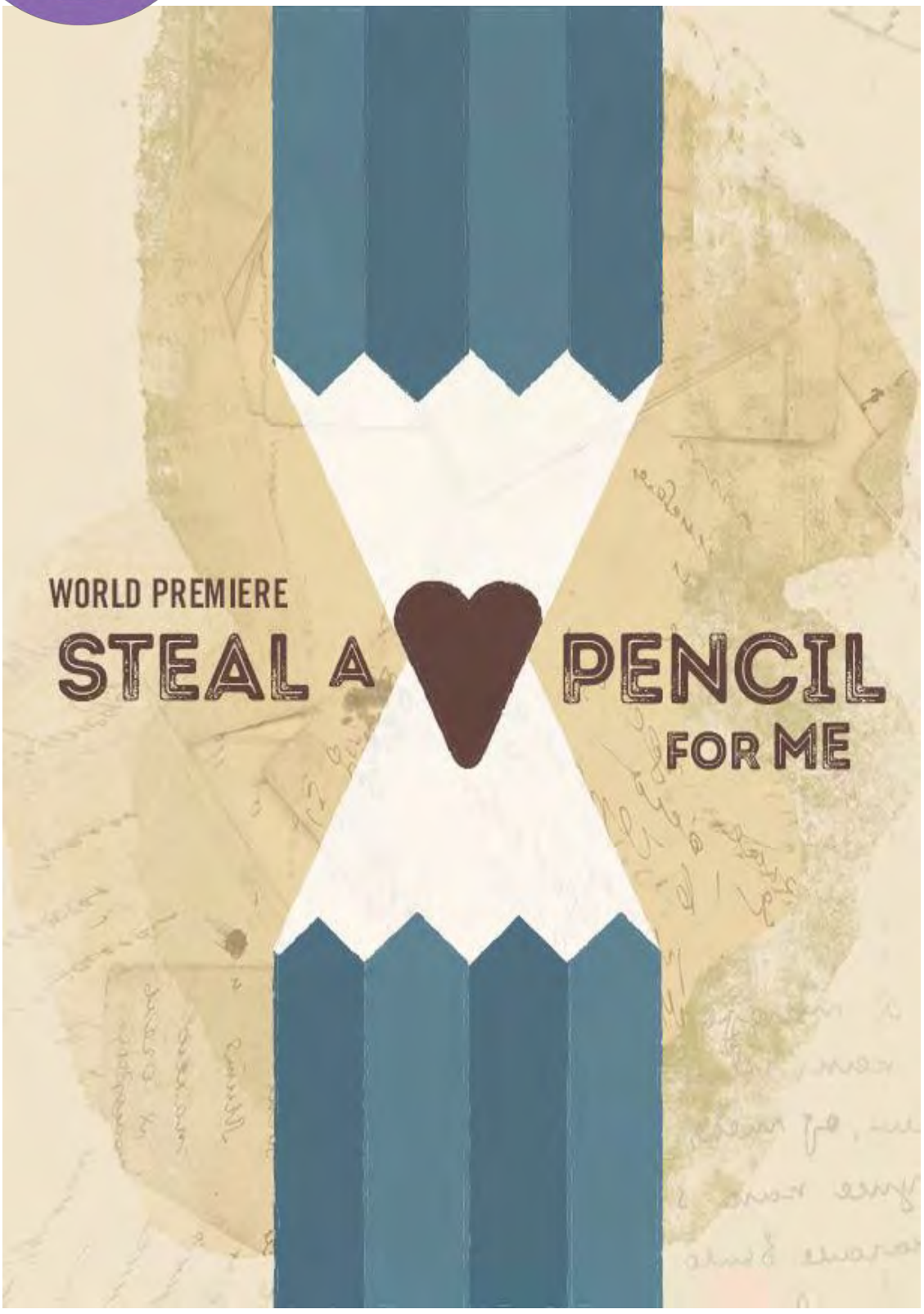
OPERA COLORADO



2017-2018 GUIDEBOOK

A Letter to the Teachers

Dear Teachers,

Opera Colorado is pleased to provide engaging educational programs and performances for students across Colorado. What follows is a guide that we hope you and your students find useful, as we explore Gerald Cohen and Deborah Brevoort's *Steal a Pencil For Me.* In the spirit of exploration, we have included various lessons that connect *Steal a Pencil For Me* with different subjects of learning. The lessons reference the new Colorado Department of Education's Academic Standards: specifically, focusing on the 7th and 8th grade expectations. This does not mean, however, that these lessons should be limited to this age group. While we would be very pleased if you used these lessons in the exact format provided, we encourage you to expand, alter, and adapt these lessons so that they best fit your students' abilities and development. After all, the teacher knows their student's needs best. We would appreciate your feedback on our teacher evaluation form found at the end of this guide, and we hope that you enjoy all that Opera Colorado has to offer!

thank you!

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Steal a Pencil for Me

Music by Gerald Cohen – Libretto by Deborah Brevoort
based on the book of the same title by Jaap and Ina Polak
An Opera Colorado World Premiere on January 25, 2018

Ina Soep.....soprano
(EE-na SOUP)

Jaap Polak.....baritone
(YAHP POH-lahk)

Manja Polak.....mezzo-soprano
(MAHN-yah POH-lahk)

Rudi Acohen.....tenor
(ROO-dee ah-KO-en)

Abraham Soep.....bass
(AY-bra-ham SOUP)

Lisette.....mezzo-soprano
(lee-ZET)

The Commandant.....bass-baritone

Nazis / SS Guards (2).....baritone and bass

Chorus of Amsterdam Jews in Act I and later, the prisoners of Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen.

Synopsis

ACT I

June 1943 – Amsterdam

The Nazis have occupied Holland for over three years. Although restrictions for Jews continue to mount, private gatherings are still tolerated. The opera opens at Lisette's birthday party in her apartment in Amsterdam. Jaap Polak laments his unhappy marriage with his flirtatious wife Manja, but he and Manja have agreed to stay together until the end of the war. He is instantly drawn to Ina Soep when she enters with her parents and boyfriend Rudi Acohen. Jaap imagines what it would be like to be married to Ina. The party is interrupted when the Nazis arrive and seize several people, including Rudi.

September 1943 – Westerbork Transit Camp

Manja, Jaap, his parents, and Lisette are deported from Amsterdam to Westerbork, a transit camp in Northern Holland. As everyone arrives, they are submitted to "Administration" and are assigned to a barrack. Several long-time prisoners tell them about Tuesday Transport, the dreaded weekly deportation of a quota of prisoners for "resettlement to the east." Ina enters with her parents; they have also been sent to Westerbork. Jaap arranges for Manja and himself to be in the same barrack to which Ina and her family have been assigned. Jaap approaches Ina, who rebuffs him because he is married.

Ina, alone and upset, has an imaginary conversation with Rudi, who tells her to do everything she can to survive so that they can be reunited in the future. Jaap appears and approaches Ina again, and she agrees to take a walk with him. Jaap tells her that one way to survive the present horror is to imagine a better future. They pledge to tell each other everything, even the small details of everyday life, in order to survive and preserve a sense of some normalcy amid the fear and imprisonment of their lives in the camp.

November 1943

The Commandant enters and announces that it is time for Tuesday Transport. Jaap's parents are on the list. Jaap escorts his parents to the train for transport, where he gives his father his shoes, as there is nothing else he can do for him. Jaap picks up and pockets the pencil discarded by the Commandant after checking off the names of the deportees. Jaap uses the pencil to write a love note to Ina, but cannot find a way to get it to her. He finally asks Lisette to pass the note to Ina, and Ina also asks Lisette to pass her reply back to Jaap, without telling Lisette they are love notes. Lisette grows curious and reads the letters.

