

Suzanne Foldes

RG-50.106*0003

June 23, 1921 - born Zsuzsi Marta Morvai in Miskolc, Hungary

Attended Jewish elementary school, then a Protestant gymnasium where Jews were forced to pay double tuition

1936 - trained as a gymnast but not permitted to go to the Olympics because she was Jewish.

Summer of 1940 - father taken to Hutvan labor camp

mother and she went 60 miles by taxi every day for 6 weeks to visit him

March 1942 - Married Paul Berkovich, terminated a pregnancy because of wartime

Father taken to Ukraine for 16 months

March 19, 1944 - Germans took over town

May 1944 - Ghetto formed - Susan did agricultural work in park

June 6, 1944 - Taken on a 8-10 mile walk to brick factory

June 12, 1944 - transported by cattle car to Auschwitz

mother immediately taken to gas chambers

assigned to B-3, Barrack 5

August 2, 1944 - 1000 women taken to Buchenwald - worked in I.G. Farben factory

skin and eyes became yellow from the fumes

March 1945 - heard bombing, forced to clean factory with leaves

SS went off in different directions

Susanne left the camp, saw American soldiers who gave her food

August 1945 - went to Budapest, found father in Miskolc

heard husband had been shot

husband's friend, Andy Foldes, who lost his wife and child came to her house

May 1946 - married, son born in April 1947, named after her first husband

1956 - after Hungarian revolution, came to US, settled in New York

did not want to talk in front of her child, to save him from knowing

1990 - began to speak of her experiences

Has never forgiven herself for not trying to save her mother in Auschwitz. Feels she deserves whatever "bad" life has to give her.