

**THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN
ART FROM TEREZIN**

sponsored by
THE JEWISH LAWYERS GUILD

in cooperation with
**THE ANTI-BIAS COMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME COURT, CIVIL
BRANCH, NEW YORK COUNTY**

and
THE NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2006, 5:30 P.M.
ROTUNDA, SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY

Opening Remarks
HONORABLE MARTIN SHULMAN
SUPERVISING JUDGE, CIVIL COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY

Remarks
HONORABLE JACQUELINE W. SILBERMANN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, SUPREME COURT, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Candle Lighting by Holocaust Survivors and the Second Generation

Cantor

Remarks and Introduction
HONORABLE MARTIN SHULMAN

Keynote Speaker
ELA WEISSBERGER
TEREZIN CONCENTRATION CAMP SURVIVOR, ARTIST, AUTHOR, SPEAKER

Cantor

Frederick M. Molod, Co-Chair
Molod Spitz & DeSantis, P.C.

Howard S. Shafer, Co-Chair
Shafer Glazer, LLP

ELA WEISSBERGER

ELA STEIN WEISSBERGER is one of a hundred Terezin children who survived World War II. Born to Max and Marketa Stein, in 1939 her childhood became very different from that of her contemporaries. According to the Nuremberg Laws, all Jewish children were expelled from school. Ela left the fourth grade and was only allowed to study in semi-legal courses organized for Jewish children.

Soon thereafter, all Jews in Prague had to wear a yellow Star of David and abide by an eight o'clock curfew. Those were just some of the increasing senseless anti-Jewish orders that affected the day to day life.

On February 12, 1942 Ela, sister Ilona, mother (father died of unknown causes, grandmother and uncle Dr. Otto Altenstein were deported to Terezin, where they spent three and a half years. In July 1942 Ela was separated from her family and moved to the Girls Home L410. Room #28 is where she stayed with girls her own age. She worked in the gardens called Landwirtschaft. The Germans allowed children to play, paint with Bauhaus artist Friedle Dicker Brandeis, and sing Hans Krasa's children's opera "Brundibar."* This saved the children in many ways. Ela played the part of the cat in 55 performances. This opera was used in the Nazi propaganda film.

The last transport from Terezin was October 28, 1944. At last it looked like liberation was coming. Hope behind the mountain, the lesson that Friedle Dicker Brandeis tried to give the children, was coming close. May 5, 1945 they were liberated.

After liberation, Ela attended Art School. In 1949 the family emigrated to Israel. Ela became a sergeant in the Israeli Army, where she met and married Leopold Weissberger. Ten years later they moved to New York City.

Mrs. Weissberger, mother of two, David and Tamar, currently resides in Tappan, New York, where she works as an Interior Designer. She is dedicated to travel across the United States and abroad to tell her story and to honor the memory of victims of the Holocaust.

*The score of Hans Krasa's children's opera "Brundibar" was smuggled in by Rudy Freudenfeld and taught by Gideon Klein.