

BARBARA FISCHMAN TRAUB

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.



Barbara Fischman Traub (née Golda Fischman) was born on September 7, 1925 in Sighet, Romania. She had two brothers and a sister and was the youngest of four

children. When the anti-Jewish measures began to be enacted in Romania, Barbara was expelled from the high school she attended in Sighet. She then transferred to a Jewish school in Cluj, until her education was interrupted by the 1944 German invasion of Romania.

In April 1944, Barbara's family was ordered into a ghetto that was established in two areas on the outskirts of the city of Sighet by the occupying authorities. Approximately 10,000 Jews from Sighet were concentrated in the ghetto.

The ghetto was liquidated in mid-May 1944 and Barbara, along with other ghetto inmates, was deported to the Auschwitz II-Birkenau death camp in Poland.

While in Birkenau, Barbara was forced to perform textile and garments labor.

In December 1944, Barbara was sent to the Weisswasser concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, where she performed forced labor in the communications equipment factory of the Firma Telefunken. The camp was liberated by the Soviet armed forces in May 1945.

Barbara lost her parents and a brother in the Holocaust. After the liberation, she married Martin Stauber and

the couple moved to the United States, where Martin had a brother. Several years later, Barbara divorced Martin, and continued her education studying patent law. In 1957, she married an attorney Herman Traub. Barbara and Herman had a son, Ralph.

After the war, Barbara dedicated her work to the Holocaust education. She is a published author of *The Matrushka Doll* (1979) and *Burning Man* (1997).

The interview was recorded on March 27, 1995, in New York, NY, U.S.A.