

PRESS RELEASE

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HOLOCAUST
CENTER *for*
HUMANITY

Educate. Inspire. Take Action.

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Paula Stern, an Auschwitz Survivor, who bravely shared her experience surviving the Holocaust, dies at 99.

Seattle, WA: Paula Stern became an orphan during the Holocaust and endured the horrors of Auschwitz as a young adult. Nonetheless, she channeled her grief and rage into helping Washington State face the past with truth leaving a lasting legacy in the Pacific Northwest.

Paula was born to a Jewish family on August 22, 1922, in Arnstadt, Germany. In 1940, as life became increasingly restricted and dangerous for Jews living in Germany, she found an opportunity to work on a farm in Neuendorf, outside of Berlin. Here, she met her husband Klaus, and they married in 1942.

8 months later in April of 1943, Klaus and Paula were deported to Auschwitz, and separated. Paula was selected for work in a munitions factory. Her job was to measure each cone-shaped piece and compare it to a standard. In defiance, Paula occasionally discarded the good pieces to sabotage the Nazis' munitions. "I was lucky I was never caught," she said.

Paula survived the "death marches" in the winter of 1945 as the Nazis marched prisoners in Auschwitz north and away from the advancing Allied troops. Finally, she was liberated by Soviet troops, and eventually reunited with her husband Klaus. In 1946, Klaus and Paula Stern became the first survivor couple to arrive in Seattle.

As some of the first survivors to find refuge in Seattle, Paula and Klaus shared their stories of surviving Auschwitz long before other survivors. They were founding

members of Seattle's Holocaust Center for Humanity in 1989. Paula spent decades encouraging other survivors to speak and although she was often behind the scenes, she was a powerful force in uniting our survivor community and creating the Holocaust Center for Humanity.

For Paula, Holocaust education was imperative. Paula once said "If the world doesn't learn from the past, how can we expect a better future?" People often told them to leave the past behind but Paula knew that to leave the past behind was to deny its existence and deny the world the opportunity to learn from the Holocaust.

Paula is survived by her daughter, Marion Kitz, her son Marvin Stern, three grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

To read Paula's full story in the Washington State Survivor Encyclopedia visit:
<https://www.holocaustcenterseattle.org/paula-stern>



ABOUT THE CENTER

The Holocaust Center for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that teaches the lessons of the Holocaust, inspiring students of all ages to confront bigotry and indifference, promote human dignity, and take action. Established in 1989, the Center works directly with teachers, students, and community groups across the Pacific Northwest to provide educational materials, curricula, and interaction with local Holocaust survivors who tell their stories to thousands of students of all ages each year. In 2015, the Center's Henry and Sandra Friedman Holocaust Center for Humanity museum opened its doors to the public.

The museum is located at 2045 Second Avenue in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. The Museum is temporarily closed for renovations and will reopen in late February 2022. The Holocaust Center has been providing regular virtual programs for the community and for students. **For more information, please visit www.HolocaustCenterSeattle.org.**