

GOLDSTEIN FAMILY LETTERS, 1906-1941
2010.106

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Translations:

The translations of the Goldstein Family Letters were completed by an unidentified translator.

Wielkie Oczy

April 3, 1906 [?]

My dear brother-in-law and sister-in-law:

Please excuse me for not writing to you for such a long time. First of all I would like to inform you about our newest arrival, the new addition to our family, a newly born son, we all should have lots of joy and nachas from him.

How is mother doing? Is she improving? The photos of the children we received are quite beautiful. I also sent you the photo of my dear wife.

Closing this letter, we send you our best wishes and best regards for Gershon and Moses, wishing you an enjoyable Passover.

My dear sister Leah

Thank you very much for your letter and the photos of your dear daughters. I almost did not recognize them, they are growing fast. God should help you, and they should give you lots of joy. We are sending best regards to Bella, her husband and children, best regards to Gershon and his family as well as Moses and his family.

Please excuse me for such a short note. We are going through a paint job right now, will elaborate next time.

Malka Goldstein (Mollie)

Szczealoty Jan. 13, 1927

My dear daughter Deborah

Would like to know all about you, How you are doing healthwise & in general, How many children [do] you have? How is Laica doing? How many children does she have? On my last letter I did not receive any response, times here are very bad, its impossible to get a job, or earn a living, things like 1 LTR? Costs 12 2 LTYS (Polish Currency) taxation is tremendous

We are very poorly dressed, practically without shoes, no xtra shirt.

As you know we have a only daughter who is 27 yrs of age, who does not have a boyfriend yet, boys do not want to get involved with poor girls.

Therefore my dear Deborah, please don't let me down, whatever your contribution will be appreciated.

I have less of a problem with my 4 sons, they are all beautiful Samuel is 21 yrs old, Zisza is 18 yrs old, [?] is 16 yrs old, and Gershan the youngest is 13 yrs old.

Dear Deborah please contact Yankel Lofheit he should collection some money for me.

Many kisses & regards for my children & best regards from your Uncle

Israel Forst

Boja-Wola

February 8/9 1927

My Dear Daughters Rifka and Chantzia:

I would like to inform you that I'm well. I would like to thank you for the letter dated January 19, it gave me lots of joy reading it. I would like to thank you for remembering your lonely mother, I would like to tell you not to worry too much about me, I'm completely well right now.

I should only hear good news about you. When Eliezer was drafted to the military I received critical letters from him having been assigned to service the horses, it was hard work. Now things have changed for him for the better, he works in an office, and is allowed to have there whatever he wants only in the presence of officers. I sent to him twice 10 zi each and two food packages; he can not eat their food; I will repeat this week the same, he should be having it somewhat easier. Also would like to tell you about the fight that the hooligans started. One received a 7 day jail term and the other only 5 day jail term, and very small monetary punishment.

The money you sent that we received on January 10, is almost gone.

My dear children, Chauncia (Klara) sent you 4 pans, please note 2 are for both of you 1 goes to Aunt Leah, 1 to Uncle Moses in as much as he is far from being a rich man.

The children did investigate and have learned that he is not a rich man, and when Sanders left for the states, she refused to take things for him. We did send with Sanders daughter some things she refused to take too much but because of all of you she accepted it, please don't hold it against her. I spent several days in her house prior to her departure.

My dear, you are telling me that Riftzia has five children. I'm very happy about that however I don't be happier if I could be there to see them personally while I'm alive.

Yes my daughter, you are writing that you are intending to send papers to the entire family, I'm very happy about it however find out in advance whether or not they would let us in, otherwise the entire effort and expense would be wasted.

My dear daughter, you wanted to know if the children are good to me, well I'm better to them than to myself, and the answer is yet. Who are they going to listen to if not to me? Obviously you all were much better to me than to grandpa, please promise me that I will receive your photo. Will respond soon after. My dear daughter, did you meet your Mr. Right? I'm anxious to know.

Concluding with the best regard from all and best wishes. Your mother Hinda

Lvov

February 18, 1936

My dear sisters,

It has been awhile since I wrote to you as you well know there is this one situation that takes all my time (not to use it as an excuse). You my dear sisters, you are wondering why I'm not taking the time to write a thank you note for the items you send us, well finally I'm doing so.

Now my dear Regina, are you judging us of not having any family feelings? Or sensitives? As in this case, my dear I admit that it was and is our responsibility to respond but how could I have done it not having an address to send it to. I went through all pockets to see if I could find some clues as to where to send it to, but to no avail. There were times where we did not receive any correspondence from you for 5 months. I must say that the clothing you sent us was just as if an angel arrived from heaven. You won't believe me if I was to tell you that my winter raglan coat which I had redone 4 years ago is already worn out (wasn't even knee length). And now when I go out to the street, people can notice me wearing something new, and I want to thank you personally, may you be rewarded. Amen.

P.S. Dear sister I'm sending you my best regards, hoping to see you soon.

[?] (Klara) Goldstein

Lvov

February 18, 1936

8 AM

My dear daughter Marimtzia and dear son in law Hersh

I would like to inform you that we are all well and hope to hear the same from you always. Your letter dated 1/23 we received and were overjoyed reading it. I would like to tell and thank you very much for the \$20 that you sent us and for the good deed that you did.

