

TESTIMONY

CARMELA ZUCKER

MARCH 1994

**TRANSLATED BY LENA MUELNNER
AND RAN ZUCKER (2007)**

CARMELA (CAROLA) CAME FROM A FAMILY CALLED ÖSTERREICHER.

GRANDMOTHER DIED IN THE 4TH OF NOVEMBER 2004.

HER FATHER WAS CALLED LEOPOLD AND HER MOTHER WAS CALLED HERMINE, HERMINE'S LAST NAME BEFORE MARRIAGE WAS BLAU.

GRANDMOTHER WAS BORN IN A TOWN CALLED LAA AN DER THAYA, AUSTRIA.

HER FATHER HAS 8 BROTHERS, AND HER MOTHER WAS A SINGLE CHILD, LIKE GRANDMOTHER.

GRANDMOTHER'S PARENTS GOT MARRIED LATE BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT HER FATHER SERVED

IN THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914), AND WAS PRISONER FOR SIX YEARS.

GRANDMOTHER PARENTS HAD THEIR OWN SHOP AND THEY WERE BUSY FOR LONG HOURS IN THE SHOP SO THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO DEDICATE FOR GRANDMOTHER, IN FACT MUCH OF THE TIME SHE SPEND THE TIME WITH HER OPER.

FROM NOW AND ON I WILL TELL MY GRANDMOTHER STORY AS FIRST SIDE, AS SHE TRANSLATED IT FROM GERMAN AFTER SHE WAS ASKED FOR TO BE AN EVIDENCE FOR HER AMAZING TESTIMONY.

I WAS BORN IN LAA AND I HAD AN HAPPY AND JOYFUL CHILDHOOD. I WAS A VERY NAUGHTY GIRL.

MY PARENTS WERE ALWAYS BUSY WITH THEIR STORE AND I WAS ALWAYS NEGLECTED, THAT'S WHY I DID A LOT OF STUPID STUFF LIKE: LIKE THROWING CHESTNUTS OVER THE TREE ON PEOPLE IN THE STREET(AS THE SAYING SAYS

"THE BLESSING COMES FROM ABOVE"), OR TO FREE JUMPY BUGS IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS.

EVEN THOUGH, I LIKED TO HELP CHILDREN IN NEED AND I SHARED WITH THEM ALL MY SCHOOL EQUIPMENT OR ALL THE FOOD THEY NEEDED.

TO MY UNHAPPINESS MY FATHER BROUGHT MY COUSIN FROM HUNGARY TO OUR HOUSE TO LIVE WITH US,

I WAS 10 AND SHE WAS 12, SO SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO TAME ME AND BE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR ME. SHE WAS VERY TALENTED AND A GOOD PUPIL AND VERY SOON SHE BECAME AN A STUDENT.(BUT ITS ALWAYS LIKE THIS THAT THE CLEVER LEARN MORE FROM THE STUPID THAN THE STUPID FROM THE CLEVER- WHO KNOWS WHY). AT THE END SHE JOINED MY STUPIDITY ACTS OTHERWISE I WOULD BEAT HER SO SHE WAS AFRAID OF ME.

I LIKED VERY MUCH ANIMALS AND THEY GOT FOR ME THE BEST FOOD I COULD FIND, I ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF INJURED ANIMALS, AND ESPECIALLY I LIKED MY BLACK DOG – BARKLEY, I ALWAYS USED TO PLAY FOR HIM WITH MY PIANO.

IN LAA AT THAT TIME THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE AIR, PEOPLE WERE NERVOUS, AND ONE EVENING THE SKY TURNED RED. AND THE OLD PEOPLE SAID IT'S GOING TO BRING A DISASTER (THAT'S HOW THE SKY WAS BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR).

THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE THEN IN THE RADIO AND HIS LAST WORDS WERE: "GOD FORBID AUSTRIA".

HITLER CAME INTO AUSTRIA, AND EVERYBODY WAS RAISING THEIR HAND SAYING "HAIL HITLER".

IT WAS A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, NOBODY KNEW WHAT IS NEXT. IT WAS FORBIDDEN FOR PEOPLE TO BUY IN OUR SHOP, AND IF THEY CAUGHT SOMEONE WHO DID THEY WOULD HANG ON IM A SIGN SAYS: "IM THE BIGGEST PIG, I BUY FROM JEWS".

