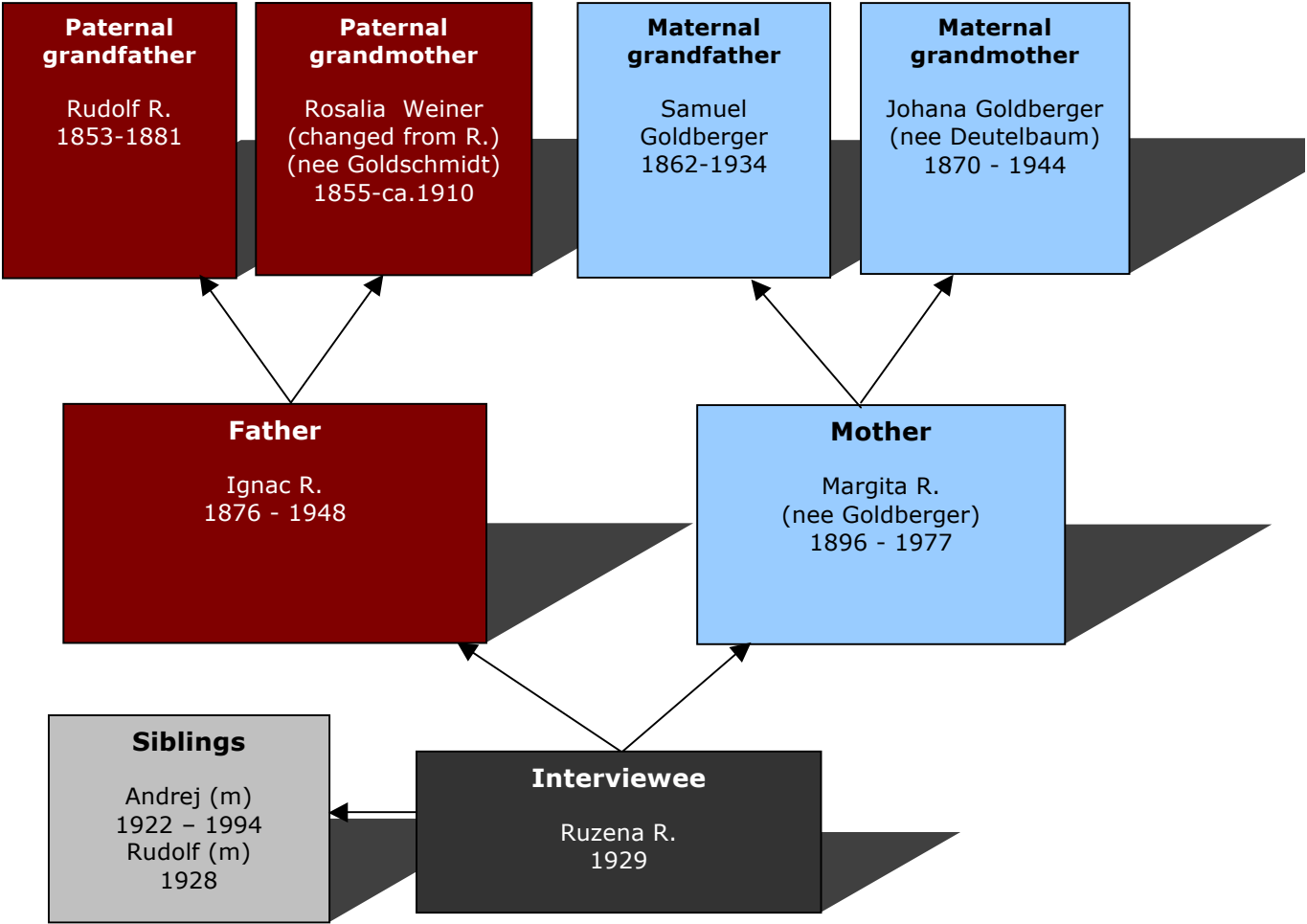


Family Tree



The interviewee and her family

Full name

Ruzena R.

