

Holocaust Survivor Biography: Itka Frajman Zygmuntowicz



Itka Frajman Zygmuntowicz is a survivor of the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp. She moved to Philadelphia in 1953. Since 1970, she has shared her experiences at universities, schools, and religious organizations as a member of the speakers bureau of the Jewish Community Relations Council. Itka is a member of the Memorial Committee for the Six Million Jewish

Martyrs and the Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. She has shared her story in documentaries: "Eye On – The Lessons of the Holocaust: From Pain Comes Knowledge" (1978), and "From Out of the Ashes" (1981) filmed in Israel. Itka's stories appeared in *Four Generations of Jewish Women's Spirituality* (Beacon Press). She was filmed by Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation in her hometown of Ciechanow, Poland during the March of the Living in 1996. Itka is a former fashion designer and resides in Philadelphia.

Itka bears witness so the Holocaust will never be forgotten or repeated. She writes both prose and poetry, but often expresses herself in rhyme, where she can best convey her deepest messages and feelings. Her poetry gives voice to the pain and longings as well as the joy that are so powerful within her. Itka's new book of poetry, *You Only Have What You Give Away*, was published in June 2008 and is available at amazon.com. Her poems touch on her horrifying experiences, but also convey an uplifting message of love, hope, and tolerance.



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Witness to History Project:

The Witness To History Project is designed to further the message and lessons of the Holocaust by direct interaction between students or interested adults and Holocaust survivors. Participants "adopt" a survivor by learning his or her unique account of via listening to the survivor tell his/her story, asking questions, writing a biography, reviewing a videotape, and memorizing and re-telling the story to others. Ultimately, the participant will have the lifelong job of educating others about the Holocaust by sharing this personal narrative. Contact the Holocaust Awareness Museum to participate.

Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center

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