February 1944

The Commandant holds his weekly cabaret where Jewish prisoners are expected to perform. Lisette sings a saucy cabaret song quoting parts of Jaap's letters to Ina, and all of the prisoners gossip about the budding romances between Jaap and Ina. At the end of the cabaret, the Commandant pulls out a list for Tuesday Transport and Ina despairs on hearing that Jaap and Manja are on the list.

ACT II

May 1944 – Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp

Jaap and Manja have been sent to Bergen-Belsen in Germany, a much harsher camp than Westerbork; they have been in the camp for three months. The curtain rises on Roll Call, a process that requires the prisoners to stand outside for hours while the Nazis count and recount everyone obsessively. At the end of the scene Ina and her family enter; they, too, have been sent to Bergen-Belsen.

Jaap and Ina meet behind the barracks. They talk about their dreams for the future and their dreams of simple things like having an "ordinary breakfast," sitting at a table, and buying a loaf of bread. Manja and Abraham Soep (Ina's father) enter, finding Jaap and Ina behind the barracks. Manja and Soep insist that Jaap and Ina stop seeing each other. Jaap and Ina agree, but decide to carry on their relationship by writing letters. But Jaap no longer has a pencil. As Ina is now working in the Commandant's office, Jaap tells Lisette to give Ina a message: "Steal a pencil for me." Lisette passes the message to Ina.

Fall 1944

Ina overhears the Nazis talking about what is taking place at Auschwitz. She tells the other prisoners; many do not believe it possible, thinking these rumors are just another ploy by the Nazis to scare and torment the prisoners. Ina, sickened by the rumors, leaves the barracks. She has another imaginary conversation with Rudi and asks him if he is still alive. Ina begins to realize that all hope of Rudi surviving is slipping away.

March 1945

Months have passed and Ina and Jaap have continued writing, giving each other the will to survive day by day. It is Passover. Ina sends a letter to Jaap telling him that the story of the Exodus from Egypt can lift his spirits. During Roll Call, as several prisoners die of exhaustion, the others express their individual yearnings for freedom against the constant struggle of camp life.

April 1945 – leaving Bergen-Belsen

Everyone in the camp suddenly receives orders to leave. Jaap and Manja are put on a train heading east; Ina, on a train headed west. As Jaap and Ina travel in opposite directions, they are surrounded by people dying from typhoid fever. Liberation finally comes, but when it does, Jaap succumbs to the fever and collapses in a coma.

June 1945 – Amsterdam

Everyone waits for news of their loved ones; it takes a long time for the few survivors to reconnect. Manja finds Ina, who has been searching for Jaap, and tells her that Jaap has survived, but barely; Jaap then enters, looking emaciated – but alive. Before they can begin their lives together they both say their goodbyes to their pasts – Ina emotionally releases the deceased Rudi, and Manja grants Jaap a divorce. Jaap and Ina sit down at a table to eat an "ordinary breakfast."

Gerald Cohen
COMPOSER

Composer **Gerald Cohen** has been praised for his "linguistic fluidity and melodic gift," creating music that "reveals a very personal modernism that…offers great emotional rewards." (Gramophone Magazine). His deeply affecting compositions have been recognized with numerous awards and critical accolades. The music on his recently released CD, *Sea of Reeds* (Navona), "is filled with vibrant melody, rhythmic clarity, drive and compositional construction…a sheer delight to hear." (Gapplegate Music Review)

His opera, ***Steal a Pencil for Me,*** based on a true concentration camp love story, will have its world premiere production by Opera Colorado in January 2018; excerpts were featured at Forth Worth Opera's *Frontiers* Festival in 2016. Lucid Culture's review of a 2013 semi-staged version noted the effectiveness of Cohen's "…mesmerizingly hypnotic, intricately contrapuntal" music, with moments of "…Bernard Herrmann-esque, shivery terror…". Cohen's operas *Sarah and Hagar*, based on the story from the book of Genesis, and *Seed*, a one-act opera about love and choices for a post-apocalyptic couple, have been performed in concert form. Cohen is a noted synagogue cantor and baritone; his experience as a singer informs his dramatic, lyrical compositions. Cohen's best-known work, his "shimmering setting" (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) of Psalm 23, has received thousands of performances from synagogues and churches to Carnegie Hall and the Vatican.

Recognition of Cohen's body of work includes the Copland House Borromeo String Quartet Award and Hoff-Barthelson/Copland House commission, Westchester Prize for New Work, American Composers Forum *Faith Partners* residency, and Cantors Assembly's Max Wohlberg Award for distinguished achievement in the field of Jewish composition. Cohen received the Yale University's Sudler Prize for outstanding achievement in the creative arts, and has been awarded commissioning grants from Meet the Composer, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, and Westchester Arts Council. Throughout his career, he has been selected for residencies including those at The MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and American Lyric Theater.

Cohen's music has been commissioned by chamber ensembles including the Cassatt String Quartet, Verdehr Trio, Franciscan String Quartet, Chesapeake Chamber Music, Grneta Ensemble, Wave Hill Trio, Bronx Arts Ensemble, and Brooklyn Philharmonic Brass Quintet; by choruses including the New York Virtuoso Singers, Canticum Novum Singers, Syracuse Children's Chorus, St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City, Zamir Chorale of Boston, and Usdan Center Chorus; and by the Cantors Assembly of America and Westchester Youth Symphony. Cohen's music has been performed by the Borromeo String Quartet, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Westchester Philharmonic, Riverside Symphony, Plymouth Music Series Orchestra, New York Concert Singers, Princeton Pro Musica, and many other ensembles and soloists.

Cohen's compositions are published by Oxford University Press, G. Schirmer/AMP and Transcontinental Music Publications. Gerald Cohen received a BA in music from Yale University and a DMA in composition from Columbia University. He is cantor at Shaarei Tikvah, Scarsdale, NY, and is on the faculties of The Jewish Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College. Cohen lives in Yonkers, NY with his wife, Caroline, and son Daniel.

Deborah Brevoort

LIBRETTIST

Deborah Brevoort is a playwright and librettist from Alaska who now lives in the New York City area. She is an alumna of New Dramatists, one of the original company members of Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska and a co-founder of Theatre Without Borders, a group of individual artists dedicated to international theatre exchange.

She is best known for her play *The Women of Lockerbie*, which won the Kennedy Center's Fund for New American Plays Award and the silver medal in the Onassis International Playwriting Competition. It was produced in London at the Orange Tree, off-Broadway at the New Group and Women's Project and in Los Angeles at the Actors Gang. It is produced all over the US and internationally. Published by DPS and No Passport Press, the play has had over 400 productions to date and is translated into 10 languages.

Steal a Pencil for Me, a full length opera with composer Gerald Cohen is based on the book of the same title. There were concert stagings in NYC in 2013 and 2014. Crossing Over, an Amish hip pop musical with composer Stephanie Salzman (co-lyricist) was chosen for the inaugural ASCAP Musical Theatre Festival at the Lied Center in 2013. It received a workshop in 2014 in the Lied Center's Grow a Show program and a residency at CAP 21 in NYC. It is currently in development.

Deborah received the Paul Green Award from the National Theatre Conference for her musical book writing and a Performing Artist/Writer Research Fellowship at the American Antiquarian Society in 2012. She has received grants and commissions from the NEA, Rockefeller Foundation, NYFA, CEC Arts Link, New Jersey Arts Council, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Danish American Society, Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation, Brown University, The Harburg Foundation, Banff Playwright's Colony and others. She received the Joe Calloway Award and was a MacDowell Fellow. She has done residencies in Canada, Mexico, Australia, Denmark and the Czech and Slovak Republics. She is a resident artist at the American Lyric Theater. She is a member of ASCAP and serves on the board of the National Theatre Conference. She holds MFA's in playwriting from Brown University and in musical theatre writing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she was the Yip Harburg Fellow. She currently teaches in the NYU graduate musical theatre writing program and in the MFA playwriting programs at Columbia University and Goddard College.

an introduction to

The Holocaust

The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. *Holocaust* is a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire." The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community.