THE STREETS WERE FULL OF JEWISH PEOPLE WHO WERE CLEANING THE STREETS BY RAGS, AND I CRIED WHEN I SAW WHAT THEY DID WITH MY PARENTS. PEOPLE AROUND WHERE JUST STANDING LAUGHING AND CLAPPING, MY FRIEND HEINZ DIDN'T COME TO ME ANY MORE. AND THEN I COULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE AND IT MADE ME VERY SAD.

SUDDENLY NO ONE SPOKE TO JEWISH PEOPLE, THEY STARTED TO SWEAR AND THROW STONES ON THEM.

IN NIGHT THE NAZIS WERE GETTING OUT ON THE STREETS AND SINGING "TODAY

GERMANY BELONGS TO US, TOMORROW THE HOLE WORLD WILL BELONG TO US”.



IN THE PICTURE: THE HOUSE IN LAA WHERE CAROLA GREW UP

ONE DAY, MY FATHER GOT A NOTE THAT WE HAVE TO LEAVE LAA IN THE NEXT 72 HOURS.

BECAUSE MY FATHER HAD A CZECH PASSPORT WE TRAVELED TO BRATISLAVA, PART OF OUR THINGS WE PACKED AND SENT IT THERE AND PART OF IT WE LEFT THERE IN LAA, WE HAD TO LEAVE ALL THE ANIMALS BEHIND. AND MY COUSIN GOT BACK TO HER PARENTS IN HUNGARY.

WE GOT TO A NICE VILLA THAT BELONGS TO THE FAMILY AND STAYED THERE FOR 3 WEEKS.

MY PARENTS SENT ME TO CZECH SCHOOL WHICH WAS VERY WEIRD FOR ME. THERE WE GOT GAS MASKS, AND THE WAR SIRENS STARTED TO WORK TILL HITLER CAME INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

MY FATHER DECIDED TO ESCAPE TO HIS PARENT’S HOUSE IN SOMORIA, WHERE HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS WERE, WE TOOK ALL OUR BELONGINGS THERE, I LIKED THIS HOME VERY MUCH. IT HAD A LOT OF CHICKENS, HORSES AND FRUIT TREES. THERE WERE 4 COUSINS OF MINE IN MY AGE SO I WAS NOT BORED, THEY WERE NICE TO ME, AND WE HAD A ROOM AND A KITCHEN. THIS TIME I WAS SENT TO AN HUNGARIAN SCHOOL.

MY FAMILY MADE IT LIVING BY ITS OWN SALES AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS.

MY ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED AND I BECAME A GOOD PUPIL. AT THE AGE OF 15 MY SCHOOL ENDED, I WANTED TO KEEP

STUDYING BUT MY PARENTS WANTED ME TO GO AND STUDY A PROFESSION.

I KEPT ON STUDYING FROM BOOKS, TILL MY MOTHER FOUND SEAMSTRESS WHO TEACHES KIDS HOW TO SEW IN HER SALOON LIKE IT BUT I HAD NO OTHER OPTION.

THE TEACHER AND THE OTHER KIDS WERE NICE TO ME EVEN THOUGH I WAS THE ONLY JEWISH KID THERE. A LOT OF RICH PEOPLE CAME TO THE SALOON SO WE GOT A LOT OF PRESENTS AND I MADE MYSELF A LOT OF NICE CLOTHES.

IN 1943 IT WAS BAD AGAIN WHEN HITLER CAME ALL THE WAY TO HUNGARY, IN SOMORIA BACK THEN THERE WERE 300 JEWISH FAMILIES. NIRENBERG RULES NOW WERE SET SO WE HAD TO WEAR THE YELLOW PATCH. ALL SYNAGOGUES AND JEWISH STORES WERE CLOSED AND THEY THROW ME OUT OF THE SALOON. I WAS 18 WHEN IT HAPPENED.

ALL THE YOUNG JEWISH PEOPLE WERE TAKEN TO WORK. FIRST I WORKED IN A PLANT NURSERY WHERE I WORKED 10 HOURS A DAY. I DIDN’T CARE OF WORK CAUSE I CAME EVERY EVENING HOME TO MY PARENTS. AFTER FOUR MONTHS THEY SENT ME TO WORK AT RICH PEOPLE HOUSE AND THEY LET ME SLEEP AT THE STABLE WITH THEIR HORSES. EVERY DAY I WORKED VERY HARD IN THEIR FIELD BUT THE OWNERS WERE VERY NICE TO ME AND I HAD ENOUGH FOOD.

IN 1943 I FINISHED MY WORK THERE AND GOT BACK TO MY PARENTS HOUSE. THEY WERE BROKEN ABOUT ALL WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME.

