

Holocaust Survivor Biography: Trudy Klein Gompers



Trudy Klein Gompers was born in Vienna, Austria in 1937. On March 12, 1938 the Nazis annexed Austria and life for her family immediately changed for the worse. Trudy's mother was personally humiliated when members of the Nazi party demanded that she scrub the streets in preparation for a visit by Adolf Hitler.

Three days before Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass, November 9-10, 1938), Trudy, along with her father, mother, and brother boarded a train and left Vienna for London, England. Her grandparents stayed behind, never to be seen again.

Her family arrived in England in early 1939 and life was stressful. England considered her family enemy aliens after WWII started. First Scotland Yard took her father away. A year later Trudy and her mother were shipped to the Isle of Man, an island internment camp near Ireland. In 1942, when she was 5 years old, her family was released and they returned to London during the Battle of Britain.

Trudy and her family survived the war in England and then sailed to New York City in 1946. After marrying her husband, Lou Gompers, great-grand nephew of Samuel Gompers who organized the first unions in America, she moved to Philadelphia. Trudy and Lou have two sons and four grandchildren. Her family's trials and tribulations are chronicled in her first book, Prisms of Light: Reflections of Shattered Glass. Today, Trudy is an art appraiser and estate liquidator.

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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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