

THE STORY OF

THE KRASNER AND WINDMAN FAMILIES

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (2014, updated November 2020)

I would like the younger generation, who is reading this and the generations still to come, to understand that this story is about your family - people like yourselves, living life with loving families, going to school, playing with friends, getting married, having children, etc., who were caught in a horrific time in history. And yet even with having their loved ones ripped away from them - wives, husbands, children, parents, sisters, brothers, grandparents - they survived and began new lives, travelling to new countries, learning new languages, working hard and raising their children with love and purpose.

They put their pain aside and their energy into hope for the future generations. They showed us that your past does not define your future and that no matter what life throws at you, you can still find a reason to laugh and celebrate life. They also showed us that, no matter how bad things seem, they can always be worse. They were Survivors.

I am grateful to my children, **Marnie Goodman Shachar and David Goodman**, for recognising the importance of recording and preserving Aunty Jean's testimony of the Holocaust.

Thank you to **Lior Moneta** for doing the simple, but important task, of putting numbers on the family portrait identifying each person. It made the picture come to life!

Thank you to my husband, **Michael Lublinski**, who was my sounding board and editor. Your help was invaluable.

I'm grateful to my parents, **Jack and Frances Swan** and all my aunts and uncles, who provided us with wonderful memories and humour, so that we could live our lives without the burden of their pain. They were wonderful role models, who taught us to appreciate what we had, our family and our freedom.

Special thanks to my **Aunty Jean**, who took the time, no matter how painful the memory, to share every detail we asked for. We could not have done this without her. She understood that we must never forget. We, and future generations of our family, have all benefitted from her willingness to share and her understanding of the value of these stories.

GOOGLE PHOTO ALBUM - Past & Present:

<https://photos.google.com/album/AF1QipO23LGiuQ2JSyb1dDZhuXegNYUGTw1weCSr75EL>

YAD VASHEM:

These documents are archived with Yad Vashem. You can locate them at:
ref. no. CAS-311973 CRM:0114067

https://documents.yadvashem.org/index.html?language=en&search=advance&re_value=O.33&re_type=literal&fi_value=9718&fi_type=exact&GridItemId=12463904

Videos are at:

<https://documents.yadvashem.org/index.html?language=en&search=global&strSearch=12473726&Gridlte>

The GIDONIM PROJECT

This group has completed mapping the Jewish cemetery in Czestochowa, Poland. Since the summer of 2004, a delegation of the Gidonim project including new and veteran alumni, as well as teachers from the Reut School, travels to repair and document Jewish graves in Poland.

With this website, you can see if your family's name comes up for the gravesites that have been documented. <http://www.gidonim.com/tombstones/czestochowa/>

2. INDEX

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2. CHAPTERS

3. FAMILY PORTRAIT DESCRIPTION - the family portrait taken in 1936, with added detail of everyone's name.

4. FAMILY STORY - what happened in Częstochowa, Poland, the story of our family's experience.

5. WHO'S WHO IN OUR FAMILY - the same family portrait (#3), but with more detail about who everyone is and how they are related. There is still some missing information. If you know of details that are missing or mistaken, please let me know. I'll do my best to keep this updated.

6. VIDEO - Jean Windman Borkowsky's testimony of the Holocaust

(Video freezes at 36 min mark. Just click on the circle where it stops or move it a second back)

Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=039yXoc5qy8>

****Clarification:** In Part 1, Jean talks about her father "borrowing money" and David says "money laundering". What she meant to say is that her father made money by giving loans to people, who otherwise could not get bank loans.

Part 2 <http://youtu.be/TMbvQT1Og3k>

7. PICTURE VIDEO OF OUR FAMILY - in 1998, family pictures were put to music in a video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qHhviHp5ds&feature=youtu.be>

To see many of these photos and more recent ones, go to:

GOOGLE PHOTO ALBUM - Past & Present

<https://photos.google.com/album/AF1QipO23LGiuQ2JSyb1dDZhuXegNYUGTw1weCSr75EL>

8. GENERATION PLUS Speaks Out

9. THE VIOLIN - this Israeli film, produced by Roy Mandel, is a story about a Stradivarius Violin. While the story itself is touching, the backdrop for the story is Częstochowa. We see and learn about the city during and before the War.

<http://roymandel.co.il/video/47248500>

3. WHO'S WHO IN OUR FAMILY

This is a family portrait of Fishel Windman and Chava Shinert Krasner Windman's family taken in 1936.

It was taken during a summer, family get-together in Chęstochowa. Fishel Windman, the patriarch, ensured that even family, who had moved to Belgium, also attended and stayed for the summer. To Fishel and Chava, it did not matter if someone was a step-child, step-sister, ½ sister/brother** or whatever. Everyone was FAMILY and was treated the same. This tells us a lot about the generous nature of Fishel and Chava. That feeling of inclusion was carried over into my generation, where no one ever mentioned who was a full relative or not.

(But for purposes of explaining Who's Who, I have to use these labels – I apologise!)

For years, when I was young, I thought this was my mother's class picture. Who had ever seen so many family members in ONE picture, especially for Holocaust survivors?? This picture not only lets us see who everyone was, but provides an easy way to explain Who's Who in this large, extended family.

Pictures on the wall are wedding pictures of Chava Krasner and Fishel Windman, from 1918.



