

Lili

The Story of Lea Feldblum

A Documentary Film

by Ziv Rubinstein

Director, Composer, Television Producer





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For the past four years I have followed the story of Lea Feldblum with a camera from France to Poland, from Israel to Germany. I found the most amazing holocaust story.

I'm looking for partners to help me complete this documentary film. I'm 30,000 away from my dream.

I plan to sell it to networks all over the world.

If you would like to invest in this documentary film please contact me.

Sincerely,
Ziv Rubinstein

SYNOPSIS

In 1940 Germany began constructing the death camp Auschwitz.

A huge camp was constructed near the Polish town of Oswiecim. It was then divided into sub-camps and became the symbol of the Nazi death machine - Auschwitz.

Many studies conducted at the end of World War II in an attempt to estimate the number of those murdered eventually reached the academically accepted number of 1,600,000, of which only 100,000 were non-Jews.

Close to 80 percent of those who arrived at Auschwitz were sent immediately to the gas chambers. The rest - young men and women - were sent to forced labor and most died of abuse, exhaustion, and hunger.

Some 700 prisoners attempted to escape the prison. 400 paid for the attempt with their lives. Upon capture they were locked up and starved to death. Approximately 300 succeeded.

The camp became the greatest hell on earth ever known to mankind.

History also teaches us that no Jew ever arrived at Auschwitz willingly.

Except for one case.

Louise D'Coste, a young woman of 27, who arrived in Auschwitz by declaring her hidden Jewishness and sacrificed herself to the Nazi devil just to accompany a few children to the gas chambers.

This is the story of one heroine, 44 children destitute children and endless self-sacrifice.

This is the story of Lea Feldblum

Lea Feldblum was born in Warsaw on July 1st 1918. Sister of Rivka and Moshe.

In 1929 the family moved to Antwerp. After the German conquest of Belgium the family escaped to France and settled in Bosque D'Robbes, near Montpellier.

Lea's parents died within eight months of one another, whereas her brother and sister were sent to their death at Auschwitz on September 12th, 1942.

Lea escaped and began working as a teacher and counselor at the OSE orphanage in Flebs Le Fou. After a few months she was transferred to the orphanage at Campestre à Lodève and from there she was transferred to the head office of OSE at Chambéry, which was located in Italian territory and finally found herself at the boarding school in Issiet, France, where she lived under the assumed name of Louise D'Coste.

The 44 children under her care see her as a mother for all intents and purposes and Lea views them equally as her children.

On April 6th, 1944, the 44 children living at the orphanage in Issiet and some seven adults serving as their teachers were arrested by Gestapo soldiers under the command of Klaus Barbie. They were arrested for the crime of being Jews.

One of the teachers jumped from a second floor window and escaped. The rest were sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

Two teenagers and a senior teacher were shot to death.

The children and the adults were sent to the French concentration camp of Drancy and from there directly to Auschwitz.

Louise D'Coste is released but declares herself to be Jewish and that she wishes to go to Auschwitz in order to stay with the children.

At a certain point she is forced to persuade the Nazi officers, who refuse to believe what they are being told.

Lea accompanies the children until they are torn from her embrace to their death, while she is sent to the labor camp.

Lea survives nine months of forced labor and manages to survive.

When the camp is liberated, weighing 77 lbs, Lea tries in vain to find survivors, eventually immigrating to Palestine in 1947.

That year she marries and her daughter Hanna is born.

In 1948 her husband falls in Israel's War of Independence and Lea is left to raise her daughter on her own.

In the early 1950's Lea opens a kindergarten in Ramat HaHayal across the Yarkon River from Tel Aviv and continues her endless giving to children.

She tells no-one of what she has been through and keeps her visit to hell secret even from her daughter.

In 1985 Klaus Barbie is arrested in Bolivia and extradited to France, where his trial begins.

In the course of tracing his murders the prosecutors reach Lea Feldblum and ask her to come and testify about the "Issiet children".

Lea refuses.

She does not wish her daughter to hear her story.

After much persuasion she agrees to come and testify on one condition: That she be able to tell the world about the children she loved so dearly - the Issiet children.

She receives this promise and travels to Lyon to testify.

Her testimony is excruciating, and Lea returns to Israel exhausted and broken, only to die a few months later.

Twenty years later her daughter Hanna sets out, along with her sons Shachar and Lior, to learn her mother's never-told story.

The mother's journey with her sons across Europe and the harsh reality she faces turn the journey into a realization that the daughter had not managed to evade the effects of the Holocaust despite her mother's endless efforts.

As the journey unfolds and as details about Lea Feldblum and her heroism are revealed we witness what takes place in the soul of her daughter, who apparently also sacrificed above and beyond for her mother.

Lea Feldblum was a heroine who hid her heroics because she did not see them as such. Twenty years after her death, her story is told for the first time.

For two years, director Ziv Rubinstein followed Lea Feldblum's course across Europe, through Paris, Lyon, forsaken forests and finally to the village of Issiet.

In his film, Ziv Rubinstein exposes one of the most fascinating documentary testimonies to the holocaust of French Jewry.

If you are interested in investing in this film, please contact me.

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