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A Jewish Family Journey to Learn and Document Survival of Parents during Holocaust: Just Steps from Death Camp Treblinka, Poland

SEATTLE, Washington, August 1, 2018 - *My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story*, by Karen I. Treiger, tells the harrowing tale of her husband's parents, Sam and Esther Goldberg, who survived the Holocaust to ultimately settle in the United States. It's also a journey of ancestry and discovery for their family, as they visited Poland in 2016 to retrace the Goldbergs' steps from the Death Camp Treblinka, to a pit in the Polish forest (their hiding place), to liberation in 1944.

Over 870,000 were murdered at Treblinka, but Sam Goldberg was one of approximately 65 prisoners to escape the Death Camp and remain alive until the end of the war. After escaping, he ran to the forest where he met Esther. She had evaded the Nazis twice. Through their determination, and with the help of two families of righteous Gentiles, named Styś, Sam and Esther avoided capture.

Using letters found in Sam's apartment after his death, author Karen Treiger located the three surviving children of the Styś family, who had provided a place for Sam and Esther to hide. As the story unfolded, Sam and Esther's life became Karen's story. Her blog was seen by a Polish Priest who reached out and introduced her to a Goldberg cousin who survived the war as a boy, Józef (Idul) Lis, who stayed in Poland, married and had three daughters. During their visit to Poland, Karen and her family were able to meet Idul and two of his daughters, Eva and Marta, and learn a little more about life during the Holocaust.

All of this comes together in Karen's book - the history, the miracles, the gumption, the discovery of her husband's ancestry, the internet, the horror of humanity, the beauty of humanity. It brings to life the toll that the Holocaust exacted on so many, especially the Jewish community. This is also a story of hope, love and determination. It reminds us that there are still lessons to be learned from the Holocaust.

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Karen Treiger, a Seattle native, retired from her law practice in 2015 to research and write this book about her in-laws – Sam and Esther Goldberg’s. She graduated from New York University Law School, with honors, in 1988, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review. She graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University in 1983. Her work experience ranges from a Legislative Assistant to Senator Slade Gorton, business law for Davis Wright Tremaine, and her most recent law practice of fourteen years with the law firm of Thompson, Howle & Vaughn. She is an accomplished and dynamic speaker and has presented at many Continuing Legal Education Conferences, community events, and is a member of the Seattle Holocaust Center Speakers’ Bureau.

As she delved into the history of World War II, of the Holocaust, of the six years of hell between 1939 and 1945, she was convinced that this story of rescue, resilience and survival would resonate with all who encounter it. As time marches on, there are fewer eye-witness survivors to tell us what happened. “We must shoulder the responsibility of passing on the stories and educating the world about the Holocaust,” says Treiger. “This book brings it all together.”

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Editor’s Notes: *My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story*, by Karen I. Treiger, Stare Lipki Press, ISBN: 978 0 692 11579 4, Paperback: \$14.99, Kindle \$4.99, is now available. Audio book will be released on Audible in October.

Coincidentally, the movie ***Operation Finale***, starring Ben Kingsley playing Adolf Eichmann, is scheduled to be released August 29, 2018. Eichmann was known as Hitler’s deadliest lieutenant during the Holocaust. He was responsible with facilitating and managing the logistics involved in the mass deportation of Jews to the “extermination camps” in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe, including Treblinka.