

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS OF SOUTH JERSEY



Eve Ackerman

Born 1927
Sambor, Poland

Eva Rosalia Singer Ackerman was born in 1927 in Sambor, Poland. Her parents were Henryk and Salomea, and were well-known and respected in Sambor. She was an only child and her father owned a grocery store. Her parents were sent to concentration camps very early on in the war and her maternal aunt, Mrs. Pepi Singer, adopted her at that time. She then used the Singer family name until she was married after the war. The Nazi's opened a ghetto in Sambor in 1941, after which Eve went to the Judenrat office to volunteer to work because she thought she would be safer with a regular job. For several months she moved bricks from destroyed buildings. Once that work was finished, they were assigned to work with an SS officer, a man by the name of Benesh. Every morning they were escorted outside of the ghetto, usually by the Jewish police but sometimes also by the Germans. They were ordered to sort through the clothes and other belongings that had previously been owned by Jewish families. Then they were to package the items for shipment to Germany. Officer Benesh would provide food for them, which was an extra privilege over those not working. She was never guarded while sorting belongings, and only saw armed guards when being escorted to and from work.

Eve escaped from the ghetto one night in July 1943 with some friends. They spent the next year on the run, finding refuge in the barn of a Christian family that Eve's family knew from childhood. This family made sure they had food to eat and a place to sleep until they were liberated by the Russian army in August 1944. After liberation they were brought to Sambor and then to Krakow during the next couple of months. Eve met Jacob Ackerman, in Krakow and they were married. They had to move to the DP camp in Bad Reichenhall in late 1945 or early 1946 where they spent the next few years. Jacob and Eve were finally able to get to America through a Jewish organization for DP survivors. The Ackermans arrived in New York as new immigrants aboard the "General S. D. Sturgis" on 1951 and moved to New Jersey to begin a poultry farm with Jacob's brother, Abraham Ackerman and his wife Lola (later Lola Schweidt). The Ackermans left their chicken farm by 1956 to move into the real estate business and they moved to Vineland building multiple houses as they moved around the area. They adopted one son Henry in 1959.



Donald Berkman

Born 1929
Druysk, Poland

Donald (Chipkin) Berkman, born on January 25, 1941 in Druysk, Poland (now Belarus), was an infant when his family was forced into first a small ghetto and then a larger one. Awaiting deportation to the Vilna Ghetto, Donald's mother, Sarah, begged her husband and other family members to go into hiding, but they refused. The rest of the family was sent to Vilna and were then massacred at Ponary, on the outskirts of Vilna, by Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing squads). Sarah hid her son and herself in a closet and thus escaped the round up and murder. Sarah and Donald were hidden in a convent for a while but had to flee the approaching Nazis.

His mother and Donald then hid in the woods for two and a half years, until the Russians came in 1945. They fled to Berlin where they stayed four years in displaced persons' camps in Germany—West Berlin, Ziegenhain, and Eschwege—until immigrating to the United States in 1949. A storeowner, Don lives in Margate with his wife, Nanette. Donald has three children and five grandchildren.



Sally Krueger Charsinsky

Born 1927
Sowina, Poland

Sally Krueger Charsinsky was born in Sowina, Poland, on September 9, 1923. She grew up in Sowina with her parents, brother, and six sisters until their lives were disrupted and forever changed by war. Preparing his family for a Nazi sweep, Sally's father told them to split up and run into the nearby woods where they could take cover. Sally and one of her sisters, Mary, stayed together, hiding in the forest. For three years of the war a caring Polish woman, Anna Kopeck, hid Sally in her home or barn. Anna and her husband, Stanislaw, also hid Sally's father, Abraham and his son, Henry, during the entire war. The Kopecks created a hiding place and always shared their food with the Krueger family. Sally later ended up in a ghetto in Kolaczyce and in German work camps.

One month after their liberation. Sally's parents and her brother were killed by Poles, in Sowina. Sally's oldest sister, Ruth, had moved to America in 1939 before the war. Ruth brought Sally to America in 1947, and she moved in with Ruth in her home in Newark, New Jersey. Sally met her husband, Max, in 1948 through Ruth's husband, Sam Katz, and they were married in 1949. In America Sally worked as a seamstress for two years and later helped Max with his business.

