

VERA SCHIFF



I was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia. My family, Katz-Taussig, was a loving, close-knit clan of people. In May 1942, under Nazi occupation, we were deported to the concentration camp, "Theresienstadt," where my parents, sister and grandmother perished. In spite of unimaginable odds I managed to elude the ongoing deportation to death camps in the East. In Theresienstadt, I was assigned to work in the camp's hospital, "Vrchlabi." Following the war's end I found out that all my relatives were killed in different concentration camps. I am the sole survivor of our entire family.

After the war my husband, Arthur Schiff - also a survivor of the Holocaust - and I lived in Prague. Then, in 1949, we made aliyah and lived in Israel until 1961. Then, we moved to Canada. Here, I worked in my profession of medical technologist and specialized in Hematology.

We have two sons, David and Michael, both practicing physicians. We are blessed with six grandchildren. Following my retirement, I decided to commit to paper my memories in a book published in 1996, Theresienstadt- the town the Nazis gave to the Jews. This was followed up in 2004 with "Hitler's Inferno- Eight Personal Histories from the Holocaust" and in 2005 I translated the small diary my mother kept in Theresienstadt under the title "A Theresienstadt Diary: Letters to Veruska" In addition, I speak to schools and interested groups about our tragic past.. I am also a freelance interpreter at the office of the Attorney General, certified in the Czech, German and Hebrew languages.