Regarding income to the house, unfortunately, there is none, only for a dry piece of bread and not even enough of that. My neighbor lent me 32 pounds of potatoes and we live on that. It takes 5 weeks until I receive \$20 and as soon as I receive it I have to pay it back.

I really don't see how I could break this cycle. The children are unemployed, thank God that they are well. You are asking if I do enjoy the things that you sent? Immensely! The boys wear the things proudly. The black little coat was redone.

My dear daughter, it was not known to us, it was not addressed. I will write a thank you note to Yankel. I would like to know how you and your family are feeling. I'm concluding with the best wishes to you all and hoping to unite as soon as possible.

Loving mother. Hinda Goldstein

My dearest daughter Riftzia and dear son in law Zev.

I would like to inform you that we are well, hope that all of you are the same. I would like to tell you that we received the \$20 for which I can not thank you enough. We enjoy the clothing very much. Chantzia redid the black coat. I enjoyed the sweater and the high shoes. Chantzia is wearing the low shoes. Again I'm thanking for her, she should live 100 years with good health, I had to pay 50 cents postage? Please write to me more often, this is my only hope and joy in life, your loving mother.

Hinda Goldstein

My dear daughter Chantzia (Ann)

We received your letter, I'm overjoyed to know that you are all well and I want to thank you for the \$20 that you sent me lately. God should repay you for the goodhearted, kindness towards us.

Please write to me the addresses from the entire family. I would like to write to them. You don't have to acknowledge that I'm writing to them, perhaps they might be able to help me somewhat. I realize that it is very difficult for you to provide for me. My dear child, I don't have enough words not is the pen capable of describing what's going on here.

I'm losing my reputation here. The only slight credit that I do have is with Mr. Blaustein. I buy 5 weeks worth of bread, some heating material and lighting supply that equals \$20. I'm in arrears of 230 zlotys. I owe him more, I gave him 5 zlotys toward it. This time from this \$20 I can't spare anything to give him.

My dear daughter, I pray God should be good to you and send you Mr. Right. It's also time you should have a bit easier in life. You asked me whether or not Nathan comes to see us. Yes he is Morris' best friend. His father lent me 32 pounds of potatoes.

I would like to tell you that Chautzia has several friends who are interested in her. Money would help. I covered a lot and would like to conclude by wishing you and everyone good health and all the best.

Your loving mother who looks toward joining you in America.

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. Best regards, wishing good health always. Your loving brother.

Eliezer Goldstein

P.S. Dear Sister

I'm sending you my warmest regards to you, your husband and children. Your brother who can't wait to see you.

Moses Goldstein

Lvov

February 18, 1936

My dear sister in law, Leah and brother in law Moses David

First of all I would like to tell you that we are well and hope to hear the same from you always.

I'm writing especially to thank you a lot for the package that you sent to us. You should live 100 years. We needed it very badly, it did not cost us anything except 50 cents. All my three boys are very proud to wear these things. My daughter fixed her black coat and enjoys it. The sweater I'm wearing; the men's suit Szyya (Solomon?) will wear. I want to thank you a thousand times. Please don't hold it against me for not thanking you sooner. I did not know who sent it. Recently, my children informed me that you, Aunt Leah was responsible for it.

My dear sister in law, forgive me for being so bold, I would like to ask you if you have any old items that are useless for you, may it be old shirts, old sheets, ladies clothes. I can't afford to have these things done, the children are barely making a living.

Wishing you many years of health and happiness. Your loving sister in law.

Hinda Goldstein

My dear aunt and uncle

I also wish to express my gratitude for the package that you sent us. We very much could use it at this time. The men's suit fits me much better than my brother. I shall always be indebted to you.

I would like to know how everybody is going healthwise and economically. The economy here is in shambles and politically I don't see any future here. I'm 30 years old and don't see any future here. I don't know the end result. The antisemitism grows from day to day.

I hope that I'm wrong with my predictions; we see what's going on in Germany with the Jews. Here a new problem arose. The anti-Semites are bent on prohibiting the Kashrut slaughter of beef; it's something unheard of before. It's like a sudden panic befell the Jewish people here. Things are very bad. I'm concluding at this time.

Sending you my best wishes.

Eliezer Goldstein

Lvov

August 17, 1937

My dear daughter Marimtzia (Molly) and son-in-law Hersh (Harry)

I would like to inform you that we are all well and hope to hear the same from you always. I also could tell you that your letter dated August 12 we received and are very pleased to know that you are well.

My dear daughter, you are asking me when Chautzia (Klara) will get married, unfortunately I can not tell you yet. I can tell you that I did not mislead you in believing that I tried to squeeze some money out of you. Believe me this is not the case, I would rather die of hunger before I will touch this money that is designated for the wedding purpose. It will take several weeks until he prepares his own furniture, he is a first class cabinet maker.

We received the \$20.00 for which I thank you greatly, I paid my bill to the storekeeper, but did not pay it in full. He was very mad and threatened to take away my credit. I just would like my dear children to realize how bad the poverty is here. We live on dry bread and black coffee. For me at my age that is too much. I also want you to know, please don't feel that you owe me anything, but whatever you will send me I will be grateful and God will help you as well.

