

BRIGITTE ALTMAN

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



Brigitte Altman (née Friedmann) was born in the port city of Memel (now known as Klaipeda), Lithuania, on August 15, 1924, to Elias Friedmann (businessman) and Dina-Malka (née Sussmanovitz). She grew up in an affluent, well-educated, closely knit Jewish community. The family tried to escape to Canada, but due to her mother's ill health they could not, and the family was forced to live in the Kaunas ghetto. She was assigned to work in a greenhouse that provided vegetables to SS officers. Her mother passed away in 1942, while the family was interned in the ghetto. Her father made contact with a former colleague, Meta Jackevicius, who agreed to conceal Brigitte as a domestic worker in her apartment. There were many visitors, so for everyone's safety, the family sent her to work on a farm. She was liberated by Soviet armed forces in Marijampole, Lithuania in 1944. After the war, she was reunited with her father. They connected with extended family in the United States and arrived in Dallas, Texas in 1949. She met Fredric Altman in the United States whom she married in 1951. They had three sons—Louis, Dean, and Michael—and a daughter, Leslie, that they raised in Texas. She was interviewed on August 17, 1997, in Fort Worth, Texas.