

Biography

Dezső Kövesdi (1912 – 1986) was born in Austro-Hungary, Croatia, where his father was a railway employee. After WWI, his family moved back to Kaposvár, Hungary. In 1931 he overcame restrictive “*numerus clausus*” laws and gained admission to the Technical University in Budapest. He graduated in 1936 as an electro- and mechanical engineer. However, he had to work in low-level manual jobs due to anti-Jewish laws. Katalin Káldori (1919-1990) came from a liberal Jewish family in Budapest. Her father was the manager of a large paper and chemical factory. Dezső and Katalin married in 1939. In 1942 Dezső was conscripted into labor service, where he survived three years of forced labor under brutal conditions on the Eastern Front. Unbeknown to him, in July 1944, his entire family was deported to Auschwitz and murdered. In October 1944, Katalin and her sister Ágnes escaped from Budapest and survived as farm workers pretending to be Christian refugees from Transylvania.

In 1945 Dezső and Katalin reunited. Katalin gave birth to their son Imre in 1946 in a UNRRA DP lager in Austria. Their daughter Rozsa was born in 1949 in Budapest. Katalin’s immediate family, her sister, and parents survived the Holocaust and immigrated to Palestine / Israel. The communist takeover in Hungary made it impossible for the Kövesdi family to follow. They had no other choice but to start a new life in Hungary. Dezső became the chief engineer of the Hungarian telephone factory, but in 1957 he was blacklisted due to his role during the 1956 revolution. At age 45, he had to learn a new career to support his family. Against all odds, he eventually became a successful patent attorney.

This film is a testament to our parents’ resilience, strength, and capacity to love and laugh even under difficult circumstances.

Imre and Rozsa Kovesdi