My dear daughter, please don't take it the wrong way that I'm so bold in my expressions, if you can please enclose \$5.00 each time in your letter because life here is unbearable. I would like to know how the entire family is regarding health and parnusu [Hebrew for income]. Best regards and a healthy new year, your loving mother, whose wish is to see you all soon.

Hinda Goldstein

My dear daughter Riftzia and Zev

Please be informed that I received the \$20. For which I'm grateful to all of you. The children are not working now, times are very bad, therefore if you could extend yourself somewhat more to send me a little bit more money it would be great, perhaps \$5. You would have a great mitzvah.

The only alternative I have is to sell apples and potatoes in the town square. Hope that all is well. Best wishes from you mother who wishes to see you soon.

Hilda Goldstein

P.S. Best wishes from Klara Goldstein.

My dear daughter Chantzia (Ann) and son-in-law

Letting you know that I've received the \$20 for which I thank you very much and I would like to hear from you more often; it has been awhile since your last letter, I'm worried somewhat. I would like to know how all of you are healthwise and in general.

My dear daughter, please tell me how does your husband treat you? Is he good to you? Please tell all about him. Sending my love to all of you.

Your mother who hopes to see you.

Hinda Goldstein

My Dear sisters Rifka (Regina) and Chana (Ann)

It has been 90 years since our family arrived to this city; we went through many crises in the past. Nothing rivals this one, what could I tell you, you are far away and there are no words to describe it except to say, here we have: **poverty, cold, hunger.**

Lvov

August 17, 1937

My dear sisters

It is already 2 weeks that I'm home. You'll have to forgive me for not informing you in my previous letter.

I hope you did not suspect that I went on a vacation (I don't have it so good yet.) I have been to the Wielkich Gorach (Great Mountains) where I had a chance to visit with my distant relatives and at the same time I have been looking for work.

I happened to be in Lubachow where I met someone who is from Lvov, who works in an office as a bookkeeper. He asked me to help him out for several weeks and it turned out to be 4 weeks. In return I was given a place to sleep, food, car fare back to Lvov and 10 zi cash. He promised to write to me as soon as he needs me. It is almost the end of the year and I have not heard from him.

Best regards

Meyer [?]

Dear Chantzia (Ann)

I read your letter in which several paragraphs are written to me, and I could tell you that I felt very low and degraded. In it you are telling me that my boyfriend will eventually be your responsibility to feed him.

Let me tell you, I would rather die a thousand deaths than to rely on someone else. I don't deserve to get those kind of letters. Are you suggesting that I don't want to work? Did I refuse to do any kind of work? Do you realize in what kind of financial dilemma I'm in?

I don't have change to buy myself a pack of cigarettes. Life is very hard for us here. I would rather be in your shoes to be able to help out someone.

Klara

Dear Chantzia

It is high time that you should be able to live in peace and not have to deprive yourself. How long could this go on? There should be an end to all this. I really don't know if I had been in your place if I would have been as patient and understanding.

I shall let you know immediately when things turn the better for me. I will never forget the good things you did for us. Things are very bad here but I feel even worse because I'm the oldest boy and should be able to be the provider of the house. I feel down, but what can I do. The world is closed for us without any solution in sight.

Dear Chantzia

cont. August 17, 1937

Please don't be angry or mad at us. Perhaps the sun will shine for us and you'll be able to have a more normal life. I'm very happy to hear that your husband is treating you right and that you have a good marriage.

I'm sending my best to all of you. Best regard to the entire family.

Your brother

Moses

No date

[before spring 1939; possibly part of August 17, 1937]

My dear sister

There isn't a thing in the world that I would love better than giving you good news about my health condition unfortunately my diagnosis is far from good.

Obviously this is my fate. Complications remained and I must take 30 injections to stimulate my immune system and blood. I feel somewhat better since I already took 5 injections. I hope and pray to God that I will completely get better and then we will get married.

About my boyfriend, he is the ideal person to me as well as the entire family. If not for him, I'm not sure that I would still be among the living.

I would like to know how you and your family members are. I conclude my writing.

Best regards.

Silava Goldstein

[Klara ?]

Lvov

August 17, 1937

My dear daughter Marimtzia and son in law Hersh

I would like to inform you that we are all well and hope to hear the same from you.

The \$20 I've received for which I would like to thank you very much. I was terribly worried not having received any correspondence from you to quite some time.

Regarding Chautzia's wedding, I don't know for sure the date because her boy friend intends to have his furniture made up. Also he plans to prepare for his own work shop. All this might take awhile. Her boyfriend is a fine young man; he is from a fine modern family here in Lvov.

Right now Chautzia is not feeling well, she goes to the doctor daily to boost her appetite. As the new year is approaching, we should all pray for a happy, healthy and prosperous year.

Please write to me how the entire family is doing. I conclude by wishing you all the best for the coming new year and hoping to reunite soon.

Your loving mother.

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. My best regards to the entire family in America.

[Page 3 contains the identical information addressed to Riftzia]

My dear daughter Chantzia

I also would like to thank you for the \$20 that you sent me. Please don't be mad that Chautzia did not write to you. She is under a doctor's care right now. Her boyfriend loves her very much and is paying the entire bill.