(Courtesy: www.ushmm.org)

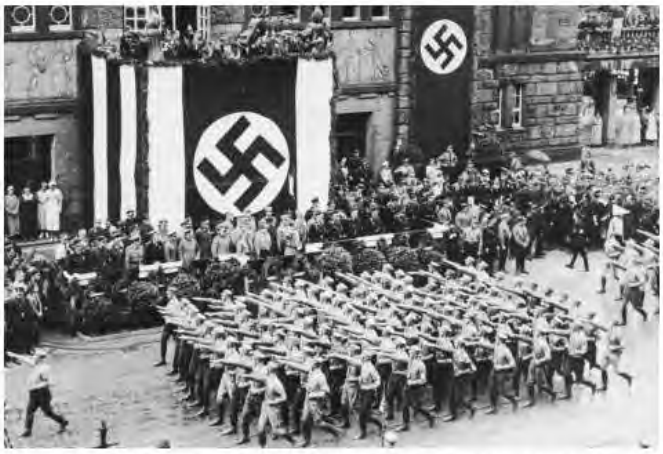
a timeline of events

The Holocaust

Studio portrait of Zeni Farbenblum and her son, Rudy, in Mukachevo, Czechoslovakia. —*US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Jaine Farbenblum Shattan*

Before 1933

World War I (1914–1918) devastated Europe and created new countries. The years that followed saw the continent struggle to recover from the death or injury of tens of millions of soldiers and civilians, as well as catastrophic damage to property and industry. In 1933, over 9 million Jews lived in Europe (1.7% of the total population)—working and raising families in the harsh reality of the worldwide economic depression. German Jews numbered about 500,000 or less than 1% of the national population.



Hitler reviews an SA parade as it passes in front of the Dortmund theater. —*Mahn- und Gedenkstaette Steinwache Dortmund*

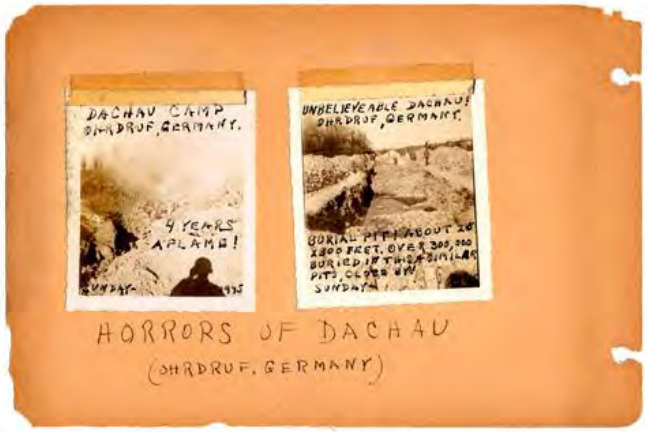
1933–1938

Following the appointment of Adolf Hitler as German chancellor on January 30, 1933, the Nazi state (also referred to as the Third Reich) quickly became a regime in which citizens had no guaranteed basic rights. The Nazi rise to power brought an end to the Weimar Republic, the German parliamentary democracy established after World War I. In 1933, the regime established the first concentration camps, imprisoning its political opponents, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and others classified as "dangerous." Extensive propaganda was used to spread the Nazi Party's racist goals and ideals. During the first six years of Hitler's dictatorship, German Jews felt the effects of more than 400 decrees and regulations that restricted all aspects of their public and private lives.

This document bears witness to the vast array of bureaucratic stamps and visas needed to emigrate from Europe in 1940–41. —*US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Samuel Soltz*

1939–1941

The Holocaust took place in the broader context of World War II. On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Over the next year, Nazi Germany and its allies conquered much of Europe. German officials confiscated Jewish property, in many places required Jews to wear identifying armbands, and established ghettos and forced-labor camps. In June 1941, Germany turned on its ally, the Soviet Union. Often drawing on local civilian and police support, Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units) followed the German army and carried out mass shootings as it advanced into Soviet lands. Gas vans also appeared on the eastern front in late fall 1941.



Album documenting the liberation of the Ohrdruf camp, a subcamp of Buchenwald (mislabeled as Dachau). Ohrdruf, Germany, April 1, 1945. —*US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Raymond Malenfant*

1942–1945

In a period marked by intense fighting on both the eastern and western fronts of World War II, Nazi Germany also intensified its pursuit of the "Final Solution." These years saw systematic deportations of millions of Jews to increasingly efficient killing centers using poison gas. By the end of the war in spring 1945, as the Germans and their Axis partners were pushed back on both fronts, Allied troops uncovered the full extent of crimes committed during the Holocaust.

A group of young survivors in Buchenwald. —*US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Hadassah Bimko Rosensaft*

After 1945

By May 1945, the Germans and their collaborators had murdered six million European Jews as part of a systematic plan of genocide—the Holocaust. When Allied troops entered the concentration camps, they discovered piles of corpses, bones, and human ashes—testimony to Nazi mass murder. Soldiers also found thousands of survivors—Jews and non-Jews—suffering from starvation and disease. For survivors, the prospect of rebuilding their lives was daunting. With few possibilities for emigration, tens of thousands of homeless Holocaust survivors were housed in displaced persons (DP) camps. In the following years, many international and domestic courts conducted trials of accused war criminals.

about

Bergen-Belsen

Background
German military authorities established the Bergen-Belsen camp in 1940. It was in a location south of the small towns of Bergen and Belsen, about 11 miles north of Celle, Germany.

Until 1943, Bergen-Belsen was exclusively a prisoner-of-war (POW) camp. In April 1943 the SS Economic-Administration Main Office (SS *Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt*; WVHA) which administered the concentration camp system, took over a portion of Bergen-Belsen and converted it first into a civilian residence camp and, later, into a concentration camp. Thus, while the German government placed the Bergen-Belsen camp complex within the concentration camp system, the WVHA initially gave it a special designation.

The Bergen-Belsen Camp Complex
The Bergen-Belsen camp complex was composed of numerous camps, established at various times during its existence. There were three main components of the camp complex: the POW camp, the "residence camp" (*Aufenthaltslager*), and the "prisoners' camp" (*Häftlingslager*).

The prisoner-of-war camp functioned as such from 1940 until January of 1945. The "residence camp" was in operation from April 1943 until April 1945, and was composed of four subcamps: the "special camp" (*Sonderlager*), the "neutrals camp" (*Neutralenlager*), the "star camp" (*Sternlager*), and the "Hungarian camp" (*Ungarnlager*).

The "prisoners' camp," also in operation from April 1943 until April 1945, consisted of the initial "prisoner's camp," the "recuperation camp" (*Erholungslager*), the "tent camp" (*Zeltlager*), the "small women's camp" (*Kleines Frauenlager*), and the "large women's camp" (*Grosses Frauenlager*).

Prisoners in the Camp

Over the course of its existence, the Bergen-Belsen camp complex held Jews, POWs, political prisoners, Roma (Gypsies), "asocials," criminals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and homosexuals.

As Allied and Soviet forces advanced into Germany in late 1944 and early 1945, Bergen-Belsen became a collection camp for thousands of Jewish prisoners evacuated from camps closer to the front. The arrival of thousands of new prisoners, many of them survivors of forced evacuations on foot, overwhelmed the meager resources of the camp.

