



## Charlotte (Rozencwajg) Adelman

Charlotte Rozencwajg was born on March 26, 1932 in Paris, France and lived with her parents, both tailors, and younger brother, Max.

When Nazi Germany occupied France in 1940, Charlotte, 8, was forced to wear a yellow Star of David, forbidden from attending movies, and ordered to sit at the back of classrooms and trains. Before the 1942 Vel' d'Hiv mass arrest of Parisian Jews, neighbors hid the family. But Jewish collaborators, trying to save themselves, informed the Gestapo, who arrested Charlotte's parents, loading them onto trucks. Her father jumped off the truck and went into hiding, but her mother was deported to Auschwitz.

Without parents, her brother was taken to a private Christian home and Charlotte to an orphanage, where a Romanian woman adopted her and brought the child to her apartment. The janitor of the building told Charlotte that children disappeared after being with that woman. When Charlotte overheard a Nazi offering the woman money for Charlotte, the frightened girl sought the janitor's help and escaped. Her father arranged a truck to bring Charlotte to him in Eastern France.

Months later, both fled into the woods, pursued by Nazis with killer dogs. Charlotte's father asked a Christian farmwoman to hide his daughter while he joined the French Underground. After nine months hiding in a cellar, she was permitted a bed inside the house. Once, during a search, Nazis poked a bayonet under the bed, where Charlotte was hiding, but they didn't find her. The family took Charlotte to church every Sunday, but she refused to become Christian.

The war ended in 1945. Charlotte, 13, was reunited with her father, who located Max, 6, from Red Cross addresses. Max recognized his father from an old photo, but when the family returned to Paris, he had to be retrained to eat sitting at the table because the people who had kept Max required him to beg for food from under their table.

Charlotte received psychotherapy, mourning the loss of her mother, whom she learned was murdered in Auschwitz in 1943, and her father remarried in Paris.

Not wanting to stay in France, Charlotte, then 25, moved to Montreal, Canada in 1957 and lived with her parents' friend for three years. She met and married Alex Adelman from Philadelphia and immigrated to the US. In 1979, the Adelmans moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Charlotte and Alex have two children and two grandchildren. In spite of still having Holocaust nightmares, Charlotte tells future generations, at schools, about her traumatic childhood.