

**URSULA NARTELSKI WEINRIEB**  
**BORN 1919**  
**BERLIN, GERMANY**

Ursula Nartelski was born 1919 in Berlin, Germany. She had a happy childhood with her parents and one sister. (A second sister was born much later in Amsterdam.) She went to school and things looked good until she was eleven years old. After Hitler came to power, she was forced out of school and her father had lost his business. The family then left and moved to Amsterdam where her father had some business acquaintances. She has pictures of her family in Germany and a wedding picture from 1927 with a fairly large group of people only four of whom survived the war. Her grand parents remained at first in Germany. Her grandmother visited them in Amsterdam in 1935 and died there. Her grandfather moved there later but during the war he was taken to Auschwitz where he died.

Germany invaded Holland in 1940 and things started to get really bad in 1942 when 40 young boys were taken away and their ashes sent back to their parents. She got married to Leo Weinreib and has a picture of the couple. Through a friend of her husband's brother, they were able to go into hiding on a farm with a couple and their three children and stayed there from 1942 until liberation by the British Army in 1945. It was a small village and they had false papers. Everybody there knew but helped with food and warnings of danger. Occasionally, they had to leave the house to hide in the forest until they received a signal that it was safe to return. They were hiding in an attic with an additional hiding place. Her husband stayed in most of the time while she went out and did some sewing for people. They had enough to eat because the village people helped. There were other Jews also hiding in the area but they were not aware of it at the time. A number of the village people have been recognized as righteous gentiles at the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

After the war, the farmer with whom they were hiding stepped on a mine. He was not killed but lost one leg. When they returned to Amsterdam, her husband got some of his machines back from people who had kept them and restarted his factory of leather goods. During the war there was only one card from a cousin in Auschwitz. He was a musician and played in the band there but died on the death march when the Germans abandoned the camp.

She tried to trace her relatives through the Red Cross and found out when and where all her relatives had been killed. Of her entire family, only two cousins survived who now live in Flint, Michigan. Her husband's family was lucky and they all survived. She has told her story to her children but they do not know all details of it.

While they were in hiding, German soldiers sometimes came through the village but were not looking for Jews. On the farm they did have a hidden radio to listen to the news. Near the end of the war, when the Germans retreated, the village was bombed and some villagers were killed. Once, the Germans even came to their house and briefly stayed there.

In 1948, she, her husband and two small children came to New York through the efforts of a relative of her husband in Pittsburgh. They stayed about six months and then moved to Buffalo to be near to that relative and another in Toronto. Life was hard at first particularly because of so many bad memories. When her older son was 23 years old he and his wife visited the Dutch hiding place of his parents and many from the village came to greet them. She herself and her husband have also revisited there.

She hopes that there would be more people like the ones who had saved them.