With an increasing number of transports of female prisoners, the SS dissolved the northern portion of the camp complex, which was still in use as a POW camp, and established the so-called "large women's camp" (*Grosses Frauenlager*) in its place in January 1945. This camp housed women evacuated from Flossenbürg, Gross-Rosen, Ravensbrück, Neuengamme, Mathausen, and Buchenwald concentration camps, as well as various subcamps and labor camps.

At the end of July 1944 there were around 7,300 prisoners interned in the Bergen-Belsen camp complex. At the beginning of December 1944, this number had increased to around 15,000, and in February 1945 the number of prisoners was 22,000. As prisoners evacuated from the east continued to arrive, the camp population soared to over 60,000 by April 15, 1945.

Conditions

From late 1944, food rations throughout Bergen-Belsen continued to shrink. By early 1945, prisoners would sometimes go without food for days; fresh water was also in short supply.

Sanitation was incredibly inadequate, with few latrines and water faucets for the tens of thousands of prisoners interned in Bergen-Belsen at this time. Overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions, and the lack of adequate food, water, and shelter led to an outbreak of diseases such as typhus, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, and dysentery, causing an ever increasing number of deaths. In the first few months of 1945, tens of thousands of prisoners died.

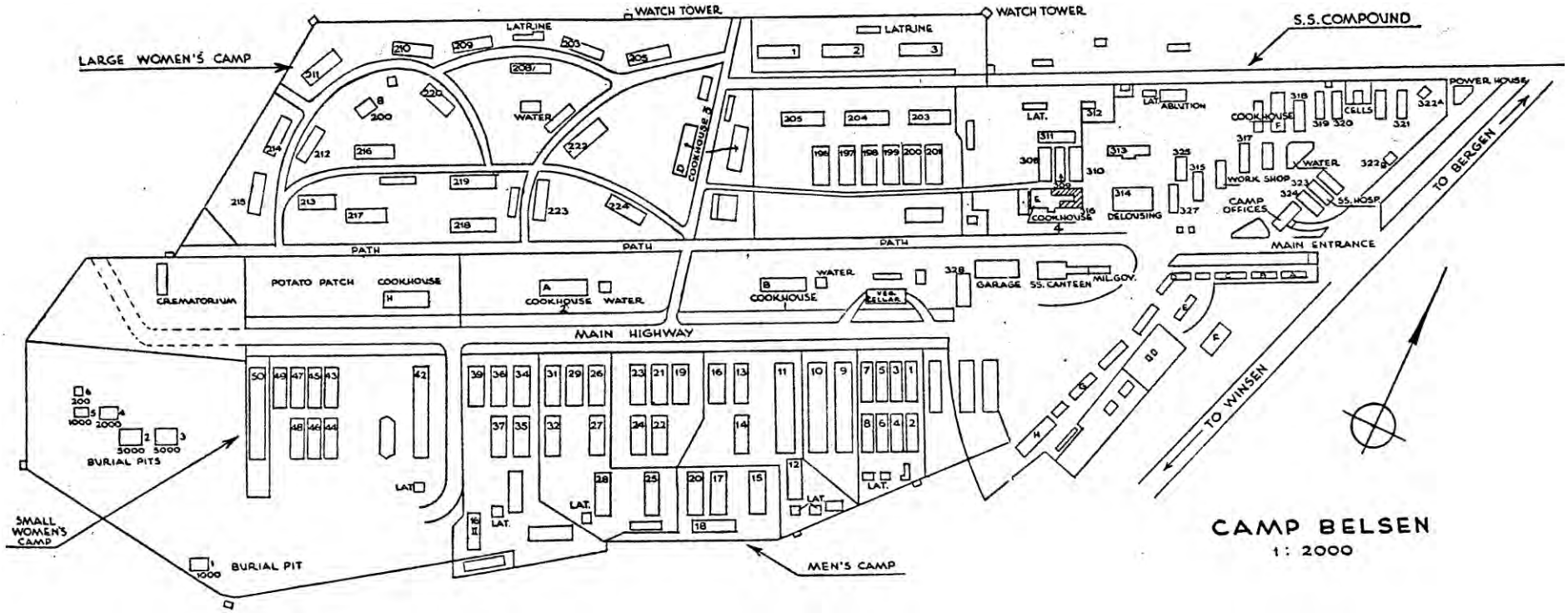
Liberation

On April 15, 1945, British forces liberated Bergen-Belsen. The British found around sixty thousand prisoners in the camp, most of them seriously ill. Thousands of corpses lay unburied on the camp grounds. Between May 1943 and April 15, 1945, between 36,400 and 37,600 prisoners died in Bergen-Belsen. More than 13,000 former prisoners, too ill to recover, died after liberation. After evacuating Bergen-Belsen, British forces burned down the whole camp to prevent the spread of typhus.

During its existence, approximately 50,000 persons died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp complex including Anne Frank and her sister Margot. Both died in the camp in March 1945. Most of the victims were Jews.

After liberation, British occupation authorities established a displaced persons camp that housed more than 12,000 survivors. It was located in a German military school barracks near the original concentration camp site, and functioned until 1951.

-adapted from www.ushmm.org


WATCH TOWER
WATCH TOWER
S.S.COMPOUND
LARGE WOMEN'S CAMP
LATRINE
LATRINE
WATER
COOKHOUSE D
POWER HOUSE
TO BERGEN
LAT.
ABLUTION
COOKHOUSE F
CELLS
WATER
WORK SHOP
CAMP OFFICES
SS.HOSP.
MAIN ENTRANCE
COOKHOUSE E
DELOUSING
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SMALL WOMEN'S CAMP
BURIAL PIT
MEN'S CAMP
CAMP BELSEN
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real-life

Profiles

INA SOEP AND JAAP POLAK were married on Tuesday, January 29th, 1946, in a neighborhood synagogue, one of the few functioning Jewish houses of worship in Amsterdam. They arrived by horse and carriage. There were no cars available, since the rubber for auto tires and gasoline were non-existent. The same post-war shortage existed with housing, so they were forced to rent rooms with "kitchen privileges" in someone's apartment. Their next move was to a full floor in a large villa… About this time Ina's father began urging the couple to consider a move to the United States. When the Korean War broke out, fear mounted that Russia would wage war on the side of North Korea, forcing the United States to come to the aid of South Korea, thereby precipitating another World War. Western Europe might then be overrun and occupied again by a hostile power.

In 1949, Jaap traveled to the United States to determine the possibility of establishing himself in business; but the country was experiencing a recession, so he returned to Holland with discouraging news. In the course of 1950, his father-in-law set up a small wholesale diamond business in New York City, where Jaap worked during the day while studying accountancy in the evening. In 1953, when Mr. Soep died, Jaap was thrust into the position of managing all his diamond interests in Amsterdam, New York, and Chicago, which he slowly liquidated during the next ten years. In the meantime, Jaap switched his profession as an accountant to that of an investment-adviser, a profession he had already honed as a "hobby" when, after the war, many widows of his former clients returning to Holland needed advice on how to manage their finances. He realized this was his true calling, and he could use his skills as an accountant for the benefit of his new profession. He once joked that he was an accountant by profession, in the diamond business by marriage, and an investment counselor by choice.

…Ina and Jaap [were married sixty-eight years]. On his 80th birthday, December 31, 1992, Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands presented him with a knighthood with the rank of Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau. This honor was bestowed upon Jaap in recognition of his many endeavors in making the American people, especially children, aware of the experiences of the Dutch people during World War II, their suffering during the German occupation, and his own experiences in the Holocaust.

There is particular significance attached to this honor since Jaap received this as an American, as a Jew, a Holocaust survivor, and a former Dutchman living in the United States.