Sally and Max lived in Newark for twelve years and then in Livingston, New Jersey, for thirty-six years. They have spent the last three years where they live now, in Atlantic City. They have two children, a son, Arthur, and a daughter, Dale Silver. Both of their children went to law school. Dale has two sons, Jonathon and Jordan. Recently Sally's story was featured in area newspapers when the Polish neighbor, Anne Kopeck, a Righteous Among the Nations awardee, who protected Sally during the Holocaust was invited to the United States by Jewish Foundation for the Righteous to be honored. Sally and Anne visited together at this time. Every month Sally sent money to the people and their children who hid her in their home throughout the war. Sally and Anna write to each other every day until she passed away in 2016.



Mary Cinger

Born 1927
Szydlowiec, Poland

Mary Cinger was born Mania Gutman in 1927 in Szydlowiec, not far from Skrzynno. Mary was staying with cousins in Skrzynno when the Germans occupied the village in 1939. The Cyngisers as well as Mania Gutman were forced into the Radom Ghetto. From the ghetto, they were deported on different transports to Auschwitz-Birkenau. At one point in Birkenau, Mary was “selected” for the gas chambers, but escaped through a small window, rejoining other inmates from her barrack who were being sent on a work detail. Near the end of the war, she was sent from Auschwitz to an underground munitions factory in Slovakia. Mary was liberated by the Americans.

Mary ended up in the Garmisch-Partenkirchen displaced persons (DP) camp in American-occupied Germany. When Al Cinger learned Mary was there, he rode a motorcycle to Garmisch-Patenkirchen to join her, and they married in 1945. Mary and Al immigrated to the United States

in 1949. After several months living with other Holocaust Survivors in Brooklyn, they settled in Vineland, New Jersey. Al and Mary Cinger started small businesses while also managing their poultry farm. In 1965 they opened Cinger Barbecue, a rotisserie chicken shop at the “Circle,” a large roundabout at the intersection of Delsea Drive and Landis Avenue on the western end of downtown Vineland. They later sold clothing, especially sweaters, at the same location, and changed the name to Cinger’s Sweaters. The Cingers had watched as other Holocaust Survivor families entered the hotel business. With support from friends, they built the Circle Plaza Motel motel at the same site, which opened in 1971.

Al Cinger, age 67, suffered a heart attack and died in 1983. Mary Cinger passed away in 1986.



Meyer Glick

Born 1927
Blonic, Poland

Irving Myer Glick was born Icek Meir Galek in the small town of Blonie, Poland, west of Warsaw, in 1926. He had five brothers and one sister. When the war broke out, Myer's family fled east to Warsaw, away from the advancing Germany army, which nevertheless occupied the Polish capital. At first they had an apartment, but soon they, like all Jews in the city, were forced into the Warsaw Ghetto. The conditions in the ghetto were horrible and deteriorated over time, but Myer and his siblings risked everything to slip out of the ghetto and smuggle food in. During the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in May and April 1943, Myer and his family hid in their building, but the Germans set the building on fire. Myer and his father jumped out of the building to escape the flames, and were captured by the Germans. The rest of the family did not survive. Myer and his father were deported to Majdanek concentration camp, where they survived for four months. Then they were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where they arrived in late 1943. They were separated after arrival, and Myer never saw his father again. In 1945, Myer was transferred to a labor camp in Austria.

After liberation with the sponsorship of his uncle, Myer immigrated to the United States in 1949. Myer worked in his Uncle's shoe store in Philadelphia, and then set off on his own, selling shoes at flea markets. After saving enough money, Myer started his own shoe store in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Myer Glick and Nella Distenfeld met on a blind date in 1958, and married in Philadelphia the following year. Three years later, Myer opened his own store, Tri-City Lumber in nearby Vineland. After Myer and Nella retired from the lumber business, they remained in Vineland until 2014, when they moved to Marlton, New Jersey to be closer to their three children. Myer passed away in 2017; he was 91 years old, and they had been married 59 years.