NAMES OF THOSE IN THE PICTURE

1. Tovia (Teddy) Krasner (Chava's son)
2. Beryl Shinert (Chava Krasner's father)
- 3 & 4. Lypshe & Zalmen Windman (Fishel's brother & wife)
5. Hinke Krasner (Chava's step-niece from 1st marriage)
6. Salka Krasner Shenwald (Yankel Krasner's daughter and Chava's step-daughter)
- 7 & 8. Blima Windman (Fishel's sister) & husband
- 9 & 10. Helen Krasner Bebeliski & Yossel Bebeliski (Chava's step-sister & her husband)
- 11 & 12. Pearl Shinert (Chava's younger sister) & her husband
13. Moishe-David Windman (Fishel's son. Married to Rosza Krasner, Fishel's step-daughter)
14. Rosza Krasner Windman, (Chava's daughter from her 1st marriage)
15. Etká Krasner Wiernik (Chava's daughter from her 1st marriage)
- 16 & 17. Chava Shinert Krasner Windman & Fishel Windman
18. Bronia Windman Chopak (Fishel's daughter and Chava's step-daughter)
- 19 & 20. Kalmen Windman (Fishel's son and Chava's step-son), wife & child
21. Lola Windman (Fishel & Chava's daughter)
22. Genia Windman (Fishel & Chava's daughter)
23. Frania Windman (Fishel & Chava's daughter)
24. Yadzja Szenwald (Salka Krasner's daughter & Chava's step granddaughter)
25. Helene Wiernik (Etká Krasner's daughter & Chava's granddaughter)
- 26 & 27. Zalmen Windman's sons, (Fishel's nephews)
28. Leon Wiernik (Etká Krasner's son & Chava's grandson)
29. Sally Windman (Rosza Krasner's daughter & Chava's granddaughter)
30. Jacob Windman (Rosza Krasner's son & Chava's grandson)
31. Sara (Bronia Windman's daughter and Fishel's granddaughter)
- 32 & 33. (Bronia Windman's sons and Fishel's grandsons)
34. Renia Shenwald (Salka Krasner's daughter and Chava's granddaughter)
35. Frania Windman (Kalmen & Lypshe Windman's daughter and Fishel's granddaughter)

Absent:

- Lieble Windman, (Fishel's son) & Mania Krasner Windman (Chava Krasner's step-niece who married Lieble Windman)
- Itchik Windman, (Fishel's son)
- Chune Wiernik (Helene's father, Etká's husband)

** Note

Step-child means a husband or wife's child brought into the marriage, not a child of the marriage.
Step-sister/brother means they are not related by birth, only by their parents' marriage.

4. FAMILY STORY – “WE WERE LUCKY”

The information which I relied upon to write the Krasner-Windman family story is based on verbal accounts provided by my Aunt Jean (Windman) Borkowsky and my parents, Frances (Windman) & Jack Swan (Shvientarski). It is a story about Fishel Windman, the patriarch of the family, and his wife, Chava Krasner Windman, the matriarch. I supplemented the family accounts with information which I gathered online and through other family sources. What struck me was how many times they used the word “lucky”. They used to say that surviving the War was not about being smart, but about having a “Bisele Mazel” - a bit of luck. Well, it seems that our family had a LOT of luck! Against all odds and unlike most others, our family found sisters and brothers, husbands and wives and even some children after the War. My friends, who are children of Holocaust survivors, were amazed by my large, extended family. I feel lucky too.

Our family’s lives, as they knew it, ended on Friday, 1st September 1939, when the German military entered Poland. Two days later, they entered Częstochowa, the city in which they lived. That Monday, 4th September, the Germans made the first “Selection”¹ and a slaughter began which lasted for three days. This “Pogrom”² was known as “Bloody Monday”³. They rounded up all the men and took them to the churches, jails and army barracks. The women, left alone with the children, did not know what was happening. Then, on the following Monday night, the Germans set fire to a building beside the school and brought all the women to watch. The women thought that they would also be burned, but they were allowed to return home. Many of the men were shot and the rest were allowed to return home. It was a preview of what was to come and to show who was in charge.

Fishel Windman was among the men taken into custody. His daughter, Genia (Jean), without any fear for her own safety, took his bakery license and went to the soldiers, telling them that if they released her father, he would go back to his bakery and bake for them. No one was more surprised than she was when they released him. During this time, in 1940, Chava Krasner Windman died in her sleep from a heart attack. (There is no record of her burial in the Częstochowa cemetery.)

The Germans made immediate changes. A curfew was implemented as 7:00 p.m. for Jews and, if caught outside after curfew, they were beaten or shot. Jews had to wear a yellow armband with the Star of David, identifying them as Jewish. They were ordered to turn in all their valuables - gold, silver, jewellery, furs, etc. If the Germans found that they had not complied, they were shot immediately. And the Jews were not allowed to leave their area to go into the Polish sector, as they had done before.

Two years later, 9th April 1941, the “Big Ghetto” in Częstochowa was established. By 23rd August 1941, it was sealed off. The ghetto population suffered from overcrowding, hunger and epidemics.