He is just about to start his own work shop as a custom cabinet maker. We did not, God forbid, cheat any money from you, you could rest assured that this money is for the purpose of the wedding. We shall not ask you for any more money.

I'm very happy that you have a good husband and God should give you all a good year. Best wishes from your mother who hopes to unite soon.

Hinda Goldstein

Lvov

August 17, 1937

My dear daughter and family

Please be informed that we are well and would like to hear the same from you. I would like to thank you dear daughter for the \$20 you sent me. I'm wondering why I did not hear from you for such a long time. I don't know what to think.

About Chanzia wedding, I don't know the date yet. The groom intends to have his furniture made and he wants to have his apartment furnished first. He also wants to establish his workplace first. He is a fine young and is from Mazerov and a nice family here in Lvov.

And now my dear, as the new year approaches let me wish you all a very healthy and happy new year and parnusah tova (making a living).

Love and best regards from your dear mother.

Hinda Goldstein

My dear daughter Rubeshl

I would like to inform you about our health, thank god we are okay. I hope to hear the same from you. We received the \$20 and would like to thank you very much for it. Also I would like to inform you that Chauncia's wedding can not take place soon because the groom intends to prepare an apartment and a workplace prior to the wedding.

My dear, I hope that the aid you are sending to us is not a burden to you. With God's help we will marry off Chauncia and then it might be somewhat easier.

I'm very thankful that you have a lovely and cooperative husband; only God can pay you back many fold.

Your loving mother.

Hinda Goldstein

October 28, 1937

8 AM

My dear daughter Marimtzia (Molly) and Hersh (Harry)

We would like to inform you that we are well and hope to hear the same from you. I would like to tell you that your letter dated October 8 we received and with concern read it. You'll have to forgive me for being so blunt. My dear daughter, don't you assume that I in my old age no longer having feelings. That is one thing that I still possess.

You left for America 10 years ago and if I should give a more definite description as to what's going on here you are mad at me, please don't do it. Only God knows the situation we are in, and it isn't a good one. On top of all that I don't feel good myself, it's already 2 weeks that I feel a pain in the chest area. I have a feeling that it is gallstones. I'm active, try not to lay in bed.

I would like to thank you for the \$20 that we received. You are telling me about Uncle Yitze, he sent me this summer several zlotys. I conclude by sending my best wishes to all of you.

Your loving mother who hopes to see you soon. Hinda Goldstein

My dear daughter Chantzia (Ann) and son-in-law

Would like to inform you that we received your \$20 for which I'm grateful. A long time has passed since I got some mail from Riftzia, it worries me. I would like to tell you that Chautzia (Klara) will get married in 2 months, her boy friend works right now on his own furniture. Times here are terrible, I really don't see any good outcome from all this, and now I feel somewhat sick. Thank God that I'm up and around, I believe that this comes from aggravation, I really should consult with a doctor.

I conclude wishing you and your family all best and warmest regards.

Your everloving mother.

Hinda Goldstein

My dear daughter Riftzia and Zev

First of all would like to tell you that we are well and hope you are too. We received the \$20 for which I'm grateful. My dear daughter, you used to write to me more often, from which the only pleasure I had is to read your letters, and to thank God for being good to you all for having a better life than you would have had here, so please be good to me and write as often as you can.

Here there is nothing but poverty, and now my dear children, I'm writing to you the Yerzhait observation for your dear Father is 13 days in Shvat, December 17. And now tell me how things are there? Is your husband working? Also please tell me how is your mother-in-law? And how is everyone from our side.

I conclude by wishing you all the very best and hopes to see you all soon.

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. Best regards to everyone in America.

My dear sister

I really don't have much to tell you except that I can not earn a cent here. Times are awful; as if this is not enough one is not even secure with his life. There are attacks on Jews in the streets as if one would come down on his slave and that is not even comparison enough.

My dear sister, I would gladly disappear somewhere in the world in order for me not to witness what's going on at home, the poverty, etc. Perhaps you can help me somehow to come down to America. Please advise me as you know I'm a talented man. I would reciprocate the favor and at the same time help you carry the burden.

I conclude my writing and wishing you all the best. Best regards. Hope to see you soon.

Mayer Goldstein

P.S. Best wishes from your other brother.

Eliezer Goldstein

Lvov

May 18, 1938

My dear daughter Riftzia and son-in-law Zev,

I would like to tell you that we are all well and hope you are too, I received your 2 letters. I'm glad to hear that your dear husband is working.

My dear, I beg you to tell me the truth in regard to Chantzia (Ann). My heart is not at ease, I worry about all of you. Please send me her address, she would write to me even from the end of the world. Please tell me the truth about her.

My dear, now I can tell that I received \$35 for which I'm very thankful to all of you. I paid my debt to the grocer and gave \$10 to Eliezer. He should see a doctor, also he should leave the city, he has a terrible sickness and must be very careful not to aggravate it.

My dear daughter, you are telling me that your children are contributing towards sending me some money. Well, let me wish them lots of health and happiness and they should have a good life, they show early signs of being humanitarians.

Please write to me the truth, my dear daughter. Please be informed that Chautzia's (Klara) wedding will be soon. I'm going to see the package to raise some money for the wedding.

I would like to know everything about you, re everyone's health, etc.

Lots of kisses to all and best regards to all. Your loving mother, who hopes to see you soon.