Nella Glick

Born 1927
Podlipce, Poland

Nella Glick was born in the small village of Podlipce, Poland (today in Ukraine). She lived with her parents, Esther and Solomon Distenfeld, her aunt Clara Hochman (later Wasserstrum), and her sister Yetta (later Bergstein). Her family had a home with a few acres of land on which neighbors grew vegetables. Her father owned a flour mill in a nearby village. Nella was only two years old when the war began. She and her sister survived initially by staying with a Christian family, but from nearby villages. Then she, together with her sister, parents, and Aunt Clara, survived together in barns, attics, and the forest until the arrival of the Russians in 1945; Nella was eight years old.

After liberation, they went to Ainring Displaced Persons camp in Germany. In 1947, sponsored by relatives and with arrangements made by HIAS, Nella and her family arrived in the United States and stayed in New York. In 1952 they moved to Vineland and purchased a chicken farm. Nella graduated from Vineland High School in 1956.

Myer Glick and Nella Distenfeld met on a blind date in 1958, and married in Philadelphia the following year. In 1969, Myer was given a business opportunity to buy Carmel Lumber Company with his brother-in-law, Ben Bergstein. Three years later, Myer opened his own store, Tri-City Lumber in nearby Vineland. After Myer and Nella retired from the lumber business, they remained in Vineland until 2014, when they moved to Marlton, New Jersey to be closer to their three children. Myer passed away in 2017; he was 91 years old, and they had been married 59 years. Nella Glick lives in Cherry Hill and has four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter (so far).



Phillip Goldfarb

Born 1921
Sedziszów, Małopolska,
Poland

Phillip Goldfarb, born in Sêdziszów Malopolski in the province of Kraków, was the youngest of nine children. When the Germans occupied Poland in 1939, Phillip fled east, from where he was deported by the Soviet Union to Siberia to the taiga (boreal forest) where he labored cutting trees. Next he was sent to the desert of Kazakhstan to harvest saxoul trees, used for fuel. After surviving two typhus attacks, Phillip worked as a foreman at a Soviet store in Kuskuduk, Kazakhstan. In 1946, Phillip traveled to his hometown hoping to find some of his family. He already knew that his mother, brother Oscar, and two sisters-in-law had been killed in Belzec Death Camp and that his brothers Selig and Pinek had been murdered when the Nazis had liquidated their labor battalion. None of his family was there, so Phillip left Sêdziszów, journeying to Austria and Germany, where he stayed in several displaced persons' camps, meeting and marrying his wife, Celia, in 1949.

Later he discovered that his brothers Julius, Isaac, and Wolf had survived. Phillip immigrated to the United States in 1949, living with his sister, Anna, who had immigrated to the US before the war. Soon Phillip was reunited with his wife, Celia, who had gone first to Canada. They bought a chicken farm in South Jersey in the early 1950s. After Celia died, in 1984, Phillip sold the farm and moved to Somers Point. Phillip now lives with his son, Arthur, and daughter-in-law, Dale. He has two grandchildren. Phillip's memoir, *The Pear Tree Did Not Survive: A Memoir of a Shtetl Boyhood, Siberian Labor Camps, and the Aftermath of the Holocaust* was published in 2007. Phillip passed away in 2013 in Galloway, New Jersey.



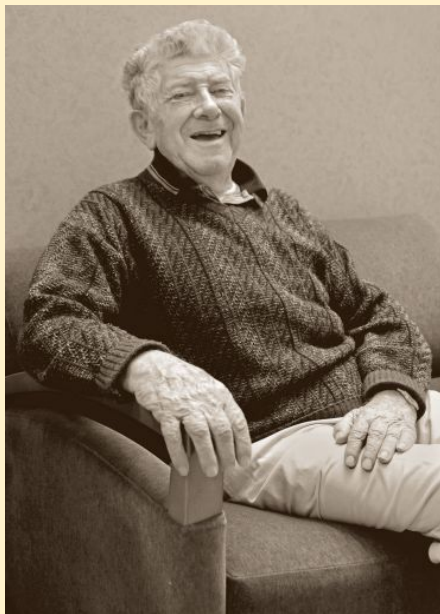
Betty Kohn Grebenschikoff

Born 1929
Berlin, Germany

Betty Kohn Grebenschikoff was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1929. Although her father had lived in Germany for many years and had fought in World War I, because he had been born in Czechoslovakia, neither he nor his wife, Olga, nor their daughters, Betty and Edith, had German passports. After witnessing the tragic events of Kristallnacht (The November Pogrom—November 9-10, 1938), the family immigrated to Shanghai, China, the only country that would accept people without passports or visas.

After Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, the Japanese, who had occupied China since 1937, moved the family into a ghetto. This “segregated district” in Shanghai was crowded with 20,000 Jewish refugees and the area was unsanitary. In August 1945, Betty and her family were liberated by American troops. Betty remained in China, meeting and marrying her husband, Oleg Grebenschikoff, a “White” Russian. In 1949 when China became Communist, Betty, pregnant with her first child, and Oleg, her husband, immigrated to Australia, where they stayed until 1953. Then they obtained visas for the United States where she was reunited with her parents and sister, Edith, eventually settling in Brigantine, New Jersey.

In New Jersey, Oleg taught physical education in the Absecon School District. Betty raised her children and then wrote her memoir: *Once My Name Was Sara* in 1992, with a new edition in 2005. She continues to lecture at schools and colleges. She is featured in the 2002 award-winning documentary: *Shanghai Ghetto*. Betty and Oleg have five children (Nina died in an accident in 1984), seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Oleg died in 2004. Betty passed away in 2023 in Florida.



Harry Hirsch

Born 1923
Kouchiv, Poland

Harry Hirsch was born on April 23, 1923 in Kouchiv, Poland. His parents, Jacob Mordechai Herschkowitz and Torte Herschkowitz, had nine children: one daughter and eight sons. (Only Harry and one of his brothers survived.) Harry was an apprentice carpenter, but when he was sixteen, he was deported to his first concentration camp, one of three. The last camp was Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he made bread that he would smuggle back to other people.

After liberation, Harry met Sophie in a displaced persons camp; they married and lived in Nordheim, Germany. In 1951, he and Sophie immigrated to the United States. At U.S. Customs they shortened his name to Hirsch. For a time Harry and Sophie stayed in Philadelphia; Harry worked as a carpenter. Then they moved to Corbin City where they bought a chicken farm. This developed into a food business.

They later moved to Vineland where they continued their food business. They delivered to Cape May, and because both liked the area, they decided to buy property. In 1966, they built a hotel in Cape May called the Montreal Inn, which he and Sophie operated, until she passed away in 1975. Harry recently moved to Seashore Gardens Living Center, where his close friend, Ruth Satt, lives. Harry said he is most proud that he survived and made a life for his family. His family includes Larry and Miriam and their sons, Evan and Jonathan, and Joseph and Amy and their daughters, Sophie and Abbie. Harry passed away in 2011 in Galloway, New Jersey.



Leon Juffe

Born 1921

Złoczow, Poland

Leon Juffe was born in Złoczow, near Ternopol, Poland, on September 4, 1921. From 1942 until 1944, for sixteen long months, six people—Leon, his mother, two sisters, one brother, and a friend—hid in an underground hole disguised as a manure heap. His father and other family members had been deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau where they were murdered. They had to use bamboo sticks to breathe, and they survived on food given to them once a day by a Polish family. Every day they gave the Polish woman one of the gold pieces that their grandfather had given them.

The group was liberated by the Soviets in 1944. When the war ended Leon traveled to Germany, where he met his wife, Nella Gelberg, in Wasser Displaced Persons' Camp. In 1950, they immigrated to the United States, where Leon worked in a clock factory for 75¢ an hour. The woman who owned the factory was very mean; she didn't hire Jews, so Leon, who had blonde hair, had to pretend he was non-Jewish. She even tried to trick him by speaking Yiddish to him, but he didn't answer her; therefore, she hired him. After six months, when he picked up his last paycheck, he asked her what she had against Jews. She told him that she had lost a factory because Jews had organized a union there. Leon told her, "Isn't it enough that six million Jews were killed in Europe? Why do you have to hate all Jews for what a few did to you?"

In 1953, Leon and Nella bought a poultry farm in Vineland, and later they became hotel owners. Leon passed away in 2009 in Margate, New Jersey.