Where and when were you born?

Topolcany, 1929

Where else did you live?

Bratislava

Your educational level?

Graduated from Technical University in Bratislava

What sort of work do/did you do?

Chemical engineer

How religious was your parents' home? How were you raised?

As far as religion goes, my father was very lukewarm. He liked ham, which isn't kosher. But my mother observed kosher regulations at home. We observed all the holidays at home. For Rosh Hashanah we'd go to synagogue. At that time my mother would also go, as well as for Yom Kippur. I'd go visit them during the day. For Yom Kippur they'd sit in the synagogue all day. On that day everyone would fast except for me and my brother Andrej. Back then the two of us kept a common front in this. Then, when Yom Kippur was over, there'd be a festive supper at home. Grandma Johana would also come for it. I don't remember exactly what sort of food was served, but for supper before Yom Kippur, we definitely had soup with noodles and meat. During Passover we had seder. As the youngest member of the family, I'd say the mah nishtanah. The two of us, my father and I, would sing together. I liked that very much. I can do it to this day. For Passover our parents would usually buy us new spring clothing. We'd get a new jacket and so on. We for example didn't have a sukkah for Sukkot. Our neighbors had a sukkah built in their courtyard, and I envied them that. They had

all sorts of cutouts hanging in it, and I liked that. Their courtyard began where ours ended. Between them was a low fence with a gate. They lived in a one-story house and were friends with our parents. They were named the Felsenburgs. During the summer my parents would sit up on the courtyard gallery, the Felsenburgs would sit in the courtyard, and they'd talk over the fence. Our parents got along very well with them. They had a little garden, and in it they had that sukkah set up. My mother would bake excellent pastries for each holiday. That's something she kept up until she died. After the war she'd bake them for Christian holidays, too. Because she liked pastries, liked baking them, and even Christian holidays were a good opportunity for that. For Purim a carnival was held in Topolcany, and what a carnival! Always only indoors, usually in some large gym. They put on masquerade balls for the young people, which we usually attended.

What is your mother tongue?

Slovak

What other languages do you speak?

German, English, Russian, Hungarian, French, Yiddish

If you were in an army, tell us which army and the dates

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Where were you during the Holocaust?

At home: Topolcany, 1939 - 1942

Lived at my uncle's: Dolne Otrokovce, 1942 - 1943

Labor camp: Novaky, 1943 - 1944

In hiding: Dolne Otrokovce, 1944 - 1945

What did you do after the Holocaust?

Graduated from university and started working

Siblings

Their names

Andrej (nickname: Andy) (m) (stepbrother from Mother's first marriage)

Rudolf (nickname: Rudo) (m)

Where and when were they born?

Andrej: TvrDOSovce, 1922

Rudolf: Topolcany, 1928

What is their mother tongue?

Andrej: Slovak

Rudolf: Slovak

Their educational level?

Andrej: Apprenticed as a book printer

Rudolf: Graduated from Technical University in Bratislava, embarked on a career in science, got a Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) degree.

Their occupations?

Andrej: book printer

Rudolf: scientist

Where do/did they live?

Andrej: Bratislava

Rudolf: Bratislava

Where else did they live?

Andrej: Topolcany

Rudolf: Topolcany

Do they have children?

Andrej: two sons

Rudolf: one daughter

Where and when did they die?

Andrej: Bratislava (Slovakia), 1994

Spouse

Name?

None

Children

Their names?

None

Father

His name?

Ignac R.

Where and when was he born?

Trnava, 1876

Where else did he live?

Vienna (today Austria), ca. 1878

Where and when did he die?

Topolcany, 1948

What sort of education did he have?

Apprenticed as a bookbinder in Vienna

What sort of work did he do?

In the beginning he worked as a traveling salesman. Later he took over a store which he ran and developed. The store also had a printing shop and a bookbindery.

How religious was he?

