

LYUBA KHOROSHKIYA GINSBURG was born on August 23, 1935 in Friedrichhofka, Ukraine in the former Soviet Union. Her father (Boris Khoroshkiy) was an editor in the local town newspaper before the war, despite the lack of a formal education, and her mother (Mirrel Stolyarova) earned extra money as a seamstress. Lyuba grew up with her older sister Yevgenya (Seglina) , and younger brother Alexander , in a small two bedroom apartment. While there were many Jews in Ukraine, and her grandparents followed Jewish traditions, they did not follow Jewish customs in Lybua's family. At the start of the war, the family moved to live with her paternal aunts in Kharkov but after two months the aunts were sent to work in the Urals and so the family moved in 1941 to Kustanai, in Zatobolovka . The father lived with them for a year before he was transferred in 1942 to serve the rest of the war in Kazakhstan. Life during the war years was very difficult both because of the scarcity of food and clothing and because of the virulent anti-Semitism. Lyuba recalls being attacked by dogs and beaten, as well as her brother being hung from his legs. The chimney of their house was purposely clogged to attempt to suffocate the family. She explained this anti-Semitism was from the exiled former wealthy families and they had anger partly due to many communists were Jews, and also the historical anti-Semitism in the region. The father was injured in the war and remained in the city of Bobroysk in Bellarusse. He went to get the family and they moved to Bobroysk where he worked as a planner for the government until 1953. Post war Bobroysk was very difficult especially because it had been occupied by the Germans and was heavily bombed. But Lyuba and family managed to survive by picking wild berries and selling items for food in addition to getting aid from the Soviet government and US aid. The children received a good education in school.

Lyuba's older sister went to study in Kharkov Polytechnic Institute in 1949 and lived with her aunts, and Lyuba followed when she finished high school. Upon graduating high school, Lyuba began to understand the anti-Semitism built into the Soviet system. She should have received a gold medal for mathematics, however the board of education department changed some of her grades from A to B and she was denied her medal. She was also rejected from attending a university to study mathematics and instead had to pursue studies in mechanical engineering. She recalls that the anti-Semitic teachers gave her harder questions than the non-Jews and she was originally rejected from the Institute but when her father persisted they agreed that there was a mistake in the testing and was accepted into the Kharkov Polytechnic Institute.

Lyuba met Isaac Ginsberg when they were both in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year at the Institute and married at the beginning of their 5<sup>th</sup> and final year on Nov. 3, 1957. The anti-Semitism also affected their post-graduation plans. Although they both had excellent grades they were given a substandard "red diploma" indicating and were not allowed to pursue a PhD in mathematics. Instead they were both offered a job with a crane manufacturing company in Kharkov that had a Jewish personnel director. Lyuba was a design engineer until she had her first child, Anna born Jan 18, 1959. She returned to work for an engineering contracting company which was closer to her house. She worked as a project and design engineer and the projects varied across many industries. She learned about the world events thru Voice of America and there was a noticeable increase in anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union after the 1973 Yom Kipper war. Lyuba and her husband made the decision to come to the US because they felt they could never have an equal and free life given the anti-Semitism in Russia. It affected their jobs, their travel and Lyuba recalled a time when her 65 yr old father was hit by a neighbor because he was Jewish and there were no consequences. They are happy their children will have the opportunities in the US they did not.