

EVA K.

Eva was born in Budapest, Hungary, on August 1, 1934. Eva's sister was born three years later. Her father worked in car sales before he was taken to a labour camp in 1941. In 1943, the family received a notice from the Red Cross that her father had disappeared on the Russian front.

On March 15, 1944, the German army occupied the city and Eva was forced to wear the yellow star. She went to school until May 1944, when her family was forced out of their apartment. They moved into what would later become the Budapest ghetto with both of Eva's grandmothers. In the fall, Eva's uncle, who had received *schutzpasses* from Swiss diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, came and took Eva's family to a building designated for Jews with exemptions. Her grandmothers were eventually also smuggled into the same building.

Eventually the family's exemptions did not protect them from the Germans. They escaped to a Hungarian fascist meeting place where Erika's mother bribed someone to take them to a different safe house filled with other Jews with exemptions. In February 1945, following a 50-day siege, the German army surrendered Budapest to the Russian army. The Russian soldiers were also dangerous, as they would loot homes, taking whatever they wanted.

Eva was eventually reunited with both her grandmothers and her great-grandparents, who had miraculously survived in the ghetto. In 1946, Eva's mother remarried and moved to another part of Hungary, but Eva stayed with her grandparents and continued her schooling. Eva went to the Institute of Technology and studied fashion design and graduated in June 1956.

When the Hungarian Revolution began, her family escaped to Austria. Eva sent her sister to live with her aunt and uncle in Vancouver and then travelled to Brazil where she worked as a fashion designer and product manager. She later moved to Canada to live with her sister and was later joined by her mother. Eva met her husband in 1966 and taught graphic design at the University of British Columbia.