

## A Holocaust Survivor's story

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

Lela Black, nee Amiel, was born in 1918 in Salonica, the second largest city in Greece with a thriving Jewish population, where she lived happily alongside other Jews, Christians and Muslims. In 1940, she left Salonica with her husband Joseph and young daughter Marcelle to move to Athens, leaving the rest of her family behind.

When the Germans occupied Athens in 1943, Lela, Joseph and little Marcelle went into hiding. A year later, after being denounced and incarcerated at the Haidari military camp, they were transported to Auschwitz in cattle trucks, with thousands of other Greek Jews.

On arrival at Auschwitz, a selection process separated Lela from her daughter and husband; this was the last time she saw them. Somehow, Lela survived Auschwitz, enduring freezing temperatures, disease and hunger.

When Lela was finally liberated by the Russians on May 5th 1945 and returned to Greece, she discovered her entire family from Salonica had been deported in 1943 and had all been murdered in Auschwitz.

Eventually, Lela came to London to stay with her only living relatives: an aunt, uncle and two cousins. She later remarried and had another daughter, naming her Marcelle after the child that she had lost.

Ultimately, Lela lived a happy and fulfilled life, doting on her daughter and two granddaughters. She died in August 2008, following a major stroke.

JACQUELINE LUCK  
(LELA'S GRANDDAUGHTER)

I discovered the photo of my grandmother Lela with her first daughter, Marcelle (top, right), whilst sorting through family photos at my mother's home in the Suburb where I grew up. As you can imagine, I was shocked to discover my grandmother Lela had had another daughter (also named Marcelle) and even more shocked to discover what had happened to my grandmother, her first husband and little Marcelle. This discovery inspired me to tell my grandmother's extraordinary and heart-breaking story.

With the help of G2G ([www.generation2generation.org.uk](http://www.generation2generation.org.uk)) the wonderful charitable organisation helping the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors to tell their family stories, I gave the first presentation of my grandmother's story on 25th January, just ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day, via Zoom in association with Garden Suburb Community Library (see page 3).

As a passionate advocate of Holocaust, education, I have told and continue to tell Lela's story and always end with a message urging people not to stand by and allow hatred and intolerance to prevail.

MARCELLE BLACK  
(LELA'S DAUGHTER)

I moved to Hampstead Garden Suburb in 1977 a few months after I got married. My husband Jeff had already been living there since 1961 with his parents.

We bought a house in Cornwood Close where we still live to this day: we never moved, even after 45 years! This is where I have spent most of my life and I would not contemplate living anywhere else.

Our two daughters, Jacqueline and Danielle, both attended Meadway Nursery School in Central Square and then Jacqueline went to Annemount in Holne Chase before going on to Brookland School where Danielle later joined her, before eventually going on to the Henrietta Barnett School.

Both my girls have gained so many happy memories and lasting friendships from living here in the Suburb.

Therefore, I find it both appropriate and heart-warming that Jacqueline was able to give the first presentation of her Grandma Lela's story from Garden Suburb Community Library via Zoom, which enabled so many of our friends from all over the world to attend and hear my mother's amazing story – told through her granddaughter's words.

If you would like to watch Jacqueline's presentation, here is the link: <https://vimeo.com/671233418/7bc7c260ec>.



Lela with the 'first' Marcelle, November 1939



Jacqueline and Lela (Photo: Richard Luck)

## My trip to Rome without leaving home for Kidasha

MICHAEL JACOBS

During the last month I walked 86 miles and so, after 306 days, I arrived in the ancient city of Lucca in Tuscany. I have walked 912 miles, virtually, across England, France and northern Italy and have now covered 81% of my trip from London to Rome (equivalent to 10,032 laps of the field) – over 2.14 million steps. Donors have very kindly contributed £12,198.77 (with Gift Aid) to Kidasha towards my target of raising £18,000 – more donations are always welcome.

During the last month, I left Gavi in the municipality of Turin in Piedmont, crossed the River Po, traversed the mountain village country of Liguria and arrived in Tuscany at the great walled city of Lucca.

The teams at Kidasha ([www.kidasha.org](http://www.kidasha.org)) and their local Nepali partners have been working very hard through the winter to help their young beneficiaries get through the pandemic and deal with their long-standing poverty and other challenges. In the foothills of the Himalayas, where most of the children live, it gets extremely cold in winter, and the hills are often covered in snow. It is cold and harsh and the heating is often just an open wood fire, which is also used for cooking, even in people's homes. From distributing vital food supplies and offering emergency shelter, to providing access to education and life skills learning, donations allow Kidasha to provide aid to those hit hardest by the pandemic. There was a surge of Omicron cases in January, which resulted in the schools being shut again for three weeks. This is on top of them already being shut for 70 weeks since the start of the Pandemic. Only a tiny fraction of the people are vaccinated against Covid 19 so the dangers of the pandemic are all too real, and the country is still often in lockdown – although, for people who live from hand to mouth nearly all of the time, 'lockdown' is a very ethereal concept, as they have no choice but to go out and work anyway.

If you wish to donate to help Kidasha, please go to [worldwalking.org/fundraising/n82bh](http://worldwalking.org/fundraising/n82bh) where you can also see my progress.



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