

THEY LIVED IN THE SHADOW OF THE SHOAH

Comments / Reviews:

Your movie is awesome. Your unrelenting textual focus on each individual story is powerful and brings tears. I hope you get it into the Yad Vashem archives, as an everlasting tribute and memory to them all. **J.W**



The film has left me spellbound! It reflects such deep feeling and thought! The prayers and music you selected fit so beautifully. You are truly to be commended for the strength you display to assemble such a meaningful piece of work. It is a masterpiece. Yasher Koach! **L.T.**



Thank you for sharing your family history with me. The film is lovingly told. The family bonds are manifestly strong throughout the generations. You have a lot to be proud of. There is a lot of tragedy; there is also a lot of joy. You've done a magnificent job. **F.S.**



Your Mother was so beautiful and classy. Your Dad was so brave and clever. I have just started watching on YouTube with Chrome cast to our LG TV and looks like a professional documentary. Well done. Great job..Personal and respectful to your relatives, living in Europe through the Shoah...lovely photos of relatable middle class loving families “so we don’t ever forget... **G.S**



I am still watching the movie, it's very well done. So many beautiful family photos! It's hard to watch once the Nazis come to power, obviously. I think the music is very well done too. Well chosen and beautiful but so sad. I will let you know more when I've watched the entire movie. **A. F.**



I don't know how to respond. What a family history. Fantastic job. The music and verbal presentation are excellent. Congrats on a great piece of work. A credit to the families. **B. B**



I listened and watched the video. There are no words to describe this experience. It is earth shattering to say the least. **C.B**



Rabbi Carter tells the story of her family members seen through the eyes of her late parents. Rabbi Carter depicts their everyday lives - their joys and sorrows against a backdrop of a very dark time of our history. **S.M**



Knowing the rabbi's connection to the people profiled in the film, and knowing they are interrelated brings a different dimension to their stories. That is part of what makes her family's story so unique.

The rabbi had family experiencing so many different aspects of the Holocaust. The Nazi Concentration Camps, Russian Gulags, the *Holocaust by Bullets*, the Struma refugee ship which was torpedoed on its way to Mandatory Palestine, and Anders Army. **J.J.**



What a moving and unforgettable video! I can just imagine the hundreds (probably thousands) of hours that you dedicated to this project. The inclusion of so many photos, documents, testimonial videos and music brought tears to my eyes. And having the narrators put it all in context made everything seamless. Thank you for sharing your family's story. **P.S.**



How many times have I taken out the old suitcases filled with family photographs from my closet in order to revisit the story of my family? I want to see my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. I try to decipher the handwriting, the dates, places, sometimes written in the old language. I try to figure out who is related to whom and how. I want to see my family again, so many of whom have passed. The nostalgia keeps me connected to them, so I look.

Rabbi Suzanne Carter, in her film, "They Lived In the Shadow of the Shoah" has allowed her viewers to become part of her own extended family. Watching the film I felt as if that marvelous collection of photos and letters

were among my own. And though I did not know the people in the stories and photographs personally, I feel as if I knew them well anyway. They live in the same faces and in same celebrations as those in my own suitcase of family treasures.

Who would ever think that the happy faces of ordinary family members at ordinary gatherings...at the beach or at a picnic...People who were involved in local business, art, music and song, teaching, children playing... would be condemned to a future of torture, destruction, and death? People who might have realized too late that they lived in a world ruled by monsters.

Because of my familiarity with the immigrant experience, Rabbi Carter has managed, with this extraordinary and powerful film, to bring to light to me, personally. As a youngster growing up on New York City's Lower East Side in the early 1950's, I struggled to figure out my own environment, a side of city life that I could not fully understand.

I would ask my mother when we went shopping why did so many of the shop-keepers and some of the older residents of the neighborhood look so sad, why did they spend entire days in shell-shocked silence, sitting in chairs and speaking only when necessary. But, of course, what could she say? How can a mother even begin to talk about this to a small child?

As an adult, who now fully understands what those tattooed numbers on the shop-keepers' arms meant, I still think about them as the ordinary people I knew in our neighborhood.

But having experienced this film I now ask myself, how many of their family histories paralleled Rabbi Carter's?

How much sadness, despair and inexplicable cruelty did they witness?
How many of their Jewish home movies wound up turning into horror shows?

The amount of time and effort that went into the production of this film is truly a labor of love. Through the preservation of the history of this one precious family who endured the agony of the Shoah, Rabbi Carter has managed to contribute in no small way to the preservation of the memory of all of the victims who have no one left to speak for them. **F.T.**



Thank you for your very moving story of your family's terrible history. Your documentary showed us the horrors of the Holocaust again. This was so well done. Every aspect of this film touched my heart. The documents, photos, narrations and facts were so professionally shown. I wish your film would be listed on many of the streaming apps showing documentaries. This film must be seen by everyone **R.B.W**



The family video is impressive, it is saddening. It showed me so many places where people of my family were murdered. This video is a true treasure and I can imagine how hard it was to compile everything. From my family, only a few survived and almost nothing is left what could be used for making a documentary. Thank you so much for sharing this with me. I feel honored. **M.M.**



It's difficult to get my mind around so many people in one family, your family, being killed in the Holocaust. It must be so heartbreaking for you to think about it. It's incredible how you had so many photos and documents and data. And the music was haunting and beautiful. You did a beautiful job on the video. **D.D.**



I have seen the whole film. A terrible history - but it happened, as we all know. It is very, very impressive and important that you made it. I have a large collection of papers, but in a language that probably nobody after me will ever read. It is a big step forward to make things accessible. But how you made it, is a beautiful way. The music plays an important part in the experience and is well matched. **R.M**



I've watched about 45 minutes so far and hope to finish watching this weekend. I love the part with my Dad! You've done an amazing job. It was very emotional for me to watch. I've listened to a lot of audio books about the Holocaust, both non-fiction and historical fiction, and it's always a very heavy experience. Seeing photos and videos and listening to the history of family members makes the experience so much more personal, whether I knew the family members or not. This really is an incredible tribute to the family, and you should be very proud of your work. **S.H.**