As far as religion goes, my father was very lukewarm. He liked ham, which isn't kosher. But my mother observed kosher regulations at home. Later my brother Rudo brought him around to religion. Because whatever he did, he did thoroughly. He began attending a Jewish school. Back then he had a choice: either a normal Jewish school or a school where they educated the boys in an Orthodox spirit, led them to know the Torah and other Jewish religious literature. This school was preparation for yeshivah. My brother is and also always was very bright and clever. Back then he drove both our parents crazy with religion. He stood above my mother while she was preparing meat, to make sure she was doing it correctly kosher. My father began going to synagogue each Friday.

Whether he gave up ham, that I don't know.

What was his mother tongue?

German

Army service: which army and what years?

Austro-Hungarian army in WWI

Tell me about his brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

Name	place and date of birth/death	occupation	biographical data and origins of spouse	biographical data of children	describe how religious they were
Johanna Adler (f)	Trnava, 1872 - died in the Holocaust, 1942	Housewife	Adler, lived in Vienna (today Austria), died before interviewee was born	Rudolf, born in Vienna. immigrated to Palestine in 1938 Richard, born in Vienna, died in the Holocaust Fritz, born in Vienna, died in the Holocaust Alfred, born in Vienna, died before the WWII	Observed all Jewish holidays and traditions.
Arnold R. (m)	Trnava, 1880 - Budapest (today Hungary), 1945	Owned a factory in Budapest	Malvina R. (nee ?)	Rudolf R., immigrated to Chile before WWII	Observed all Jewish holidays and traditions.
Max Weiner (stepbrother) (m)	Trnava, 1884 - died in the Holocaust, 1942	Accountant	None	None	Observed all Jewish holidays and traditions.

Where was he during the Holocaust?

At home: Topolcany, 1939 - 1942

Lived at my uncle's: Dolne Otrokovce, 1942 - 1943

Labor camp: Novaky, 1943 - 1944

In hiding: Dolne Otrokovce, 1944 - 1945

If he survived, what did he do after?

My father was already an older man, he died three years after the end of World War II.

Paternal grandfather

Your paternal grandfather's name?

Rudolf R.

Where and when was he born?

Papa (today Hungary), 1853

Where else did he live?

Trnava

Where and when did he die?

Trnava, 1881

What sort of education did he have?

No information

What sort of work did he do?

Sold supplies to village shoemakers

How religious was he?

I never knew my grandfather, I can't say anything about his religiousness.

What was his mother tongue?

No information

Army service: which army and what years?

No information

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Paternal grandmother

Your paternal grandmother's name?

Rosalia Weiner (changed from R.) (nee Goldschmidt)

Where and when was she born?

Place unknown, 1855

Where else did she live?

Trnava

Vienna (today Austria)

Where and when did she die?

Vienna, ca. 1910

What sort of education did she have?

No information

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

No information

What was her mother tongue?

No information

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Died before

Mother

Her name?

Margita R. (nee Goldberger)

Where and when was she born?

Zbehy, 1896

Where else did she live?

Dolne Otrokovce

Tvrdosovce

Topolcany

Bratislava

Where and when did she die?

Bratislava, 1977

What sort of education did she have?

Graduated from council school

What sort of work did she do?

After the death of her first husband Hugo, she opened a store and village pub in Dolné Otrokovce. When she married a second time, she helped her husband in the store and took care of the household.

After WWII, she worked as an invoice clerk.

How religious was she?

My mother led a kosher household and observed all the holidays in an Orthodox spirit. After the war, we didn't practice any religion in the family at all. My mother used to say that the God that had allowed what had happened is not God, and turned her back on him. She never set foot in a synagogue again.

What was her mother tongue?

