

Interviewee:	<u>LIPMAN</u> , Gila	Date:	April 21, 1985 ¹
Interviewer:	David Kalkstein		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Gila Lipman is the child of survivors. Her father was a well-to-do orthodox Jew from Bedzin, Poland and her mother, was born in Lodz, Poland, to a wealthy family. She details experiences of her parents during the Holocaust and details her personal experience as the daughter of survivors.

Gila's parents never shared details about their experiences so she could only generally describe certain parts of their stories. Both her parents were Zionists before the war. Her father was in a labor camp, then escaped and hid in woods in Belgium for a time. Gila discusses how his belief in God sustained him and believes that he was part of some resistance efforts in the camp. Before the war, Gila's mother had completed one year of medical school in Belgium but was never able to continue. Her mother was a teacher in the Lodz Ghetto. Gila discusses how her mother's positive attitude and intelligence helped her to survive. She gives the example of giving French lessons to a German guard in exchange for extra food rations. She also describes her mother's faith in God in helping her to survive.

Both her parents survived concentration camps, but she gives no details. Both parents lost all their family. Gila's parents met in Munich, Germany after the war and married there in 1946. In 1950, when Gila was seven her parents emigrated to Israel (four years), then returned to Germany. Her father started a thriving business in Hamburg, Germany. She discusses how her parents are still not ready to participate in sharing their story publically but that they are starting to share certain aspects with the family – they celebrated the day of her father's liberation during her parents last trip from Germany.

As a child of survivors, Gila was always aware of parents' survival. She is an only child (a preemie, seven months) born in 1947. She feels her parents remained overprotective even as she grew to adulthood and had her own children. She had difficulty relating to others—even other Jewish youths—growing up in Germany. She went to a German girls' public school and Hebrew school. At eight or nine learned English. She had Jewish and Protestant friends. At 17 she decided to come to the United States in order to be in a place where Jews were more numerous. She met her husband in New York and married in three years. She was naturalized in 1969.

¹Recorded at the 1985 American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Philadelphia, PA.