

## Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

**Name of interviewee:** Frankiel, Hershel

**Date of interview:** 10/1/1984 & 8/23/1990

**Summary:** Hershel Frankiel was born in 5/12/1935 in Lodz, Poland to Jacob Frankiel and Sara Rosenberg Frankiel. In 1939, the Germans entered his town and seized all of his family's possessions. His family was thrown out on the streets and eventually sent to the ghetto in 1942. His grandfather and other family members were taken away from the ghetto one day on a train heading for Auschwitz. Hershel witnessed cattle trucks full of Jews who had been shot to death in the ghetto, so he knew he had to escape. The remaining members of Hershel's family escaped from the ghetto and went from town to town looking for food and trying to stay out of the German's reach. Hershel, his parents, an aunt, and 2 grandparents (mother's side) paid a family to hide them in an underground shed in a Polish family's backyard. The hole was excruciatingly small, and the family lived there for 2 years and 2 months. They were only allowed out at night. They were finally able to leave the hole after the war ended. Their Polish neighbors brought them food after they came out of hiding.

In 1947, Hershel and his parents immigrated to the United States, when Hershel's father got a job at a dyeing factory. Hershel lived alone, with his wife, away from the Jewish community and felt a sort of security by it. In 1983, his wife and friends urged him to attend the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. He did decide to attend, though at first he was apprehensive. Hershel's mother, Sara Frankiel, has also been interviewed by BAHOP.