

**MARIANNE GOLDSTEIN**  
**BORN: JANUARY 8, 1927**  
**HIRSCHBERG, GERMANY**

Marianne Goldstein was born January 8, 1927 in Hirschberg in the Western region of Germany and came to the United States in 1939, two weeks before the start of World War II.

She has three older brothers. The family lived in Pirmasens, Germany, not far from the French border, where there was a Jewish community of about 300 families. She shows a photo of her father, who was rabbi of the only Jewish congregation, and also shows a picture of the synagogue. The family lived in a large apartment and they could have a housekeeper until about 1935 or 1936. Her father worried about the future and sent the middle brother to the United States in spite of opposition from relatives who thought that the whole thing would blow over. Her brother, then 12 years old, went with a children's transport in 1936.

During Kristallnacht in November 1938, the synagogue was completely destroyed. The following day, her father together with other men and teenagers were arrested and taken to the concentration camp Dachau. Her mother could send 15 Mark per week and all were released six to eight weeks later. Hitler's "final solution" for the Jews was not instituted until 1941. Her father urged her mother from the camp to try to make arrangements for emigration. She also shows a postcard from Dachau.

Her brother had gone to the United States as one of 397 Jewish children, 15 years old or younger, who were admitted over 5-year period. A proposal by Senator Wagner to expand this program was never passed. Her brother was taken in by a family in Terre Haute, Indiana, where he stayed until 1939, when he was accepted by Harvard University. This family also tried hard to help other people to come, however, the German quota was practically useless after 1938 because of the heavy demand. Her father and his family could come outside the quota as a minister. She shows a page from her passport.

In Germany, she went to Public School and Gymnasium (academic high school) until Kristallnacht after which she was no longer allowed to attend. She also was sent to a sewing school operated by catholic sisters who themselves were not sure about their own status.

In a brief discussion of other relatives, she mentions a brother of her father who got to Italy and then to Shanghai where he stayed until 1947 or 1948; a grandmother who apparently was killed in 1941; a stepbrother who went to Palestine and her oldest brother who first went to an agricultural school in Hanover in preparation for Aliyah but came with her and her parents to the United States. The family first settled in Haverhill, Massachusetts where she was placed into the 1st grade but was soon promoted to 7th grade. Her brother became the main bread winner when he obtained a job in a hardware store.

Later, the family moved to Roxbury, MA, where her father officiated at various functions of the immigrants Mutual Aid Society between 1939 and 1942; eventually, he became a librarian. There was no news from Europe after 1941.

In 1984, she went to Russia for a 6-week study seminar where she met someone with relatives in Buffalo. She has tried to help him to leave but, so far, without success. The Russian family was reunited in Buffalo in 1987.

She stresses that people in the United States should provide sponsorship whenever possible or write letters to people behind the iron curtain. We know only what we read in the newspaper and never really get the whole story.