

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plan

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| <p>MIDDLE SCHOOL Lesson Objectives Comparing & Contrasting two survivors:</p> <p>Alan Hall & Alex Gross</p> | <p>FL State Standards Correlations</p> |
| <p>Estimated time of the Lesson: Film clip 4 min. lesson 45 minutes for Middle School (6th - 8th grade)</p> | <p>SUBJECT: SOCIAL STUDIES</p> <p>Strand: SS.6.W World History</p> |
| <p>1. Students will be able to identify events of the Holocaust by listening to the accounts of two survivors of the Holocaust.</p> | <p>Standard 1: SS.6.W1: Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.</p> |
| <p>2. Students will identify the locations of the various places in which the Survivors mention in their accounts.</p> | <p>Strand: SS.8.G: Geography</p> <p>Standard 2: SS.8. G.2: Understand physical and cultural characteristics of places</p> |
| <p>3. Students will focus on their lives before they were taken prisoners and what the changes were after their capture.</p> <p>4. Students will compare the stories of the two survivors in terms of their lives before, during and after their capture.</p> | <p>SUBJECT: SOCIAL STUDIES</p> <p>Strand: SS.6.W World History</p> <p>Standard 1: SS.6.W1: Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.</p> |
| <p>5. Students will recognize that it is 75 years since the end of WWII.</p> | |
| <p>6. Students will be able to follow the journey of each of the survivors and recognize the different paths that they took.</p> | |
| <p>7. Students will understand the concept of what <i>Eli Wiesel</i> meant when he said, "Listening to a witness, makes you a witness."</p> | <p>Subject: ELA</p> <p>Strand LAFS.8.SL: Standards for Speaking & Listening</p> <p>Cluster 1 LAFS.8.SL.1: Comprehension & Collaboration</p> <p>Benchmark – LAFS.8.SL.1.3 Evaluate a speakers point of view, reasoning & use of evidence & rhetoric</p> |

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| <p>MATERIALS:</p> | |
| <p>Map of Europe that includes Czechoslovakia, Poland, Scotland & England, Hungary, France DVD Player, screen, Worksheets</p> | |
| <p>SUGGESTED PROCEDURES</p> | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worksheets will be distributed to all students. 2. Students will be asked to take notes and fill in sections of the worksheets that are pertinent during the presentation. 3. Students will view 4-minute clip: <i>"The World Before"</i> https://holocaustmemorialmiamibeach.org/journey/en/pa nel/the-world-before.html 4. Two Designated students will read the accounts of the survivors indicated above (Gross & Hall) 5. Students will use worksheets to take notes based upon the presentations. 6. Using a map of Europe teacher asks students to identify where all of the countries are that the Survivors addressed. 7. Teacher asks students to indicate vocabulary that they didn't understand | <p>Strand: SS.6.G: Geography Standard 1: SS.6G.1 Understand how to use maps and other geographic representations tools and technology to report information. Subject: ELA Strand: LAFS.8.RI: Reading Standards for Informational Text – Cluster 2 LAFS.RI.2: Craft & Structure Benchmark: LAFS.RI.2.4 Determine the meaning of words & phrases as they are used in a text, including figuration, connotation and technical meanings; analyze the connotation's impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. Standard LAFS.68.WHST: Writing standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies/Science/ & Technical Subjects. Cluster 1 LAFS.68.WHST.1: Text Types & Purposes Benchmarks: LAFS.68.WHST.