

Fred Goldman (born Siegfried Goldmann)

Fred Goldman was born in Fürth, Germany on September 6, 1915. Fürth was an epicenter for Nazi activity, located next to Nuremberg, and Goldman recalls the changes his hometown experienced when Hitler came to power. He was in high school at the time, living with his mother and sister. After high school, Goldman moved to Berlin to train to be a cantor and teacher at a Jewish Teacher's College. As the situation in Germany became worse, Goldman and his family realized they needed to get out. They contacted Mrs. Goldmann's cousin in the United States, but he could not help. He had already vouched for over twenty people. Goldman returned to Fürth after three years and moved back in with his mother and sister. Around this time Mrs. Goldmann's cousin contacted them again. He said he was able to vouch for one more person, and since Goldman was the only male in the family, it was decided that he would be the one to go to America. Goldman left for America early in January of 1939. He had narrowly escaped being sent to a prison camp during Kristallnacht.

Goldman arrived in the United States with twelve dollars. He took a job as a busboy at a department store in New York. He met and married Ruth Schuster, a Jewish woman who was also from Fürth. When America joined the war, Goldman began working in a uniform factory. He was drafted into the army in March of 1943. In the army, Goldman became a member of the medical corps. He was going to be sent to the Pacific with his unit, however when the army learned he was fluent in German, they reclassified him as military Intelligence. He was sent to Europe to interrogate prisoners. After the war, Goldman was sent to a camp near Frankfurt where he sorted through documents to ascertain which could be used in war trials. Goldman stayed with the army until March of 1946, when he returned to the United States and became a diamond setter.

Fred Goldman was the only survivor of his family. Both his mother and sister died in prison camps before the end of the war. Goldman had two children after returning to the United States, a boy and a girl. The girl is named after his mother. In 1983, Goldman and his wife moved to Silver Springs, MD, and in 1996 (or 1997), Goldman began volunteering at the Holocaust Museum.