

# Henry Friedman

Brody, Poland

1928-



1938:

Henry grew up in the town of Brody, Poland, where Jewish life flourished. Henry was proud to help carry his father's prayer shawl to the synagogue. But when he was 10, a classmate threatened Henry because he was Jewish, saying: "Wait 'til Hitler comes. He will take care of you."

1942:

The Nazis invaded Brody in 1941 and swiftly deprived Jews of their basic rights. Julia Symchuk, a young Ukrainian woman, warned Henry's father, Jacob, that the Nazis were preparing to arrest and deport the Jews. He was able to escape, but over the next several months thousands of Jews from Brody were deported to camps and killed, or forced into ghettos. Julia and her family helped Henry, his brother, his mother, and their Jewish teacher hide in the loft of their barn. The hiding space was the size of a queen-sized bed. Henry had to be quiet all the time, and the space was too small for him to stand up.

Every night a pot of soup would be brought to them in hiding. There was so little food that Henry remembers the pot didn't need to be washed because he licked every last drop.

1944:

After 18 months in hiding, the Friedmans were liberated by Russian troops. Henry was 15 and so weak he could not walk on his own. He and his family spent four years in a displaced persons (DP) camp before immigrating to the United States. Henry arrived in Seattle on December 3, 1949.

\*Julia Symchuk has been recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" - an honorary title used by the State of Israel to recognize non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews. Over 25,000 individuals have been recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations."



Henry Friedman and Julia Symchuk,  
reunited in Seattle, 1989.

The artifacts on display were donated by local survivors and their families.

Explore the Holocaust Center for Humanity's artifact collection to learn more about Henry's experience.

- Pre-war Jewish items
- Photo of Symchuks
- Photo of house in which Henry's father hid

Learn more about Henry and other survivors who came to the Pacific Northwest at:

[HolocaustCenterSeattle.org/Survivor-Encyclopedia](https://HolocaustCenterSeattle.org/Survivor-Encyclopedia)

Henry's memoir, *I'm No Hero*, is available in the Holocaust Center for Humanity bookstore.

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