

RG-50.030.1115

Summary

Note that the recording is silent during part 3 from timestamp 00:03:45 to the end.

Sylvia Rozines (née Cwjia Perelmuter) was born January 28, 1935 in Łódź, Poland where her parents also originated. Her mother was Haia Wolfmann; she had six siblings. Her father was Isaac, the oldest of seven children. Her father was in the import/export trade of foodstuffs. Sylvia considered her upbringing as middle class and moderately Orthodox; Yiddish was predominant at home. Sylvia had one older sister, Dora, born October 2, 1927.

She describes the family's living arrangements, which was within the area that became the ghetto. Once the ghetto was formed, her father worked in the bakery, where he was able to steal flour. The family had befriended a woman named Anka, who was married to an official who was able to help her husband. Sylvia describes some of her family's interactions with German soldiers.

Sylvia discusses her time in France where her treatment by students and teachers was far better than in Poland. She learned a lot about art and music. Her mother died in 1951. Her sister had immigrated to the U.S. in 1949, but Sylvia was not permitted to immigrate until she renounced her Polish citizenship. Sylvia came to the U.S. on the ship, Liberty, with her father on October 3, 1957, settling in Albany. Sylvia describes her time following the war in a DP camp, Bad Reinhardt, when she was 11 years old.

Her husband was David, whom she met through her brother-in-law. David was also from Poland (now Lithuania), who spent the war years in Siberia, sent by the Russians. She briefly describes his situation during the war, including time in Palestine. In the U.S., he first worked New Jersey before moving to Rochester where he worked in a department store as a window decorator. His mother-in-law lived with them. He died in 1999. They had one son.

She describes how she started telling her survivor story which ultimately led to her work with the Holocaust Memorial Museum. She describes her work with the book, *Yellow Star*.