

## **SARA FLAX**

### **THE BIGGER PICTURE**

This My Family Story. My mosaic is made up of 164 photos of members of my family. Many of the photos are of family members who were born in the 1800's and immigrated to the United States. Many of them left Eastern Europe because they were Jewish and were being persecuted or forced out.

I chose to make a mosaic because I think my family history makes me who I am today. I can see now that I have some of the same qualities and passions as those who came before me.

I think of my family like a braided Challah. Our stories, lives, and personalities are woven together and make up our ancestry. I hope you enjoy my mosaic, Bigger Picture.

## **ELLA MOSCA**

### **הגיעו על ידי רכבת אווירית**

### **THEY CAME BY PLANE**

My mom's family all immigrated to Israel via Operation Magic Carpet in 1949. Operation Magic Carpet was a secret operation where 45,000 of the 46,000 Jews in Yemen were brought by airplane from Yemen to Israel to escape persecution under the leadership of Ben Gurion.

From my grandfather's side the people who immigrated consisted of my grandfather Zacharya, his older brother Seadia, and my great grandparents Gazala and Shimon. At the time, my grandpa was two years old. They took only what they could hold. One of the items was a rule book for holidays that was passed down from generations, and is now over 150 years old. My grandma's parents Gatria and Abraham and siblings Sara, Shmuel, Chassida, Esther and Shalom also immigrated via the same operation. My grandmother is a first-generation Israeli.

I decided to do this project because it represents my Jewish heritage. My family did not end up in Israel because of WWII; they settled in Israel secretly to escape oppression in Yemen.

This is an important part of my history because my family risked their lives to get to Israel since they were not allowed to leave. As I went more in-depth into this project, I realized that without their bravery and determination my family would have never arrived "home" in Israel.

## **LILY GOTTFRIED**

### **POGROMS TO PILGRIMAGE: MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S 4 YEAR SECRET ESCAPE FROM ANTI-SEMITISM IN RUSSIA TO FREEDOM IN AMERICA**

This is My Family Story. My Great Grandmother, Sally Paskowitz Kravitz, was born on March 21, 1914 in Mordovia, Russia. When she was a little girl, she was treated differently just because she was Jewish. She remembered the Russian Red Army raiding her house on horseback and slashing their feather pillows with swords. Jews were only allowed to shop in the village's market on Thursdays, so that's when they would walk into town and trade their chickens for goods they couldn't grow on their farm. It became harder and harder for Jews to live in Mordovia, Russia because of Anti-Semitism. In 1918, during the Revolution, my Great Grandmother and her Mother (her father had already immigrated to America) decided to escape.

For the next four years, they traveled by horse and wagon only at night and hid during the day. Finally, in 1921, when she was 9 years old, they arrived in Cherbourg, France. From there, they traveled for two weeks by ship to Ellis Island. Unfortunately, along their journey, border guards and thieves stole practically everything they had. The only thing that survived when they arrived in America was a pair of Russian Shabbat Candlesticks which my family still has today.