

**Marcia Loewi**

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### **Summary**

Marcia Loewi was born September 23, 1926 as Marcia Jacobowitz in Landsberg an der Warthe, Germany to Shlomo (Solomon) and Sara Jacobowitz. There were nine children in all: Abraham (the oldest), Hilda (Hanya), Marcia, Yaakov Moshe, Guta, Yitzhak, Yehudah Arya, Eliyahu, and Aaron born in 1939. When Marcia was six, the family immigrated to Lodz, Poland as times were changing in Germany. Lodz was a textile city with a population of 600,000 (half were Jewish). Her father business was buying raw material and selling the textiles to factories. Her mother helped him by speaking Polish (born in Poland) to the factory managers. The family spoke Yiddish and Polish. Her father often brought strangers home who were in need. Her family was very religious. They had a phone, running water, electricity and a helper for the children. When they returned home from their traditional summer vacation in 1939, the Germans were picking up Jews so the family stayed home. Many Jews were escaping to Russia and they family went to a protectorate, Lovech, near Warsaw and soon returned and were placed in the Ghetto. Her father obtained a green band to leave the Ghetto as the Germans needed his raw material to make Army uniforms. Everyone had to work in the Ghetto to obtain food. Marcia worked in a furniture factory, her sister in an office, her brother in a factory and her father and the 7-year-old in a straw factory. Her mother stayed home with the baby. After a year Marcia worked in Registry but did not obtain additional food so grew very little. The family obtained some food on the Black Market. Her father made a hiding place under the steps where they hid when the Germans came to deport them. The Ghetto was evacuated and they gave up and left for Auschwitz on August 24, 1944, the last transport. Before Marcia left the cattle train, her father gave the older children and her diamonds which she held in her mouth for a long time. Marcia stayed with her younger sister, Guta, while the rest of the family were gassed except for two brothers, Abraham and Yaakov, who went to Bergen Belsen and traded their diamonds for food. In October, she was sent to Harmstadt, a working camp in Czechoslovakia where she hammered out stencils in an ammunition factory and made a friend, Ruth. There were 500 Jewish girls age 27 and younger in the camp and French prisoners. She could take a shower and wash her clothes on Sundays. They were liberated May 5, 1945 and soon the sisters and Ruth ran away from the drunk Russians and found an empty house that escaping Germans had left. They took a train to Prague where a Jewish organization gave them money to get to Lodz. They reached their uncle in Pavynets who cared for them. Marcia had to go to the hospital to get treated for typhus and soon the surviving siblings went to West Berlin. Her uncle was given a bakery as the aunt had given birth to the first Jewish baby born after the war. The siblings lived in an apartment in Kreutzberg from December '45 to '51 by living on their diamonds. HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) gave Marcia language, manicure and makeup lessons while her sister became a nurse. Marcia met her husband there and they married in 1951 and immigrated to the US. She feels G-d helped them when she was pregnant with their third child and her husband survived a heart attack in his 30s.

Following the video is a 22 minute audio where Marcia tells about a mental hospital of children who were thrown out of the windows by the Germans during the night when she worked next door in a furniture factory in the Ghetto. She tells of the time the Germans came looking for valuables and took her father away and beat him up. There he saw their lovely dining room set that the Germans had stolen. Marcia hopes that people learn from mistakes made in the past and live well as it is the best revenge for the way they were treated.