Hinda Goldstein

Dear sisters,

I kiss you all thousands of times and best regards.

Klara Goldstein

P.S. I wish you lots of luck and send you my best regards. [another unidentified author]

Lvov

March 14, 1939

My dear daughter Riftzia and Zev

Would like to inform you that we are all well and hope you are too. Your letter from February 23 we received. I'm pleased to hear that everyone is well and now you would not believe how joyful and happy the boys are that you are trying to bring them down to the USA and later on, if God will be good to me and I'm still alive, perhaps they could get me down there. That would be ideal for all of us to be together.

You wanted to know why Chautzia (Klara) is not getting married and whose fault it is? It is her own fault. It is already 2 years since she allowed him to move in and now he is worry free. The wedding was supposed to be before Passover and now it's moved to a later date. Her actions weigh heavily on me. I could not love anything more than to see her getting married.

For the pearls I was offered very little. I will not sell them, instead I will pawn them. Her boyfriend seems not to be in any hurry. It aggravates me.

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. What you told us regarding taking us down to the U.S., I was overjoyed with happiness. Here a war is in the making. See if you could speed things up a bit to beat the onset of the war and also to help you carry the burden about mother.

Moses Goldstein

P.S. I can not describe the feeling to you having learned that I might go to America as if I would have been given a new soul. I feel like being a new person. Hope is a powerful instrument and this is what I was given. Riftzia wrote that it might take 2 years. I'll settle for it, better late than never. Please don't delay it, work in it. Every day counts. Love.

Meyer

Lvov

March 14, 1939

My dear daughter Marimtzia and son in law Hersh

I would like to tell you that we are all well and hope you are too.

We received your letter dated February 23. I have great pleasure to hear that you are all well. Regarding Chautzia and her wedding. I blame her for the postponements. It should have been before the Passover holidays. Guess what? There was no money. I'm going to sell my pearls. I'm looking forward to the wedding to take place. I did not sign over the ½ piece of property to her yet. I will do it right after the wedding.

And now my dear children, it gives me great pleasure to learn that you are preparing two affidavits for Mairen and for Moses. They can't wait to join you in America and to leave this forsaken Poland behind where there is no future for them.

Please send me a photo from Bashe for which I'm thank you in advance.

P.S. I would like to remind you again, when you'll let me know about my departure for the USA. I will buy one boat ticket for 1 girl. Therefore it will cost 1 cent. She promised to pay me back. I promise that this journey will not cost you anything. All we need is the chance. I will write a lot more in my next letter. Please write.

My best regards to all.

March 23, 1939

My dear sisters

First of all I would like to inform you that I thank God that I'm well and hope to hear the same for you always. Also I would like to tell you that my life consists of nothing but pain.

You are accusing both of us (myself and our mother) for holding back the wedding, for which day I'm looking forward as well as you do. You should be aware by now that I have inside of me a growth, for which I did not ask and also it is fair to say I did not deserve it. Yet my dear boyfriend is willing to stand by me and help me in every which way he can.

It is beautiful on his part to stick by me, then why do you accuse me of postponing my wedding? You should also know that I'm writing this information to you in order to satisfy your request. I want you to know that after what I went through with my sickness, and after fixing up the apartment after the tenant moved out, we just about broke even. Not even 1 cent is left.

My boyfriend is nice enough not to ask me for any monetary compensations. He knows very well our situation. He always comforted me by saying that he will start from scratch building his own little fire. Except the earning capacity is beyond description, times are exceptionally bad. In spite of all this, he fixed up his shop. The value is \$100 and also the apartment has a value of \$50. On top of all that my boyfriend started buying things for the house for after the wedding. That also came to a lot of money.

He did not want me to ask you about monetary help. He treats me beautifully, he is never mad, he is a nice human being. We have to wait for the appropriate time. More that once I was mad at him for this behavior.

Therefore, you my dear sisters, you are my only hope. Please stand behind me and support me morally. My boyfriend is out of work already for 3 months. Under those circumstances he can not see himself going into marriage. I am constantly troubled because of the above mentioned reasons. I'm ashamed to say this but the only way out for me is to commit suicide. I hope that you my dear sisters will try once again to stand by me and do what you can. I don't have any one else to turn to.

Sending my love

Your sister (Klara)

[undated; circa Spring 1939]

My dearest

Just to let you know that I decided to marry right after Shevuot, although you are not obligated it would be nice if you could somehow help out, I appeal to your personal feelings.

Here the general feeling is just like a volcanic eruption would have occurred.

I conclude by wishing all of you a very happy holiday. Jerry Herbst

My dear sisters

I could guarantee you that after my wedding you'll never hear a single complaint from my lips. Perhaps it's an idea to find out if there is some charitable institution in the U.S. I would not like to be your burden. Right now I need \$50 to fix up the apartment and furnishing it and many other expenses.

We plan to get married after Shevuot and the money would help. Otherwise I'm not responsible for the consequences. This is my only hope to unite with my boyfriend as a couple.

I conclude by wishing all of you a happy holiday.

I'm sending my best regards.

Klara Goldstein

My dear daughters, Marimtzia and Riftzia

Just to let you know that we are well and hope to hear the same from you. Please don't be mad, if you could help in any way with Chautzia's wedding please do so. I hope that right after Passover she will get married. I did not get a letter from Chantzia for a long time and don't know what to think.

