

## Stories Our Fairmount Temple Members Shared on Yom HaShoah App

Three years ago, our Men of Fairmount Temple created a phone app that would allow those who didn't have access to or couldn't light a traditional yahrzeit candle, to light a virtual candle to remember the six million who died during the Holocaust. This year, when users download the app, they will also find personal stories and photos shared by some of our Fairmount Temple members about their family members who survived the Holocaust. If you would like to share your story when the app is updated next year, please contact Susan Ringel at [susanringel@att.net](mailto:susanringel@att.net) or 216-392-7184.



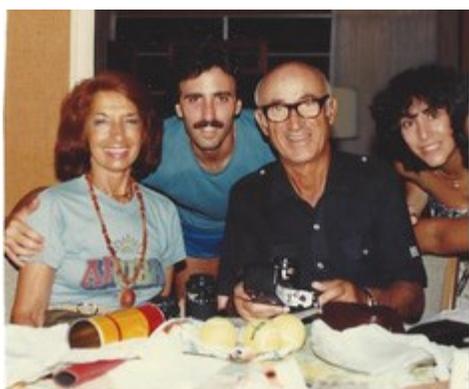
*Wilem and Frida Weisman with their grandchildren, Zach, Alison and Danny*

"My father, Wilem Weisman, escaped a labor camp right before the end of the war. My mother was liberated at Bergen Belsen. My father lost his wife and four children, and found my mom (his first wife's niece), who weighed less than 50 pounds, nourished her to health, and they were married.

My father was born in 1908 in a small village (Kievyascht) that at that time was Czechoslovakia. The labor camp was in Czechoslovakia, however they did transport him to several places during the war. He died in 1988, just short of his 80th birthday.

My mother, Frida, was born in 1924 in a small village in Czechoslovakia (Benedicoviece). They both spoke Czech, Polish and Hungarian in addition to Yiddish and English. She died in 2001."

**- Sylvia Aarons**



*Mary, Ken, Kurt and Gail Liffman*

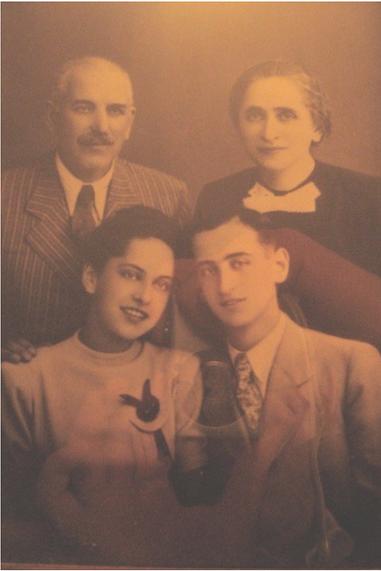
"My mother, Mary, was born and raised in Vienna, Austria. She was a brilliant artist with a scholarship to the Louvre in Paris. Then the Nazis invaded. Her family left Vienna. My grandfather gave up everything for 3 train tickets for the 1.5 hours on rail to Salzburg. They each had one bag. They walked across the mountain trail and hid underground, in the home of a Jewish opera singer, for almost a year. The underground smuggled them out as the Nazis were closing in, and they crossed to New York.

My father, Kurt, was born in Monchengladbach, Germany. His family was in that region for about 300 years. My grandfather, Albert, died at Sobibor. My aunt lived in England and was a housekeeper. She had her employer become the benefactor to sponsor my father to go to England.

The employer was not Jewish. My brother, Allen, and I think that employer, who had ties to the Church, helped him get sponsored by the Church to Cleveland. He worked in the rectory, sweeping up, and sleeping on a cot for six months before going into the U.S. Army. My parents met at a soccer game here in Cleveland.

Kurt passed in '96 and Mary passed in '98."

**- Ken Liffman**



*Left photo, Rosette and Al ; Right photo, Rosette, who passed away in 2017, with son and daughter-in-law Chuck & Jackie Lurie (back) and grandchildren Jay and Alissa Lurie.*

*Rosette’s parents, Rosette Lurie (bottom left) and her brother, Al, when she was about 18.*

“My grandmother, Rosette Lurie, was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1921. In 1938, Rosette and her family were forced to move from their farm in western Hungary to a small apartment in the nearest city. She was deported to Auschwitz in June 1944. Rosette lost her parents at the Birkenau station Selection Point immediately upon arrival. She survived two months in Auschwitz and was sent to a labor camp, where she worked in a munitions factory. She was liberated by the U.S. Army in April 1945, a moment of unimaginable elation. Post-war, she served as a clerk for the British Army, until she was discovered by her elder brother Al, a Hungarian-born U.S. Army Combat Engineer, who retraced his sister after more than 5 years apart. It took nearly a year for Rosette to get a visa, and she reached New York in 1946. Rosette settled in Cleveland, built a family, and passed away at age 95.”

**-Jay Lurie**



“Esther Pantzer, my grandmother, was born in January of 1917 in Poland in a village named Kowel (pronounced Kovel). Her immediate family members were murdered by the Nazis but she was able to escape from Poland at approximately sixteen years old. Some of her relatives that were also able to escape found their way to Argentina, but she moved to America and lived with her Uncle Eddie in the Detroit area. Esther now lives in Largo, Florida where she moved during the 1970s with her husband George Pantzer z’l. She has seven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.”

**-Rabbi Rob Nosanchuk**

*Esther with her grandson, Rob Nosanchuk, at the celebration of her 100th birthday in January of 2017.*



(left to right) Bernard (deceased), Lester, Rachel, and Eli (deceased) Potash at Rachel's bat mitzvah in 1993.

"My wife, Esther, and I are the products of Holocaust survivors. Esther's parents, George Jacobs and Eva Fugman, each survived the camps. Upon arriving in the United States and settling in Youngstown, Ohio, they met, married, and raised two daughters.



On my father's side were my zaide Eli and bubbe Riva Potash (original spelling Potasz), and their children: my dad Bernard (Boruch) and aunt Betty (Basia) (married name Gold). Another son had perished. Their story of survival in the forest during the Holocaust is recounted in Betty's *Eva and George Jacobs, 1951* book, 'Beyond Trochenbrod.' I did not come to realize

until much later that very few of the children of 'greener' families with whom I grew up had any grandparents. I was fortunate to have a bubbe and a zaide. My mother, Helen Jachimowicz, and her sister Marcia (married name Krause) arrived in this country separately and were the only survivors of their large family, each having spent years in several of the camps. My parents raised five children."

**-Lester Potash**



Philip Wexberg, bottom left, and pictured with Marcia



Miriam Gross, bottom left, and pictured with Marcia



"My father, Philip Wexberg, was taken by the Nazis when they invaded Poland in 1939. He survived seven slave labor camps. There were only two other known survivors from his family, which numbered over 150 people.

My mother, Miriam Gross, was born in Lwow, Poland in 1928. She survived with the help of her mother, who saved her from a Nazi roundup of Jews, and with the help of her older sister, who obtained false papers for them, as they assumed Polish Catholic identities and 'passed' as Poles, not Jews, working as serving girls in Warsaw."

**-Marcia Wexberg**