¹ Selection - the process of selecting Jewish deportees immediately after arrival at an extermination camp, separating those assigned to forced labor and those to be killed. The term also refers to the selection of Jews for deportation from ghettos. <http://www.humanitas-international.org/holocaust/glossary.htm>

² Pogrom - a violent [riot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogrom) aimed at massacre or persecution of an ethnic or religious group, particularly one aimed at [Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogrom). <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogrom>

³ Bloody Monday <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Czestochowa/cze039.html>

Because our family owned bakeries, they were able to work openly, hide members of the family in the bakery and have food. Also, they used bread to barter for other necessary goods and services. This was a definite advantage when fighting for your life. Several of the men in our family were bakers - Fishel Windman, his brother Zalmen, Fishel's two sons, Moishe and Leible, Chava's son-in-law, Yossel Bebeliski (married to Helen Krasner) and her son, Tovia Krasner. At the time of the "Big Ghetto", all the bakeries in Czestochowa were allowed to be open.

In Fishel's bakery, before the War, there was a room over the bakery oven. Fishel realised that the heat from the ovens could be used to heat water. So he installed pipes from the lower floor and a bathtub. What a luxury! No one else had a bathtub like this with running, hot water. When the War started, they cemented in the doorway to this room and prepared it as a hiding-place. A neighbour made head-to-toe body suits from flour sacks for the adults and children to wear, so they could climb through the dirty oven vent to get into the closed room.

23rd September 1942, was the start of a large scale deportation ("Aktion"⁴) that reduced the "Big Ghetto" to the "Small Ghetto", where there was a forced labour camp to manufacture munitions and metal products. The camp was created by private Germans and called, "HASAG"⁵, which stood for the *Hugo Schneider Aktiengesellschaft*. The factory also employed salaried non-Jewish Poles, who arrived from the neighbouring homes in the area.

By 5th October 1942, about 39,000 people had been deported to the Treblinka extermination camp, while 2,000 had been executed on the spot and buried in mass graves in the Czestochowa Cemetery. The "Small Ghetto" remained open until mid-1943, when the final liquidation of the Jews began.

As the Germans reduced the "Big Ghetto" into the "Small Ghetto", the number of bakeries was also reduced. Only those with permission could remain open. Among the people given special permission to continue working in their bakeries were Fishel's brother, Zalmen and Fishel's son, Moishe. Fishel's bakery had to close and the rest of the family could not work there anymore.

Selections continued throughout the "Big Ghetto" in order to reduce the number of Jews who would live in the "Small Ghetto". Our family (except Zalmen and Moishe) went into hiding and did not come out for the Selection. When the Germans came to where our family was living and yelled for the Jews to come out, ("Juden Raus!"), Zalmen died instantly of a heart attack. Zalmen's wife sent word to Fishel, to come out of hiding and take on Zalmen's identity, so that he could work openly in the bakery. Fishel worked in the bakery until it was closed in September 1943. There were many family members hiding in this bakery - Helen Krasner and her two daughters, Itchik Krasner and his family, Tovia Krasner, (who also worked there), Moishe's wife, Rosza Krasner Windman & her three children, Zalmen Windman's widow and family, Lipsyce & Kalmen Windman and their three children and Shlomo Shinert and his wife. (There were possibly more, but not named.) Think of ALL those people hiding in ONE small room!

⁴ Aktion - codename for the Nazi euthanasia program to eliminate "life unworthy of life", at first focused on newborns and very young children. <http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-euthanasia.htm>

⁵ HASAG: <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/nazioccupation/hasag.html>

Because Fishel's son, Moishe, also had permission to take over and work at another bakery in the "Small Ghetto", he was allowed to take his wife (Rosza Krasner) and personal belongings. But his children, who were hidden, had to remain hidden or the Germans would send them away. He used a wagon to carry everything with him and also to hide his three children and Helen's two children. This way, he was able to move them safely into the "Small Ghetto" to be hidden.

Jean worked outside the "Small Ghetto", emptying out people's apartments who had been sent away. During the time that the Germans were closing down the "Small Ghetto", she overheard some people from the Jewish Organization saying that the number of bakeries would be reduced, since there were now fewer people to feed. She knew her father and family, in hiding, were in danger and would be sent away. She boldly asked a German soldier to take her by bike to the bakery, where her father was working (Zalmen's old bakery) and where family was hiding. She paid the German with some valuables she had found. She told her family that there was no way to survive and to leave the bakery. That night, the family members each took a pail of bread dough and walked to Moishe's bakery. They wanted to look like they were going to work in a bakery which still had permission to stay open - in case they were stopped. As there were few Germans out at night there, they had no problem reaching the bakery safely.

On 26th June 1943, the Germans began the final liquidation of the "Small Ghetto" and it was eventually burned down. To get the Jews out of hiding, the Germans yelled, "Jews out! We're going to burn down the 'Small Ghetto'". Shlomo, who cared for the children during the day, was afraid of being burned and came out of hiding with his wife and Helen's two children and Rosza's two children. (Rosza's older son, Jacob, survived as he looked old enough to work.) The others were sent to their death at the Cześćochowa cemetery, where they were shot at a mass grave. The rest of the family moved from the bakery into the HASAG barracks. 26th June 1943 was also the date of an uprising in the Cześćochowa ghetto⁶.

