



## George Kalman Z"L

George Kalman was born in October 1934 in Szeghalom, a village in southeastern Hungary. Houses in the farming village were built with mud bricks, no running water and no indoor bathrooms.

Hungary was an ally of Germany during WWII and military-aged Jewish men, including his father and two uncles, were conscripted by the Hungarian army into slave labor. George last saw his father when he was just seven years old.

At the age of nine, in the early summer of 1944, he along with his mother, grandfather, and 80 other Jews from the village, were crammed into a railway cattle car and deported. George was lucky that he, his mother, and grandfather remained together, and they ended up in a village in Austria, called Neudorf, in a small agricultural slave labor concentration camp. Only 35 Jewish prisoners were in this small camp.

After Liberation by the Russian Red Army on April 2, 1945, they returned to the village.

There they reunited with one of his uncles who survived the military camp. His father and other uncle had been murdered.

Soon after the end of the war, Hungary – like most countries of Eastern Europe – became a communist dictatorship, part of the Soviet Block. It was not possible to escape from there. In 1956 there was a revolution in Hungary against the communist system. Because of the revolution, the border guards and police were gone, and there was a chance to escape. George managed to escape.

George emigrated to Canada in 1957 where he worked at any job he could get. Eventually he learned English, finished university, and married in 1965. He moved to the United States in 1968 when he received a job offer from Westinghouse Electric to do semiconductor research.

Retired, George lives in Phoenix and supports Holocaust education. He speaks frequently to students and teachers. His son and daughter live in Colorado Springs.