

YAD VESHEM LETTER LAUDS AID OF POLISH FRIENDS

On ~~Saturday~~ ^{Friday} evening, October 19, two Polish sisters who were instrumental in saving Dr. Sabina Zimering and members of her family during the Holocaust will be at Shabbat Eve Services. Below is Sabina Zimering's letter. Editor

Dear Rabbi Goodman,

The following is a summary of the letter I sent to Yad Vashem.

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Mrs. ^ABanuta Trybus, a 56-year-old accountant, and Maria Spiewak, a 54-year-old medical doctor of Piotrkow Poland, are two sisters who were my childhood friends and their mother my grade school teacher.

In 1942, when we were threatened by the Nazis with deportation to Treblinka, we turned to them with a plea for help and they provided my mother, my sister and myself with false Polish documents without any compensation.

These documents enabled us to escape from the ghetto a few hours before the Extermination Brigade surrounded it on October 20th, 1942.

Our friends and their mother, without the knowledge of their father, who was against it, were hiding us out in their home until we left for work in Germany as Polish girls. The penalty for Poles helping Jews at that time, as far as I recall, was death.

Our mother was caught and sent to Treblinka, where she perished.

Our father and younger brother remained in Piotrkow in a forced labor camp.

From the end of 1942 until the be-

ginning of 1945 when the camp was liquidated, my sister and I were able to communicate with our father and young brother from Germany to Piotrkow by sending letters and occasional food packages to our Polish friends, which they delivered to them. His letters to us were transmitted the same way.

This continued contact was a great morale support to all of us. Our friends, understandably, were taking great risks for our sake.

My father perished in Buchenwald in April, 1945 — two days before liberation.

* * *

I have kept in touch with my friends since the end of the war, trying to help them in various ways.

The two sisters and their mother, during the war, were actively participating in a Polish underground which was fighting the Nazis.

Their activities were uncovered and the mother was sent to a concentration camp — Ravensbrucken in Germany, after which she spent several months recuperating in Sweden, and remained in poor health back in Poland.

The older sister, Mrs. Trybus, after her release from Polish jail, came down with tuberculosis. For a while I supplied her with streptomycin (not available at that time in Poland), food packages and worn clothes to help her recover.

I expect them in Minneapolis the second week of October.

I appreciate your interest very much.

Yours truly,
SABINA ZIMERING

The Minneapolis Star
Friday, Oct. 19, 1979

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Synagogue to honor Polish sisters

Two Polish sisters will be honored tonight at Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, 3400 S. Dupont Ave., for risking their lives during the Nazi occupation of Poland to save the family of Dr. Sabina Zimering.

The sisters, Banuta Trybus and Maria Spiewak, also will be honored in Israel with plantings along a walkway. Zimering, a member of the synagogue, filed a deposition with Israel's Holocaust remembrance authority, citing the actions of the sisters.