During the War, ammunition and grenade factories ("HASAG") were set up in several Polish cities, including three in Cześćochowa. Of the Jews remaining in the "Small Ghetto", those who could work were sent to the factories as slave labourers. At first, the thousands of people were housed in auditoriums and gymnasiums. Later, barracks were built. They slept two-to-one straw mat. Jean described an incident where, one day, as she walked up the stairs to bed, she saw a German soldier shoot the woman who slept beside her. The mat was next to where the women's eleven-year old daughter slept. For some reason, the daughter blamed Jean for her mother's death and for days would not let her rest. So Jean had to give up her mat and, every night, wait for an empty mat of someone who did not return or who was working at night.

Moishe and Yossel's bakeries were taken over by German bakers, but they were allowed to continue working there. For four months, they continued to bake bread for the workers in HASAG but, at night, since no one was around, they would search abandoned buildings for valuables. The delivery man, who brought the bread to HASAG every day, was given a "special" loaf of bread by Moishe and Yossel to take to the family, a loaf which was hollowed out to make room for jewellery and money. Surprisingly, the delivery man always brought this bread to our family in HASAG. The family used these valuables to barter for what they needed and to pay for their safety. Clearly, this gave them an advantage at survival. However, when the Germans found German bakers, Moishe was taken to the

⁶ 26th June 26 1943, Uprising in the Cześćochowa Ghetto
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cz%C4%99stochowa_Ghetto_Uprising

cemetery mass grave and killed together with thousands of others. Yossel escaped the "Selection", but was found dead on the evening of Liberation. Family members buried him in the Częstochowa cemetery. Fishel was caught in the final "Selection" and was also taken to the cemetery. In the video, Jean describes how she and her three sisters - Rosza, Helen and Lola - narrowly missed being sent on the last trains to Germany on 17th January 1945, the day of Liberation. They were indeed LUCKY!

Before leaving the city, on 17th January 1945, which was being bombed by the Russians, the Germans managed a forced evacuation of almost 6,000 Jews from the HASAG factories to concentration camps inside Germany. The 5,200 Jews, who managed to hide from the Germans, were liberated by the Soviet army on that same day, 17th January 1945.

5. WHO'S WHO IN OUR FAMILY (Updated November, 2020)

CHAVA SHINERT KRASNER WINDMAN

Chava's parents were Beryl (a tailor) and Rifka Shinert. She was born in Przerwa, Poland in 1886 and died in September 1940 from a heart attack, while living in the Chęstocchowa "Big Ghetto". She also suffered from diabetes. (Several of her children also died from heart disease and diabetes later in life, i.e. Helen, Rosza and Tovia). Chava had one sister, Pearl Shinert, (seen in the family picture) and two brothers, Shlomo and Peretz Shinert. They were in their sixties and had families when the War started and were all killed by the Germans.

Growing up, Chava's family was poor and she wanted to leave the "Shtetl" (*1) to work, so her uncle invited her to be his maid in Chenstochov, where he worked as a butcher. He knew Yankel Krasner, (1864 - 1914), a widower who was a dairy worker, and introduced him to Chava. They were married in 1904 when Chava was 17 and Yankel was 40. He had 5 children from a previous marriage. (Apparently, she was very embarrassed to go out with Yankel and his children, as people thought she was his daughter-in-law!)

YANKEL KRASNER'S CHILDREN - from his 1st marriage

1. *Gavril Krasner - his daughter, Hinke Krasner is in family picture.
2. *Shlomo - his daughter, Mania Krasner (1921-2013), survived the War and married Lieble Windman, one of Fishel's sons.
3. *Adolf Krasner - no information.
4. *Gittel Krasner - when the War started, she flew from Belgium to Gibraltar to New York with her husband, Yosaf Lindenberg, and their two daughters, Louise (Greene) and Nancy (Cohen). They lived in New York.
5. *Itchik Krasner - was married and had three children. (Not in family portrait)

They were killed in June 1943, during the liquidation of the "Small Ghetto".

* No known birth dates, but Gavril was the oldest and Itchik the youngest. Based on Yankel's age, they would have been born between 1884 and 1904. Gavril, and Adolf moved to Belgium in the 1920's with their wives and children. They were sent from there to Auschwitz, where they were killed. Shlomo and Itchik and their families were killed in 1943 during the final liquidation of the "Small Ghetto".

Yankel died in 1914, when Chava was twenty-eight years old. She was left with no money, so she sent the older children to family members and her youngest two children, Helen and Tovia, to her parents' farm in Przerwa, Poland. To earn money, she used a horse and cart to carry and sell barrels of water which she filled from the pumps. (She called herself a "vodiatreiger" or "water carrier".) After a short time, she had saved enough money to rent a market-stall to sell flour, barley, corn, etc. She was also able to rent a room behind Fishel Windman's bakery, which was close to the market.

Fishel Windman, taken with her beauty and enterprising ability, ("latische frau") soon proposed marriage. They were married in 1918, when Fishel was 37 and Chava was 32. Apparently, Chava was afraid to bring all her children into their home at once, so she brought them one at a time! But she soon learned that there was no need to worry, because Fishel was most generous in treating all their children the same.

CHAVA & YANKEL KRASNER'S CHILDREN

Chava had 5 living children with Yankel:

(She had twins who died.)

