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Language: Spanish

Summary

Rosa G. Rotenberg Born June 19, 1941, in the ghetto of Warsaw, Poland.

Rosa's parents gave six-month-old Rosa to a young man called Kalmen, who left every morning to work outside the ghetto. Kalmen hid Rosa in his bag, took her out of the ghetto, and left her with Rosa's oldest maternal aunt, Stefa. Rosa was carrying a small bag with a fake Polish name, Wanda Darlewska, in a necklace. Rosa does not know what happened after that, but knows that she ended in a Catholic orphanage, Kzendza Boduena, in Leszna Street, in Warsaw. She was in that orphanage until 1945, when the war ended and her father picked her up.

Her mother did not survive. Her father survived after having been in several camps, the last one liberated by the Russians. Her father had five siblings and he was the only one who survived. Rosa's maternal aunt Stefa also survived and later emigrated to Israel.

Rosa's father married another woman. They were in Paris from 1945 to 1950. After that, they decided to leave and go to the American continent. Her father intended to go to Bolivia, via Brazil and Argentina. Rosa's family arrived in Argentina September 1950, in the ship "SS Florida." Rosa travelled with her father, her father's new wife, and their two daughters, Liliana, who was two years old, and Edith, who was one year old. Her father's wife was seven months pregnant and Rosa's last sister, Eva, was born in Argentina two months after their arrival. In Argentina, her father found a good friend from Poland, Julio Gotlib, who convinced him not to travel to Bolivia and stay in Argentina.

Rosa lived in Argentina all her life. She got married to a man called Carlos, and they had two children, Carolina and Miguel. Both Carolina and Miguel were living in the US at the time of the interview. Rosa got a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and was a professor in Buenos Aires University. She also had a clinical laboratory until she retired in 2001.

Rosa's father started writing his memoirs in Yiddish when he was 85 years old and finished them when he was 92. Rosa translated the memoirs into Spanish and prepared them for publication. The result was a book called "Abi vaiter. Sigamos adelante." Working in the book, she connected with a community of survivors that became the group "Generaciones de la Shoá."

In 2015, she travelled to Warsaw. She visited childhood places and saw the tomb of her grandfather from her mother side. She could not find her birth certificate or any information about her mother. However, after she returned in Argentina, she received a letter from Yad Varshelem with information about her mother: she had not died in a train as Rosa thought; she had been in many camps, among them Skarżysko-Kamienna and Bergen-Belsen, and had died in a British hospital after the war ended, being buried in Poland.

Two of Rosa's sisters live in Buenos Aires and one her sisters lives in Israel.