

Name: Moshe Taube

Age: 89

Birthplace: Krakow, Poland

Birthdate: June 17, 1927

What is your religious identity?

Always Jewish, proudly so

How many siblings do you have?

Had a sister was killed in 1942.

*Holocaust Story:*

I divide my survivor ship into four phases phase one when I was 13 this is when I lost my home and started wandering around I had to leave Krakow because the Germans decreed that no Jews should be living there, so we took a small room in the suburbs of Krakow where we were until my second phase which was the ghetto we went from there from the little village suburb right into the ghetto it was my family my mother and my father and family it was a transition of great importance a tragic transition because the Germans wanted us in the ghetto so they could put their hands on us without having to look for us. The ghetto was traumatic I had to work very hard for the Germans without any pay of course they came into the ghetto and took us out to work for them we were living our entire family in one very small room. It was a very difficult living in such a small space the four of us. It was unspeakably difficult and uncomfortable. We had to live with it and get used to it and we made the best of it there was no other possibility. This was my second phase of my survivorship the third one was my mother and sister were taken away in Oct. 1942 to be killed by the Germans in Belzec. My third phase started from the ghetto we were transported into the concentration camp next Krakow, Plaszow concentration camp it was a disaster for us. We were not sure what the day of tomorrow would bring it could have very easily brought our demise or being shot by a German there. The SS guards had the right so to speak to shoot any Jew that they wanted to without any questions asked, the greatest murdered the Schindlers list movie Amon Goeth, for him killing a Jew was fun. He was sitting on his balcony with a rifle and he was shooting the inmates anyone that he wanted to without anything. This was Goeth, in Plaszow I was about a year and a half and then my fourth phase started by being included in Schindlers list and transported in Oct. 1944 to Brännlitz which was also a work commando by Schindler. We were working there with my father in tremendous suffering, starvation, deprivation, and personal body boils was the result of malnutrition it was tremendous suffering. But thank god we survived and we were liberated by the Russian army who came into the camp in 1945 and this was the end I would say of the saga of my survivorship in May 1945 when they came in and we went with my father we went to Poland to look for survivors of my family, not one survived of my mother's family my father's family only one of his

brothers survived because he was in Romania. We lost our entire family, 65 immediate family members. Aunts, uncles, and cousins. About ten days in Poland we looked for some survivors and we went to join my father's brother who was in Romania, lived there for about a year. I went to Israel as an illegal immigrant and we were caught and interned by the British on high seas and told by the British to Haifa and interned at a camp for illegal immigrants. Father went back to Poland to try and save some of the real estate in Poland. Quota was applied to us by the British in sept 1945 I was liberated from the internment camp and I went to Jerusalem to be for a little while with some distant family. 11 years, I worked as a clerk in a government office but I discovered that I was more interested in cantorial music and being a cantor, so I was a cantor more than a clerk in an office. In the office everybody knew that I was singing. I left Israel because for two reasons, I wanted a higher musical education, enrolled in Julliard and I wanted to better my economic situation because in Israel cantors were underpaid very badly I wanted to make my living, and singing. I went to New York got a very big position, congregation Sharre Zedeck, very famous and very prominent cantors, I had the great honor to follow many famous cantors. I was there for 8 years the situation in New York was very bad you couldn't go out in the streets and it was dangerous on the west side. So I took the opportunity of an offer in 1965 to Pittsburgh, Beth Shalom and I was there for forever. More than 40 years. I developed my talent and my knowledge my musical background and talent to compose and sing services and I had a big choir and every service at Beth Shalom was called a concert service.

My spouse of 33 years I met in Pittsburgh, she was extremely interested and fond of music and singing, especially my singing and I was interested in her and her personality in her goodness in her care, and I thank God every day for her. 1983, I have two daughters from my first marriage. I have 11 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.

*What is your favorite thing to do now and why?*

My favorite thing is to be with my wife number one, I like to listen to classical music and evaluate and understand it and following it. Holding a score in my hands.

*Do you think your experiences during the war held you back or motivated you?*

Well it's not a matter of motivating it's a matter of experiencing the past, today by not only thinking about it by dreaming and having nightmares about it, my wife helps me very much to overcome the tremendous hurt that I have following the experiences and she's very helpful in alleviating my suffering from it.