Nella Gelberg Juffe

Born 1932

Chrubieszow, Poland

Nella Gelberg Juffe was born on January 15, 1932 in Chrubieszow, Poland; however, she was raised in Chelm, Poland, near Majdanek. In September 1, 1939, the Soviets came into her city—by mistake. Then the Germans attacked, bombing the city. The Soviets told the people to flee to Soviet occupied territory because the Germans would kill them. So the Gelberg family escaped to Lvov in 1939. In 1941 the Germans broke their pact with the Soviets, attacking Lvov. They were captured by the Germans and put in a concentration camp, in Lgov, Ukraine, near Babi Yar.

In 1945 they were liberated by the Soviets, who moved them to a house with a thatched roof that goats ate. In 1946 the Polish government told the Soviets to release the Polish citizens; therefore, Nella, her mother, and sister were put on a cattle train for four weeks, traveling back toward Chelm, Poland. At Majdanek, they discovered that all the rest of their extended family had been killed in this death camp. The family never reached Chelm because news of the pogroms reached them and they got off the train. With the help of the underground Jewish military organization, Haganah, they were smuggled to Czechoslovakia, then Austria, and finally to the American Zone in Germany. Nella, her mother, and sister went to three DP Camps: Föhrenwald, Ulm, and Wasser-Altsinger, where, in 1948, Nella met Leon Juffe whom she married in November of 1948. Their son, Samuel, was born on January 14, 1950, in Germany.

In 1950, six weeks after Samuel was born, the family immigrated to the United States, arriving on Ellis Island, one of the last immigrants to be sent there. In the U.S. with hard work and determination, they built themselves a new life: they bought a chicken farm in Vineland in 1953 and later bought the Kentucky Hotel in Atlantic City. Off season, Nella worked in a clothing factory making Eisenhower jackets. Nella and Leon prospered, raising four sons—Samuel, Michael, Irving, and Gene. They have seven beloved grandchildren. Leon passed away in 2009 and Nella now lives in Margate.



Sonia Kaplan

Born 1929

Włodzimierz Volynski,
Poland

Sonia Kaplan (nee Chelemska) was born in 1929 in Włodzimierz Volynski, Poland, with a population of 36,000 Jews, in the vicinity of the city. She was the oldest of four children of Rabbi Boruch Moshe and Gittel Hannah, the owners of two businesses. In 1936 Sonia's father died of lung cancer. In 1939 when World War II began, her city was bombed by the Germans, and her home burnt down with all of their belongings. Then her city was occupied by the Soviets, who confiscated the merchandise in her parents' stores. In 1941 when Germany attacked Soviet occupied eastern Poland, Sonia's city fell into the hands of the Nazis.

Sonia and her family, along with 20,000 other Jews, were put into a ghetto where during periodic *oblavas* (raids) Jews were taken to the outskirts, shot, and buried in pits. Between September 1942 and December 1943 the ghetto suffered three *Aktions*. Sonia's family was killed during the first *Aktion*. Sonia managed to survive the final liquidation of the ghetto, escaping to a hiding place arranged by her mother with a Polish family who had been given silver and gold by her mother. However, in less than two weeks, the family threw her out. A second Polish family hid her on a farm for three months. Then Sonia fled to the forest where she joined Russian partisans for four months and was liberated there in July 1944. At fifteen she was the only survivor of an extended family of eighty-six.

After liberation Sonia traveled from Poland to Salzburg, Austria, to a displaced persons' camp, where she met Kadysh Kaplan, a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Gross-Rosen, and Buchenwald Concentration Camps. Sonia and Kadysh married in 1945 and immigrated to the United States in December of 1948, arriving in Philadelphia. In 1954 the couple had a chicken farm in Mays Landing, New Jersey. Later Sonia was in the hotel business in Atlantic City. Sonia now lives in Atlantic City, NJ. She has three children, two daughters, Ellen and Gloria, a son, David, and is blessed with six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Sonia is the subject of the film, *Broken Silence*, produced by her daughter Ellen Kaplan Wetzel, and the author of the memoir, *My Endless War: My Shattered Dreams*, published in 2004.



