

**LEAH PRESS KALINA PHOTOGRAPHS, 1915-1952**  
**2016.173.1**

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

Title: Leah Press Kalina photographs

Dates: 1916-1952 [bulk 1916-1949]

Accession number: 2016.173.1

Creators: Leah Press Kalina (1929-)

Extent: .5 linear feet (4 folders)

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

Abstract: The Leah Press Kalina photographs contain photographic prints, photographic postcards, and Rosh Hashanah cards documenting the post-war experiences of Leah Press Kalina, her sister Ruchel, and friends. The majority of the images in this collection depict Leah in the Deggendorf displaced persons camp between 1946 and 1947.

Language: Yiddish, German, Hungarian, 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 if item), Leah Press Kalina photographs, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Leah Press Kalina donated her photographs to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2016 with assistance from her daughters, Shirley Press, and Barbara Press Elkan.

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: Colleen Benoit, May 2016

### **Biographical note**

Leah Press Kalina (formerly Lenke Gruenberg 1929-) was the second eldest daughter of Eli (1889-1944) and Sheindel Schwimmer (1902-1944) Gruenberg. Leah was born in Cierny Potok, Czechoslovakia (present day Ukraine), near the Carpathian Mountains, where her father was a businessman and owned a farm. She had three sisters, Ruchel (1928-2012), Bluma (1930-1944), and Malka (1936-1944). In March 1944, Germany invaded the Trans-Carpathian region and shortly after, the Gruenberg family was forcibly moved to the Mukacheve ghetto. On May 11, 1944 the family was deported to Auschwitz in railroad cars. There, Eli, Sheindel, and Malka were immediately sent to the gas chambers, while Leah, Ruchel, and Bluma were selected for forced labor. The sisters' heads were shaved and they were shortly sent to the Płaszów concentration camp where they hauled stones for 12 hours a day. By this time, Bluma had weakened considerably. Leah and Ruchel attempted to hide pieces of bread from their rations for Bluma, but their reserves of bread were stolen. Sometime around August 1944, Leah, Ruchel, and Bluma were sent back to Auschwitz and Leah was tattooed with number A-21653. Upon their arrival, there was another selection and Bluma was clubbed to death. In the fall of 1944, Ruchel and Leah were sent to Bergen-Belsen and from there, to Buchenwald, where they arrived in December 1944. They spent their final months as prisoners at the Markkleeberg sub-camp and were finally liberated after surviving a death march. After the war, the sisters lived in the Deggendorf displaced persons camp. Ruchel married Herbert Kirschner in Deggendorf in 1947 and then settled in the United States. Leah immigrated to the United States in 1947 and married Gershon Press (1921-1970), a Holocaust survivor of Dachau, whom she met in Philadelphia. After Gershon died in 1970, Leah married Harry Kalina in 1975. She has two daughters, Shirley (1951-) and Barbara (1953-).

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

The Leah Press Kalina photographs contain photographic prints, photographic postcards, and Rosh Hashanah cards documenting the post-war experiences of Leah Press Kalina, her sister Ruchel, and friends. The majority of the images in this collection depict Leah in the Deggendorf displaced persons camp between 1946 and 1947. Images include daily activities within the camp, friends, weddings, and Leah in a uniform. Also included are photographs of Leah with friends and several images of a friend named Saul Eckstein in Rome and Israel after the war. Pre-war images depict Gershon Press and his mother and/or aunt in Lithuania.

### **System of arrangement**

The Leah Press Kalina photographs are arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

Kalina, Leah Press (1929-).  
Press, Gershon (1921-1970).  
Gruenberg, Ruchel (1928-2012).

Jewish refugees--Germany--Deggendorf.  
Deggendorf (Displaced persons camp).  
Holocaust survivors.

Deggendorf (Germany).  
United States--Emigration and immigration--1940-1950.

Photographs.

### CONTAINER LIST

Folder	Title
1	Deggendorf displaced persons camp, 1946-1949
2	Friends, 1945-1951
3	Gershon Press and mother or aunt, 1916-1939
4	Saul Eckstein, 1946-1952