**Sara’s comments on first draft:**

ANGLE

As we discussed in our meeting last week, this story is still looking for an angle. What’s the larger point of her story? What’s the meaning here? Is it the issue of family? That conversion to Judaism is so hard? The holocaust?

I’d like more explanation of her as a person. What’s she like? What does she do? Why is this religion important to her? What was her faith journey like? Why did she decide to become Jewish? Talk about what she does now. Also, how old is she, what does she do for work, does she have children, etc?

REPORTING

Thanks for using actual DATA - gold stars! We need more, though, to go with your angle. Need more sources. Why aren’t you quoting her husband? Did you talk to other friends, family? A national expert?

**Reporter byline**: Anna Seaman

**Reporter contact info**: 217-299-6184, [als5x7@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:als5x7@mail.missouri.edu)

**Assigned word count: 500-600 vs. ACW**:

**Print Hed & Dek (give at least 3):**

The Reinvention of Mary Hartigan - Finding Mary

Dreams of Her Father - Mary Hartigan’s journey to faith through the past

The Conversative Jew - the Mary Hartigan story

**Web Hed & Dek (give 1)**:

Hed: Local Jewish woman speaks about her faith

Dek: Religion’s role in her life and as member of a minority group

**Story Links:** <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005214>, <http://religions.pewforum.org/maps>,

**Suggested Tweet**: #COMO Mary Hartigan offers a look into her private and religious life.

**Suggested Facebook post**: Mary Hartigan found herself in her 30s and hasn’t looked back since.

**Suggested Web Excerpt**: Mary Hartigan converted to Judaism for herself and wound up with a family and community.

**Two versions of a lede**:

Every Friday night, Mary and her husband, Rick, order Shakespeare’s pizza. They sit on their blue couches surrounded by three of their five cats and watch TV. It’s time to relax and begin their weekly Shabbat. If you’re going to use this as a lede, explain what Shabbat is and what else happens. How important is this to them? What does it entail? How usual/unusual is it to celebrate Shabbat? What’s the meaning of it to her and in general?

Mary Hartigan went to Catholic school for years because of her parents. She moved to Columbia because of her ex-husband. She became Jewish for herself.

**Body of the story**:

“I’ve been very pro-Israel since I was 16,” Mary Hartigan jokes. The truth is her relationship with Judaism began with her father and his service in WWII.

He [name] was 19 and serving as an American G.I. He was part of the troops sent to liberate Dachau, ~~which is recognized as~~ the first Nazi concentration camp for political prisoners. Verify this. The atrocities he saw captured in a black and white photo showing the back of two G.I.s’ legs looking at pile of dead bodies.

Interview other family members to verify the father’s stories. Did you see the photo for yourself? Get as much information as you can to verify this.

Her father’s involvement with the Holocaust or the Hebrew word Shoah deeply affected Hartigan. Why? Hartigan remembers him talking to her about his time in service as something shared just between the two of them. Why? He kept the black and white photo and after he ~~passed~~ died, she took possession of it and keeps it in her wallet.

Hartigan was born in 1951, the oldest of three children. She grew up in St. Joseph, Mo. in a strict Catholic household. Now, both parents are dead and she is not close to either sibling. It wasn’t intentional, but being Jewish has filled a familial void. This is interesting, but it also begs the question why she isn’t close to her siblings. Have you contacted them? Is there a problem there, is religion an issue, or just that they don’t have much in common?

“We don’t have family in town, so we make our family out of our friends,” Hartigan says. ~~The idea that friends can be like family is common, but for Hartigan it holds more weight.~~

Dispersed throughout her living room shelves are photos of what?; ~~rare are pictures of her family~~. Instead, Rabbi Yossi Feintuch and his family, whose kids she considers her niece and nephews, are more common. Hartigan travelled twice to Israel to attend the weddings of one of Feintuch’s kids. Is that the only reason she has gone there? What does he say about her?

The Jewish community in Columbia is tight-knit due to its small size. According to Pew, the Missouri population that is Jewish is grand total of 2 percent. THANKS for using data! How does this compare to other small religions? What is the Jewish community like here? Being a convert, does Mary feel at home there?

[expert]

Jewish conversion is intentionally hard. Rabbi Harvey Rosenfeld who helped Hartigan during her conversion process says it his job to discourage people wanting from becoming Jewish. Why? Explain. Hartigan’s conversion process took 6 months but it can last years. Why did she decide to become Jewish? What was the spiritual dimension?

Rabbi Rosenfeld says an important distinction is that Judaism is more than believing in God; it is about embracing and loving the people hood.

Hartigan’s relationship with the Feintuchs’ is a great example of her capacity for the Jewish faith and its people. It is, however, through the Jewish volunteer opportunities that she found herself again. Explain more.

“It became the way I re-entered into life in Columbia,” she says. Her first marriage didn’t end well and her faith led her back to the land of the living. Instead of saying her marriage didn’t end well, just say she got divorced. Explain how she met her current husband.

“It’s important to God what you do with the people that you’re in the world,” says Hartigan. Unclear quote

**Sidebar or Info Box if needed**:

**Sources**:

Mary Hartigan

March 15, 2013, Mary’s home, in person

449-0254

[maxmax@mchsi.com](mailto:maxmax@mchsi.com)

Rick Diamant - husband? nothing worth quoting from him?

March 15, 2013, Mary’s home, in person

884-1508

[diamantr@umsystem.edu](mailto:diamantr@umsystem.edu)

Rabbi Harvey Rosenfeld

March 17, 2013, my apartment room, phone

201-287-1532

[hrosenfeld@optonline.net](mailto:hrosenfeld@optonline.net)

Babara Rosenfeld - who is this?

March 17, 2013, my apartment room, phone

201-287-1532

[hrosenfeld@optonline.net](mailto:hrosenfeld@optonline.net)

Plan to talk to: what are these sources for?

AJC: Global Jewish Advocacy

212-751-4000

ITIM

[itim@itim.org.il](mailto:itim@itim.org.il)

**Documents as Sources**: (links or copies of data, reports, records; must include statistical support for your story)

* <http://urj.org/life/conversion/>
* <http://religions.pewforum.org/maps>
* <http://www.ajc.org/site/c.7oJILSPwFfJSG/b.8466673/k.24E9/Who_We_Are.htm>
* <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005214>

Explain what these documents say.

Bring out more data about Jews in America/ the world, conversion figures, etc.

**Media Support**: (news articles on your general topic)

* [ITIM to court: Accept Orthodox conversions Jerusalem Post February 22, 2013 Friday](http://www.lexisnexis.com.proxy.mul.missouri.edu/lnacui2api/api/version1/getDocCui?lni=57VD-F2X1-JDKD-P50J&csi=10911&hl=t&hv=t&hnsd=f&hns=t&hgn=t&oc=00240&perma=true)
* [Who Is a Jew? A Struggle Over Religious Identity The New York Times July 23, 2010 Friday](http://www.lexisnexis.com.proxy.mul.missouri.edu/lnacui2api/api/version1/getDocCui?lni=800T-NWK1-2PBB-21PB&csi=6742&hl=t&hv=t&hnsd=f&hns=t&hgn=t&oc=00240&perma=true)
* [The letter that Netanyahu should, but won't, send Jerusalem Post January 25, 2013 Friday](http://www.lexisnexis.com.proxy.mul.missouri.edu/lnacui2api/api/version1/getDocCui?lni=57WG-D6B1-JDKD-P1VM&csi=10911&hl=t&hv=t&hnsd=f&hns=t&hgn=t&oc=00240&perma=true)