

**FELICIA NEUFELD PAPERS**  
**1894-2010 (bulk, 1947-1985)**  
**2013.534.1**

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

Title: Felicia Neufeld papers

Dates: 1894-2010 (bulk, 1947-1985)

Accession number: 2013.534.1

Creator: Neufeld, Felicia.

Extent: 3 boxes (1.5 linear feet)

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

Abstract: Contains unpublished memoir, correspondence, identification documents, writings, and one videocassette recording. The memoir, written in the form of a letter to the daughter of the woman who hid Neufeld in France during the German occupation, describes in detail her experiences during that period. Also included is correspondence from other children to Neufeld in the years following liberation, when she and other children were placed in orphanages in Paris, as well as correspondence with some of those people a half-century later, when Neufeld sought to have Renee Verité recognized by Yad Vashem as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations." Much of the collection consists of unpublished writings by Neufeld, in which she reflects in the latter years of her life upon her experiences during the Holocaust and how they shaped her.

Languages: English, French, German

**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), (Box number), Felicia Neufeld papers (2013.534.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Gift of Marita Dresner, 2013.

Custodial history: Marita Dresner, the cousin of Felicia Neufeld, received these papers from her estate after Neufeld's death in 2011.

Related archival materials: Additional material from relatives of Felicia Neufeld can be found in the Neufeld family papers (1995.A.0274), which contain correspondence from various members of the extended Neufeld family, as they sought to assist Helena Mowszowicz (née Neufeld) emigrate from German-occupied Poland. Included is correspondence from Felicia Neufeld's aunts, Nina Crovetti and Sofia Pevsner, the latter of whom adopted Felicia Neufeld after World War II.

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: Brad Bauer, August-October 2013.

**Biographical note** : Felicia "Fay" Neufeld (1934-2011) was born in Berlin to Leon Neufeld and Sonia Miller, who had immigrated there from Poland and Lithuania respectively. In 1937, her father crossed into France illegally, seeking to escape the persecution of Jews in Germany and start a new life there. She was sent to join him there in 1938. Following the German invasion and occupation of France, Leon Neufeld was arrested by the Germans in Paris in June 1942, interned at Drancy, and deported to Auschwitz, where he died in September 1942. Felicia Neufeld was subsequently placed in an orphanage in Paris, but she and several other children were taken by Renee Verité to live in hiding, on her farm in Varenne, where she spent the duration of the occupation. During this period, Felicia's mother had attempted to enter France and was arrested. Verité arranged for Felicia to visit her mother in prison one time, prior to Sonia Neufeld's deportation to Auschwitz, where she was killed. Following liberation in 1944, Felicia was placed in an orphanage in Paris, until she was adopted by the family of her father's sister, who had immigrated to the United States before the war. Felicia Neufeld joined them in Washington, DC in 1947. Neufeld pursued degrees at George Washington University and the University of Maryland, and taught French in the Washington, DC area for many years.

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

Contains unpublished memoir, correspondence, identification documents, writings, and one videocassette recording, related largely to the experiences of Felicia Neufeld as a hidden child in France during the Holocaust.

The memoir, written in the form of a letter to the daughter of the woman who hid Neufeld in France during the German occupation, describes in detail her experiences during that period. Also included is correspondence from other children to Neufeld in the years following liberation, when she and other children were placed in orphanages in Paris, as well as correspondence with some of those people a half-century later, when Neufeld sought to have Renee Verité recognized by Yad Vashem as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations." Much of the collection consists of unpublished writings by Neufeld, in

which she reflects in the latter years of her life upon her experiences during the Holocaust and how they shaped her.

The first series, of biographical materials, largely consists of documents created during the period of Neufeld's immigration to the United States in 1947. The correspondence series contains primarily correspondence with Renée Verité, the woman who sheltered Neufeld and other orphaned Jewish children in Varenne during the occupation, as well as correspondence with other orphanage staff and children in the years prior to and immediately following Neufeld's immigration to the United States.

