



Arlene Weiner

Arlene Weiner was born August 1, 1927 in Kishvarda, Hungary. She was one of five children born to Esther and Joseph Weiner. Arlene and her siblings were raised in a very religious home. They all attended Jewish schools until the schools were all closed by the Germans and the Hungarian government. Arlene only attended school through the 6th grade. By 1941, Arlene and all her siblings relocated to Budapest but her parents decided to stay in their home in Kishvarda. Every religious holiday one of the kids would take the train back home to celebrate with their parents. In May 1944, the youngest sibling went home. Kishvarda was occupied by the Germans by then. The town was

transported to Auschwitz. Budapest was also taken over and Arlene and her sister went into hiding with a wonderful Catholic woman whose family owned a fur factory. Arlene and her sister Irene were given false papers and had to wear a cross around their necks. They also had to learn prayers just in case they were stopped by the SS Gestapo. All five siblings survived the war including her sister who went to Auschwitz. Unfortunately, both of their parents were killed. Arlene and three of her siblings immigrated to the US in June 1946; one sibling went to Palestine (Israel.) Arlene and Stanley were introduced by a family friend, were married in 1953, and had twin daughters. Arlene and her siblings very rarely spoke of the horrors they endured. It was just easier for them to try to forget. Arlene passed away January 8, 2015. She was the last of her siblings to perish. She hardly ever spoke of her upbringing to her family.

Stanley Bernath

Stanley Bernath was born March 28, 1926 in small town in Romania called Caria. At the age of two, the family relocated to Oradea, Romania. Stanley, his parents Marton and Luiza, and his older brother lived in a very small home. Stanley's grandmother also lived with them. As a child, he attended Jewish day school until the Germans along with the Hungarian government closed all Jewish schools in 1939. His older brother Charles (9 years older) was sent to a work camp in 1941 and did not return until after the war in May 1945. Marton tragically lost his life in September 1929 while working for the railroad. His grandmother passed away in 1937. In June 1944, the family was forced into a ghetto in their hometown until July when they were all put in cattle cars and sent to Auschwitz concentration camp. Stanley ended up going to three other camps, doing hard labor, during his 10 months in captivity. He was finally liberated from Ebensee concentration camp in Austria on May 6, 1945. He weighed 68 pounds. His mother was liberated from Bergen Belsen in May 1945. The family was reunited back home in Oradea shortly after the war. Charles and Stanley left home and went to a Displaced Persons camp in Austria from which he was sent by ship to the United States in July 1946. Eight months after he arrived, Stanley decided to join the American army to give back to the country that adopted him. After basic training, he was sent to Frankfurt, Germany as part of the secret intelligence agency. After four years in the service, he came back to New York where he was introduced to his future wife Arlene. They married in January 1953 and had twin daughters. They settled in Cleveland, Ohio three years later where Stanley became an electrician. His brother Charles joined him in Cleveland with his family and Stanley and Charles became homebuilders. In his later years, Stanley began speaking all over the city about his experiences during the war. He also volunteered at the Jewish Home right up until his death on May 26, 2019. Also before his death, Stanley told his story and video interviews recorded by the USC Shoah Foundation. Today, visitors to the Maltz Museum in Cleveland can ask questions of a life-like hologram of Stanley.