1. Salka Krasner 1904 - 1951
2. Etka Krasner 1905 - 2003
3. Rosza Krasner 1907 - 1974
4. Helen Krasner 1909 - 1964
5. Tovia Krasner 1912 - 1982

Salka Krasner (1904-1960) married Lewi Szenwald in 1924. She had two daughters, Renia Szenwald, born in 1928, and Ita Szenwald, born in 1924. (After the War, Ita changed her name to Jadwiga, because it sounded less Jewish but, within the family, she was known Jadzia.) During the War, Salka and her husband and children went to Russia. Renia and Jadzia survived the Siege of Stalingrad⁷ (*5) by working in an uncle's hairdressing business. Lewi worked with the Red Army as a cook, but Salka was sent to jail in Siberia. After the War, her husband and daughters, who survived the War, returned to Częstochowa, believing that their mother was dead. Lewi was introduced to a woman, Salka Symchowicz (2). He lived with this Salka (2) until 1955, when a letter came from Russia telling them that Salka Krasner (1), his first wife, was alive and coming home.

He wanted to stay with Salka Symchowicz (2), but his children insisted that he let their mother come back. He arranged for an apartment for Salka (2) and Salka (1) came home. Lewi and Salka (1) moved to Zabrze, Belgium in 1958, where Salka (1) died in 1960. Salka (2) came back to live with Lewi and he died in 1971.

Renia Shenwald married Karol Lieblien in Częstochowa and moved to Israel in 1949. They had two sons, Ilon Lieblien, born circa 1952 and Nathan Lieblien, born circa 1956. They are both married with children, but no one is in touch with them, so that I cannot confirm details. They live in Israel.

Jadzia Szenwald (1924-1979) married Limek Przyrowski and had a daughter, Stefania (Stefa) Przyrowska, born 1947 and a son, Romek Przyrowski, born 1955. They moved to Brussels, Belgium in 1969. Jadzia had diabetes and died in 1979 from a heart attack.

⁷ Siege of Stalingrad https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Stalingrad

Stefa married Georges Drighes in 1975 and lives in Brussels, Belgium. They have a son Michel Drighes, born 1978 and a daughter, Sally Drighes, born 1976. Michel lives in Brussels and Sally lives in Israel.

Romek married Kimberley in 1998 and moved to Cleveland, Ohio. He had one daughter, Alexandra Przyrowski, born in April 1999 who lives in the U.S. He died in 1999, at the age of forty-four, from a heart attack.

Etka Krasner (1905-2003) married Elchonon ("Chune") Wiernik in 1925. They moved to Brussels, Belgium before the War and hid there during the War. They had a daughter, Helene Wiernik, born 1927 and a son, Leon Wiernik, born 1933. In 1941, Leon and Helene were hidden with a Christian family but, in 1942, Helene and Leon were arrested and sent to Auschwitz. Leon was immediately sent to his death, as he was only 7 years old. Helene was selected to play First Violin in the women's orchestra. This is the reason she survived. The orchestra played marches for the inmates as they left for work and as they returned. Sometimes, on Sundays, they played concerts that were even attended by some German soldiers. (See Chapter 8, #2. Auschwitz Women's Orchestra for the full story.)

Helene married Leon Minkowski (1927-1965) in 1946 and had a daughter, Danielle Minkowski, born in 1947 and a son, Yves Minkowski, born in 1961. They lived in Liege, Belgium. Leon died in a tragic car accident in 1965. Helene married Paul Scheps in 1970 and they lived in Brussels, Belgium. Helene died, from cancer, in January 2006. Paul died in 2016 at age of 97.

Danielle married Marcel Joachimowicz in 1966 and has two sons, Alain Joachimowicz, born in 1969 and Leny (Joachimowicz) Joachim, born in 1967. Danielle and Marcel were divorced in 1984. Danielle married Arthur Goldschneider and they lived together in Brussels, Belgium for twenty-two years. Arthur died in October 2011.

Alain married Magali Wolmann in 2000 and they live in Brussels, Belgium with their two children, Kenya, born in June 2002 and Zachary, born in February 2005.

Leny married Chani Lewin in 1994 and has one son, Gidon Joachim, born in December 1995. Leny and his family moved to Ra'anana, Israel in 1997 and were divorced in 1998.

Yves Minkowski married Mimi (Muriel) Safi in 2002 and lives in Brussels, Belgium. They have two sons, Joshua, born in November 2002 and Sacha, born in April 2005.

Rosza Krasner (1907-1974) married Moishe Windman (1906-1943), her step-brother, before the War. They had three children - Sally, Friedel and Jacob (Jack) Windman. (Sally and Friedel were young and were killed in 1943.) Rosza owned a bakery, with her husband Moishe, in Częstochowa.

They were given permission to keep running the bakery in the “Big Ghetto” and the “Small Ghetto”. Moishe died during the “Selection”⁸ in 1943.

Rosza and Jack were able to survive by working in the HASAG⁹. She married Yochana Huber in 1946 in Częstochowa and they moved to New Jersey in 1952, where they had a chicken farm in Englishtown. They moved to Israel in late 1960’s. Rosza died in 1974, after celebrating her grandson Maurice’s Bar-Mitzvah in New Jersey. She had diabetes and had a heart attack. Yochana died a few years later.

Jack (1929-1982) married Rywa in 1959, whom he met in Israel. Rywa is also a Holocaust survivor. They lived in Livingston, NJ, where Rywa still lives. They had two children, Maurice Windman, born in July 1961 and Sally Windman, born in October 1967. Jack died in 1982 from cancer and Sally died from cancer in 2014 at age of forty-seven.