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes. ...</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Teacher poses questions for students to respond: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Name two attribute of Gross and two of Hall that helped them to survive (from your worksheets). Be specific referring to their biographies. b. What emotions do you sense from the passages read? c. What might have been some of the feelings of isolation and imprisonment that Hall & Gross felt? | <p>Subject : ELA Strand : LAFS.68.WHST Cluster 3.LAFS.68.WHST.3 : Research to build and present knowledge Benchmark: LAFS.68.WHST.3.9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection and research.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. What are some of the similarities of the two survivors in growing up, before the war came? What are some of the marked differences of this time that you note? e. Between Hall & Gross, which one do you think might have suffered the most? Be specific. f. Gross was 11 and Hall was 8 when the war started. How did their difference in age impact on how they survived their experiences? g. How does Alex Gross survive the dangers posed by the camps, the Nazis, other prisoners? h. How does Alan Hall survive the dangers posed by the camps, the Nazis, other prisoners? i. Cite at least 2 examples of survival in each account. Why are they so important? What might have happened if they made a mistake? | |
| CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher Venn Diagram and teams up students in twos/threes and instructs students to compare and contrast the various aspects of the Survivors’ testimonies on a Venn Diagram. 2. Students called upon to share various elements of their Venn Diagram. 3. Teacher introduces Eli Wiesel’s premise “<i>Listening to a witness, makes you a witness.</i>” Ask students to explain the phrase. 4. Teacher has students write a thought that they would like to share with either survivor, incorporating Eli Weisel’s theme. 5. OR if time doesn’t permit for #11 assign as follows: HW assignment (optional): Teacher invites students to write a letter to one of the two Survivors sharing how they received his story and their perspective on his survival. | <p>Subject: ELA</p> <p>Strand LAFS.8.SL: Standards for Speaking & Listening</p> <p>Cluster 1 LAFS8.SL.1: Comprehension & Collaboration</p> <p>Benchmark – LAFS.8.SL.1.3 Evaluate a speakers point of view, reasoning & use of evidence & rhetoric</p> <p>Strand: LAFS.8.RI: Reading Standards for Informational Text</p> <p>Cluster 2 LAFS.RI.2: Craft & Structure</p> <p>Benchmark: LAFS.8.RI.2.4 Determine the meaning of words & phrases as they are used in a text, including figuration, connotation and technical meanings; analyze the connotation’s impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.</p> |