Hungarian

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

name	place and date of birth/death	occupation	biographical data and origins of spouse	biographical data of children	describe how religious they were
Maximilian Goldberger	Zbehy, 1898 - died in the town of Motycky in 1944 (they drove them into a barn which they then set on fire)	Pharmacist	Edita Goldberger (nee Linkenberg), died during the Slovak National Uprising (stepped on a mine)	Lilly (f) Mocenok, 1930 - died in the town of Motycky in 1944	Observed all Jewish holidays and traditions.
Viktor Goldberger	Zbehy, ca. 1892 - died in the Holocaust, 1942	Owned a textile store in Prievidza	Aranka Goldberger (nee Rosenthal), died in the Holocaust in 1942	Truda (f), Prievidza, 1922 - Auschwitz (today Poland), 1942	Observed all Jewish holidays and traditions.
Ella Krausz (nee Goldberger)	Zbehy, ca. 1894 - died in the Holocaust, 1944	Housewife	Moricz Krausz, died in the Holocaust in 1944	None	Observed all Jewish holidays and traditions.
Jolana Fröhlich (changed from Guttman) (nee Goldberger)	Zbehy, 1901 - died in the Holocaust, 1944	Housewife	1 st husband: Adolf Guttman, died before WWII 2 nd husband: Alexander Fröhlich, farm administrator, died in Israel after WWII	Mikulas Guttman (nickname: Miki) (m), born in 1930, lives in Israel	Observed all Jewish holidays and traditions.
Bela (Vojtech) Goldberger	Zbehy, 1899 - Israel, ca. 1971	Farmer	Erna Goldberger (nee Zobel) of Polish-Jewish origin	Schlomo (changed from Zoltan) (nickname: Zolo) (m), born in Nitra in 1933, lives in Israel Marta Kohen (nee	Bela's family observed religion in the strictest fashion of all our extended family.

				Goldberger) (f), born in Slovakia in 1936, lives in Israel	
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Where was she during the Holocaust?

At home: Topolcany, 1939 - 1942

Lived at my uncle's: Dolne Otrokovce, 1942 - 1943

Labor camp: Novaky, 1943 - 1944

In hiding: Dolne Otrokovce, 1944 - 1945

If she survived, what did she do after?

My mother was very exhausted from saving the family, and no longer had the energy for anything bigger. She did work at one time, she worked as an invoice clerk for minimum wage, but only so that she would get at least some sort of pension. Her first pension was 400 crowns. Because we had no property left, she lived from hand to mouth. She lived in Topolcany, and Rudo and I in Bratislava. I didn't get to a relatively decent apartment until 1962, and my mother would spend most of the year with me. Near my apartment there's a park where she used to sit on a bench with her friends - Jewish women her age. In 1966 she moved in with me completely. She lived with me from then on, until she died. She died in 1977.

Maternal grandfather

Your maternal grandfather's name?

Samuel Goldberger

Where and when was he born?

Dolne Otrokovce, 1862

Where else did he live?

Zbehy

Topolcany

Where and when did he die?

Topolcany, 1934

What sort of education did he have?

No information

What sort of work did he do?

Farmer

How religious was he?

He was an Orthodox Jew.

What was his mother tongue?

German

Army service: which army and what years?

No information

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Maternal grandmother

Your maternal grandmother's name?

Johana Goldberger (nee Deutelbaum)

Where and when was she born?

Vitkovce, 1870

Where else did she live?

Zbehy

Dolne Otrokovce

Topolcany

Prievidza

Where and when did she die?

Auschwitz (today Poland), 1944

What sort of education did she have?

No information

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

Grandma wore a wig. From what my mother told me, I know that her oldest son was very ill. Back then she swore that if he got well, she'd wear a wig. When I was a child, that wig seemed very tawdry to me. But Grandma was devout, so she kept her promise to God. She observed all the holidays. Every Friday evening she'd light candles and kept a kosher household.

What was her mother tongue?

German

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

My grandmother was the youngest of twelve children. In my mother's generation there were 46 or 48 cousins. Around three quarters of them didn't survive the Holocaust.

Where was she during the Holocaust?

At home: Topolcany, 1939 - 1942

At home: Prievidza, 1942 - 1944

In hiding: Bojnice, 1944

Concentration camp: Auschwitz (today Poland), 1944, perished there.