Maurice married Sarah in 1994 in Massachusetts and was divorced in 2018. They have two daughters, Marla, born in 1998 and Jaclyn, born in 1992. They live in Sharon, Massachusetts.

Helen Krasner (1909-1965) was married to Yossel Bebeliski before the War. She had two daughters, Izio and Renia. Helen and Yossel also had a bakery before the War. When the “Big Ghetto” was closed, with their children, they were sent to the trains for Auschwitz. BUT the trains were full, so they were sent back to their bakery and hid with the family while Yossel went back to work. The children were caught in the final selection for “HASAG” in 1943.

Yossel survived the War, but died on the evening of Liberation, on 17th January 1945. It is believed that he was shot while trying to go back to the city. Helen met and married Shima (Sam) Deres (1905-1992) in 1945. Shima also had a wife and children from before the War, who were killed in the Treblinka Concentration Camp. He was liberated from Buchenwald Concentration Camp.

Helen and Shima had a son, Henry Deres, born in November 1946 in Częstochowa. Because of Communism, they were trapped in Poland until 1958, when they immigrated to Toronto. Helen died at the age of fifty-three from a heart attack. She also had diabetes.

Henry married Marlene Shulman in 1972. They have twins, Lisa and Michael Deres, born in August 1974. Henry and Marlene were divorced in 2001. Henry lives with his partner, Silvi Glazner, in Netanya, Israel. Lisa married Allister Sears in 2002. They have two sons, Sam, born in November 2007 and Joshua, born in April 2010. Michael married Marisol Ramirez in 2007 and they have one son Matthew, born in February 2010. They all live in Toronto.

⁸ Selection - the process of selecting Jewish deportees immediately after arrival at an extermination camp, separating those assigned to forced labor and those to be killed. The term also refers to the selection of Jews for deportation from ghettos. <http://www.humanitas-international.org/holocaust/glossary.htm>

⁹ HASAG: <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/nazioccupation/hasag.html>

Tovia (Teddy) Krasner (1912-1982) survived the War, in Częstochowa, by working and hiding in the family's bakery. He married Esther Grenstein (1919-2008) in 1947. Because none of Esther's family survived and she was a good friend of my mother, Frania Windman, she came to our family after the War. There, she met and married Tovia. Their daughter, Evelyn (Chava) Krasner, was born in Germany in July 1946. Tovia's half-sister, Gittel Krasner, sponsored him and Esther to come to New York in 1949, where they lived in the Bronx.

They had a son, Lenny Krasner, born in 1957 in New York. Lenny died in 1985, at young age of twenty-seven, from a rare cancer, Ameloblastoma. Tovia died in 1982 from complications of diabetes. Esther died in 2008 at the age of eighty-nine.

Evelyn married Neil Levine in November 1969 and was divorced in 2010. They have three sons, Ben Levine, born in 1977, Justin Levine, born in 1979 and Danny Levine, born in 1981. Evelyn lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ben married Zoe Bowick in 2007 and lives in Denver, Colorado. They have a son Leo, born in August 2011 and a daughter, Clara Esther, born in December 2013.

Justin lives in Toronto, Canada with his partner, Andrea Chivers.

Danny lives in Las Vegas, Nevada.

FISHEL & CHAVA'S CHILDREN

1. Frania (Frances/Freidel) Windman, 11/1920- 08/1999
2. Genia (Jean) Windman, 16/05/1922-16/05/2012
3. Lola Windman, 1924-2016

Frانيا Windman (1920-1999) married Jack Świetarski (Swan) (1918-1999) on 11th November 1939. They got married quickly, so they could travel together to Russia. Jack spent the War as a barber for Russian officers. They had a son born in Russia, who died from meningitis at the age of six months. After the War, they returned to Częstochowa to find out who had survived. Then, they smuggled themselves into Belgium to be with Frania's sister, Etká. Their first daughter, Evelyn, (Chava) Swan, was born there in May 1947. They immigrated to Canada in 1949, sponsored by Jack's maternal aunts and uncles, the Bernholz family. Their second daughter, Lynn, (Leah) Swan, was born in January 1953 in Toronto.

Jack worked as a barber from the age of thirteen until he was sixty-seven. He died from a heart attack in April 1999. Frances died in August 1999 from cancer, just five months later. She had suffered from Parkinson's disease for thirteen years.

Evelyn Swan married Marty Cohen (1942-1989) in 1972. They have two children, Felicia Cohen, born in June 1972 and Mitchell Cohen, born in April 1974. Marty died from a heart attack in 1989. Evelyn married Zeno Strasberg in June 1994. Zeno was born August 1949 in Trinidad.

Felicia lives in Toronto and has a son, Jadon Martin Cohen, born in December 1999.

Mitchell lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Lynn Swan married Mark Goodman (1948-2010) in 1973. They were divorced in 1991. They have three children, Marnie Goodman born in April 1978, David Goodman born in May 1981 and Daniel Goodman, born in March 1986. Lynn married Michael Lublinski in August 2000. Michael was born in Sweden in September 1951 and grew up in the Bronx, New York, to where his parents had immigrated in 1956. His parents, Walter and Dora Lublinski, were also from Częstochowa and survived the War while working in the HASAG. They knew our family in Częstochowa.

Marnie married Amir Shachar in 2009 and they have a son, Sapir Baruch Shachar, born in August 2012 and a daughter, Maayan Frances Shachar, born in May 2014. Marnie and Amir lived in Wellington, New Zealand until 2016, when they moved to Vancouver, Canada.