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| <p>Wrap Up Experiences varied for people in camps depending on a number of factors. The stories of the two people that we examined today are just two of many different experiences. How did these survivors maintain a sense of hope and humanity? Give two examples from today’s lesson.</p> | <p>Subject: Social Studies</p> <p>Strand SS.6.W: World History</p> <p>Standard 1 SS.6.W.1: Utilize historical inquiry skills & analytical processes.</p> |
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| Survivor | NAME: | NAME: |
| Birthplace | | |
| <p>Type of pre-H childhood:</p> <p>Describe type of life survivor had before s/he was captured – school, family, religiosity, activities</p> | | |
| <p>Age during Holocaust</p> | | |
| <p>Camps/Situation</p> <p>Describe the types of situations in</p> | | |

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| <p>which the Survivor found him/herself</p> <p>Camps, hiding, escape</p> | | |
| <p>Worst part of his/her account</p> | | |
| <p>Best part of his/her account during the Holocaust</p> | | |
| <p>Post Holocaust life: Describe the</p> | | |

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| <p>Survivor's life after s/he was liberated.</p> | | |
| <p>USA/CANADA: Describe how they ended up coming to America</p> | | |
| <p>75 years later: Describe the survivor's perspective celebrating these many years since the war.</p> | | |

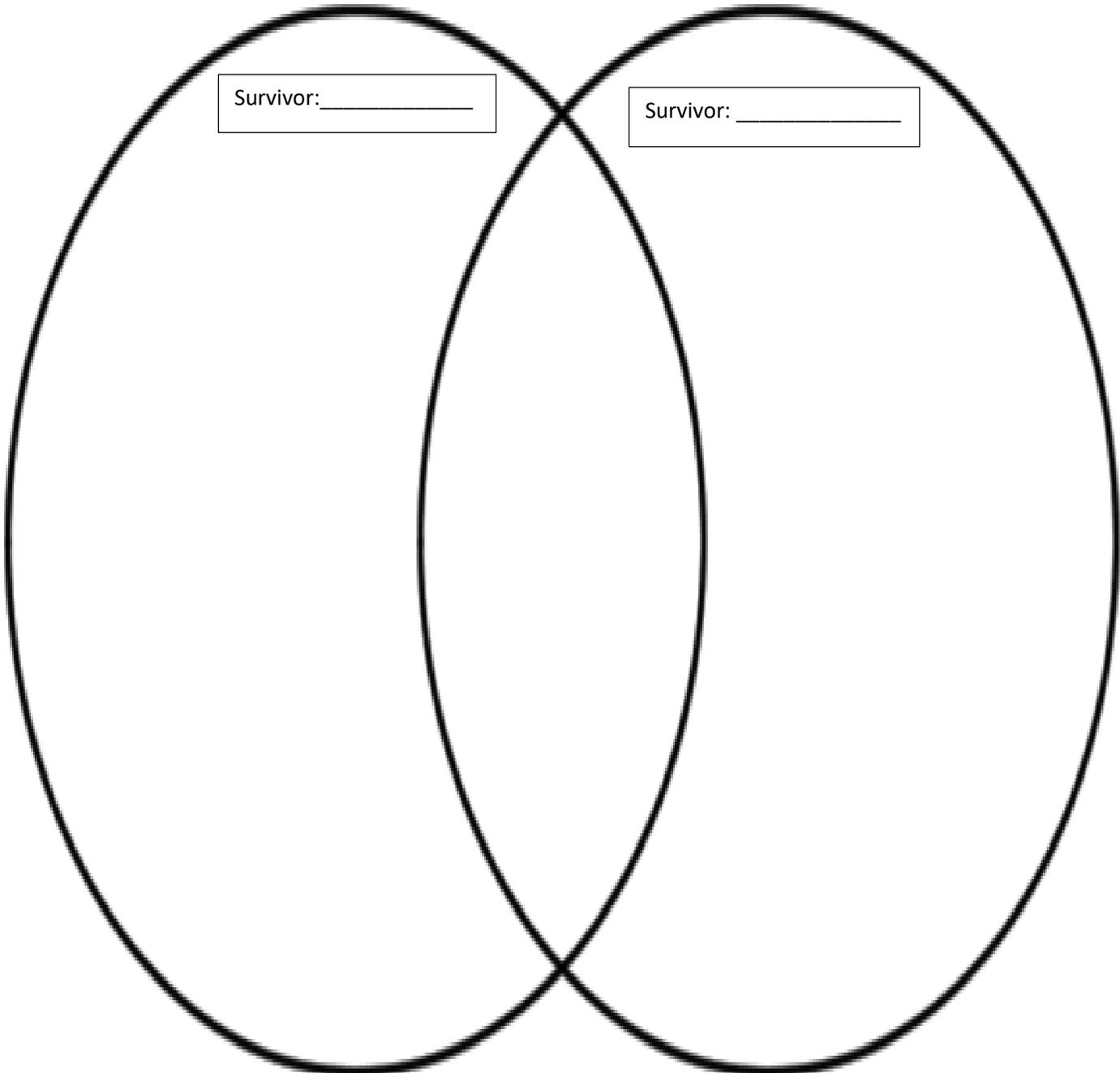
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Survivor: _____