Tom Kennedy was born on March 6, 1929 in Budapest, Hungary. From age three to thirteen, Tom lived with his parents in the countryside. Then in 1943 he moved to Budapest to live with an uncle. Tom is the sole survivor of his family—his parents, brother, and sister, and two uncles all died in concentration camps. Tom escaped deportation by living on the streets of Budapest and in burned out buildings, until he was taken into the safe houses under the Swedish flag.

At one of the safe houses, he met Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat, and Tom helped him deliver Swedish passports (Schutzpasses), which declared the bearers to be under the protection of Sweden. Tom faced danger delivering these Schutzpasses to Jews in hiding and living in the ghetto. The Russians occupied Budapest in 1945; a year later Tom fled to Austria and lived in various displaced persons' camps until, in 1948, he was admitted to the United States as a war orphan.

Tom Kennedy

Born 1929

Budapest, Hungary

Tom is a retired United States Air Force Major and was a hotel human resource director. He lived in Margate with his wife, Bonnie until he passed away in 2015.



Sam Schoffer

Born 1927
Vilna, Poland

Sam Schoffer was born in Vilna, Poland (today Vilnius, Lithuania), in 1923 Sam's father was a businessman. When the Soviet Union occupied Vilnius in 1939, Sam was working in a Jewish-owned pharmacy and general store. When the Soviets nationalized the business, employees voted to make Sam the manager. His post was short-lived, because the Germans invaded and occupied the region in 1941. Sam worked in slave labor groups outside the Vilna ghetto and smuggled in provisions for his family. Rumors of the killings of Jews at Ponar on the outskirts of Vilna circulated in the ghetto. In 1943, before the remnant of the Vilna ghetto was liquidated, Sam escaped through the sewers and joined partisans in the forests and swamps. Of his immediate family, only Sam's brother Berel survived the war. Sam met Sara Rubanovicz when she joined his partisan group made up of both Ukrainians and Polish-Lithuanian Jews. The two married under a canopy in the forest while Partisans, and both survived the war. After the war, Sara and Sam returned briefly to Vilna, where they learned that most their families had not survived. In late 1945, Sara gave birth to a daughter, Luba (Lynda).

The Schoffers emigrated to the United States in 1948, first to Boston, then to Brooklyn. In 1951, they bought a chicken farm in Egg Harbor Township. In 1952, Sam built a new and larger farm on the Black Horse Pike, which they operated until 1960. During that period, Sam built farms and houses for friends and family. They had a second child, Leo, in 1952. In 1960, Sam began his successful career in construction and real estate development. In 1966 the family moved to Margate, New Jersey. Sam and his son, Leo, created Schoffer Enterprises in the early 1980s.

Sam and Sara were proud to be a part of the South Jersey's Holocaust survivor community. They contributed much time and resources to many organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Sara Schoffer passed away in 2001, and Sam in 2014. They are survived by their children, Luba (Lynda) and Leo, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



Sara Schoffer

Born 1924
Vilna, Poland

Sara Rubanovicz was born in Vilna, Poland (today Vilnius, Lithuania) in 1924. Sara's father was also a businessman; his main occupation was supplying transportation for goods by horse-drawn wagon. At the beginning of the German occupation, Sara's father, Benzion was arrested along with other leading members of the Jewish community; Sara never saw him again. The rest of the Rubanovicz family was confined in the Vilna ghetto. Sara and her siblings escaped through the sewer. She met Sam Schoffer when she joined his partisan group made up of both Ukrainians and Polish-Lithuanian Jews. The two married under a canopy in the forest while Partisans, and both survived the war.

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Betty Lifshin Simon

Born 1933

Kazsian, Białoruś

Betty Simon, born in 1933, was the youngest of eleven children of Jacob Lifshin and Rachel Lifshin, of Kazsian, Białoruś (White Rus), today Belarus. Rachel died when Betty was only a year and a half old. In 1939, the Nazis made a ghetto in Betty's hometown, which they subsequently liquidated, transferring the occupants to a larger ghetto; Betty was imprisoned in the latter ghetto for one and a half years. Betty recalls hunger and working very hard for a small piece of bread. In 1941, Jacob realized that the entire family would be killed; therefore, he devised a plan to save his daughters' lives. Jacob contacted a very religious and good Catholic man, Voyzche Gintaiv, who promised to care for Jacob's daughters. Betty and her sister were instructed to dress as "non-Jewish" and to escape from the ghetto. Following their escape, Voyzche Gintaiv picked the girls up and settled them in his barn. A week after their rescue, Voyzche went back to the ghetto to try to save more people and was murdered by the Nazis.