Sending my love to all and best regards.

Hinda Goldstein

Lvov

June 15, 1939

My dear daughter Riftzia and Zev

Please be advised that we are all well and hope to hear from you the same always. Your letter dated May 15, I have received and I also want to thank you for the \$15 that all of you enclosed.

I'm pleased to inform you that Chautzia got married on June 11, so please all of you wish us mazel-tov. And at this point I would be able to use a little more money. I also know my dear daughter that you would gladly help me more if you could. Also the last \$10 I had to spend for the doctor and medication. I'm still applying compresses; I could not pay the grocer this time.

Another mazel-tov is due us. Eliezer's wife gave birth to a daughter. Unfortunately he does not have any income. You wrote to me that you have lovely children. You should have lots of joy for them. I should have the honor of seeing them. Your brothers are overjoyed from the news that you are planning to bring them down to America and then when you wrote that only one is allowed to come and it will be Moses, then Meyer was stunned and could not get off the chair.

There is absolutely no future for them here. At home here the situation is very bad. They look awful. There isn't much else for me to write.

I send to all of you my warmest wishes and best regards from your mother who hopes to see you in the future.

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. My dear

I must tell you the truth; you did me a great injustice by raising my hopes and then shattering my dreams. If one has only one thread of hope to hold on to, sometimes it might become a life saver. I feel so low, as if I were to be on the boat at this moment with all obstacles removed that would have prevented me from going to the U.S. and the boat would still go under.

Therefore I'm very happy for him (Moses). Let him be the lucky one right now. Perhaps I have to wait awhile. Thank you for trying. I'm sending my love to all of you.

Your brother.

Meyer

Lvov

July 5, 1939

My dear daughter Riftzia and Zev

We would like to inform you that we are all well. Hope you are too, your letter dated June 18 we received. I'm pleased to hear that you are well, but it's not so good to hear that you are out of work. Hopefully the times will change for the better.

I received a letter from Chantzia (Ann); she wrote to me that you have visited her and you have lost a lot of weight (you look bad). She wrote that she promised to contribute \$1 every week. That will be \$5 total from her, the photos I did not receive yet.

I'm also writing to let you now that Chautzia (Klara) got married. Her husband does not work either. The times here are unbearable, not only is it bad at home, I also have tzuris from the boys. Eliezer's wife gave birth to a daughter, she should have lots of nachas, she is a very beautiful baby. She is 4 weeks old. The father of the baby needs a doctor very often and without having any income he comes to me daily to talk and ease his feelings somewhat. Unfortunately I can not help him (only God could do it). Now I could tell you that Faigele, the daughter of Malka who passed away, married a very nice young man who is from Lvov. I was at the wedding. Sharna's daughter collected from that family \$200.

I feel very lonely here; your father's (who passed away) family don't want to know anything about me. I wrote to Uncle Moses. He should try to collect some money for Chauntzia (Klara). He is her uncle, she is a very poor person. I can't even buy a pair of shoes for her or a blouse. She had a very poor wedding, her uncle did not even reply an answer.

I'm praying for all of your well being and good health and God should bless all of you, hence forth you'll be able to remember about me.

I want to thank you for the papers that you sent for Moses, however God only knows what's in store for us here. There is great talk about war coming. People are preparing and stockpiling food. Who knows what will happen to my poor children, perhaps you my dear children have some more information about the oncoming war.

I conclude by wishing you all the best and there should be peace. Your loving mother who hopes to see you.

Hinda Goldstein

Lvov

July 5, 1939

8 AM

My dearest daughter Marimtzia and Hersh

Just to let you know that we are well and hope to hear the same from you always. And now again I'm letting you know that a mazel-tov is due us. Chautzia (Klara) got married and another mazel-tov, Eliezer's wife gave birth to a baby girl.

I don't know what to think, I did not receive any letter from you for a long time. My dear I'm pleading with you not to forget about me, your poor mother, in a very bad time. I could tell you that such a hardship I have never experienced. On top of all that Eliezer does not have any income and must see the doctor very often. Chautzia's wedding was very poor and her husband does not work either. She is looking forward to receiving some wedding presents from all of you. Again there is strong talk about oncoming war. I also would like to tell that Faygie, the daughter of Malka who passed away, she got married, I was invited. The wedding was here in Lvov and Golda is engaged with someone from Wilkovsh. I conclude, wishing to hear good news from all of you always. Sending my love and best wishes to see you soon.

Hinda Goldstein

Lvov

July 18, 1939

My dear daughter Marimtzia and Hersh

I would like to tell you that we are well and hope that you are too. I would like to thank you for the \$10 that you sent me; sorry to tell you that this is not enough even for just dry bread to buy. I really don't see any solution to my problem. I don't have the same credit as I used to have, God should have mercy over me and the boys.

Meyer is confined to bed sick for 2 weeks. The doctor diagnosed that he is very much undernourished from the bad food. He ordered Meyer to drink lots of milk which I give him every day. The situation here gets worse by the day; the children don't have any work and slowly you are forgetting about me. It looks as if I have no other choice but to become a beggar (God forbid).