Survivor: _____



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| Survivor | Allan J. Hall [From his book - <i>Hiding in Plain Sight: Allan J. Hall's Memoir of Surviving the Holocaust</i> as told to Bobbi Kaufman and summarized for this lesson by R' Dr. Leon Weissberg |
| Location | Cracow, Poland to Lvov, Poland, Paris, France, USA |
| Type of pre-H childhood | We were an upper middle class, secular Jewish family. At first we didn't encounter any really antisemitic attacks, but as the Germans entered Poland, the propaganda was so significant that our friends and neighbors began to turn on us. My best friend's mother called me a "dirty Jew" and forbid me to play with her child any longer. |
| Age during Holocaust | I was 8 when the war began and 12 years old when I was finally freed. |
| Camps/Situation | Much of my life during the war was running from one hiding place to another all over the region. I was hidden throughout the war in various locations |
| During the Holocaust Situation | I spent my childhood hiding from the Nazis. We would take walks on back-wood trails, travelling from place to place in order to avoid being seen. On our first trip I slept outdoors until we reached Lvov. There we stayed and all was good until the Germans arrived – then I was not permitted to go to school and we had to be relocated to the ghetto where we lived with 2 other families in one apartment. There was an action to gather up all of the Jewish children. I was picked up in that gathering and my father bought my freedom with gold & jewels that he had brought with him. In order to avoid this happening again we left our apartment in the ghetto and went into hiding in the ceiling of the theater where my father worked. During this time we never used a toilet only a chamber pot on a potty chair. After a few days we were spotted and had to find a new hiding place – in the basement of a production factory. After two months and two more families hiding with us, we moved out |

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| | <p>(Nov 1941). Father got us false papers indicating that we were Christian and then he got a “nose job” for himself in order to look Christian with a small Aryan nose. Then he dyed his hair blond and passed as an Austrian among the Germans. We then moved to Czestochowa, the epicenter of Catholic Poland. We kept moving from rental rooms to rental rooms as one landlord after another became suspicious.</p> <p>After a few months we left for Warsaw. While father was out, Germans came to our new Warsaw apartment and questioned our Christian papers because we looked Jewish – The Nazis sent us to Umslagplatz (the gathering station by the railroad terminal where Jews from the Warsaw ghetto would be sent to the Treblinka death camp).</p> <p>I was separated from my mother and sent into Warsaw ghetto into an orphanage. A Christian Pole came to get me and bring me to my parents but I had to pose as a Polish child.</p> <p>Not wanting to stay in the Warsaw Ghetto, my family moved on, passing as Poles to the tallest skyscraper in Poland, the Drapacz which was the epicenter of the German presence. Father created a fictitious furnishing supply company to the German Army. During the day mother and I hid in a closet for ten hours every day. Father foraged for food daily.</p> <p>One day when my father was out a German air raid warden found us hiding during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and moved us to hide in the basement and not the closet on the 13th floor. After an unexploded bomb was discovered in the basement we immediately left for another hiding place in Warsaw. We eluded sniper fire as we crossed Warsaw to a hiding place of the Polish underground. Towards the end of 1944 my mother gave birth to a baby boy. Father got them on a transport for sick Poles leaving the city as the Germans were bombing every building and killing as many Poles as they could. We somehow ended up in Crakow. The Soviets finally entered Crakow and liberated the city from the Germans. Everyone celebrated and we could go back to our original beautiful apartment. Our family made a lot of changes after the war.</p> |
| <p>Post Holocaust life</p> | <p>My parents decided we would stay in Poland and the family turned Catholic for a while. Father became deputy in the new Polish Gov’t ministry of the Treasury. Mother decided it wasn’t safe to be Jewish so they pronounced themselves Catholic so I could go to the only available schools –Catholic schools. We went to church on every Sunday making certain that the people would see us there. One day my grandmother, my father’s mother, showed up after being hidden in the Polish mountains by her maid. She also indicated that her daughter was safe in Argentina. Grandmother was terribly upset to discover we were Catholic. She said that by</p> |

