

FRITZIE FRITZSHALL



Born: August 27, 1931 (Klucharky, Czechoslovakia)

Interview Date: October 2015

Fritzie Fritzshall (née Weiss) was born on August 27, 1931 in Klucharky, Czechoslovakia. One of three children, she grew up in a small Jewish community and lived with her mother. Fritzie's father, Herman Weiss, immigrated to the United States before the war in order to create a pathway for his three children and wife to subsequently follow. They were in Czechoslovakia when World War II began. In 1944, the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia and forced the Weiss family to live in a ghetto. Shortly after, Fritzie and her family were deported to the Auschwitz camp complex. Her mother and two brothers were murdered upon arrival, but Fritzie was selected to join the labor force. She was a slave laborer for nearly a year before she managed to escape a forced death march into Germany. She was liberated by the Soviet Army in spring 1945. After the war, she immigrated to the United States in 1946 and reunited with her father. Eventually settling in Chicago, Illinois, Fritzie became a hairdresser, married Norman Fritzshall, and they had a son. She is an active member of the Skokie community and is currently the President of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. This interview took place in October 2015 in Los Angeles, CA.