Since the founding of the Anne Frank Center, U.S.A., Jaap [was its] Director, then President, and finally Chairman Emeritus of the organization located in New York City. The Center [gave] him the ideal forum from which to disseminate information about the Holocaust, and create an awareness of the experiences of survivors, particularly the Dutch Jews. He [was] an indefatigable publicist for extolling the horrors of the Holocaust, and keeping the memory of its inhumanity alive. Jaap [became] an authority on the Dutch-Jewish experience, and a consultant on Jewish affairs for the Dutch Consulate.

…Together, Ina and Jaap Polak infused their lives and their childrens' education with Dutch culture. In their home, one [could have found] many examples typical of Dutch family life: five state Bibles, many Dutch paintings, a substantial collection in their library about the resistance in Holland during World War II, Dutch tiles and silver, and family heirlooms. They [had] attempted to create, in their words, "an American life with a Dutch atmosphere."

Ina Polak peacefully passed away on May 14, 2014, at age 91.

Jaap Polak peacefully passed away on January 9, 2015, at age 102.

Adapted from the epilogue in the book titled Steal a Pencil For Me *by Jaap Polak and Ina Soep*

excerpts from

The Letters

The following pages contain two original letters during Jaap and Ina's time at Bergen-Belsen. These letters have been taken directly from Jaap and Ina's book, *Steal a Pencil For Me*, which documents their relationship through World War II.

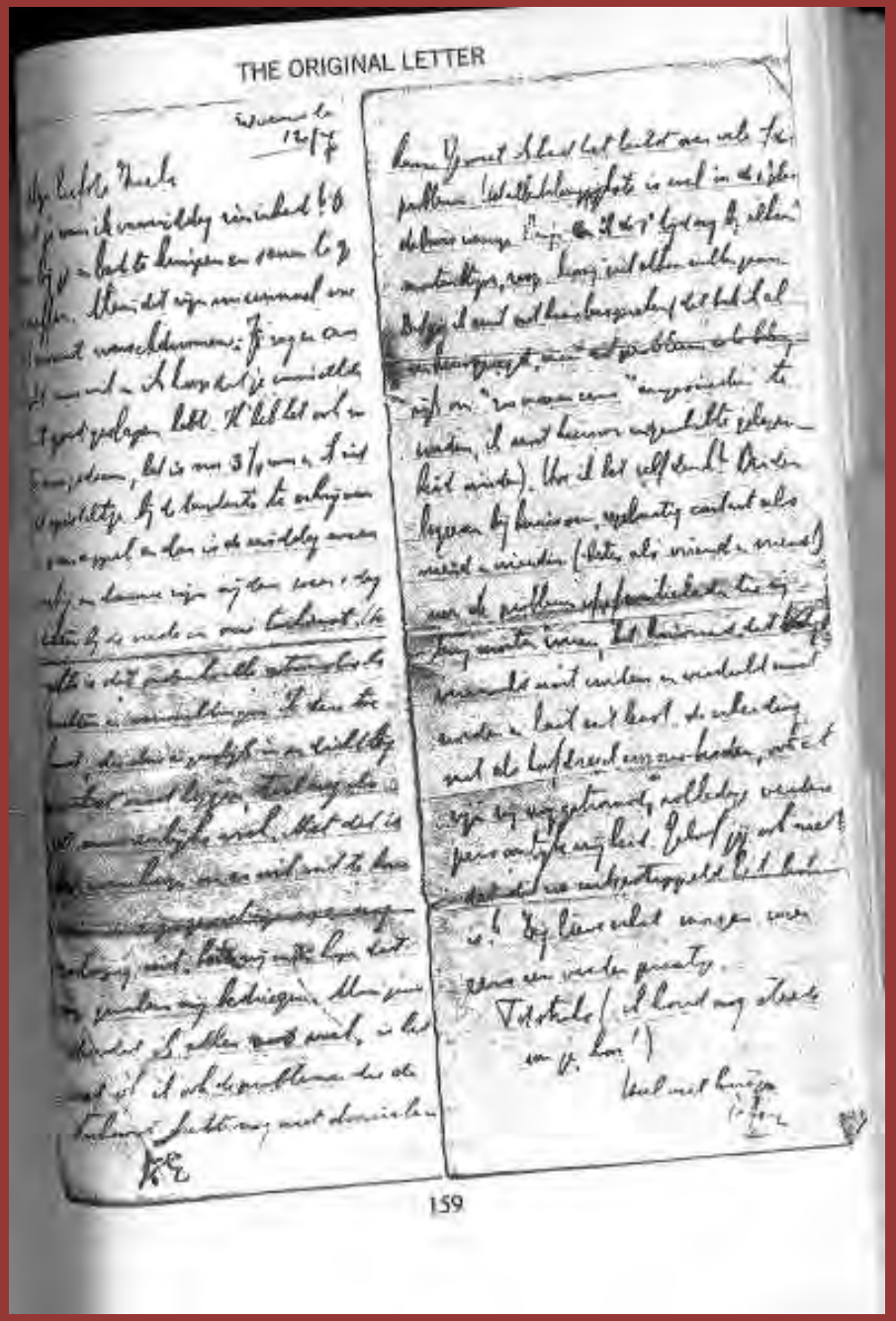
The book contains many of Jaap's letters in their original format, while only a few of Ina's originals were salvaged after she lost her backpack on the day of her liberation.

Wednesday, July 12, 1944

My dearest Ineke,

Do you know what I wanted to do this afternoon–to crawl into bed with you and take a nap together. But for the moment, these are only wishes and dreams. You really looked very tired, and I hope that in the meantime you had a good sleep. I also took it easy. It is now 3:15 P.M., and I am writing this little epistle at the dentist. At 4:00 P.M., roll call, and then the afternoon is over, thus putting us one day closer to the freedom in our future. The crazy thing is, that despite all optimistic reports and outlooks, when I hear about this future, which seems to be really close at hand, I don't feel that it's really true. Not that I have given up hope that we will get out of it, but the way I feel is that we are not there by a long shot. Let us hope that my feelings are wrong. But just because I feel this way, it doesn't mean I can't work out the problems of the future. The most important thing is, in the first place, the basis on which Manja and I will stay together in the beginning; and respectively, how we will then be? Both of us living like friends, with regular contact. Then there are the problems with the families, who we hope will come back; for instance the furniture that we have to gather together and divide. And last, but not least, the abandoning of our marriage vows, even though we are still married, and the granting each other full personal freedom. Don't you too think that this is the best way to clearly define everything?

See you later: (I still love you, you know!)
Many, many kisses,
your Jaap



Friday, March 16, 1945, 12:30 P.M.

My sweet darling,

No one knows anything more about our departure, although the rumor is that we are going. I suspect that the problem with our not leaving is that there is no train available. This afternoon we will be vaccinated against typhus. The optimists say that it is in connection with the transport; the pessimists say that spotted typhus is breaking out in all the camps. And what do we do? We just wait and see! Jaapje dear, I share your hunger problems, yes! We are being very naughty with our bread. The food sometimes comes at 4:00 P.M. in the afternoon, and sometimes early in the morning, and we are all complaining a lot. We just heard that from now on we will get evening soup only twice a week. Go ahead, we won't notice a little more or a little less hunger! The small stock of food we had is totally gone, but at least we ate well for a week. How are things with Dr. A? I heard that it is not what they were afraid of. Can Manja go and be with him, and does she also take care of you a little? Sweetheart, will this be the last letter? Will you help me make it true? I really have no more patience! For you much love, kisses and anything you want from your Ina.

5:00 P.M.

