

Ruth Fallman. 16.07.1935 – 18.06.2018

Ruth Danziger was born on July 16th 1935 in Schlochau in Germany. Her family consisted of her parents, grandmother and an older brother, Kurt, all hearing and Ruth was the only one deaf. It was believed that she was born deaf. At the age of 3, she went to board at the Jewish deaf school "Israelite Institute for the Deaf" in Berlin.

In 1939 when the lives of Jewish people were threatened by the Nazis, it was decided by Dr Onkel Felix Reich, the headmaster of the school, to save some children by sending them away to safety. He had an agonising decision of which ten children to choose from all the pupils to go with him. He managed in July 1939 to get ten of his youngest deaf pupils (6 boys and 4 girls) under the age of 11 out of Germany and to London before he was arrested as he had been arrested by the Nazis before but released. Ruth, only 4, was one of the chosen to go on *kindertransport*, along with Anne Senchal neè Marscher and Leslie Beiber. (Kinder is a German word for "children", also from Yiddish "children"). The children left for England by train to Holland then by boat to Harwich and when they finally arrived at Liverpool Street two days later, they were immediately taken to the Residential Deaf School for Jewish Deaf children at Nightingale Lane, Balham. Ruth was homesick, felt all alone and bewildered by having no family in England. She thought she would never see her parents again as she didn't know where they were. But she was determined to be positive and learned to read well, acquiring high level of English. She learnt to be independent.

Ruth said she was astonished when her parents managed to trace her through the Red Cross. She was told that they had survived by managing to escape from Germany to Shanghai in China in 1939. She kept in touch with them twice a year via the Red Cross. Her parents then went from Shanghai to USA where they lived in New York, but sadly the grandmother and Kurt did not accompany the parents to USA as they returned to Germany in 1942, believing they would be safer there. They were never seen again and perished in a concentration camp. After correspondence, Ruth left school at the age of 14 in 1949 and moved to New York to be reunited with her parents. She sailed on Queen Elizabeth to New York with another pupil, Ruthie Rapaport, and was reunited with her parents on 21st November aboard the ship. She could not recognise her mother but her father was easily recognisable. She lived in New York for seventeen years. There is a letter of hers displayed in the Gallaudet University Museum.

Harold Fallman knew her from school in Brighton when the children were evacuated during the war and when he went to New York on holiday, he fell for Ruth as he had always carried a torch for her from the school days. When he returned home to London, they kept in touch by letters. In those days, letters would take a week or two to reach their destination so Harold had to be patient with a long distance relationship then eventually he told her that he loved her and wanted to marry her. Ruth was hesitant and asked her father for advice as she was not sure if she loved him and her father told her that he was a good-looking, healthy young man with good trade as a carpenter and that love would come in time. She made her mind up and said yes. Ruth came over to London for three weeks holiday in 1966 and they got engaged. In 1967 Ruth returned to London and got married to Harold on 12th November and honeymooned in Cornwall and Bournemouth. She started working for Thames Water

and stayed with them until she retired. They loved travelling until Ruth's poor health put a stop to their travelling and soon Ruth was placed in a care home.

Ruth passed away on 18th June 2018 only seven months after celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Melinda Napier and Barry David



Celebrating their Ruby wedding anniversary
On 12th November 2007.



On their honeymoon