THEN WE GOT ANOTHER MASSAGE THAT SAID WE HAVE TO GIVE ALL OUR PROPERTY AND MONEY AND THEY TOOK ALL MY FAMILY TO GHETTO NOT SO FAR FROM SOMORIA. WE ALL STAYED IN ONE ROOM, 12 PEOPLE WE WERE SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR USING STRAW. WE ATE ALL WE HAD AND WE WERE TOLD WE ARE GOING TO BE SENT TO WORK SOON, BUT WE STAYED WHERE FOR TWO MONTHS AND MORE PEOPLE JOINED THE ROOM AND IT GOT CROWDED.

ONE DAY WE TOOK WITH US SOME BREAD WITH BUTTER AND 5 KG OF CLOTHES AND GOT INTO A BIG TRUCK THAT LEADED US TO A CONCENTRATION CAMP CALLED AUSCHWITZ. WHILE WE WERE BEATEN WITH A GREAT HELP OF THEIR DOGS. THERE WAS A WIRED FENCE AND A S.S SOLDIERS WERE WATCHING US. THERE WAS A SOLDIERS WE HAD TO GO THREW HIM AND HE PUSHED US WITH HIS HANDS- LEFT OR RIGHT. MY PARENTS, ANTS AND UNCLES WERE SENT TO THE RIGHT AND SENT ME TO THE LEFT. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WILL BE THE LAST TIME I SEE THEM ALL.

TWO COPS, WHO WORKED TOGETHER WITH THE NAZIS, CUT OUR HAIR AND STRIPPED US AND WE HAD TO GO TO THE SHOWER NAKED. BEFORE WE STEPPED INTO THE SHOWER THEY DROWNED A NUMBER ON OUR HANDS. EVERYONE GOT HIS OWN HOME SHOES AND CLOTHES AND THEY SENT US IN AT EXACTLY 17:00. LONG HOURS WE WERE STANDING AND WAITING. AFTER WE LISTED THEY TOLD US TO LIE DOWN ON THE FLOOR. OUR WORK IN THE CAMP WAS TO HAND STONES TO ONE ANOTHER, OUR HANDS WERE BLEEDING. WE DID IT 12 HOURS A DAY. FROM FAR WE SAW THE CREMATORIUMS AND WE ASKED THE POLISH JEWISH WHAT IS THAT SMOKE, THEY TOLD US THEY ARE BURNING THERE JEWS DAY AND NIGHT.

AGAIN WE WERE TAKEN TO ANOTHER PLACE BY TRUCKS, AND AFTER ONE HOUR THEY TOOK US OUT AND THERE WAS A TRAIN STATION. THERE WAS ONE WAGON THERE. IT WAS IN WINTER OF 1944; THEY AGAIN BEAT US AND THROW US INTO THE TRAIN. AFTER A WHILE WE GOT USED TO THE DARK, THERE WAS NO TOILET, ALL OUR NEEDS WE DID IN CANS, IF SOMEONE WANTED TO SLEEP HE HAD TO DO IT STANDING.

IN DAY THEY GAVE US SOMETHING TO DRINK AND THAT'S IT. WE TRAVELED SIX DAYS TILL WE ARRIVED.

THE DOORS WERE OPEN AND THEY SHOUTED "JEWS OUT!" THE DEATH PEOPLE WE LEFT ON THE TRAIN. WE PUT OUR STAFF IN A ROW AND WE LOOKED AND