Just got your letter. Very happy with it! Great that you are so much better. If you feel well enough, you should start working again, in view of the 4 extra food portions. The men just had to go suddenly to the quarantine bath. We go later or tomorrow. It looks as if the transport will leave soon. Bye, dearest. Heartfelt kisses, Ina.

LETTER-WRITING
activity

In *Steal a Pencil for Me*, in the face of the worst inhumanity, the worst possible tragedies, in a world in which everything else has been stripped away, what sustains Jaap and Ina is the humanness of their communication, the letters through which their love burgeons. They face the greatest dangers and risks for the simple act of writing a letter, for the simple act of communicating in the face of humanity's greatest horrors and terror.

Imagine a world in which everything else has been stripped away, in which writing was your only form of communication. Imagine that you had to steal a pencil to say what you needed to say. Write that letter now.

educator's supplement

The Holocaust Awareness Institute

of the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies

About the Holocaust Awareness Institute at the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Denver

The Holocaust Awareness Institute (HAI) promotes Holocaust awareness and education in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. The Institute works with people of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds to explore the meaning of the Shoah and its lessons for current and future generations.

HAI is a community resource for coursework, educational materials, and programming, and is a leading agent in the region for promoting education about the Holocaust and related ethical and social justice issues.

Our newest project, the *HAI Curriculum Project*, brings primary resources to middle-school and high-school students and teachers through curricula designed in partnership with specialists in curriculum design at the University of Denver's Morgridge College of Education who are also trained in teaching the Holocaust by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

For more information or to become a pilot-educator for the *HAI Curriculum Project*, please email HAI at hai@du.edu, call us at (303) 871-3020, or visit us at http://www.du.edu/ahss/cjs/hai/.

The following pages have been developed specifically for the purposes of this guidebook by the Holocaust Awareness Institute Graduate Student Fellows, a program generously supported by the M. B. Glassman Foundation.

UNIVERSITY of DENVER
ARTS, HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

HOLOCAUST AWARENESS INSTITUTE

Key Terms

Holocaust (Shoah): The systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

Discrimination: Negative treatment based on group membership.

Antisemitism: Prejudice against or hatred of Jews.

Racism: The doctrine of racism asserts that blood is the marker of national-ethnic identity and postulates that innate, inherited characteristics biologically determine human behavior.

Persecution: A program or campaign to exterminate, drive away, or subjugate a group of people based on their membership in a religious, ethnic, social, or racial group.

Kristallnacht ("Night of Broken Glass"): Kristallnacht, literally, "Night of Crystal," is often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass." The name refers to the wave of violent anti-Jewish pogroms which took place on November 9 and 10, 1938. This wave of violence took place throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudentenland in Czechoslovakia recently occupied by German troops.

Pogroms: Violent riots launched against Jews and frequently encouraged by government authorities.

Kindertransport: Kindertransport ("Children's Transport") was the informal name of a series of rescue efforts which brought thousands of refugee Jewish children to Great Britain from Nazi Germany between 1938 and 1940.

Ration: A fixed allowance of provisions or food.

(Courtesy: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

close to home

The Lowensteins

The Lowenstein Family Collection of historic, primary source documents tells the story of one Jewish family's miraculous survival amidst the horrors of the Holocaust. When Hitler rose to power in 1933, approximately 160,000 Jews lived in Berlin, Germany. By 1939, an estimated 80,000 Berlin Jews had fled the country. Most of the remaining Jews were deported to Eastern European ghettos and death camps. By 1945, only about 7,000 were known to have survived.

The Lowenstein family – Max, Maria, Karin, and Henry – lived in Berlin and experienced Nazi persecution after 1933. Like many other Jewish families, they tried desperately to find ways to leave Germany and applied for visas to the United States. The beginnings of the Holocaust burst forth on Kristallnacht, or Night of Broken Glass, in 1938. Synagogues were burned and thousands of Jews were taken to concentration camps. Many were never seen again.

Thirteen-year-old Henry Lowenstein was fortunate to be one of 10,000 children saved by the Kindertransport in 1939. Kindertransports were organized by British aid organizations to bring predominantly German, Austrian, and Czechoslovakian Jewish children to the United Kingdom. It would be almost a decade before Henry was able to reunite with his family in 1947.

Henry Lowenstein's mother Maria was born into a Lutheran family and managed to use her status as an Aryan to protect her loved ones. Her courage saved the family from deportation and certain death on numerous occasions. Knowing their importance, Maria saved the documents in the Collection and brought them with her to America in 1946.

In 2011, Henry Lowenstein donated The Lowenstein Family Collection to the Ira M. and Peryle Hayutin Beck Memorial Archives, located in the Anderson Academic Commons Special Collections and Archives at the University of Denver. These documents are intended to teach students how to use and interpret primary source documents to study the complexities of the Holocaust. By following the document trail of the Lowenstein family, students will travel through the Lowenstein's experiences from the beginning of the Nazi regime, through WWII, and on to the family's immigration to the United States and eventual residence in **Denver, Colorado**. The collection reaches beyond the war years and includes some of Maria's and Henry's original artwork – including Maria's wartime portraits and Henry's set design paintings for *The Sound of Music.*

(Courtesy: Ira M. and Peryle H. Beck Memorial Archives of Rocky Mountain Jewish History, University of Denver)

real-life

Profiles

MAX LOWENSTEIN

Born May 17, 1885, in Lessen, Poland [later Prussia, now Germany] – Died February 3, 1948 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Max Moses Lowenstein was the eldest child of Emil and Ernestine Lowenstein. As a young man, Max left his hometown to study medicine at the University of Munich in Germany. He began serving as a ship's doctor in 1908, traveling the Middle East, Africa, and throughout the Far East. In 1910, he moved to Berlin, Germany, to serve as Assistant Doctor at the Berlin-Moabit City hospital, then as a doctor at Berlin's Charité Hospital.

Max submitted his dissertation, "Diagnosis of Children's Leukemia," on May 8, 1913, to the Friedrich-Wilhelm University in Berlin and received his medical degree. During World War I, Max served as a doctor for four years with the rank of a commissioned officer. He cared for German troops on the front lines, on both the Eastern and Western fronts in Galicia and France. Max was awarded the Iron Cross First Class for his bravery. In 1919, he settled back in Berlin and in 1925 he married a widowed artist named Marie (Maria) Lilli Margarete Bäetge Steinberg. They had a son, Ernst Heinrich Lowenstein, the same year. The two remained in Berlin throughout World War II, surviving the Holocaust and several attempts to transport Max to Eastern death camps. Not being allowed to practice as a physician, Max was forced to work 12 hour shifts sorting trainloads of belongings sent back from Nazi death camps. After the War ended, Max, Maria and Karin (Maria's daughter from her first marriage) immigrated to the United States in 1946, making their new home in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

MARIA LOWENSTEIN

Born April 4, 1894 Tallinn, Estonia – Died October 29, 1982, in Denver, Colorado

Marie (Maria) Lilli Margarete Bäetge was born to Arthur and Therese Bäetge on April 4, 1894, in Tallinn (Reval), Estonia. As a young woman, Maria studied art at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, where she met her first husband, Erich Steinberg, an architect. He served in the Russian army as an architect designing buildings on the Sweaborg Island Fortress in Helsinki's harbor. Maria and Erich were married in 1914, and Maria gave birth to their only child, Karin, in Helsinki, Finland, in 1915. In 1917, as the Russian Revolution began, the Steinberg family escaped to Estonia and then Germany. In 1920, Maria was widowed and moved to Berlin where she could support herself and Karin working as an artist and designer. Maria met Dr. Max Lowenstein and they were married in January of 1925. Maria and Max had one child together, a son they named Ernst Heinrich, called Henry.

