PINCHAS GUTTER

Born: July 21, 1932 (Łódz, Poland)
Interview Date: April 2014

Pinchas Gutter was born on July 21, 1932 in Łódz, Poland. Alongside his twin sister Sabina, he grew up in a Hasidic Jewish home. Within a month of the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939, the Gutter family, under a false Christian identity, moved to Warsaw to avoid danger in their hometown. The family was forced to live in the Warsaw ghetto, where they hid in a bunker during the April 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. They were eventually discovered and deported to the Majdanek concentration and death camp, where his parents and twin sister were murdered. Pinchas was then transferred to forced labor camps in Skarzysko-Kamienna and Częstochowa, Poland and later, to the Buchenwald and Colditz concentration camps in Germany. From Colditz, he was sent on a death march to the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia. Pinchas was liberated from Theresienstadt by the Soviet Army in May 1945. After the war, Pinchas lived briefly in the United Kingdom. He met his wife Dorothy in Israel before settling in South Africa. He then immigrated to Canada in 1985 where he served as a lay chaplain and an honorary cantor at his local congregation in Toronto. Pinchas and his wife have three children. Pinchas's story inspired the film "Political, Polish Jew: The Story of Pinchas Gutter." He is the inaugural participant in USC Shoah Foundation's Dimensions in Testimony project. This interview took place in April 2014 in Los Angeles, CA.