

## LUCY SMITH

Born Leah Tovah Kreisler June, 1933, Krakow, Poland. Only child. Father Heinrich was a chemist who owned an ink factory. Mother unnamed. Assimilated family speaking Polish. Unaware she was Jewish until war began and she was not allowed to go to school. Father went to Lemberg and mother and she went to Tarnhof to live in 1 BR apartment with aunt for ~a year. Mother's uncles shot in the street and aunt and son taken. They hid in the house of a kindly Ukrainian in attic. Moved into the ghetto and hid in a coal cellar with other families. Father came with forged Catholic baptismal certificates and then lived with a gentile family for 6 weeks. Children she played with were taken in an "action." They used the baptismal papers to go to Warsaw where they lived with a retired "madam." Mother sold her jewelry to survive and to bribe police. Moved elsewhere and lived with the wife of a Polish POW and avoided the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto. As Russians approached, they moved to a Warsaw suburb, Kobilke. While Russians and Germans fought, they marched away toward Preszkow. Mother pretended they were Ukrainian. Russians came 9/44. Father had hidden in Lemburg, but was wept up and found to be Jewish after underground sabotaged train station. After war, she went to school with 60 other children in Warsaw. "Quite pleasant." Later they went back to Tarnhof and then to Krakow. All family members gone. Mother sold her family's houses to maintain them. Smith graduated HS in 1951 and went on to the Academy of Fine Arts. In 1959, she got a tourist visa and went to France and met husband (not Jewish) and stayed until they came to St. Paul in 1967. Mother came a bit later.

Still identifies as Jewish and belongs to a Synagogue. It doesn't mean much to her to be a survivor. She feels alone and still in hiding after living 20 years in Communist Poland with all of the Polish antisemitism. Does write letters for Amnesty International on behalf of Russian and Ethiopian Jews and Cambodian and Hmong refugees.