto together with his mother and paternal grandmother. His father was murdered in a forced labour camp. Andy and his remaining family were liberated in January 1945. In October 1956, during the Hungarian Revolution, he and his mother were able to escape and immigrate to Canada to begin a new life.

Sally Rosen was born in Poland in 1929, and lived in the Lodz Ghetto with her mother for four-and-a-half years during the war. In 1944 they were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. From there, Sally was taken to Bremen-Hafen to clean bombarded houses. In April 1945 she was transported to Bergen-Belsen, from where she was liberated by the British Army. In all, she lost 40 members of her family during the Holocaust. Sally immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Judith Rubenstein was born in Mezochath, Hungary, in 1920 to a family of four siblings. Her father was a schoolteacher and her mother was a homemaker. In May 1944, following the Nazi occupation of Hungary, her family was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Judith and her mother are the sole survivors of her entire family. Judith came to Canada with her husband and son.

Simon Saks was born in Benezin, Poland in 1932, an only child. Simon lived in a ghetto from 1939-1943. His mother was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where she was killed, and his father died of starvation in a labour camp. In 1943, Simon was sent to several camps (Blachame, Gross Rosen and Buchenwald). He was liberated in Theresienstadt on May 8, 1945 by the Soviet Army and immigrated to Canada at the age of 16.

Vera Schiff (née Katz) was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1926. In 1942, the entire Katz family was deported to Theresienstadt, where all but Vera perished. She was liberated by the Soviet Army in May 1945. Vera is the author of the award-winning *Theresienstadt—The Town the Nazis Gave to the Jews, Hitler's Inferno—Eight Personal Histories from the Holocaust* and *Letters to Veruska*.

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Faye Schulman was born in Lenin, Poland in 1919. In 1942, the Nazis murdered her family. She had two sisters and four brothers. She escaped and joined the Soviet partisans in the forest to fight for freedom. She survived as a partisan and was liberated by the Soviet Army in 1944. She has been decorated by several governments for bravery. She immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Helen Schwartz was born in Bialystok, Poland, in 1925. From the Bialystok Ghetto, she was deported to Majdanek, then to the Blishjen slave labour camp and then to Auschwitz-Birkenau. In January 1945, Helen was transferred to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, from where she was liberated in April 1945 by the British Army. She immigrated to Canada with her husband, Eric, in 1948.

George Scott was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1930. After the death of his mother, he was sent to Budapest Children's Orphanage, then deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944, and ended up in the Gypsy camp. He was later sent to slave labour camps before being deported to Dachau. Liberated by the US Army in 1945, George immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Samuel Shene was born in Belfort, France, in 1936. In 1942, his parents were arrested and deported to the death camps, where they were murdered in the gas chambers. His two sisters were saved by the Salvation Army. His baby brother was killed at age four-and-a-half. Samuel survived by hiding under an assumed name. After the war, he was reunited with his sisters. He immigrated to Israel and currently resides in Canada and France.

Peter Silverman was born in Jody, Poland in 1924. He was sent to the Jody Ghetto, and then, along with his cousin, he escaped the massacre of the town's Jews. First hidden by a Catholic family, he then escaped to the forest, where he helped found Spartak, a Jewish-Russian Partisan brigade. He was liberated in 1944.

Yael Spier Cohen was born in Hesse, Germany in 1929. In 1942, she was deported with her family to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. In 1944, the Nazis sent her to Auschwitz-Birkenau, along with her parents, who were murdered in the gas chambers. Yael was transferred to slave labour at an ammunitions factory. She was liberated on May 5, 1945 from Mauthausen, and was the only survivor in her family. She moved to Israel in 1945, and then later moved to Canada.

Inge Spitz was born in Potsdam, Germany in 1927, where she lived with her parents and her sister. After Kristallnacht, her father escaped, but her mother was deported to Riga in 1941. Inge and her sister left for France with a transport of Berlin Jews escaping Germany. In 1944, Inge led a group of children escaping to Switzerland. The Spitz family survived and reunited in England. Inge and her husband immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Leonard Vis was born in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1930. After the Germans occupied the Netherlands, his entire family hid within Holland. His whole family survived and was liberated in 1945. After the war, Leonard served two years in the Polish Army before moving to New York. In 1967, Leonard and his wife immigrated to Canada.

Mladin Vranic was born in Zagreb, now Croatia, in 1930. He was able to escape with his parents and grandmother to an Italian-controlled zone. They were sent to concentration camps under Fascist Italy's jurisdiction. Dr. Vranic immigrated to Canada in 1963, is a recipient of the Order of Canada, and will be presenting during HEW as a special guest.

Lenka Weksberg was born in Tacovo, Czechoslovakia in 1926. In 1944, the entire family was deported to the Mathesalka Ghetto and then to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where her mother and brother were murdered. Lenka survived a slave labour camp in Geislingen, and Alach, as well as a death march. Lenka was liberated by the US Army in April 1945. After the war, Lenka returned to Czechoslovakia, then moved to Israel and finally immigrated to Canada in 1953.

Gershon Willinger was born in Amsterdam, Holland in 1942 to German-Jewish parents who were later murdered in Sobibor in July 1943. He was placed in hiding as a very young orphan. In 1944, as a two-year-old child, he was deported on a children's transport to Bergen-Belsen and later to Theresienstadt where he was liberated in 1945. He became a social worker and immigrated to Canada in 1977.

Ada Wynston was born in Amsterdam, Holland in 1936. She and 231 others were rescued from a Jewish daycare centre by the Dutch underground. From 1942 to 1945, Ada was hidden with Dutch-Reform Christian families. 73 members of her family were murdered in death camps. Ada immigrated to Canada in 1957. She received a Knighthood from Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands in 1993 for her volunteer work.

Helen Yermus was born in Kovno, Lithuania in 1932. She had to endure hardship, intimidation and fear in the Kovno Ghetto. Her brother was taken away and presumed murdered. In 1944 the ghetto was liquidated, and her father was deported to Dachau, where he died of starvation. Helen and her mother were taken to the Stutthof concentration camp in Germany. Both survived the camp and immigrated to Canada together in 1948.

Roman Ziegler was born in Dombrowa Gura, Poland in 1927, the youngest of eight children. He spent 31 months in four slave labour and death camps, including Brande and Auschwitz-Birkenau. He was liberated in May 1945 by the Soviet Army. Of his entire family, Roman was the only one who survived. Roman immigrated to Canada in 1948.

IN MEMORIAM

Herb Goldstein was born in Stanislawow, Poland, in 1924. His father was a decorated World War I veteran, and the family—his mother, father and older brother—moved to Germany in 1926. Herb witnessed and survived the Kristallnacht pogrom in Germany in 1938, and the two brothers were sent to England as part of the Kindertransport. Eventually, he joined the British Royal Navy. Herb immigrated to Canada in 1947. He passed away April 17, 2012.

Marian Domanski (Moshe Finkielman) was born in 1928, in Poland. His family was sent to the Otwock Ghetto. After his mother died, Marian attempted to escape, working for farmers while posing as a Catholic boy. He was caught and put on a train to Treblinka, but escaped again. He came to Canada in 1970 with his wife and daughter. He passed away May 30, 2012.