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| | <p>doing that they had allowed Hitler to win. Father immediately said we were going back to being Jewish.</p> <p>Father was arrested by the Russians for allegedly being an anti-communist and mother took all of us to escape. She put me and my baby brother with a cousin on a transport to Palestine via Trieste. In order to get there we went from Displaced Persons (DP) camp to DP camp through Austria and Italy.</p> <p>Eventually my parents found us in Baden; my brother was in the hospital with measles. As soon as possible my parents took us to Paris with my father's diplomatic passport, which had been repealed but without computers, no one knew that. They ended up getting a trip to London and then a flight to USA.</p> |
| <p>USA/Canda</p> | <p>My Uncle Henry thought my birth name, Adam, was not an American name and suggested I change it to Alan. I instantly adopted that name but I didn't know how to spell it, so I became Allan. The wife of Newburgh's reform temple's rabbi, came to our house several days a week to teach me English. I very much wanted to fit in in America and to do that I had to lose my Polish accent. I listened so intently to Mrs. Bloom's accent that I eventually could mimic her voice. I still have a trace of her South Carolina accent.</p> <p>We lived in Uncle Nat's summer home for about a year and a half until we saved enough money to move to an apartment - the first place of our own in America. The neighborhood may have been nice at one time, but when we moved there it was seedy and nearly abandoned. Mother and father started their own business after learning the trade of being a seamstress and tailor.</p> <p>In 1949, after a number of visits with lawyers and assurances from my uncles, my parents were finally persuaded to visit the authorities. Naturalization was a five year process. We would become eligible for citizenship in 1954, seven years after our arrival - the first two years didn't count because we were not legal.</p> <p>By the end of ninth grade I was doing well in school, making dean's list and being inducted into the National Honor Society</p> <p>In the winter of 1951, my uncle invited my parents to join him on vacation to Miami Beach. They fell in love with it and decided we would move there and open a store selling bric-a-brac</p> |

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and antique jewelry. They wanted to drop the drapery and slipcover business because carrying the heavy bolts of fabric to peoples' homes was too physically demanding for Dad.

In June 1952, my father and I drove to Miami Beach looking for a store and an apartment to rent. On that trip we discovered that my father was color blind when he sped through red lights having no idea, they were red and scaring me half to death!

Our plan was to move to Miami Beach in August and prepare our store for the winter tourist season. One night my parents said to me, "We cannot leave the business right now. We need you to take the train to Miami, on your own, and set up the store while we finish up here." I was sixteen years old - it sounded like an adventure.

I took the Silver Meteor to Miami and moved into our apartment. Soon, shelving and merchandise for the store began arriving. I assembled the shelving and set up the displays. Customers walked in through the open doors of the un-air-conditioned store and began buying. At last I had some money.

In 1954, I graduated from high school as Allan Horski. Horski was the name my father chose at random as our last name during the war. He could not use the Jewish name Horowitz as long as we were in Poland and we did not want to use it now either. Anti-Semitism was common in the United States after World War II. We despised the name Horski and wanted to change it. We were looking for an H name when I found the name Hall in the Miami Beach phone book. It was the most common name starting with the letter H.

That summer we became American citizens. Our first two years in America were spent virtually in hiding. We were so petrified, so frightened of being sent back, that we went back to our old mode of hiding in plain sight and never applied at immigration.

I graduated high school, had my name changed, became a citizen, and began college all in the same summer. I had been admitted to the University of Florida as Allan Horski. I had a difficult time convincing the University of Florida that Allan Horski and Allan Hall were one and the same person.

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| | <p>While at the University of Florida I met, fell in love with and married Jeri Horowitz. We had two daughters - Lisa and Julie. Jeri and I divorced after 21 years, but maintain a cooperative relationship on all family matters.</p> <p>I had taken one law course in college and liked it, so I thought maybe I'll try law school. I sold my business, took the LSAT, did well, applied to the University of Florida law school, and was accepted all within three months. I graduated; I accepted a job in Atlanta. I practiced transactional law in Atlanta for 20 years - from 1966 to 1988. My last 17 years were utterly delightful. I was teaching at Southern Polytechnic State University (Now merged into Kennesaw State University just outside of Atlanta.)</p> <p>Andy, my brother, also joined a law firm in Atlanta after graduation, but soon moved to Miami.</p> |
| 75 years later | <p>I no longer keep my experience in the Holocaust private. As survivors aged and fewer and fewer of them were able to speak publicly and the demand for speakers increased, I began to speak. I am a docent and regular speaker at the Holocaust Memorial on Miami Beach. When people ask how, as such a young child, I knew and understood so many details of our hiding, I reply, "We were in quarters where my parents had no privacy. I knew what was going on - even when they shifted from language to language, I understood. Also, when you are that frightened, you remember everything." My mother never spoke about the Holocaust, my father never stopped talking about it. Most of what I know is a combination of listening to him and my personal experience.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that as of today I am 82 years old, in good health, and very active. After a traumatic beginning, life has been good to me. Life in the United States, though it was not always perfect, has been wonderful and well beyond anything I might have expected. It is my hope that this book will continue to tell my story of survival and resilience after I no longer can</p> |

