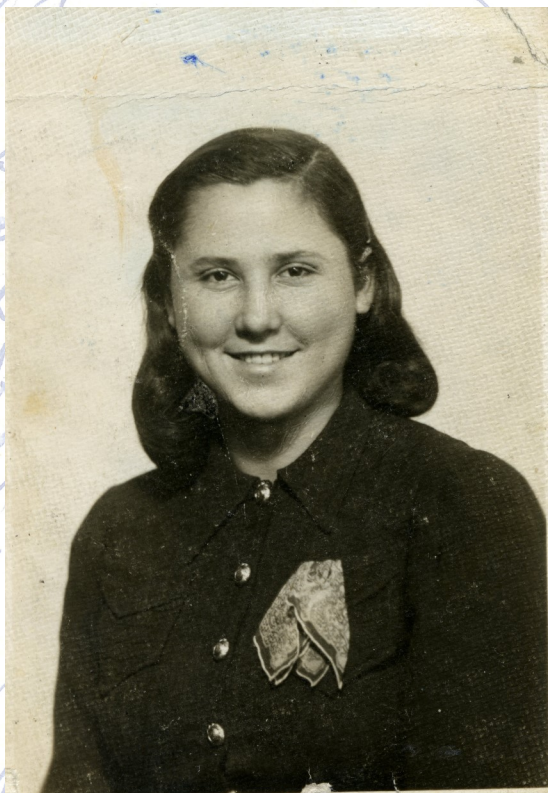


Magda Schaloum

Gyor, Hungary

1922-2015



1939-1944:

Magda dreamed of becoming a kindergarten teacher. She was unable to fulfil her dream because the Hungarian government restricted Jews from being teachers.

1944:

Magda was 22 when the Nazis invaded Hungary. Her family was sent to a ghetto. They were forced to live in a single bedroom shared by 10 people. The Nazis rounded up thousands of Hungarian Jews, including Magda, her mother, and brother. They were crowded into a cattle car. Her father tried to hand them some food. The guards beat him severely. This was the last time she ever saw him. After a few days the train arrived in Auschwitz – it was the her brother's 15th birthday, June 21, 1944. Magda's mother and brother were sent directly to the gas chambers.

1944-1945:

The Nazis selected Magda for labor. She was sent from Auschwitz to several forced-labor camps including Plaszow, Augsburg, and Muhldorf. At these places she endured beatings, malnutrition, and unsanitary conditions.

1945:

In April 1945, Magda was again loaded into a cattle car. A Wehrmacht officer defied orders, redirected the train, and saved the prisoners from execution. American forces liberated the prisoners on May 1, 1945.

Magda met her future husband Izak, a Greek survivor, at a displaced persons camp in Germany. She spoke 5 languages and he spoke 7, but none in common. They fell in love, married, and came to Seattle in 1951 to start a new life together.



Magda and Izak, on their wedding day in a displaced persons camp, Germany, 1945.

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 Magda's experience.

- Bowl from Allach
- Artifacts from Auschwitz
- Photo of Magda and Izak

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

www.HolocaustCenterSeattle.org/survivor-voices

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