SAW WE GOT TO A PLACE WERE IT WAS WRITTEN "WORK FREES". WE WERE TOLD WE GOT TO A PLACE CALLED BIRKENAU. WE WERE WAITING 10 HOURS TILL THEY TOOK US TO A PLACE WITH A LOT OF SOLDIERS, THIS CAMP WAS SURROUNDED WITH ELECTRIC FENCE, AND WE KNEW BY THE DEATH PEOPLE NEXT TO THE FENCE. AT NOON WE GOT A SOUP, IF WE HAD LUCKY IT HAD VEGETABLES IN IT. I CANT REALIZE I WE HANG ON THERE IN THE SNOW AND RAIN BUT THAT'S HOW WERE LIVING, WE ALWAYS WERE STANDING AND THEY COUNTED US. FROM THERE WE WERE TAKEN TO A PLACE NOT FAR AWAY CALLED PLASHOV- NOT FAR AWAY FROM AUSCHWITZ. THERE WE BUILT A NEW CABINS WE DID IT ALL. THERE WERE COPS WHO WERE STANDING A WATCHING US AND IF WE STOPPED THE BEAT US. I HAD MY PARENTS IN MY THOUGHTS SO IT GAVE ME THE STRENGTH TO KEEP LIVING. WE HAVE BEEN THERE FOR A MONTH TILL I WAS LUCKY I WAS CHOSEN TO BE A ONE OF 500 JEWS WHO WERE WAKEN FROM THERE TO WORK IN ANOTHER PLACE. AGAIN IT WAS BY TRAIN FOR 5 DAYS TILL WE GOT TO AUGSBURG IN GERMANY. THERE WE GOT A PEACE OF BREAD WITH A SAUSAGE. THAT WAS IN MAY 1945. THAT PLACE WAS A WEAPON FACTORY. ONE NAZI EXPLAINED US THE JOB AND WE WERE LUCKY TO HAVE A ROOF ABOVE OUR HEADS, WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TRIPLES BEDS WE SLEPT ON BAGS FULL OF STRAW AND WE HAD EVEN A BLANKET. THE COUNTED US ALL THE TIME. WE HAD TO GO AND CLEAN THE FIELD AFTER THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH BOMBINGS. THERE WERE A LOT OF BOMBINGS AND WE HAD TO CLEAN IT ALL. I WAS THINKING MAYBE THAT THE END OF WAR IS COMING SOON WHEN I SAW EVERYWHERE DOGS LOOKING FOR THEIR OWNERS. EVEN THE GERMANS STARTED TO HIDE POTATOES IN THE BASEMENT. THEN I GOT SICK AND THEY TOOK ME TO AN HOSPITAL WHERE THERE WERE A GOOD BEDS WITH WHITE SHITS. WHEN I RECOVERED I GOT BACK TO WORK. IN THE TOOL BOX I FOUND A PEACE OF BREAD RAPPED IN A NEWSPAPER. ONLY A GERMAN COULD HAVE DONE IT. IT

HAPPENED COUPLE OF TIMES; GERMANS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK WITH PRISONERS SO I JUST NODDED HIM. IN 1945 THEY TOOK US TO WORK OUTSIDE AND THEY LET US REMOVE POTATOES AND WE ATE THEM HOW THEY WERE. THEY COLLECTED ALL OF US ONE DAY AND TOLD US "THE WAR IS GOING TO BE OVER, WE ARE LOSING, BUT YOU ARE GOING TO LOOSE TOO- YOU ARE GOING TO DIE" WE WERE SCARED OF THOSE THINGS THEY SAID CAUSE WE BELIEVED THEM. IT WAS BEFORE PESACH, WE MADE OURSELVES OUR OWN SEDER WITH POTATOES AND EGGS. WE STARTED TO SEE AIRPLANES AND TANKS AND SUDDENLY WE HEARD "HURRY HURRY" AND THEY STARTED TO RUN. THEY PUT US INTO TRAINS AND WE TRAVELED FOR SIX YEARS THROUGH GERMANY. EVERYDAY THERE WAS SOMETHING NEW AND SCARY. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY CANS SO WE DID OUR NEEDS ON THE FLOOR; THE SICK PEOPLE WERE FULL OF NEEDS. THERE WAS NO WATER TO DRINK OR SHOWER. ON THE SECOND DAY THEY LET US THROW ALL THE DIRT AWAY AND ALSO TWO DEAD PEOPLE. ON THE FOURTH DAY OUR TRAIN WAS BOMBED AND THE NAZIS TOLD US TO TAKE OFF OUR PRISONER CLOTHES AND THEY THREW IT ON THE ROOF. ONE BOMB HIT THE LAST WAGON AND TILL THEY OPENED THE DOORS PEOPLE STARTED TO BURN. THERE WAS A BIG PANIC AND THE SOLDIERS DIDN'T WEAR ALREADY THEIR S.S UNIFORMS. WE GOT OUT OF THE TRAIN WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER AND WITH THREE MORE DEAD PEOPLE, WE HAD NO FAITH. ON THE SIXTH DAY THE TRAIN STOPPED AND THE DOORS WERE OPENED WE WERE HUNGRY TO DEATH THEN. AND THEN WE HEARD NOISES OF CARS AND IN FRONT OF US WE SAW BIG TANKS- AMERICAN TANKS. WE WENT OUT RAISED OUR HANDS, AND CRAWLED ON FOUR PARTS OF US WERE NAKED, THE AMERICANS THREW US SOME GUMS AND CHOCOLATES BUT WE COULDN'T EAT. IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE WE WERE FINALLY FREE AND THAT THE WAR IS OVER. I WAS REALLY A SKELETON, MY WEIGHT WAS 35 KG.