David married Renee Bellan in 2012 and they live in Toronto. They have two sons, Alec Michael, born January 2015 and Jack Nathan Walter, born in September 2018. Daniel and David live in Toronto.

Genia (Jean) Windman (1922-2012) survived the war in Częstochowa. In 1945, she married Leon (Louis) Borkowski (1910-1980). Their first daughter, Sally Borkowski was born 1946 in Germany. They immigrated to Toronto, because Louis was sponsored, as a tailor, by the Toronto Garment Workers. Their second daughter, Sandy Borkowski, was born in Toronto in April 1954. Louis died in 1980 from cancer at the age of seventy. Later, Genia lived with her partner, Isaac Kellerstein, for thirty-two years. She died on her 90th birthday. Isaac died in 2014.

Sally married Alan Ungerman (1946) in 1975. They have two sons - Paul Ungerman, born in November 1977 and Steven Ungerman, born in December 1980.

Paul married Jessica Faith in 2006 and they have two sons, Aron, born in March 2008 and Jackson, born in April 2011.

Steven married Jessy Slan in 2007 and they have two sons, Ryan Ungerman, born in February 2009, Cory Ungerman, born in February 2011 and a daughter, Lauren Jean, born in December 2013.

They all live in Toronto.

Sandy married Reeven Garber (1951) in 1976. They have a daughter, Joanna Garber, born in February 1981 and a son, Michael Garber, born in November 1986.

Joanna married Walter Araujo in 2014 and has a son, Luke, born in June 2015 and a daughter, Liv, born in August 2017.

Michael married Lauren Michelov in 2014 and they have a daughter, Yaelle, born in July 2019.

They all live in Toronto.

Lola Windman, (1924-2016) married Motek Moneta (1924), whom she met in the HASAG in 1945. After the "Big Ghetto" closed, Lola was hidden by some Polish people whom she met through a friend. They were willing to hide her in exchange for money and valuables. She was able to visit her family occasionally in the "Small Ghetto" and was caught there in the 1942 Selection. Their first son, Chaim Moneta, was born in 1946 in Germany. He was named after Lola's mother, Chava, because they knew she was not alive and were not sure about everyone else. (Jewish children cannot be named after someone who is alive). They immigrated to Israel in 1949, where their second son, Moshe Moneta, was born in 1953.

Chaim married Rifka in 1969 and they have three children - Eyal Moneta, Nadav Moneta and Ifat Moneta. Rifka died in 1997. Chaim lives with Rina Weisfelner in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Eyal married Meirav in 1996 and they have four children - Amit, born in 1999, Idan, born in 2004 and twins, Ofry and Enbar, born 2010. They live in Petach Tikva, Israel.

Nadav married Inbal in 2002 and they have three children - Galy, born in 2004, Nama, born in 2006 and Ela, born in 2009. They live in Tel Mond, Israel.

Ifat married Yaniv Lahav in 2005. They have a son, Dor, born in 2006 and a daughter, Liby, born in 2010. They live in Petach Tikva, Israel.

Moshe married Yami Gold in 1976. They have three sons - Ido Moneta, born in 1980, Omri Moneta, born in 1983 and Lior Moneta, born in 1987. They live in Oranit, Israel.

Ido married Maayan Kron in 2009 and they have 3 sons - Guy, born in July 2011, Tomer, born in October 2012 and Ori, born in May 2020. They live in Oranit, Israel.

Omri married Yifah Naor in 2014. They have a daughter, Yuval, born in January 2016 and a son, Yarden, born in April 2018.

Lior married Roni Segal in 2014. They have two sons - Itay born in January 2018 and Yoni, born 2020. They live in Oranit, Israel.

FISHEL WINDMAN

Fishel Windman (1881-1943) was born in Gidgel [ed: no such place name in Poland], Poland. His parents were Freidel and Icze Windman. He had a brother Zalman Windman, also a baker and a sister, Blima Windman Szlomkovnicz, who had four children. In 1940, the Nazis came into Blima's home and shot her in bed, because she was sick and could not come down for the Selection. Fishel spent much of the War working in the bakery with his family in Częstochowa. In the 1943 Selection, he and about 1,500-2,000 other people were taken to a mass grave site at the Częstochowa cemetery and were shot.

Fishel married five times. His wives were:

1. Bronia Zeidman (circa 1903) - she died giving birth to her first child, so they named the baby "Bronia" Windman.
2. Sala Zeidman, (Bronia Zeidman's sister) - she gave birth to Mojsz, Icze, Kalman and Liebel Windman.
3. A second cousin – her name is unknown and had no children. He divorced her in order to marry Chava Krasner.
4. Chava Shinert Krasner - she married Fishel in 1918 and they had three daughters - Frania, Genia and Lola.
5. Married a fifth time, while in the HASAG.

