

## **ADINA SELLA**



**Born:** December 1, 1935 (Hamburg, Germany)

**Interview Date:** March 2016

Adina Sella (born Peggy Schaufeld) was born in December 1935 in Hamburg, Germany. She and her brother Joseph grew up in a traditional Jewish home. In 1939, her father, David, was arrested in Germany due to his Polish origins and was only released after Adina's mother secured transit visas to Italy. They had planned to continue on to Shanghai, but after they arrived in Italy they were unable to leave. Labeled refugees, her father was sent to an internment camp and Adina, her mother, and her brother stayed in a nearby town. Her mother managed to relocate them to Arezzo, where the family posed as Catholics and Adina and her brother attended school at a local convent. The nuns and priests, aware of their Jewish origins and fearful of the advancing Nazi forces, warned the Schaufelds to flee with the assistance of the Italian underground. Upon arrival in Anghiari, the Marconis, an Italian Catholic family, hid them until liberation in spring 1944. They returned to Arezzo, and in 1945 the Schaufeld family immigrated to then-Palestine, where Adina completed secondary school and joined the Israeli Army. In 1956, she left Israel to study psychology in Switzerland and met her husband, Michael Sella. In 1963, Adina and Michael moved to Chicago, Illinois, where they operated a medical center together. Adina and Michael have one daughter. This interview took place in March 2016 in Los Angeles, CA.