My dear daughter you have promised to send me Basheles photo but I did not receive it yet. If you can, please make a family portrait and send it to me. Chantzia (Ann) wrote to me that she will send me a photo from her son. I conclude my writing, by wishing you and your family all the best. Best regards to all and to the entire family from your mother who hopes to see you soon.

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. I'm sending my best regards. Your brother who hopes to see real soon.

Moses Goldstein

Lvov

July 18, 1939

My dear daughter Riftzia and Zev

Please be informed that we are well and hope you are too. We received \$10 for which I want to thank you very much. My dear I must tell you that my hope and expectation is much greater than the actual support that I'm given; naturally the money that you all are sending are of great help, but how could I survive on \$10 for five weeks.

It's true you don't owe me anything, but where is the human understanding and the loyalty to your mother, I understand it's very hard for you as well, but please try to see my situation. My dear Chantzia wrote to me that she gave you \$5. I'm very pleased to hear that. She promised to send me her sons' photo and so far I did not receive it.

I'm poor and lonely. Your father's family don't want to know me. I wrote to Uncle Moses. He should try to collect some money for me. He did not even respond to my letter.

Chautzia (Klara) went to Krakovitz to Uncle Itzi and he gave her 50 zlotys. He is an old man over 70 years old and does not run any business.

Chautzia's husband does not work and neither are the boys. To top things off, Meyer is sick. He was confined to bed and Eliezer got him a doctor. He has an infection and was told to drink lots of milk. I'm buying 1 gallon of milk daily. I have not paid my creditor for the past 2 months.

My dear daughter, you told us that you will send papers for Moses; so far we did not receive anything. I had an argument with my creditor because I could not pay him anything towards the month credit list.

Hope to hear good news from all of you. Be well and best regards to all of you. Your loving mother who hopes to see you soon.

Hinda Goldstein

Lvov

August 23, 1939

8 AM

My dear daughter Marimtzia and Herch (Molly and Harry)

I would like to tell you that we are all well and hope you are too. I would like to thank you very much for the \$20 that I received for your kindness. I received your letter dated July 19 and you'll forgive me for the late reply. I did not have enough money even for the postage.

My life is such that I buy everything on credit. Thank God that I'm able to pay up except for the arrears from long ago. God should help me I should be able to pay off my debt before I die.

My dear daughter, please do not worry too much about me. My biggest concern right now is that we are on the eve of a war and I hope that there is still enough time for some of us to be brought over to the US. I have had enough in my life time, the war hangs in the air. With me it is just the opposite of what life could offer. Old age should be pleasant and with me it's the other way around.

I'm blessed to have such understanding children who do their best and are not letting me down. My dear daughter, you promised me your daughter's photo, so far I did not get it. It would give me great pleasure to have it and look at it. And now my dear daughter perhaps someone could help you and bring over your brothers. I have not had a letter from Chantzia (Ann) for a long time, she was supposed to enclose a photo of her son.

I conclude my letter, sending you my love and best regards to all of you. Wishing you a Happy New Year. Your loving mother who hopes to see you soon.

Hinda Goldstein

My dear sister

Just to let you know that I'm well, hope you are too. We are on a threshold of a war breaking out. I'm unemployed. I'm sending my best to all of you, your husband and your children.

Your brother who hopes to see you.

Moses Goldstein

P.S. Who knows what is going to happen to the boys. War is coming soon.

Lvov

August 23, 1939

My Dear Rubeski (Rivka)

I would like to inform you about our health. Thank God we are all well, and wish to hear the same from all of you.

I would like to thank you for the \$20 that you sent us and your letter dated July 25th. I did not write to you for quite awhile as you know me I don't have enough patience to sit down and write and I'm without stationary at the moment. Regarding your dear sister, you are wishing her the best, I can tell you that right now she does not have even a proper dress or a pair of shoes on. Until now her husband was not working (he is not one of the best providers). I would like to inform you dear daughter, that I showed your letter to Eliezer. He was very pleased to learn that you promised to send him a wedding present. It would be well needed. He is coming to us almost on a daily basis with his daughter. His child has been coughing for several weeks. She feels better already.

Eliezer will have photos made up and will send them to you. He has a wonderful wife, I love her a lot. My dear daughter, you wrote to me that you will send papers for Moses. So far I did not receive anything. Also please tell me about Chantzia (Ann). We don't hear from her. She promised to send out some photos of her son. She completely forgot about me; is she writing to you?

Any now my dear daughter, how is your health and things in general? How are you doing as far as making a living? How are your children doing? And I would like to conclude this letter by kissing all of you and hoping to untie with you soon.

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. As the New Year approaches, we are sending the best wishes and greetings for a happy new year. The best regards from your brother who hopes to see you in America.

Dear Sister Rubeshi

I'm begging you to rescue me from here. As you probably know the political situation here, the war hangs over us. I would hate to be drafted. My dear sister, if it's at all possible, please send me \$2. I could use new boots. My shoes are worn out. The winter is approaching and mother can't help me. In as much as I hate to ask you for money, I have no other recourse. Matter of fact in all crises that I went through I never asked you to help me out.

Your loving brother

Meyer

Best regards to your husband and children.