WE GOT TO A PLACE WHICH WAS BELONGED TO HITLER AND WE GOT THERE A S.S UNIFORM TO WEAR. WE ATE FLOUR PORRIDGE CAUSE WE COULDN'T EAT SOMETHING ELSE. IN THIS BASE WHICH WAS CALLED FELDHEFING I MET MY COUSIN. THE AMERICANS SET OUT TRIPS TO WHERE WE ASKED FOR. AND WE WENT TO PRAGUE, BRATISLAVA AND SOMORIA, OUR PLACE WAS TAKEN BY CHRISTIANS.



THE HOUSE IN SOMORIA, HUNGARY, NOWADAYS SLOVAKIA. THEY LET US STAY IN ONE ROOM AND WE TOOK ANOTHER FRIEND THERE TO STAY WITH US CAUSE SHE HAD NOWHERE TO STAY. I WAS BUSY IN SEARCHING FOR SOMEBODY WHO HEARD WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FAMILY, THE TIME HAD PASSED AND I UNDERSTOOD THAT MY PARENTS, Aunts AND UNCLES WERE ALL MURDERED IN AUSCHWITZ. WITH ALL I KNEW, I HAD TO FIND MYSELF, I WAS A LOST 20 YEARS OLD GIRL. I ONLY MET 4 OF MY COUSINS. WE ATE IN A KITCHEN WHICH WAS OPENED FOR US, THE GIRLS SEWED CLOTHES FOR

PEOPLE AND THE BOY MADE VODKA TO RUSSIANS. I WANTED TO GO TO LAA BUT I HAD NO MONEY FOR THAT, SIX MONTHS WE STAYED LIKE THAT.

IN BRATISLAVA, STARTED A PROPAGANDA ABOUT GOING TO PALESTINE. THEY ARRANGED GROUPS BY THEIR POLITICAL STANDS, MY FRIEND WENT TO BNEI AKIVA AND I WENT TO ASHOMER AZAHIR, WE LEFT THE HOUSE AND WENT FOR TRAINING, IT WAS A LOVELY TIME, I STARTED TO WORK AT A SEWING SALOON

AND AFTER WORK I STUDIED HEBREW, SOCIOLOGY AND MAKRSIMUS. THERE I FOUND A FRIEND WHO DID BEAUTIFUL THINGS OUT OF WOOD, AND OUR DREAM WAS TO GO TO PALESTINE.

ONE DAY THEY TOOK US TO BELGIUM WHERE THEY ARRANGED FOR US A WAITING PLACE FOR THE SHIP WHICH WILL TAKE US TO PALESTINE. IT TOOK SIX MONTHS FOR THE SHIP TO ARRIVE. ITS NAME WAS THEODOR HERZL, IT WAS VERY SIMPLE, CROWDED, AND WHEN IT WAS WAVY WE HAD TO USE BUCKETS TO TAKE THE WATER AND TO BALANCE THE SHIP BY OUR WEIGHT. SIX DAYS IT TOOK TILL PEOPLE STARTED TO SHOUT "PALESTINE IS ALMOST THERE" WE COLLECTED EMPTY BOTTLES AS A WEAPON AND WE FELT AS REAL FIGHTERS, ME AND MY FRIEND "SUNNY". WE WERE 50 PEOPLE ON THE SHIP, WE SAW THE COASTLINE AND FROM A BRITISH SHIP WE HAVE BEEN TOLD TO "SURRENDER OR WE WILL SHOOT". WE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT GIVING UP, SO WE THREW THE BOTTLES ON THEM AND THE BRITISH SOLDIERS STARTED TO SHOOT AT US, I TOOK A BULLET THAT GOT INTO MY FIRST LEG AND GOT OUT OF THE SECOND.



