

SHARED ROOTS IN FAITH

Interview by Elizabeth Shonda

Lucy's Story - A Journey from the Past

Born on 24th September 1921, Lucy was born to Jewish parents in Braunschweig, Germany, but took her Polish parent's nationality. Life as a Jew, under the reign of Hitler

was "not very good." She was sent to Auschwitz in Poland, where one of her brothers died and the other was killed. When the Russians released the East End of London became her new home.

Lucy settled in well in the East End

She taught herself English by listening to the radio. And despite not going to school, she taught herself how to read and write. Lucy felt very accepted in East End: There were shops available which catered for the Jewish faith and she had many Jewish friends, whom she met at Stepney Green's Jewish Community club. Whilst growing up, Lucy never faced any form of discrimination or racism, and she owes this to the array of mixed cultures in the East End. For Lucy, the East End was very "tolerable". In fact, the diversity of the East End that Lucy grew up with, can explain why Lucy is generally accepting of other's faiths. "I have no animosity to Muslims. They are all human beings. Which is the most thing you have to respect, respect people's religion, so there is no difficulty, no fighting in...against...majority."



Jewish shop in Golders Green.

Adult life

Lucy worked as a buyer for a fashion firm called Vogue. Lucy thoroughly enjoyed working in the fashion industry as it provided her with the opportunity to meet people and travel. Lucy remembers often travelling to Romania and Hungary as they often made beautiful, embroidered blouses—one of which she still has at home. Furthermore, the fashion industry—which is currently a very competitive industry to enter—was typical "women's work" at her time. Men on the other hand, were generally in engineering or the jewellery trade. Overall, Lucy's experience of growing up in the East End has



The Jewish News, newspaper stand

made her to become very fond of London. Being a Holocaust survivor, Lucy often visits the Holocaust Centre in Camden. She has a nephew in California, and he recently flew in to celebrate her 90th birthday party at the Stepney Jewish Community Centre!



The Jewish Museum in Camden Town.

Stepney
Green