

## **Regina Barshak**

I was born in Paris, France, on March 5, 1925 to Ida (Markovitch) Winder (1897 – 1942) and Abraham Winder (1897 – 1942).

My parents came from Poland to France in search of freedom. Though not wealthy, we were a family rich in dreams.

We lived as non-practicing Jews outside the Jewish quarter. At the outbreak of the war, we were forced to register as Jews with the French police and to wear the yellow Star of David.

In 1942, without any warning, my parents and I were rounded up and transported to the Drancy concentration camp. I feared my parents and I were going to die there with the starvation, filth, despair and complete loss of human dignity.

Claiming I was a French national, my mother arranged my release. I fled the countryside to hide with my brother, Max, and an aunt and uncle. I sensed that my parents would never return. They didn't. I later learned that they were deported for "political reasons" and gassed in Auschwitz.

In October, 1947, Max and I came to the United States to live with relatives. Max played the violin with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for thirty years.

In 1958, I married Edward Barshak. We have three children and two grandchildren.

I still wonder how grass dares to grow in Auschwitz.

I was born in Krakow, Poland on May 6, 1920 to Adele FINDER Schreiber (1896-1942) and Jakub Schreiber (1894-1945).