



Newsletter

A DAUGHTER'S SEARCH FOR HER
MOTHER'S HIDDEN HOLOCAUST PAST



Shana Tovah!

Pictured above is of a group of HaNoar HaZioni scouts taken in the Sosnowiec ghetto in the fall of 1940. That's my mother in the light coat with the braids standing in the center. It's one of the many treasures I uncovered this past year, thanks to this passionate and global community. It took a trip to Australia to find a woman in Sweden who connected me to the keeper of this photo in Israel, a survivor from Katowice, Sonia Abiri, who recounted how my mother stepped into the center of the frame "like an angel." What I love about this image is how it telegraphs dignity and defiance. These teenagers are wearing their Star of David armbands with pride, something the Nazis could never strip from them -- and us.

As we herald 5778, I want to thank each of you for your commitment to ***By A Thread***, enabling me to travel, film and piece together this intricate, inspiring and elusive story of young women who held on to humanity and hope for a Jewish homeland while in the grips of a cruel Nazi slave labor system.

Between neo-Nazis marching in Charlottesville and the virulently anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) movement twisting Holocaust images and terms to discredit Israel, **the time is now to support fact-based Holocaust films like *By A Thread*.**

The best way to fight hate and Holocaust denial is by documenting the unvarnished truth. There also couldn't be a better time for a nuanced **women's Holocaust documentary**. Just look at this year's big Emmy wins-- "The Handmaid's Tale" and "Big, Little Lies" -- stories by and about women that shine a light on gender-based violence, help break the stigma and shame of its victims and restore dignity to all survivors.

Last week, I met a third generation survivor who told me ***By A Thread*** had freed her grandmother up to speak out about her past. "It's as if a dam broke," she said.

I can't tell you what that means to me.

I need your help to continue.

In 5777, I traveled to **Detroit, Melbourne, Malmo, Sweden, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia to film 12 incredible survivors**, including my mother's second cousin from Katowice, Siegmund Siegrich and his beautiful family. I also interviewed more courageous **Gabersdorf** survivors and their amazing children, all of whom helped me connect more dots and gain a more comprehensive picture of an otherwise elusive piece of Holocaust history. I also presented my research at a lunch for the **Fraternal Order of Bedzin-Sosnowicer** at the Museum of the City of New York, held our first fundraiser hosted by the **Consul General of the Czech Republic** in cooperation with the **USC Shoah Foundation** in honor of the monument I unveiled commemorating the 11 women's camps in Trutnov, Czech Republic, and appeared on ***Odd Mom Out*** star **Jill Kargman's** talk show on Radio Andy on Sirius-XM. What a thrill!

5778 promises to be equally prolific. I'll begin the Herculean and costly task of EDITING! My hope is to complete it by spring.

I'll leave you with one last inspiring story.

Hurricane Harvey hit **Gabersdorf 3rd generation and powerhouse consumer rights attorney Dana Karni, a Houston resident**. She had preemptively moved her family's belongings to higher ground, but as the water levels rose, her children remembered that great-grandma Herta [Nacher]'s porcelain dolls were downstairs. With her legs covered in trash bags, Dana ran down to retrieve them. "My heart is beating loud that my children

understand the value of connection to our collective Holocaust past,” Dana wrote.

Please help me safeguard this vital link to our sacred past.

Wishing you a sweet, peaceful and empowering 5778!

Marisa Fox

By A Thread

writer/director

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