Arvydas J. Klior   **February 18, 2013**

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Summary

Arvydas J. Klior was born in 1935 in Kaunas, Lithuania. His father worked in educational administration and his mother was a teacher. Arvydas has a twin sister, Ramune, who now lives in Florida. The family lived in a suburb of Kaunas until the Soviets came in 1940 and they moved to Vilnius. There they lived in an apartment near the center of town. Arvydas saw trucks full of people being deported to Siberia with Russians with bayonets. After the war began, he saw Germans parading down the street and noticed his father smoking. Germans were offering civilians the opportunity to be first in Jewish apartments if they turned Jews in. Walking with his mother in Old Town, he saw Jews with stars on their arm and one, an elderly lady, was struck with a rifle by a German for walking on the sidewalk. Jews were only permitted to walk in the street. This incident upset his mother. When he lived in the US, Arvydas mother told him that the small building in his courtyard housed young Lithuanians and Poles who shot civilians for the Germans and got paid in vodka and got drunk. In 1943 the education administration was being deported by the SS to Stutthof concentration camp so his father changed his sleeping quarters nightly. There were epidemics at the time. He and his sister suffered from typhus for a few weeks. The family lived in Vilnius until 1944 when the front came close. He read and learned that executions of Jews took place throughout Lithuania. There was antisemitism in Lithuania and some involvement by the citizens and police. Since he was born in Lithuania, Arvydas is interested in learning who were the accomplices and where are they now. He is concerned that genocide continues in Bosnia and Ruanda and people should learn from past mistakes.