

DR. SABINA ZIMERLING

Sabina Zimerling (née Sara Schwartz), born on February 24, 1923 in Piotrków, Poland. Father Bernard Schwartz and mother Tauba. Not very religious. Says Polish people and newspapers very antisemitic. Mother's family all died in the Warsaw Ghetto. Most of Father's father died as well elsewhere. 9/1/39 Piotrków bombed and attacked. By 10/39, family moved into ghetto in one room with another family. Jewish Council in ghetto collected money as demanded and provided labor for German projects. In 1942, ghetto eliminated (20,000 Jews). Zimerling and sister were helped to avoid it by hiding the 2 sisters in their attic and giving them false IDs and passports as Polish citizens. Mother caught and sent to Treblinka with the rest of the ghetto residents. Zimerling and sister went to Germany where they worked in a factory in Thuringen making road equipment and later in a hotel in Regensburg. Americans liberated are 4/27/45. Brother survived in Buchenwald but father died there the day before liberation. She stayed in Germany and went to medical school in Munich (ophthalmology). She met her husband, an electrical engineer in Munich and married in 1950. Came to Minneapolis 1950. Stayed in touch with the Polish family that helped them and when they visited in 1979 (Danula Trybus, Marcia Spiewak) they were honored in the synagogue and eventually given certificates of gratitude from Yad Vashem and had trees planted on the Walk of the Righteous.