

# ANDY RETI

## BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



Andy Reti was born on July 16, 1942, in Budapest Hungary, the only child of Ibyola (Ibi) and Zoltan Rechnitzer. Andy's name at birth was Andras Rechnitzer. It was changed to Reti before he left Hungary, and to Andrew when he came to Canada.

When Andy was born, the horrors of the Holocaust had not fully reached Hungary. However, soon after, the Jewish people of Hungary were forced to wear yellow stars and were taken to live in the ghetto. Jewish businesses were also destroyed. Andy's grandfather's business was one

of many that were burned to the ground. Many of the Jews in the ghetto were taken to labor or concentration camps. Andy's father was one of the men taken to a labor camp. He died in February 1945, when Andy was only 2 years old. Ibi, Andy's mother, did not find out about her husband's death until after she was liberated. She and Andy were of the lucky survivors saved by Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish Diplomat who saved thousands of Jewish lives.

After liberation, Andy and his mother lived with her parents. Both sets of his grandparents had a great influence on him but his mother's grit and determination had the greatest influence of all. After the war, Hungary became a Communist country under Soviet occupation. There were still restrictions and Ibi wanted to take Andy away. After several attempts to immigrate, Ibi and Andy were successful in leaving Hungary in 1956 and arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. After a year, Ibi and Andy moved to Toronto, where Andy went to high school. On December 15, 1968, Andy married Magdi and they had two children, David and Kati. Andy drove a taxi for 11 years, was a real estate agent, a museum tour guide, and is a motorcycle enthusiast. Magdi passed away from cancer and in 2006, Andy married Judy. He and Judy had two sons.

Andy still lives with Judy in Toronto and is devoted to Holocaust education and his grandchildren, Lea and Tara and Judy's grandchildren, Andrea and Eliana.