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| Survivor | <p>ALEX GROSS - <i>Yankele: A Holocaust Survivor's Bittersweet Memoir</i> as told to Bobbi Kaufman and summarized for this lesson by R' Dr. Leon Weissberg</p> |
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| Location | <p>Polanok, Czechoslovakia – annexed to Hungary then conquered by Germany.</p> <p>Transport: Birkenau (Auschwitz II), Buna/Monowitz (Auschwitz III), Gleiwitz, Buchenwald</p> |
| Type of Pre-Holocaust childhood | <p>We were a poor family. We lived in a mud brick house with no indoor plumbing and no electricity. The children bathed in the river. All of father’s workers (7-10) slept in the same house with family. I was one of 7 siblings.</p> |
| Age during Holocaust | <p>I was born on September 18, 1928. I was 11 when the war started and 15 years old when I was liberated</p> |
| Pre-Holocaust Situation | <p>I grew up in a Czechoslovakian democracy, where every ethnic group enjoyed equal status. Most of my relatives emigrated to USA but my father didn’t want to leave his business. I Went to public school where several age groups were bunched together in a small building. We lived with 50 Jewish families in the village in an orthodox setting. I sang in the synagogue choir and played the mandolin.</p> <p>Once Germany annexed Hungary, Jews had no way to leave the area. Even Jews with money and visas to go to America were not allowed to cross over any fascist-controlled countries to board a train or ship. Most of my Hungarian, German and Schwabish neighbors and friends became hateful, inhumane killers. My brothers and father were all required to report for military labor. When I turned 11, the Hungarian militia ordered all boys 11+ to report for military training except for Jewish boys. They were to report for labor; digging ditches, sweeping streets and cleaning latrines. This was standard life in Hungary even before the Germans came. Nothing much happened to us when the war broke out.</p> |
| Holocaust Experience | <p>By the end of 1942, we began to fear for our lives. Coming back from Hebrew school 10 Hitler Youth pushed me and my brother into a ditch. We climbed out and managed to get some stones and started bashing them and ran away leaving them bleeding.</p> <p>Fearing that they would come after us, we ran away to our aunt & uncle’s home in another town. At 14 I went to Budapest and got a job as a plumber’s apprentice.</p> |

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I also applied and got a position in the boys' choir at the world's second largest synagogue, The Dohany Synagogue, because I could sing in Yiddish. After a year I went back to my home village. On the first day of Passover April 1944, all Jews in Polanok were notified to assemble with whatever possessions they could carry in one suitcase. Hungarian police pounded on our door the next morning forcing us to the ghetto. I was 15.

The ghetto was an old brick factory without rooms, toilets or even a roof. The only food was what father and mother brought from home. Father claimed a filthy brick baking oven as a shelter, 8' wide, 5' high and 30' long. We, a family of 9 plus uncles, aunts and cousins were all cramped together in that space.

We were in the ghetto for 6-8 weeks doing senseless work of moving bricks from one side of the building to the other repeatedly by hand causing constant bleeding. Many of the guards were former neighbors and "friends."

