

**BERKOWICZ FAMILY PAPERS, 1939-1948**  
**2006.513.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Berkowicz family papers

Dates: 1939-1948

Accession number: 2006.513.1

Creator: Berkowicz family (Warsaw :Poland)

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,  
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The collection contains correspondence documenting the Berkowicz family's experiences during the Holocaust. Included is correspondence to Bina Tac Berkowicz after her immigration to the United States from her sister Faiga Tac Bursztyn in the Warsaw ghetto; letters from family members in Slonim, Belarus; correspondence from Bernard Berkowicz's brothers who were refugees in New Zealand; and letters enquiring about the whereabouts of various family members. Also included is the passenger list of the *M.S. Piłsudski*, the ship Bina, Bernard, and their daughter Barbara sailed on from Poland to the United States.

Languages: Polish, Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, English

**Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Berkowicz family papers (2006.513.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Barbara Berkowicz Soloway in 2006.

Related archival materials: The donor also donated 34 issues spanning June-September 1939 of the Polish newspaper *Nasz Przegląd*.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](http://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Adam Fielding, October 2016

### **Biographical note**

Barbara Berkowicz (1930-2015; nicknamed Basia; later Barbara Berkowicz Soloway) was born in Sierpc, Poland on 2 December 1930. She and her sister Rivka were the only children of Chaim Ber Bernard Berkowicz (b.1890, referred to as Bernard) and Bina Tac Berkowicz (b. 1899, often referred to as Bronka). Bernard had one sister, Helena, and at least four brothers: David, Szlomo, Jozef, and Leon. The brothers all co-owned a fish canning factory in Warsaw, Poland. Bina was the daughter of Szmuel and Sara (née Graubart) Tac. She had three siblings: Faiga Tac Bursztyn; Mania Tac Hochenberg, who was married to Moniek Hochenberg and they had one son, Szymonek; and Marek Tac. Her parents owned a sewing supplies store, and they and her siblings all lived in Sierpc. Bina graduated from dental school in Warsaw, where she met Bernard, and they married in 1929.

In the spring of 1939 Bernard Berkowicz, who anticipated that Germany would invade Poland, obtained a merchant's visa to the United States to attend the World Fair in New York. He was able to get tourist visas for his wife and daughter as well. On 7 June 1939, Basia and her parents sailed from the port of Gdynia on the *M.S. Piłsudski* for New York. Bernard's four brothers and their families were all able to leave Poland and Russia with Japanese transit visas obtained through the Japanese consul, Chiune Sugihara, in Kaunas, Lithuania as part of his effort to aid Jewish refugees. They found refuge in New Zealand and later came to the United States. Bina's brother Marek fled Poland to Slonim, Belarus, which was under Soviet administration at that time, but he and his family were killed by the Germans after June 1941. Bina's father and two sisters, Fajga and Mania, perished in the Warsaw ghetto. They corresponded with Bina until December 1941, when the contact stopped.

Barbara Berkowicz married Albert Soloway on 29 November 1953, and they settled in Columbus, Ohio. They have three children: Madeleine (b. 1954), Paul (b. 1958) and Renee (b. 1963).

### **Scope and content of collection**

The collection contains correspondence documenting the Berkowicz family's experiences during the Holocaust. Included is correspondence to Bina Tac Berkowicz after her immigration to the United States from her sister Faiga Tac Bursztyn in the Warsaw ghetto; letters from family members in Slonim, Belarus; correspondence from Bernard Berkowicz's brothers who were refugees in New Zealand; and letters enquiring about the whereabouts of various family members. Also included is the passenger list of the *M.S. Piłsudski*, the ship Bina, Bernard, and their daughter Barbara sailed on from Poland to the United States.

### **System of arrangement**

The collection is arranged as one series. All of the correspondence are letters received unless otherwise noted.

### **Indexing terms**

**Person:**

Berkowicz, Bernard, 1890-  
Berkowicz, Bina Tac, 1899-  
Soloway, Barbara Berkowicz, 1930-2015.  
Berkowicz, Leon.  
Berkowicz, Szlomo.  
Berkowicz, David.  
Bursztyn, Faiga Tac.  
Hochenberg, Mania.  
Hochenberg, Moniek.

**Topical Subject:**

Jewish families--Poland--Warsaw.  
Refugees, Jewish.  
Warsaw Ghetto (Warsaw, Poland)

**Geography:**

Warsaw (Poland)  
Slonim (Belarus)  
New Zealand.  
United States--Emigration and immigration.

**Genre/Form:**

Correspondence.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
	Berkowicz, Barbara:
1	Bursztyn, Faiga Tac, 1940
2	Chuda, Basia, 1939-1941
	Berkowicz, Bernard:
3	Berkowicz, David, 1942-circa 1943
4	Berkowicz, Helena, 1944-1945
5	Berkowicz, Jozef, 1942
6	Berkowicz, Leon, 1942-1943
7	Berkowicz, Szlomo, 1942-1943
8	Blumental, M., 1941
9	Niemczewko, D., 1940
10	Szwarcblik, Majer, 1947
11	Wapner, W., 1940
12	Wasser, M., 1940
	Berkowicz, Bina:

13	Awerbuch, Aniuta, circa 1945 [letter sent]
14	Berkowicz, Bernard, 1939
15	Berkowicz, Leon, 1940-1941 [letters received]
16	Berkowicz, Leon, 1940 [letters sent]
17	Blachman, P., 1946 [letter sent]
18	Bursztyn, Faiga Tac, 1939-1941 [letters received]
19	Bursztyn, Faiga Tac, 1941 [letters sent]
20	Bursztyn, leon, 1945 [letter sent]
21	Chudy, Chaim, 1940 [letters received]
22	Chudy, Chaim, 1945 [letter sent]
23	Chudy, Mendel, 1946 [letters received]
24	Chudy, Mendel, 1947 and undated [letters sent]
25	Chudy, Natan, 1948
26	Hochenberg, Mania and Moniek, 1939-1941 [letters received]
27	Hochenberg, Mania and Moniek, 1945 [letter sent]
28	Iwinska, E., 1941
29	Jagla, Frieda, 1942
30	Lichtig, Berta, 1946
31	Pindeck, Ewa, 1945
32	Richter, Iko, 1939 [letter sent]
33	Tac, Szmul, circa 1945 [letters sent]
34	Tac, Szmul and Natan, 1939
35	Wasser, Maria, 1940
36	Wencewic, Eustachy, 1946
37	<i>M.S. Pilsudski</i> passenger list, 1939