After the murder of Jacob's friend, Betty's brothers, who were hiding in the forest, took Betty, her sister, Nechama, and Voyzche Gintaiv's two daughters into the forest; another of Betty's brothers brought Jacob from the ghetto to the forest. The Lifshins remained in hiding in the forest for two and a half years. When the war ended, Betty and her family tried to return to their hometown, but Betty recalls, "Not even one house was left."

Betty met her husband Richard in a displaced persons camp and travelled with him to the United States. After marrying in 1950, Betty and Richard owned a chicken farm in Pleasantville, NJ, along with his father and brother. Richard was deeply unhappy with life on the chicken farm and, therefore, decided to go into real estate in which he prospered. Betty and Richard have four children, Marsha, Jacob, Renee, and Valerie, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Richard died in 2005; Betty Simon lived in Ventnor, NJ until she died in 2024.



Rosalie Simon

Born 1931

Teresva, Czechoslovakia

On July 25, 1931, Rosalie Lebovic Simon was born in Teresva, Czechoslovakia, one of six Lebovic children—five daughters and one son. Rosalie’s father, Israel, was a wholesale importer of fruits. Her mother, Regina, kept a kosher home. Rosalie has happy memories of life in Tresea, living in a neighborhood where many children played and attending the public school that she loved. In 1938 the Hungarians took over Tresea, and in 1944 the Germans occupied her town. In that same year, Jewish children, including Rosalie, one of the school’s best students, were expelled.

On the sixth day of Passover in 1944, the family was taken to the Mátészalka Ghetto, and then in May 1944, deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau-Birkenau, where Rosalie, only twelve years old, was selected to go with her mother to the gas chambers. Running to her sisters Rosalie lived and was sent along with her sisters to Geislingen Slave Labor Camp in Germany and later to Allach, a sub-camp of Dachau. Liberated with her sisters in May of 1945, the family, with their father who had survived Buchenwald Concentration Camp, settled temporarily in Ústi Nad Labem, the northwest of Czechoslovakia, before immigrating to the United States in November of 1949.

Arriving in New York on Ellis Island, Rosalie and her family settled in Baltimore, Maryland, where she met Sidney Simon in English class. They married two years later. After leaving Baltimore and Sidney’s prosperous scrap metal business, Rosalie and Sidney moved to Pleasantville, NJ, to the poultry farm that they owned and managed, along with his father and brother. In the 1950s the couple moved to Margate and Sidney became a land developer. The couple have three children and five grandchildren. Rosalie is writing her memoir, working title—Five Sisters: Five Survivors of Auschwitz-Birkenau Death Camp.



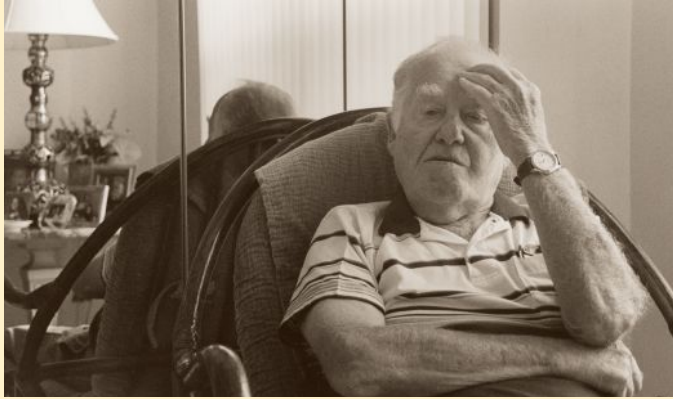
Sidney Simon

Born 1925
Belize, Poland

In 1925, Sidney Simon was born in Belitze, now Belarus. Sidney's parents, Samuel and Czerna, had five children: three boys, Mojshe, Sidney, Richard, and two girls, Katie and Ida. Sidney's father, Samuel, owned a restaurant and a liquor store. His mother, Czerna, was a very good, hard-working woman who helped his father and even had her own business, buying shoes and boots and selling them. Sidney had a happy childhood. He loved fishing and swimming in the River Neman.