Though not Jewish themselves, Maria and her daughter Karin both suffered persecution and the dangers of living in a Jewish household during World War II. Maria was forced to work as a seamstress sewing uniforms for Nazi soldiers. She undoubtedly saved Max and Henry's lives multiple times during the war. Most notable historically was in 1943 when Max had been rounded up by the Nazis along with almost 2,000 other Jewish men who had escaped deportation thus far because of their marriage to non-Jewish spouses or government employment. The men were taken to a government building on Rosenstrasse (Rose Street) to await deportation to a camp. Maria and Karin participated in the Rosenstrasse Protest, which is considered to be the only successful protest against the Nazis in Germany resulting in the release of Max and the others being held at Rosenstrasse. After the war, the Lowensteins immigrated to the United States. Maria became a well-known artist and teacher in both Pennsylvania and Colorado.

KARIN M. (STEINBERG) WHARTON

Born March 16, 1915, in Helsinki, Finland [then Russia] – Died January 18, 2014, in Denver, Colorado

Karin Steinberg was Henry Lowenstein's half-sister and Maria's biological daughter. The Steinberg family (Erich, Maria, and Karin) fled Russia for Estonia, and later Germany, when the revolution broke out. Karin's birth father Erich Steinberg, an architect who had served in the Russian army constructing fortifications and buildings for Tsar Nicholas II in Helsinki, could not find work and died a few years later. Widowed, Maria moved Karin to Berlin. There, Karin's mother Maria met and married Dr. Max Lowenstein, a physician who loved theater and art. Karin was 10 when Henry was born, and the children enjoyed a cultural upbringing surrounded by musicians, dancers, painters, architects, and even German composer Kurt Weill. Although Karin's birth parents were not Jewish, her stepfather and half-brother were Jewish, so she was treated the same as the Nazis took power in 1933. In 1943, she and her mother participated in the Rosenstrasse Protest, which is considered to be the only successful protest against the Nazis in Germany.

Right after the war Karin worked as an assistant to Otto Grotewohl, who became a leader of the Social Democratic Party in Germany and lived in the same apartment building as the Lowenstein family. She took notes at meetings between Grotewohl and Wilhelm Pieck, the leader of the German Communists, where they discussed taking Berlin for the Soviets. She passed the information to an American contact and word got out what she had done. The next day Russian soldiers surrounded the limousine, owned by Otto Grotewohl, which took her to and from work. But the soldiers were quite excited by the fancy limousine and wanted to show it off eventually becoming distracted enough for the chauffeur to hit the gas and escape to the American zone with Karin. Because of the threat to her life for the information Karin gave the Americans, the US arranged for her and her family to emigrate to the US in 1946.

In New York, she worked at the Museum of Natural History and married journalist James Wharton. They had a son, Jeffery, and were married until his death in the mid-1960s. In 1967, Karin moved to Denver right across the street from her brother Henry and worked with him at the Bonfils Theater.

HENRY LOWENSTEIN

Born July 4, 1925, in Berlin, Germany – Died October 7, 2014, in Denver, Colorado

Ernst Heinrich Lowenstein was the only child from the marriage of Max and Maria. Maria was a working artists and designer, and Max was a physician. Henry's creative upbringing left a lasting impression on him. As a child, Henry would sing and perform for his parents' guests, but their well-intentioned laughter caused him to shun the stage, preferring in later years to exercise his creativity behind the scenes. He grew up with a half-sister named Karin, from his mother's first marriage, who was 10 years older.

When Adolf Hitler rose to power in 1933, there were approximately 160,000 Jews in Berlin. By war's end in 1945, only 7,000 survived. In July 1938, Henry celebrated his Bar Mitzvah. Four months later, Nazis destroyed the synagogue during Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass." In 1939, Maria applied for her son to seek refuge in England. An English family agreed to sponsor Henry and he left Berlin on the Kindertransport, one of only 10,000 children to do so. He remained in London until the Nazis bombed the city for 76 consecutive nights, fleeing for the English countryside and landing in Whipsnade. There he worked on a farm, at the zoo, and studied art. His family remained in Germany until 1946, when they immigrated to the United States.

In 1947, Henry was finally able to leave England and join his family in Pennsylvania. There he was able to attend high school and upon graduation joined the Army in 1950, serving while he worked to become a citizen. In 1953, he gained citizenship and was accepted to Yale University to study set design. At Yale, Henry was recruited by Helen Bonfils for the prestigious Bonfils Theater on East Colfax Avenue, where he became known as the "father of Denver theater." There he designed plays, ballets, and operas, eventually becoming general manager until he retired in 1986. He quickly came out of retirement to found the Denver Civic Theater where he retired, again, in 1996. Henry was known throughout his career for supporting women and minorities in the arts. The Colorado Theater Guild Awards, *The Henrys*, are named in his honor.

*Originally the family spelled their name "Loewenstein" but after immigrating to the United States they dropped the first "e" changing the spelling to "Lowenstein" to "make things easier for our American friends," as Maria put it. Although it was suggested the family change their name to something that sounded more "American," Maria made a point of refusing to change the obviously Jewish last name that had made her the subject of persecution. She said, "I have suffered with this name, and I am proud of it."

(Courtesy: Ira M. and Peryle H. Beck Memorial Archives of Rocky Mountain Jewish History, University of Denver)

about

Lowenstein Letters

The Lowenstein family exchanged the following letters during the war and post-war years, first through the Red Cross and then through international post. Due to the challenges of the war and the limits of 1940s technology, the wartime letters are short and often written in incomplete sentences. Once the family was safe, with Henry in England and his parents in the United States, the letters become longer, more personal, and are written in English rather than German.

With months, sometimes years, between letters, the Lowenstein family managed to stay in contact despite the fact that they were countries apart. This was not the case for most families who were separated during the war, which highlights just how fortunate the Lowensteins truly were and also the importance of organizations like the Red Cross in assisting displaced persons.

THE WARTIME LETTERS

1. **Red Cross Letter 1940 April 26:** One typed letter on International Committee of the Red Cross Letterhead to Frau Marie Lowenstein (Henry's mother) providing an update on Henry. The letterhead is in French and type is in German. Letter states that Henry is doing well and that they were able to pass along the message that his grandmother had passed away.
2. **Red Cross Letter 1941 March 21:** One typed letter on International Committee of the Red Cross Letterhead to Mademoiselle (Henry's mother) providing an update on Henry. The letterhead is in French and type is in French. Letter states that Henry is in good health and working on the Church Farm in Whipsnade.
3. **Red Cross Letter 1944 February 25-March 28:** Letter written by Marie Lowenstein in Berlin, Germany, to Henry Lowenstein in Church Farm, Whipsnade, Dunstable, Beds, England through the Red Cross, dated by Marie February 25, 1944, stamped by an English post office March 11, 1944, and stamped received March 28, 1944. The front of this letter includes instructions in German and French for sending the letter, Marie's address, Henry's address, and a message about how the family is well and they miss Henry and long for a reunion signed by Max, Marie, and Karin. A Red Cross and Post Office stamp can be seen on the letter. The back of this letter is where the receiver could send a response; however it is blank except for the printed directions for mailing in German and French.
4. **Red Cross Letter 1944 March 27-April 20:** Letter written by Marie Lowenstein in Berlin, Germany, to Henry Lowenstein in Church Farm, Whipsnade, Dunstable, Beds, England through the Red Cross, dated by Marie March 27, 1944, stamped by the English post office April 4, 1944, and stamped received April 20, 1944. The front of this letter includes instructions in German and French for sending, Marie's address, Henry's address, and the message. The back of this letter is where the receiver could send a response; however, it is blank except for the printed directions for mailing in German and French.

