

Interviewee:	<u>GOREN</u> , Cherie	Date:	September 26, 1992
Interviewer:	Meta Jacoby		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	Draft, unaudited
Restrictions:	None		1 vol. (unpaged) English

### SUMMARY

Cherie Goren, née Fleischmann, was born March 16, 1925 in Klaipėda, Lithuania (Memel) on March 16, 1925. It is on the coast of the Baltic Sea north of Kalinigrad. Cherie grew up in a wealthy Orthodox home and her father was a textile merchant who traveled extensively. They identified with Germany and spoke German at home. She was a member of the Zionist Youth movement, *Betar*, and her mother belonged to WIZO (the Women's International Zionist organization).

By 1936 Cherie became aware of the growing antisemitism as Germans were marching in her city. She shares her childhood observations that her uncle (who ran a bar) and several Jewish doctors had been arrested and whispers about forged documents. She recalls the day when the teacher entered the classroom, did the Nazi salute and many children answered it. When she was beaten after school that day, her family sent her and her sister to relatives in Riga. They hoped that the Russians would protect them.

In 1938 her parents fled to Riga awaiting visas. They were able to use their funds to help other emigrees, (as well as themselves), and in 1939 the family immigrated to the United States. The family was able to travel on the Queen Mary to New York and later on to relatives to Indianapolis. Other family members fled to Rhodesia and Dublin. However, in 1941 they received a letter informing them that the remaining relatives in Riga were burned to death.