Wounded Girl of nineteen, survivor of infamous Belsen, lies in an improvised sick-bay. Bullets from boarding party's guns pierced legs. Twenty-seven were wounded; three died

A PICTURE OF CAROLA ON A NEWSPAPER, QUOTING: "WONDER GIRL OF NINETEEN, SURVIVOR OF INFAMOUS BELSEN, LIES IN AN IMPROVISED SICK-BAY. BULLETS FROM BOARDING PARTY'S GUNS PIERCED LEGS"

WE HAD TWO KILLED PEOPLE AND A LOT OF INJURIES. ALL OF THEM WERE TAKEN BY STRETCHERS TO ATLIT AND THE REST WENT ON TO CYPRUS. I WAS THEN ALONE IN NAZARETH AND I COULD ONLY WALK WITH CRUTCHES, WHEN I STARTED TO

RECOVER I MET A POLICEMAN NAMED ZVI AND HE STARTED TO ASK ABOUT ME, AND I STARTED TO CONNECT WITH HIM. SUNNY I FORGOT AFTERWARDS CAUSE I HAD A GREAT COMMUNICATION WITH ZVI, FINALLY I COULD WALK AND I FELT LUCKY. IN ATLIT I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING UTILITY SO I STARTED TO WORK IN A BABY'S PLACE I FEED THEM AND DIAPERED THEM. THE NURSE IN CHARGE TOLD ME IM VERY TALENTED IN WORKING WITH BABIES AND THAT I SHOULD LEARN IT. I CHERISHED HER WORDS AND AFTER SIX MONTHS I LEFT ATLIT TO PETAH TIKWA TO A PLACE CALLED BEIT HALUZOT WHERE I HAVE BEEN FOR SIX MONTHS IN THE MEAN TIME I WAS INVITED BY VITZO TEL AVIV TO COME AND STUDY NURSERY.

IN 1948 THEY PRONOUNCE ISRAEL AS A STATE, AND I DANCED ALL NIGHT LONG FROM HAPPINESS. I MOVED TO BEIT HALUZOT IN TEL AVIV, ZVI CAME TO VISIT ME AS MUCH AS HE COULD. WE WERE SEVEN GIRLS IN A ROOM WE WERE VERY HIGH MOTIVATED. STUDIES WERE GREAT BUT IT WAS HARD TO IRON THE SCHOOL'S UNIFORM. AFTER ONE AND A HALF YEARS I PASSED THE TESTS AND RIGHT AWAY GOT A JOB. IN 1949 WE GOT MARRIED AND MOVED TO NAZARETH, ZVI WORKED AS A POLICEMAN AND IM AS A NURSE AT THE HOSPITAL IN AFULA AND THERE OUR FIRST CHILD WAS BORN NAMED SIMON. THEN WE MOVED TO BEIT DAGON AND THERE OUR SECOND CHILD WAS BORN NAMED ARIE. WE LIVED IN A POLICE STATION AND AFTER SEVEN YEARS WE GOT OUR OWN APARTMENT IN RAMAT GAN. I ALWAYS KEPT TAKING COURSES. IN 1963 IN RAMAT GAN OUR YOUNGEST GIRL WAS BORN NAMED NIRA.

I WAS VERY BUSY AS AN HOUSEWIFE AND I TRIED NOT TO NEGLECT ANYTHING. IT WAS NOT EASY, MY GOAL WAS TO HEAL SICK CHILDREN, WITHOUT LOOKING AT THEIR COLOR OR WHERE THEY CAME FROM, BECAUSE EVERY MAN ON EARTH HAS THE RIGHT TO BE FREE.

THAT'S WHY I ASK GOD TO GIVE ME THE POWER TO CHANGE WHATEVER I CAN STILL CHANGE AND THE ABILITY TO DO THAT CHANGE.

MY COUSIN (FROM HUNGARY) IS LIVING RIGHT NOW IN ASHDOD, ISRAEL; SHE IS A MOTHER FOR THREE CHILDREN AND EIGHT GRANDCHILDREN. MY OTHER COUSINS WHO ALSO SURVIVED HAD ALSO THEIR FAMILIES. SUNNY LIVES IN A KIBBUTZ NAMED HASHOMER HAZAIR AND HE HAS ALSO A BIG FAMILY.

I LOST MY PARENTS, EIGHT Aunts AND UNCLES, TEN COUSINS AND MANY MORE I KNEW.

I HOPE IT WILL NEVER RETURN, AND THAT JEWISH PEOPLE WILL HAVE A GOOD LIFE HERE IN ISRAEL AND ALL OVER THE WORLD.

"KTO NIE PAMIĘTA HISTORII SKAZANY
JEST NA JEJ PONOWNE PRZEŻYCIE"

GEORGE SANTAYANA

"THE ONE WHO DOES NOT REMEMBER
HISTORY IS BOUND TO LIVE THROUGH IT
AGAIN"

GEORGE SANTAYANA

THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN IN AUSCHWITZ BY RAN ZUCKER

WAS WRITTEN IN MARCH 1994,
TRANSLATED IN NOVEMBER 2007
FROM GERMAN TO ENGLISH.