

RG-50.986.0007

Bina Neger Polonski

Language: Spanish

Summary

Bina Neger Polonski was born in Boryslaw, Poland, on January 23, 1939. Her father, David Neger. Her mother, Helena Neger. Had a 5 years older sister, Esther, and a 14 years younger sister, Manuela.

Her family was very wealthy. Her parents had a jewelry store, but the Russians took it when the war started. Her family moved to a bigger city, Lodz. Her father gave classes of watch repair. He was arrested and imprisoned for three days, and decided after that to move to the city of Sambor, where they had relatives. Her father, her mother and her older sister went to the Sambor ghetto. She was very young – around 3 years old - and stayed with her nanny, Fesha [ph], in an apartment that her father had rented. She was taken to a convent for a brief time, but went back to the apartment. Her father prepared an underground hiding place in a cabin next to the apartment, where the family hid if there were visitors in the apartment. After six months, her father tried to find another place to stay, but one day was recognized by a Polish man and killed. Her mother and her sister had to go to another place to hide, ending in some forests with partisans. She stayed in the apartment with her nanny.

After Poland was liberated, there was no one left from her mother's side and her mother decided to "give" her two daughters to the Jewish organization Ihud/Ichud [Ph], which was helping children to scape. She and other children walked to Czechoslovakia, where they stayed in a refugee camp. After that, they went to Austria, where they stayed nine months in another refugee camp. They went to Italy in 1946, to a place near Rome called Monte Maria, with many other Jewish people. They learned Hebrew. Her sister was taking care of her at the time. In 1948, they took a boat to Israel. Her mother was still in Poland.

In Israel, they were taken to a refugee camp for children, Karkur [ph], and she was separated from her sister, who was sent to a farm, Nahalal. She was sent to the kibbutz "Kfar Glikson." Her group of children was called "Ha-Bonim" (the constructors). She worked at the library, and others used to call her "Sefer" because she loved reading.

Her mother left Poland, went to Israel and got married with one of her cousins, also called Neger. Her mother and her husband rented a shared apartment in Jaffa, where an Arab woman and her son also lived. Her sister joined the army at 18, and her mother had another daughter. She did not join her mother until she was fourteen. Her mother had a jewels and antiquities store. Her sister got married with a man from Buffalo, NY, who was the brother of a friend of her mother from the Sambor Ghetto.

Her mother didn't want her to enter the army and sent her to Buffalo with her sister before she turned eighteen. After that, she was sent to Guatemala, where relatives of her stepfather lived. She lived in the home of a woman with other refugees. Her stepfather got a visa to Guatemala

as cantor, and she could reunite with her mother. The mother bought a shoe store, earned money, and could sent her one year to study to a Jewish school in New York.

Back in Guatemala, she married Elias Polansky, a man from Poland who had emigrated before the war. Her husband had a clothes store, "La casa de los abrigos," and she worked there. They had three children (among them, Rosanna and Belinda). She went to Mexico at the end of the nineties. She gave talks in schools about the holocaust. She did the same in Guatemala. Her mother emigrated to Miami. Her younger sister stayed in Guatemala.