

He moved to Greensboro 2 years ago and shortly after I met him, he informed me that he was a holocaust survivor. As a matter of fact, Hank had survived five Nazi concentration camps. Born in Boroslav in the Ukraine, Hank found himself under Nazi rule in Poland during World War II.

Since his arrival to Greensboro, Hank has become an integral part of the Jewish community here. For a man his age, he has a magnificent baritone voice. He frequently sings at services here at Temple Emanuel. Twice, in 2006 and 2007, he accompanied teens from Greensboro and elsewhere on the International March of the Living to Poland and Israel.

While in Poland, he shared the story of his family and how no one in his family had survived the holocaust, with the possible exception of a young niece.

Apparently, Hank's niece was left on the doorstep of a church by his sister and despite Hank's best efforts to find what happened to his niece after the war, no contact was established. Hank's mother, sister, brother-in-law were all murdered. All of his half siblings did not survive the holocaust.

Hank's brother was drafted into the Russian Army and immediately after the war, he attempted to find him. He was told that his brother had been killed during the war.

The bottom line is, although Hank had survived the war, he did so alone. His entire family was murdered and he did not even have photographs to remember the story of love and family that once existed. All of his efforts to find other survivors had yielded no results. In the 1980's, Hank tried again through the Red Cross. Letters were written to Poland and the Russian Military, all to no avail. Hank and his family did research at the International Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., again with no results.

Recently a new website was open called Jewishgenfinder. Hank's daughter, Deborah posted their family's name on the website, with details of her father's family. Two months ago, Debra received an email from Israel, and it seems a miracle did occur! It turns out that Hank's brother Simcha, who had gone into the Russian Army, survived the war and lived out the rest of his life in the former Soviet Union. As Hank had been told that Simcha had been killed, Simcha had been told by the townspeople of Boroslav that Hank had been killed. Unfortunately, Simcha died in 1986. His two sons however, immigrated to Israel in the 1990's along with their mother. Both of Hank's nephews have families.

When Hank's daughter Deborah received this information, she sent it along to her father, who then shared it with me. At first, I must I did not understand the significance of the information I was looking at. But after a while I began to understand just what a precious gift Hank had been given. A few weeks later, Hank got on a plane and went to Israel to meet the family that he

thought he had lost. His family was extremely excited to meet him and they hosted him with a great amount of hospitality and good food.

Pictures of his brother Simcha was shared with Hank and his Israeli family made a book of photographs for Hank to take back with him to the United States. The last time Hank saw his brother Simcha it was 1941. I cannot imagine at this point, in the twilight years of his life, how much meeting his family must have meant to my friend Hank. He is truly a unique and special individual. Truly, the reunification of Hank Brodt with his family is nothing less than a modern miracle, for which he and all those who love him are indeed grateful.