

**DOCUMENTARY *FAMILY TREASURES LOST AND FOUND*
PREMIERES AT
MIAMI JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Florida premiere of the documentary feature *Family Treasures Lost and Found* will screen virtually at the 27th annual Miami Jewish Film Festival from January 11-25, 2024.

<https://miamijewishfilmfestival.org/films/2024/family-treasures>

An interview with director Marcia Rock and producer Karen A. Frenkel can be seen on the *Family Treasures Lost and Found* festival page.

In *Family Treasures Lost and Found* journalist Karen A. Frenkel unravels her parents' riveting stories of survival during the Holocaust, scours online and digital archives for information, and visits the cities where the action took place.

Family Treasures Lost and Found is visually stunning because Karen inherited a formidable family archive of art and photos from her mother's refugee grandparents, who escaped Berlin in 1941. This collection enables audiences to see vestiges of the once-thriving Polish Jewish urban upper-middle class culture that the Nazis obliterated. Audiences may identify with this pre-war way of life, appreciate the warning signs of fascist anti-Semitism, and see how its vice clamped down on Jews who would not or could not leave.

Karen's father never discussed his pre-war life, including his medical school years in Vienna, but Karen learns that Austro-fascists beat and tortured him and his classmates. After getting his degree, he married an American tourist who returned alone to the U.S. He sailed to Havana on a French ship while the *St. Louis* was at anchor. Like its passengers, he had the correct papers. Karen found a newspaper article describing his first wife on the dock entreating an anti-Semitic immigration officer to let Dr. Frenkel off the ship. No Jews were allowed to disembark.

Karen's mother, Irena Goldberger, spoke selectively to her daughters and recorded an oral history for the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. She describes separating at age 17 from her parents and going to Tarnów to live with an aunt. Soon after they're forced into the ghetto, Irena escapes with false papers enabling her to pose as a Catholic. She then volunteers to work as a slave laborer in Germany. Audiences join Karen as she enters the apartment where her mother stayed on Tarnów's Aryan side, and gets into the former Gestapo Headquarters, now an apartment building, where her mother obtained a special work card stamp that saved her life.

Karen also traced her sole-surviving grandfather's arduous escape across mountains and the sea to Palestine, forever leaving his home in Lwów, now Lviv, Ukraine.

In the end, Karen honors her surviving relatives, ensures that the lost are remembered and that memories of a destroyed culture will endure. She remarks, “I learned that it’s possible to love people you’ve never met.”

In a storytelling duet, mother and daughter recount from their unique perspectives on these and many other compelling stories. Viewers will understand on a very personal level the courage of those who survived and those lost. These tales will inspire many to delve into their own family histories and in the process may feel more connected to who and where they came from.

Family Treasures Lost and Found is timely because of the rise of anti-Semitism and authoritarian regimes worldwide. It encourages empathy for the persecuted of the past and today’s 100 million displaced.

For more information on the documentary contact Karen A. Frenkel at
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