

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

P.O. Box 25506, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name of interviewee: Gendelman, Dova

Date of interview: 1/14/1994

Summary: Dova Gendelman was born on June 20, 1930. Her father taught Russian, mathematics and history at Heder (Jewish school). Later he became an accountant. As the war started, the family planned to evacuate to Dnipropetrovsk but father could not evacuate earlier because of military duty. Eventually they evacuated on horses, however they were overtaken by Germans and returned to Shargorod, Ukraine. The family had to go into hiding before they could return home. Soon all Jews of Shargorod were ordered to move into the Ghetto, which was characterized by constant shootings and Germans harassing Jews and making them work. They lived with hunger under overcrowded conditions. Soon the Romanians administered the Ghetto, as Germany gave away the territory to Romania. The Romanians continued harassments, Dova's family continued hiding in a home in the ghetto. During hiding, Dova learned Hebrew and Jewish traditions from her grandfather. In 1942, lots of people in the ghetto were dying from diseases.

Right now Dova has no other family left in Shargorod and all her Dnipropetrovsk relatives were killed (aunts and uncles on father's side), only one cousin was left to live. The Germans destroyed all 7 of Shargorod's synagogues. After the war, Dova worked in her hometown as a doctor for 42 years. She notes that instead of sympathy for their loss, Jews were greatly discriminated against. It was hard for them to get into college or obtain a good job. This situation that continued all through to the end of her life in the Ukraine depressed her very much. However now in America she is happy and wants to live. Dova wishes to get back to Judaism and hopes for a rebirth of Jewish traditions in her family. Arrived in the US in September 1993.