

## Regina Laks Gelb

Interviews of 3/18/98 and 8/27/98, as part of the Jeff and Toby Herr Collection, USHMM

Born Dec. 26, 1929 in Starachowice, Poland, Regina Laks Gelb discusses her two surviving sisters: Anna Laks Wilson and Rosalie Kristina ("Kris") Lehrman; her attachment to her maternal grandmother Sara Tannenblume who perished in Treblinka along with all other maternal relatives; the series of camps she was sent to beginning in Oct. 1942: Shellneetsa, Auschwitz (including 4 - 5 days on a death march from Auschwitz), Afectencomer, Ravensbruck, and Radsoff, from which she escaped during a forced march; her move to a displaced persons camp in Berlin with her sister and brother-in-law; her arrival in NYC where she attended high school and some college until moving to Bloomington, IN, to teach at the language school at Indiana University, where she eventually completed her undergraduate degree; her marriage to Victor Gelb and birth of two sons: Harry and Paul; her career as interpreter/translator, including her service to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum when the Polish archives were released; her strong belief that family is the key to survival and health; her lifelong attachment to learning and academics; and the importance of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a combination resource center, educational center, and museum.