FISHEL WINDMAN'S CHILDREN (FROM PREVIOUS MARRIAGES)

1. Bronia Windman Chlopak (1904 – circa 1940) she had three children (in family portrait). They were living in Belgium from 1933 until they were sent to Auschwitz.
2. Moishe Windman (1906 – circa 1943) - married Rosza Krasner. They had three children - Sally, Freidel and Jack.
3. Itzer Windman (1909-1943) - he was killed in the Selection of the "Small Ghetto" in 1943.
4. Kalmen Windman (1911 - circa 1942) - he was married to Lipsyce ("Lipshe") and had two sons, Itzer and David, and a daughter, Frania. Lipsyce married Joe Goldberg after the War and moved to Toronto with her one surviving child, Frania. Frania married Meyer Dial (1922 - 2004) and had three children - Nina, born in 1948, David, born in 1952 and Roy, born in 1950. Frania died in 2019.
5. Leible Windman (1913 - 1981) - he was a baker and worked in the family bakery during the war. He married Mania Krasner (1921-2013), (Yankel Krasner's granddaughter) and they immigrated to Israel after the War, then to Canada in 1965. They had a daughter, Lily Windman, born in 1947 and a son, Saul (Shlomo) Windman, born in 1953. Mania died in 2013.
(Leible and Mania cut off ties with our family in the mid-1960's. Lily and Saul never tried to reconnect with our family, so I have no information about them. Lily lives in Thornhill and is a member of the Toronto Chenstochover Society.)

6. Jean Windman Borkowsky's Holocaust Testimony, 2005

Marnie and David Goodman are speaking with Jean.

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=039yXoc5qy8>

**** Clarification:** In Part 1, Jean talks about her father "borrowing money" and David says "money laundering". What she meant to say is that her father made money by giving loans to people, who otherwise couldn't get bank loans. He was NOT laundering money!!

Part 2: <http://youtu.be/TMbvQT1Og3k>

(If the video freezes, just click on the circle where it stops)

7. PICTURES VIDEO

In 1998, Windman Krasner family pictures were put to music in a video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qHhviHp5ds&feature=youtu.be>

8. GENERATION PLUS Speaks Out

1. Family members clarify story with Jean Windman, 2006.

<http://youtu.be/2Pmk-rNFeco>

(Present are Danielle Minkowski, Sandy Garber, Evelyn Levine, Lynn Swan and Arthur Goldschneider)

2. Auschwitz Women's Orchestra

Danielle Minkowski shares the story of her mother, Helene Weirnik, with the Auschwitz orchestra.

In 1980, a movie was made about this called "Playing for Time". But according to Danielle's account from her mother, the depiction was not totally true, especially with respect to the women not getting along and where they played.

Danielle wants it made VERY CLEAR that this orchestra NEVER played outside the gas chamber. They ONLY played marches when the prisoners went to work and when they returned. They also played concerts on Sundays, when some people were not working. Often the German soldiers would come to listen.

The other person heard describing his experience is Arthur Goldshneider, Danielle's husband.

<http://youtu.be/haavo5sf19U>

3. The book "Czenstochov - Our Legacy"

- was published by the Czenstochov Society in 1993. They invited the Second Generation to submit articles and this is what I wrote:

The Second Generation

by Lynn Swan Lublinski

I am the child of survivors of the Holocaust. Until recently, that in itself had no special meaning to me. I heard other "children" discussing the feelings of guilt and sadness they lived with, but I could not identify with them. I assumed, quite simply, that I was different. Now, as I find myself in a difficult and stressful time, I realise that, being the child of Survivors, has had a significant impact on my life.

My parents, Jack Swietarski and Frania Windman, were born in Poland and came to Canada in 1947 at the ages of twenty-nine and twenty-seven respectively. They were fortunate in having family members survive with them. Of the thirteen children in my mother's family, eight survived and most settled in or relatively near Toronto. They were brought to Canada by relatives of my father, who had come before the War. My father had one surviving sister in Israel.

The focus of my nuclear family was never centred on ourselves. This seemed very different to me from my Canadian friends. We were involved with and cared about all of our extended family and friends. The bonds I formed during those years remain strong today.

Jewish holidays were celebrated at large dinners and, while we did not attend synagogue or practise all religious customs, I developed a strong sense of my Jewish heritage from my family's togetherness. There was always storytelling and laughter and, although we heard many tales about the "old country" and the War, they were never told with hate or bitterness. Somehow, my relatives could see life beyond the atrocities and even managed to find some humour in very tragic circumstances – like the time when my mother was given oxen and a cart to travel with on her own. Her story could have focused on the terror of being alone and running for her life. Instead, her story was told by laughing at herself as she tried to manage animals she knew nothing about!

I'm sure that my family's positive attitude is the reason I do not feel the guilt felt by many of my contemporaries. Instead, what I feel is a strong sense that life is precious and there will always be good times and bad times. The trick is to have faith that the bad times will not last forever and look for the moments of love and humour which will occur - even in a Holocaust.

I also feel a strong drive to live my life in a way that is unselfish and has significance for others. I believe that fate and not just luck made my parents survive among the few and that they are here for a special reason and so am I.

It has been my challenge to raise my children to be sensitive and responsible to the needs of others and to always appreciate what they have. I hope they will remember the strength and courage of their ancestors and pass on the story of survival to their children.

I have not always realised the impact of my family's past on my life. However, as I get older and deal with more of life's struggles, I feel that somewhere, inside me, is a voice telling me that I will land on my feet. My parents did and so can I.

9. THE VIOLIN

This Israeli film, produced by Roy Mandel, is about a Stradivarius violin, with Częstowchwa as the backdrop top the story. We see and learn about the city during and before the War.

<http://roymandel.co.il/video/47248500>