Finally, we were transported in a cattle car under horrendous conditions of 80-100 people where no one could sit nor turn but just stand erect during the trip. People urinated in their clothes, threw up and defecated. The stench was horrific. During this ordeal, father forced me to promise to stay alive. We arrived at Birkenau and were immediately separated from one another. I was told by one of the prisoners unloading the train to say I am 18 when asked. We were told to strip and reviewed if we were fit enough to work. Then we bathed in an ice cold shower without soap or towels. I was tattooed with # A-9018. Periodically, I would see my brother on another line and my mother behind a barbed wire fence. I was beaten repeatedly for trying to talk to my brother & mother.

In Buna (Auschwitz III) I was assigned a barrack & work detail. The barracks were uninsulated, beds were rough wooden boards with 6 or 7 people in each bed that was 6' wide. In a corner of the barrack there was one bucket to be used to relieve yourself.

I was assigned to work in the I.G.Farben factory constructing 30' high fire walls to protect the warehouse from bombing. We worked 18-hour days digging ditches, lifting heavy building blocks, hauling steel & rocks.

Eli Wiesel was with me in Buna. We became strong friends from the camp.

One night we returned from work and were ordered to line up in columns of 5 and were marched out of the camp into the cold December night. Anyone who collapsed

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| | <p>would be instantly shot. Only 8,000 of the 50,000 that left the camp survived this march to Gleiwitz, a prison camp that had food and shelter. The next morning, we were put into a roofless, icy-cold metal coal carrier box car. When the train moved it caused the wind to bring the temperature to below zero. After travelling for 5 days without food or water, the train finally stopped in Buchenwald. Of the 120 who were packed in the car only 8 of us arrived alive. I discovered my two brothers Sam & Bill and we organized ourselves to be in the same barrack. We were able to survive the next few weeks because we were together and constantly supported one another. As the allies approached, I became excited and carried on as if we were already free and was shot by a guard and left for dead.</p> |
| <p>Post-Holocaust Life</p> | <p>I had passed out and awoke 2 days later with the allies in the camp. When I awoke the first face I saw was a black face of an American soldier. After I recuperated and had regained my strength I returned to Czechoslovakia with my brothers. The 3 of us searched all over for our parents and other siblings. Within weeks we learned that our siblings were alive and that our half-brother had died of typhoid the day of liberation.</p> <p>After the reunion and a cousin's wedding, Russia closed the border and I was just able to escape to Vienna. The rest of the family was trapped in Prague. After being ill, I recuperated and found a job with a company that manufactured transformers.</p> <p>The British Jewish Welfare Agency arranged to fly surviving orphans to the British Isles. The siblings were separated from us and my sister and I went to Edinburgh. We met a distant cousin who owned a meatpacking house in Scotland who had come from his village. I was then relocated to an orphanage in England with my sister. There we connected with a couple who treated us like their children. We ended up calling them Mom & Dad.</p> |
| <p>USA/Canada</p> | <p>Eventually we got a visa to immigrate to the USA. We arrived in America on December 16, 1949. Just to see the Statue of Liberty, just to see the shores of America, was truly the miracle of all miracles. As we prepared to disembark in New York, I felt like an infant being reborn. As I walked down the plank and my feet touch the ground, I went down on my hands and knees and cried, prayed, and kissed the American soil.</p> |

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| | <p>We went to Ellwood City, PA where my brothers Ben & Bill lived. My other brother Bernie & his wife lived nearby and my sister Rosalyn lived about 100 miles away. In 1951, during the Korean War, I joined the army and was assigned to work in Intelligence because of my multi-lingual skills. After the army I went into business constructing and selling houses.</p> <p>Eventually I got married and had four children.</p> |
| | <p>How do I keep going? I try to make a life with my family. I find a lot of satisfaction in helping others. I have been very active in many organizations. I find if I could help one kid, from any religion or background, I feel as if I helped the whole world. I want children to see that there are good people in this world. If we can expose children to good people, maybe future generations will have a better life. I have friends all over the world. I travel a great deal to be with my friends and family.</p> <p>Even with all I've been through, I feel that my life has been blessed.</p> |