Lvov

December 17, 1939

My dear children Marimtzia, Chantzia and Riftzia

I would like to inform you that we received a dual letter, thank God, we are well and hope to hear the same from you. I would like to tell you that things have somewhat improved for us and we are making a living. I conclude by sending my love and best wishes to all of you.

Your mother who hopes to see all of you.

Hinda Goldstein

My dear sister

My intentions are not to bore you with long letters, sometimes it's healthier just to come to the point. We can't afford to send you a telegram. Thank God we are all well. However, I must tell you that the previous war was a child's playground compared to this one. We thank God many times that all of you did not get trapped in Hitler's claws. I presume that in the U.S. You have more news about the war than we have here.

Best regards,

Meyer

My dear sister

Just to let you know that I'm well. Hope you are too with the entire family. Can not write at this time. Sending my best love and regards.

Moses Goldstein

My dear sister

Just to let you know that we are well. Regarding the war, it is beyond words what we went through. In person we would have an awful lot to tell you.

[Illegible]

Lvov

March 29, 1940

[Parts of the letter are missing]

I'm sending my best regards your good wishing brother. Eliezer Goldstein

P.S. Regards from Klara

My dear children

Would like to tell you that we all, thank God, are fine. The children enclosed good wished to all of you.
Hope to hear good news. Best wishes

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. Regards and best wishes from your brother to all in America. Love, your brother,

Meyer

P.S. My dear sister. We are all alive and well; I'm sending best regards, your brother who hopes to see you. Also best regards to all the children and brother in laws.

Moses Goldstein

[undated; circa 1940-1941]

My dear sister

I would hope that you will try to work on my papers as soon as possible. A war is hanging over our heads. Work I don't have, times are bad. Nothing else to report. I'm sending my love to all of you. Best regards to my brother in law and the children.

Your brother.

Moses Goldstein

My dear sisters

I'm sending you my warmest regards.

Your loving sister.

Klara

My dear

As it turned out, it seems to me that I even don't have a chance to live. Believe me, I'm very much beaten down the way I feel about the whole thing. I feel especially bad having had my hopes elevated and now not to be able to go through with it. I don't remember having had once peaceful hour in my entire life and I'm 28 years old. I'm not afraid to die. I just don't want to suffer before dying. Please don't be mad at me.

If Marimtzia knew how I feel in my heart perhaps she would be able to help me, but what could I expect from a total stranger. This is what she thinks of me being a total stranger. How could she feel about me, someone whom she never saw or spoke to. I got the picture very well.

Your brother

Meyer

Lvov

April 27, 1941

My dear daughter Riftzia and Zev

We received your letter and was pleased to hear that all of you are well. My dear you wanted to know kind of work Moses is doing. Well, he is working in his trade. Eliezer and Meyer are working by [illegible].

We are making a living, eating and drinking slightly above what one would normally eat on Yom Kippur. I was sick all winter and confined to the bed. Thank God that I'm up and around. I lost a lot of weight.

Thank God that Chautzia (Klara) is well; her husband is working; I'm very happy to hear that all of you are working and the children are talented. I'm sending my best to all of you. Your loving mother who hopes to see you.

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. Best regards from your brother. Please write more often, it's very encouraging.

Meyer

P.S. My best regards to all of you. Your loving brother and brother in law.

Moses Goldstein

My dear daughter Marimtzia and Hersh

Thank God that we are well and hope to hear the same from all of you. Your letter dated January 18 we have received and read it with joy. You are telling me that Eliezer's child is good looking, well she is even nicer looking in person. She is very smart and speaks a 100 words. I'm very happy to hear that Chantzia (Ann) is doing very well. I'm very pleased to hear that. Sending my best regards to all of you.

Your loving mother.

Hinda Goldstein

P.S. Best regards.

Klara

P.S. Sending you our love and best wishes from your brother.

Eliezer, wife and child

[undated]

My dear sister Marimtzia

I would like to share a few words with you as you know the Goldstein family was never counted to be among the rich ones nor the poor ones. Since as far as I remember we always got by. We went through extra ordinary hardship during World War I which you remember very well while being in America. Myself and Riftzia worked just to earn for a piece of bread.

Today, however, the times are extremely difficult. There isn't a single day that we don't experience going around hungry. Lvov was not very good to us. While reading your letters I think to myself my mother is fortunate enough to have children in America. And yet she has to suffer so much here.

My dearest

I would love to bring you good news, however there is none to report. We much be patient, perhaps after the new year.

P.S. I am sending the best regards and a happy new year. Jerry Herbst

P.S. Hope you are all well. Here there is no change, sending our best regards to you. Meyer

Out of sight is out of mind. [no signature]

[possibly incomplete transcription; on page 4 it describes again the suffering and the pain that they endure and a remark.]

[undated]

My dear sisters

I always intend to write to you and never get around to it.

I'm leaving the house every morning in search for work in the city of Lvov. It is impossible to find any employment. The best solution to this dilemma would be to bring me down to you in the U.S. I'm healthy and young, I'm not afraid of any kind of work. I don't see any future for me here; a Jewish person does not get hired anywhere.

I often dream how I could possibly get down to join you. It would be great if you could manage to accomplish this for me. At the same time it would be a great help to you well.

Please reply to be about this proposition. I conclude by wishing you all health, happiness and best regards to everyone.

Your brother

Moses

P.S. Best regards for my brother in law and the children.

