

MIRA SHELUB

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



Mira Shelub was born Mira Raznov on January 13, 1922, in Zdzieciol, Poland, to Chaim and Chana Raznov. She had one sister, Sara, and one brother, Moris. Mira's father owned a clothing store and was

also an insurance broker for a company that he owned. Her mother helped her father with his businesses. Mira went to a Jewish school and later went on scholarship to a Gymnasium (European secondary school that prepares students for the university) in Vilna. Following the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of 1939, Vilna became part of Lithuania, and Mira was forced to change schools and learn Russian. When Germany attacked the area, Mira returned home to be with her family.

In 1941, when Germans occupied Zdzieciol, life changed once again for Mira and her family. First forced to wear Yellow Stars of David on their clothing, Jews were then ordered into the Zdzieciol ghetto where life was incredibly difficult. During a deportation in the ghetto, Mira and Sara separated from their parents and brother, and feared they would never see their family again. The sisters later tried to escape to the forest but were caught by sympathetic police who, instead of deporting them, sent them to Dworzec, a nearby ghetto. There, the girls were miraculously reunited with their parents and brother who had also managed to escape deportation.

In 1942, the family escaped to the Lipiczany Forest, located outside of the ghetto, where they joined a partisan resistance group made up of both Jews and Soviets. The group engaged in acts of sabotage, including taking supplies from German peasants and

attacking Nazi resources and lines of communication. Mira met her future husband, Norman Shelub, who was the leader of the resistance group. They quickly became close and made a promise to each other to be together forever. One day, the local police attacked the area where the family was staying and Mira's mother was killed.

In 1944, the Soviets liberated the area where Mira, Norman, and Mira's family were. Her father was ill and died shortly after liberation. Mira and Norman went to a displaced persons' camp in Bad Gastein, Austria. After the war, they immigrated to the United States while Mira's brother and sister remained in Europe. The couple lived in New Rochelle, New York, for a couple of months before settling in San Francisco near some of Norman's family.

Mira and Norman had three children: Irwin, Mark, and Elaine. Norman owned a restaurant in San Francisco which Mira helped him run. In 1977, Norman died from complications after heart surgery. Afterward, Mira's children convinced her to go back to school, and in 1988, she earned her bachelor's degree. She went on to earn her master's degree in counseling from San Francisco State University in 1994. She then worked for the Jewish Family and Children's Service counseling Russian immigrants. At the time of Mira's interview in 1996, she had two grandchildren: Nathan and Aaron.



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