

**DEBORA KOROLCHUK BRENNER PAPERS, approximately 1945-1948  
2009.108**

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

Title: Debora Korolchuk Brenner papers

Dates: approximately 1945-1948

Accession number: 2009.108

Creator: Brenner, Debora Korolchuk

Extent: 0.3 linear foot (2 folders, 1 book enclosure)

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

Abstract: The Debora Korolchuk Brenner papers include photographs taken in the Föhrenwald displaced persons camp depicting Debora, her parents, family friends, and school groups, and an autograph book with signatures, notes, drawings, and pressed flowers collected by Debora Korolchuk while living the Föhrenwald DP camp.

Language: Polish, Yiddish, Hebrew, 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), Debora Korolchuk Brenner papers (2009.108) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Debora Korolchuk Brenner donated her papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2009.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, April 2018

### **Biographical note**

Debora Korolchuck Brenner was born on 25 December 1937 to Menachem (1895-1965) and Lea (née Frydman, 1895-1984) Korolczuk in Ostrów Mazowiecka, Poland. An older sister, Celia, was born in 1930. With the outbreak of WWII the Korolczuks fled east to Snów (Snoŭ, Belarus), then under Soviet occupation. Menachem, who had previously been a teacher in the town, secured housing for the family in the rear of a storefront. Following the German invasion in 1941 the Korolczuks were confined to the Snów ghetto on Nieśwież street and experienced persecution by German occupation forces and local collaborators. While detailed to forced labor outside of town Menachem established contact with local partisans. These contacts urged Menachem and others to flee from the ghetto. In September 1942 large pits were dug on the outskirts of Snów under the pretense that they were to be used to house gasoline tanks. In actuality a mass killing action was planned against Jewish communities in the region. The Korolczuks evaded the liquidation of the Snów ghetto by fleeing to the surrounding forests. At this time hundreds of Jews from Snów and nearby communities were shot by German forces and local Belorussian collaborators. To avoid subsequent round-ups of those Jews who had fled, Menachem managed to secure a hiding place for Debora in the home of Ivan Rudkovsky, a former colleague, who lived on a farm with his wife and seven children. After leaving Debora in the care of the Rudkovskys Menachem, Lea, and Celia joined Soviet partisans in the region. While in hiding Debora experienced cruelty at the hands of Mrs. Rudkovsky and the Rudkovsky children. Mr. Rudkovsky, in contrast, protected Debora from maltreatment and denunciation by his family members. He also taught Debora to read and to write. In 1944 Menachem returned to retrieve Debora after serving with the Chapayev brigade partisans. Lea and Celia had also survived the Holocaust among this group. After their reunion the Korolczuks settled in Nieśwież where they remained until the end of the war. By November 1945 the Korolczuks had fled Soviet territory and were living in the Föhrenwald displaced persons camp. The family stayed in Föhrenwald until their departure for the United States in 1947. Ivan Rudkovsky remained in correspondence with the Korolczuks after their immigration to the US, however his letters eventually ceased to arrive and they lost touch. Through Debora's efforts Ivan Rudkovsky was honored as Righteous Among the Nations in 2009.

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

The Debora Korolchuk Brenner papers include photographs taken in the Föhrenwald displaced persons camp depicting Debora, her parents, family friends, and school groups, and an autograph book with signatures, notes, drawings, and pressed flowers collected by Debora Korolchuk while living the Föhrenwald DP camp.

### **System of arrangement**

The Debora Korolchuk Brenner papers are arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

Föhrenwald (Displaced persons camp)

Jews--Poland--Ostrów Mazowiecka.  
Jewish refugees--Poland.  
Jewish refugees--Germany.  
Holocaust survivors--Germany.  
Refugee camps--Germany--Bavaria.

Waldram (Germany)

Photographs.

### CONTAINER LIST

#### Series 1: Debora Korolchuk Brenner papers, approximately 1945-1948

Folder	Title
1 of 2	Photographs,
2 of 2	Autograph book, loose material, 1947-1948
BE 1	Autograph book, 1947