

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have all felt a sense of worldly struggle and as if we are faced with a challenge we must collectively fight. 2020 and 2021 have not been easy years for any of us. Many have faced a rise in riots and prejudice. Many have had to concern themselves with dehumanization or hate. These years are very similar to that of WWII and the Holocaust. Similarly to the events of these past years, Harriet Mendels experienced anti-Semitism in her time during the Holocaust and the entire world had to contend with thoughtless bigotry and hate. Very few things have guided us through these times, but it was always together that we prevailed.

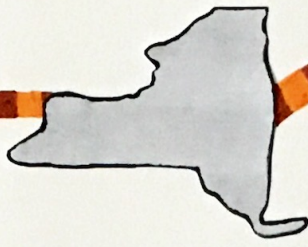
A Map of Harriet Mendels



Holland



Harriet's grandfather was a journalist in Germany when she was young. He was the first person in her family to witness the dehumanization and anti-semitism that took place there. He was who informed her parents that they should leave, and he's the reason they made it out of Holland. Harriet personally never faced anti-semitism in Holland.



Harriet moves to New York



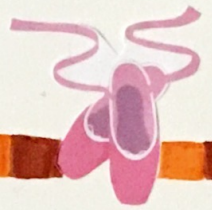
Harriet's tenement in the Lower East Side was the one place her family was allowed to live. They were not allowed to live in any other apartments.



Harriet Mendels did not face large amounts of anti-Semitism within her school life. It was her grandfather that warned her family to leave Holland. Otherwise, Harriet's family would not have known until it was too late.



When Harriet moved to America as a child, she faced much more dehumanization. For instance, she wanted to join the Girl Scouts with her friends, but she wasn't allowed to because she was Jewish. She went to the first meeting with her friend, but was turned away and not allowed in.



Harriet tried to join many activities as a kid, and wasn't allowed to. Girlscouts, tennis, and dance. Harriet loves to dance as an adult, she is in a dance club and she enjoys it a lot. But when she was a young child, she wasn't allowed to join a dance class or club.



At age eleven, a girl in Harriet's class invited her to go a girl scout meeting. While at the meeting, the girl scout leader said to the classmate, "You shouldn't have invited her, she is Jewish, she can't join." Consequently, another classmate invited her to a meeting of the Campfire Girls and Harriet was forced to respond with, "Do they take Jews?" The classmate didn't understand the question and Harriet had a wonderful time in the Campfire Girls.



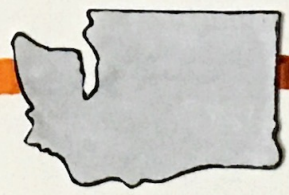
Harriet Mendels was excluded from many activities while she was in America, just because she was Jewish. An activity that she wanted to join with her friends was tennis, but she was turned away and not allowed to join.



Harriet moves back to Holland



After leaving Holland, Harriet lived in America for many years with her family. It wasn't until she returned with her children as a visit, that she personally saw the anti-semitism in Holland. After visiting Holland, she went on to move to Seattle and join the Holocaust Center Speakers Bureau.



Harriet moves to Washington



After Harriet moved to Seattle, she became a very adamant activist. Harriet even ran for State Senate. She didn't win, but she is proud that she tried to win and was considered for the position. She talks about her story as much as she can to spread awareness and does everything in her power to educate the people around her.



Harriet Mendels did not share her story for a long time. However, when many politically active people did not believe that the Holocaust existed, she decided that she would do something about it. To all the Holocaust deniers she responded with, "Then where is my family?"