

SAM BOYMEL

Samuel Boymel was born on May 5, 1925, in Turszyzk, Poland. Samuel led a comfortable life with his extended family in what had been a close-knit Jewish community until 1941, when the Nazis arrived, and the family woke to find that their beloved neighborhood had become a Jewish ghetto.

In 1942, Jews in the ghetto were rounded up by the Nazis to be executed at a nearby factory. Samuel escaped this fate by running into the Rostov Forest after his mother turned to him and said, "Run, my child, run." Samuel ran to the nearby home of Petrivna (Petro) Tokarsky, a local farmer and friend who helped the family survive in the ghetto. Petrivna sheltered Samuel and led him to nearby group of **partisans** (body of fighters who attack or harass the enemy).

LUSIA HORNSTEIN

Dr. Lusia Hornstein was born Lija Schwarzwald on December 24th, 1925 in Lwow, Poland. Her father, Norbert Schwarzwald, was a businessman and Lusia and her two brothers grew up with a close-knit family of relatives in Lwow.

Lusia became aware of what was happening to Jews in Europe in 1936. Her mother thought that they should leave Poland for Palestine, but Lusia's father did not agree. Lusia can recall the invasions of both the Russian and German armies in Lwow. Her older brother was arrested and killed after the German invasion in 1941, though her family was led to believe he was still alive for some time. Her father later died in 1942 of typhus while in a forced labor camp. Later that year Lusia, her mother, and her younger brother were forced to move into the Lwow ghetto. Food was so scarce inside that Lusia would hide food under her clothes to bring back for her family. In 1943 Lusia's mother was pulled off the street for one of the selections. Afterwards, Lusia arranged for travel to Warsaw, where she had cousins hiding under false papers. Her younger brother was arrested and killed before he could join her.

In Warsaw, Lusia hid with false papers under the name Marja Ładzeńska. While moving around Warsaw to stay hidden Lusia and her cousins rented an apartment from a Polish couple who encouraged them to join the Polish underground resistance. Lusia and her cousins fought in the Warsaw uprising just before the Russians took over the city. Afterwards, as they were marched out of the city by the German army, Lusia and her cousins escaped to the town of Okecie, where they worked on a German Airforce base, still under false papers, until they were liberated by the Russian Army.

BELLA OUZIEL

Bella Ouziel (nee Benuzio) was born on July 14th, 1925, in Salonika, Greece where she lived a comfortable life with her step-mother Riketa, father Avraham, and her three siblings Esther, Levi, and Sylvia. Life changed for Bella and her family when the German army invaded her home country of Greece in 1941. Neighbors and friends quickly turned their backs as the Jews of

Salonika were forced into the Baron Hirsch Ghetto in April 1943, before being sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland on April 10th, 1943. Upon arrival, Bella and her sister, Sylvia, were separated from everyone in her family. Only Bella and Sylvia survived the selection. They soon learned that their family had been murdered in the gas chamber. The sisters clung to one another for support; however, Sylvia refused to eat the meager camp food and died, leaving Bella to fend for herself. Bella was transferred to the main camp of Auschwitz in the winter of 1944, where she was put to work sewing German uniforms. In January 1945, Bella and other prisoners were forced on a death march to Bergen-Belsen, a concentration camp in Germany. Bergen-Belsen was liberated by the British on April 15, 1945. After the war, Bergen-Belsen became a displaced persons camp and this is where Bella met her husband, fellow Holocaust survivor, Sam. They immigrated to the United States in 1951 and resided in Cincinnati, Ohio.

ROMA KALTMAN

Roma Kaltman Born May 4, 1926, Lodz, Poland. Roma was the youngest daughter of Oskar and Perla Nowak, she had three brothers Heniek, Shymon, and Yehuda, and an older sister Rozalia. Her father was in the textile business with her grandfather.

The German army occupied Lodz on September 1, 1939, and things changed very rapidly for Roma. The German people living in her neighborhood began hanging Nazi flags, and she could no longer go to school. They were forced to wear yellow arm bands and do degrading work. In February of 1940, the ghetto was established, and Roma and her family were forced to leave their home and move to the southern side of the city. Roma's mother died soon after they arrived in the ghetto leaving Roma, her three brothers and her sister on their own. The ghetto was a horrible place where disease and hunger were constant. Roma met her future husband, Sam, in the ghetto where they traded books with one another.

In August of 1944, Roma and Rozalia were deported from Lodz and sent to Auschwitz. In Auschwitz, they saved their friend Danka from throwing herself on the barbed wire and took her in as a sister, remaining together until the end of the war. After a short time, they were sent on to Stutthof concentration camp. Escaping a Nazi death march towards Puck, Poland, Roma and her sister found refuge in a nearby hospital.