In June 1941, when the Nazis invaded Belitze, Poland (near Lida), they terrorized the Jews and eventually put the family in the Zhatlava Žetel ghetto. Sidney's brother, Mojshe, along with a group of twenty-one young men, escaped from the ghetto into the woods, where Mojshe became a partisan but was later murdered by the Nazis. A short time later, the Nazis decided to liquidate the ghetto, so the rest of the family fled into the woods. Sidney Simon then joined the partisans, killing Germans and at the same time revenging the murder of his brother. Later, in the Russian army, he also fought the Germans.

After the war, Sidney was in several displaced persons' camps until he and his family immigrated to the United States in 1949—to Baltimore, Maryland. In Baltimore, Sidney met Rosalie, whom he married in 1952. After leaving Baltimore and his prosperous scrap metal business, the couple moved to Pleasantville, NJ, where they owned a chicken farm. Eventually Sidney developed a number of businesses, including real estate. Sidney and Rosalie now live in Margate and have three children, five grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Sidney's memoir, *In the Birch Woods of Belarus: A Partisan Youth's Revenge*, was published by 2009. Sidney passed away in 2019.



Arnold Weitzenhof

Born 1929
Galicia, Gdov, Poland

Arnold Weitzenhof was born in Galicia, near Kraków, in Gdov, Poland, on April 1, 1929—the baby of the family. His family called him Oldek. His parents, Rose and Isaac Lieb, had two other sons: Szymek (Simon), an artist, born in 1921, and, in 1923, Samek (Sam), who would have taken over the family bakery and grocery store. His parents wanted Arnold to be a dentist because he had beautiful, artist's hands.

In 1939, Gdov was occupied by the Wehrmacht, soldiers of the German armed forces, who treated the family well because Arnold's father had served in the Austrian army during World War I. However, in 1940 the SS and Gestapo made the town Judenfrei (free of Jews). Arnold's father was shot during a razzia (round-up); his mother sent to Belzec Death Camp. Arnold, only twelve years old, and his brothers were taken to Stalowa Wola concentration camp, from which they escaped a few months later to the Kraków Ghetto. Arnold's oldest brother was shot while crossing the border; his middle brother died in the Kraków Ghetto. By the time the war was over, Arnold had survived four different camps—Stalowa Wola, Julag One, Płaszów, and Częstochowa.

The only survivor of his family, Arnold immigrated to New Jersey in 1947 when he worked at a diner and later in a luggage factory. When the factory burned down, his friend suggested he go to hairdressing school. Arnold retired as a successful hairdresser fifteen years ago and moved to Galloway with his wife, Gloria, a retired accountant. In December 2006, Arnold published his memoir: *This I Remember: A Polish Youth Survives the Shoah*. Arnold, who died on January 28, 2007, is survived by his wife, Gloria, son, Richard, daughter-in-law, Sandra, and two grandchildren.



Ruth Zinman

Born 1934
Oradea, Transylvania,
Romania

Ruth Zinman, a child during World War II, was born in Oradea, Transylvania, in western Romania; her mother was a dentist; her father, a doctor. After being caught by the police at the border en route to Russia, her family was forced to spend a night in a Bucharest jail. Ruth and her mother were released the next day. Her mother then sent Ruth to Hungary to stay with her cousins, so she could work and raise money to bail out Ruth's father. But after finding out that the cousins were to be deported to Auschwitz- Birkenau, her mother sent Ruth back to Oradea to stay with a peasant family. Ruth's mother retrieved her and the family was reunited for a short time. While her parents were working illegally, providing medical and dental care, her father was conscripted by the Romanian army.

After the war, Ruth's family moved to Israel where Ruth met David, an American tourist. They were married in 1962, and she immigrated to the United States a year later. They had three children and four grandchildren. Ruth has been teaching Hebrew in various synagogue schools since 1965. She now lives in Ventnor and continues teaching and educating young people about the Holocaust. Her ultimate goal is to raise pride and awareness of the Jewish heritage and history in the younger generations.