There is also extensive correspondence with an attorney and an accountant in West Germany, from 1955 to 1966, as Neufeld pursued compensation claims from the West German government, with the help of her aunt, Nina Neufeld Crovetti, who had initiated the process on her behalf. In 1957, she discovered that she had an elder half-brother, Haim Miller, living in a psychiatric hospital in Israel, and she sought to contact him, managing to do so in the years prior to his death in 1962, during which time she filed a compensation claim on his behalf as well. The compensation series of these papers contains material related to Neufeld's own claims, as well as those that she filed on her brother's behalf.

The largest component of the collection is the series of writings from Neufeld, which are divided between her memoir and miscellaneous writings divided by year. The memoir is written in the form of a letter to Verité's daughter, Claudine Meyronne, in 2004. In it, Neufeld describes in detail her experiences during the period when she was sheltered in Varenne, and discusses the activities of Verité and the other orphanage workers. The remaining writings consist of unpublished poetry and essays by Neufeld, in which she reflects during the latter years of her life upon her experiences during the Holocaust and how they shaped her.

The collection also contains subject files on various Holocaust-related topics, including those related to organizations or causes that Neufeld was involved with in the 1970s and 1980s, including Holocaust commemoration events, her efforts to research the fates of her parents, attempts to combat Holocaust denial, and efforts to commemorate the actions of Renée Verite, which culminated in the construction of a memorial in Varenne in 2000, and her recognition by Yad Vashem as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations."

### **System of arrangement**

The collection is described in the following series, and then either alphabetically by folder title or chronologically within each series: I. Biographical, II. Correspondence, III. Restitution, IV. Writings, V. Subject files, VI. Audiovisual.

### **Indexing terms**

Hidden children (Holocaust) France.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--France.  
Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust--France.  
Holocaust survivors--Maryland--Biography.  
Holocaust survivors--United States--Psychology.  
Holocaust survivors' writings.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Reparations.

## CONTAINER LIST

### I. Biographical

1	1	Birth certificate (replacement, Berlin), 1947, 1956
1	2	Citizenship documents, 1953
1	3	Immigration documents, 1946-1947
1	4	News clipping, 1986
1	5	Passport, U.S., 1960
1	6	Photographs of Neufeld family (copies), 1894, 1901
1	7	Psychiatric evaluations, 1964-1979
1	8	School documents, Paris, 1945

### II. Correspondence

1	9	Auvy, Danielle, 1945-1949
1	10	Children at the orphanage in La Varenne, 1948-1949
1	11	Levi, Arthur and Marguerite, 1948
1	12	Pevsner family, 1945-1947
1	13	Verité, Renée, 1945-1947
1	14	Yad Vashem, 1984

### III. Restitution:

Felicia Neufeld		
1	15	1955
1	16	1956
1	17	1957
1	18	1958
1	19	1959
1	20	1960
1	21	1961
1	22	1962
1	23	1963-1966
Haim Miller		
1	24	1950-1959
1	25	1960-1962
1	26	1963-1965

### IV. Writings

A. Memoir		
1	27	Photocopy of manuscript memoir, October 2004
B. Miscellaneous writings		
1	28	1973
2	1-3	1974 (3 folders)

2	4	1975
2	5	1976
2	6	1977
2	7	1978
2	8	1979
2	9	1980
3	1	1981
3	2	1982
3	3	1983
3	4	1984
3	5	1996-1999
3	6	2001-2010

#### V. Subject files

3	7	Child Survivors of the Washington/Baltimore Area (newsletters), 1992-1993
3	8	Holocaust denial, 1977-1978
3	9	Holocaust remembrance events, 1978
3	10	Klarsfeld, Serge; research on French deportees, 1981
3	11	La Varenne memorial, 2000
3	12	Neo-Nazis, activism against, 1977-1978
3	13	Ophuls, Marcel; response of Neufeld to student interviewed in film "The Memory of Justice," 1976
3	14	Speaking engagements (Share Tefila School, Silver Spring, Maryland), 1986
3	15	Verité, Renée: News clippings, photos, correspondence with family, 2004-2005

#### VI. Audiovisual material

3	16	VHS videocassette: "Cérémonie de Madame Renée Verité, le 20 février 2005."
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