THE POST-WAR LETTERS

1. **Letter 1946 June 9:** One 4-page handwritten letter from Henry to his parents and Karin from the farm in Whipsnade, England, where Henry was placed a field hand during the war.
2. **Letter 1946 July 19:** One single page typed letter from Henry to his Aunt Ella, discussing his excitement at the fact that his parents and Karin are finally on their way to America. Written from the farm in Whipsnade, England.
3. **Letter 1946 August 31:** One single page typed letter from Henry to Mau (Mom), Vati (Dad), and Karin in which he is debating whether to travel the United States. Written from the farm in Whipsnade, England.
4. **Letter 1947 June 13:** One 2-page handwritten letter from Henry to Maria, including the envelope with stamps, mentioning that he is in the process of getting packed for the voyage to America. Written from the farm in Whipsnade, England.
5. **Letter (Undated):** One 3-page handwritten letter from Henry to Maria, written in a booklet with the stationary heading "United States Lines S.S. Marine Falcon." The letter was written on the boat from England to the United States and speaks to Henry's excitement.

through the looking glass

Wartime Letters

Bitte anhängenden Zettel auf Ihr Antwortschreiben zu kleben.

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL GENÈVE

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

MS/HW

Rappeler dans la réponse :

CC-8057

GENÈVE, *le* 26. April 1940.

Palais du Conseil général

Chèques postaux I. 5527

Frau Marie LOEWENSTEIN
Motzstrasse, 22
BERLIN, W.30.

Bezugnehmend auf Ihre Anfrage vom 15. März 1940, freuen wir uns Ihnen mitteilen zu dürfen, dass es laut einem soeben erhaltenen Bericht Ihrem Sohn Henry LOEWENSTEIN sehr gut geht und dass er glücklich ist.

Er erhielt vor einem Monat Ihre Mitteilung, die ihm den Tod seiner Grossmutter anzeigte, im übrigen aber gute Nachrichten gab. Es scheint, dass er auch mit Freunden in Deutschland korrespondiert.

Hochachtungsvoll.

S. Ferrière

Please stick the attached piece of paper on your response

COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

Central Agency of Prisoners of War

GENEVA 26 April 1940

Mrs. Marie LOEWENSTEIN

Motz Street, 22

BERLIN, W.30.

In reference to your inquiry from 15 March 1940, we are happy to be able to share with you that we just received a report that your son Henry LOWENSTEIN is doing well and is happy.

He received your communication from a month ago that announced the death of his grandmother but otherwise contained good news. It appears that he also corresponds with friends in Germany.

Yours Sincerely,

[Signature]

3/17

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Rappeler dans la réponse:

CC. 8057
NP/IR

GENÈVE, le 21 mars 1941.

Palais du Conseil-Général

Chèques postaux I. 5527
Téléphone 4 23 65
Télég. "INTERCROIXROUGE"

Mademoiselle DUBOIS
6, rue de l'Athénée
G E N E V E .

Mademoiselle,

Nous référant à votre demande du 22 janvier 1941, nous avons le plaisir de vous communiquer ci-dessous les renseignements que nous recevons de la Croix-Rouge Britannique concernant le jeune Heinrich LOEWENSTEIN, 3 Jan 22

Le prénommé a quitté Mme. Hain chez laquelle il habitait, il y a environ trois semaines pour se rendre chez Mme. Bates, Church Farm, Whipsnade, nr Dunstable, Bedfordshire chez qui il travaille actuellement. Mme. Hain qui le voit tous les jours fait savoir qu'il est en très bonne santé.

Veuillez agréer, Mademoiselle, l'expression de nos sentiments distingués.

S. Ferrière

Prière de coller l'estampille ci-jointe sur votre lettre de réponse.

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Präsidium / Auslandsdienst
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2

CC 8057

PASSED 1944

ANTRAG
an die *Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genf*
— Internationales Komitee vom Roten Kreuz —
auf Nachrichtenvermittlung

REQUÊTE
de la Croix-Rouge Allemande, Présidence, Service Etranger
à l'Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève
— Comité International de la Croix-Rouge —
concernant la correspondance

1. Absender / *Expéditeur* Marie Loewenstein
Berlin W. 30, Motzstr. 22

bittet, an
prie de bien vouloir faire parvenir à

Verwandtschaftsgrad: Sohn

2. Empfänger / *Destinataire* Henry Loewenstein, c/o Mrs. Bates,
Church Farm, Whipsnade near Dunstable
Beds, England.

folgendes zu übermitteln / *ce qui suit:*

(Höchstzahl 25 Worte!)
(25 mots au plus!)

Glücklich über gute Nachricht von
Dir. Auch wir sind gesund und
unverandert. Sehnen uns ganz schrec
lich nach einem recht baldigen
Wiedersehen mit Dir.

Tausend Küsse
Vati, Mutti, Kati

28 MARS 1944

(Datum / date) 25.II.44

(Unterschrift / Signature)

3. Empfänger antwortet umseitig
Destinataire répond au verso

GERMAN RED CROSS
Presidency / Foreign Service
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2

APPLICATION

To the Central Agency of Prisoners of War, Geneva

International Red Cross Committee

For News Dissemination

Sender: Marie Loewenstein, Berlin W 30
Motz Street 22, Germany

Requests, to

Degree of Relationship: Son

Recipient: Henry Lowenstein, C/O Mrs. Bates
Church Farm, Whipsnade near Dunstable
Beds, England

To convey the following:

(Maximum 25 Words!)

Happy about the good news from you.
We are also healthy and unchanged.
We yearn dreadfully for a reunion with you soon.

Thousand kisses

25 February 1944

(Date)

Recipient answers on the overleaf.

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Präsidium / Auslandsdienst
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2

CC 8057
PASSED P.168

ANTRAG

an die *Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genf*
— Internationales Komitee vom Roten Kreuz —
auf Nachrichtenvermittlung

REQUÊTE

de la Croix-Rouge Allemande, Présidence, Service Etranger
à l'Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève
— Comité International de la Croix-Rouge —
concernant la correspondance

1. **Absender** / *Expéditeur*: Marie Loewenstein, Berlin W 30, Motzstr. 22, Deutschland

bittet, an
prie de bien vouloir faire parvenir à

Verwandtschaftsgrad: Sohn

2. **Empfänger** / *Destinataire*: Henry Loewenstein, c/o Mrs.Bates, Churchfarm, Whipsnade near Dunstable Beds., England

folgendes zu übermitteln / ***ce qui suit:***

(Höchstzahl 25 Worte!)
(25 mots au plus!)

Seit zwei Monaten keine Nachricht von Dir. Wir sind alle gesund. Willst Du Farmer werden, oder hast Du inzwischen andere Zukunftspläne. Schreibe regelmässig!!!

Innigste Küsse !!!

Papi Mutti Kai

27.3.44
(Datum / *date*)

(Unterschrift / *Signature*)

3. **Empfänger antwortet umseitig**
Destinataire répond au verso

20 AVR. 1944

GERMAN RED CROSS
Presidency / Foreign Service
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2

APPLICATION

To the Central Agency of Prisoners of War, Geneva

International Red Cross Committee

For News Dissemination

Sender: Marie Loewenstein, Berlin W 30
Motz Street 22, Germany

Requests, to

Degree of Relationship: Son

Recipient: Henry Lowenstein, C/O Mrs. Bates
Churchfarm, Whipsnade near Dunstable
Beds., England

To convey the following:

(Maximum 25 Words!)

We haven't received any news from you in 2 months.
We are all healthy. Do you want to become a farmer,
or have you changed your future plans in the meantime.

Write regularly!!!

Most heartfelt kisses!!!

27 March 1944

(Date)

Recipient answers on the overleaf.