

EVA Unterman Holocaust Fund in Memory of David Sierakowiak

In 1939, Eva was a happy six-year-old living with her parents in Lodz, Poland. She was looking forward to starting first grade. However, instead of starting school, Eva and her family were forced into the Lodz Ghetto in accordance with the occupying Nazis' policy against Jews. After four years in the ghetto, the family was deported to Auschwitz, Stutthof, and a labor camp in Dresden and then marched to Theresienstadt. There, in May 1945, Eva and her parents were liberated. By the age of twelve she had endured over five years of imprisonment, hunger, disease, and forced labor.

In 1978, Eva stood in a Tulsa classroom and, for the first time, shared the story of her Holocaust experiences. Since then she has told her story to thousands of students. Her commitment to Holocaust education continued to deepen and evolve with the formation of the Holocaust Educators Group, the direction of Tulsa's annual Interfaith Holocaust Commemoration, and the establishment of Tulsa's Council for Holocaust Education. Eva Unterman has truly shaped the way our community understands, learns, and commemorates the Holocaust.