

Questions to Consider When Viewing Video

1. Where was Arnold born? What was the makeup of his town?
2. How large was his family? What were his experiences with antisemitism when he was a child?
3. Before 1944, what did Arnold and the other Jews in his town know about what the Nazis were doing to the Jews in other countries?
4. How did Arnold describe the scene in his town when in 1944 the Nazis began a roundup?
5. Describe the scene in the synagogue when the Nazis attacked it.
6. Why were Jews in his town afraid to go to the hospital?
7. Where were Arnold and his family sent?
8. What was "Canada"?
9. How many camps was Arnold in? What unusual experience did Arnold have in the "shed" (gas chamber)?
10. How did Arnold describe the death march in which he was forced to participate?
11. Describe Arnold's liberation and what followed for him.

Holocaust Survivor Arnold Friedman

Filmed on March 22, 2005



*"I have four children, nine grandchildren
and four great-grandchildren
in spite of Hitler."*

- Arnold Friedman

Face to Face
A Holocaust Education Program at
Congregation Shaarey Tikvah
Beachwood, Ohio

Arnold Friedman was born in 1927 in a small village in Czechoslovakia. His family of two brothers and two sisters soon moved to the more cosmopolitan city of Mukachevo in the Ukraine.

Arnold's early life in Mukachevo was safe and ordinary. He went to public school and to synagogue, played sports, spent time with his friends, and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah. In 1939 Nazi storm troopers attacked Poland and Czechoslovakia.

In 1941 the Germans confiscated all goods and severely limited all civil rights for Jews, sympathizers, Gypsies, and all human beings considered "marginal" by the Nazis. Tens of thousands were killed in attacks. All news had been cut off, so citizens only knew about what was happening from the Nazi propaganda shown in movie theaters or taught in the schools.

One day in 1944, the Nazis organized a raid during which Arnold was beaten for trying to defend his father. The community was marched into the synagogue, where Torah scrolls were burned and Jews were beaten. The Nazis created a ghetto in Mukachevo, where Jews and Gypsies were confined to living in a small area that was walled off and connected to the city only by secured gates.

Later, Jews from the ghetto were sent to Auschwitz, where Arnold remembers barking dogs, smoke from the crematoria, the smell of burning flesh, and mountains of suitcases. A "selection" began for the deportees after they arrived at Auschwitz.

Being sent "to the right" meant hard work and a chance to live; "to the left" meant death through inhumane experiments or the gas chambers. Arnold was sent to the left until he heard his younger brother's voice urging him to cross to the right. An inattentive guard "permitted" the move.

In 1945 Arnold was moved with 1,000 others to a labor camp in Silesia. There he worked for nine months in the quarries pounding huge boulders into pieces of gravel.

The Russians and Americans were beginning to defeat the Nazis and liberate the camps. Arnold escaped after the Americans bombed a Nazi train. He hid in the middle of a haystack and found potatoes that had been stored there by farmers.

The Red Cross connected him with Jewish agencies that helped him find his brothers. They were able to contact their grandfather in the United States.

Arnold immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1948. He and his wife Betty had four children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Arnold devoted much of his later life talking to people, especially young people, about his experiences.

Arnold Friedman died on December 22, 2007. He believed that if we could stop hate and insanity, the world would be a beautiful place. To Arnold the world remained the same – it's the people in it that create the difference.