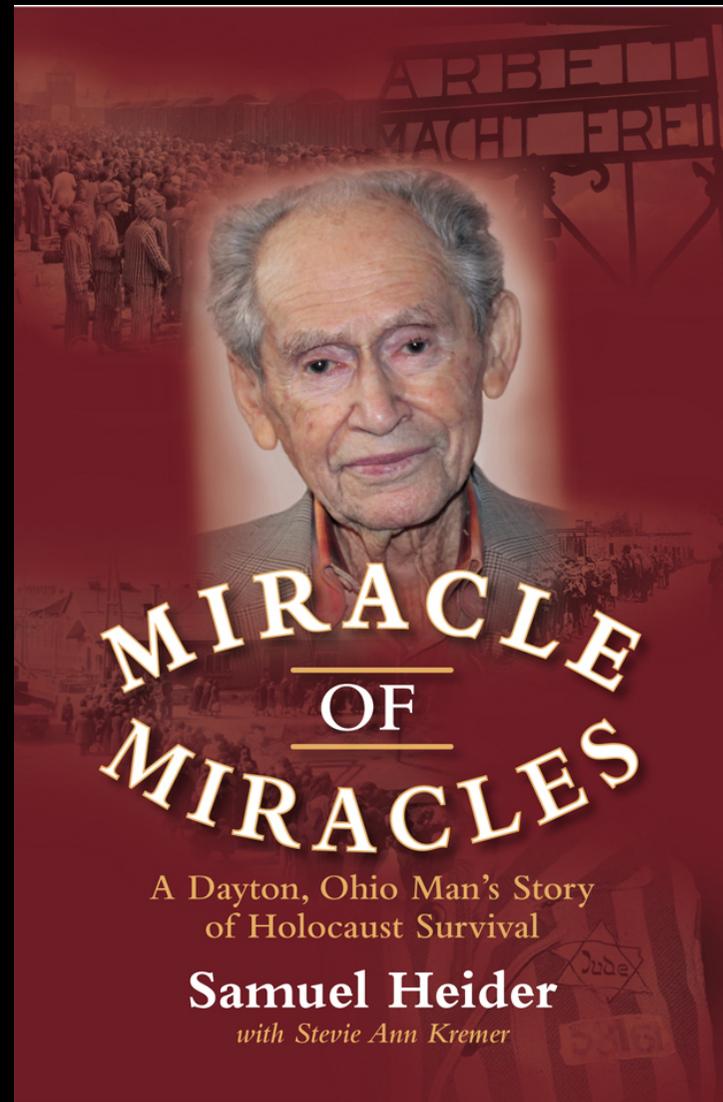
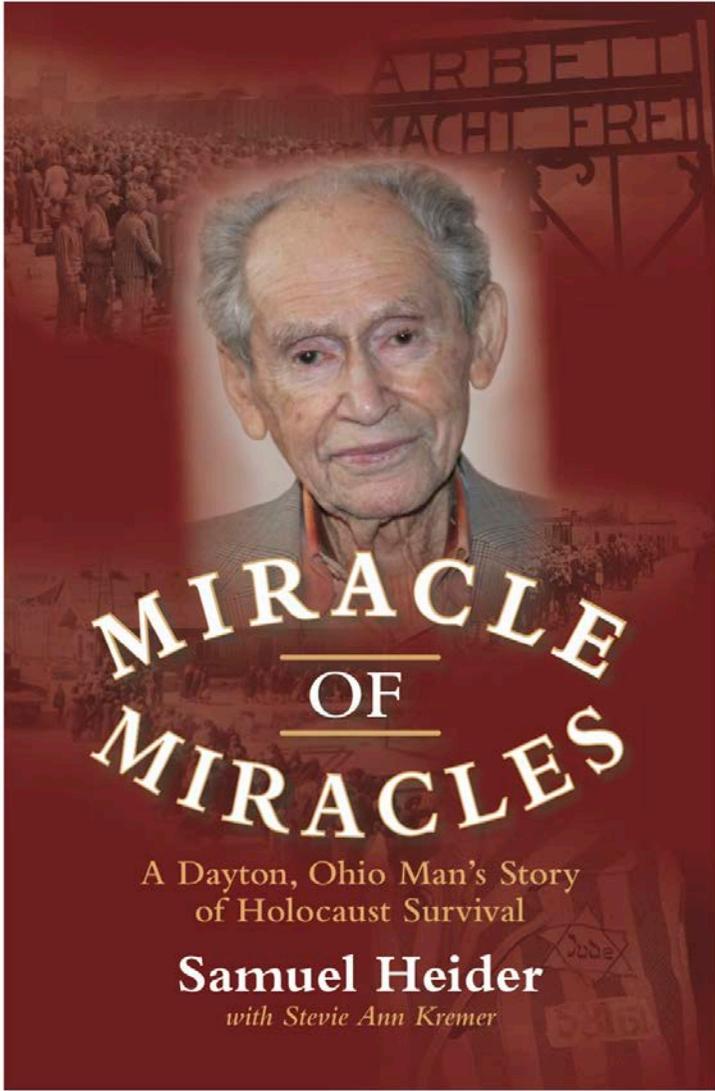


Today's Speaker

*Stevie
Anne
Kremer*





MIRACLE
OF
MIRACLES

A Dayton, Ohio Man's Story
of Holocaust Survival

Samuel Heider
with Stevie Ann Kremer

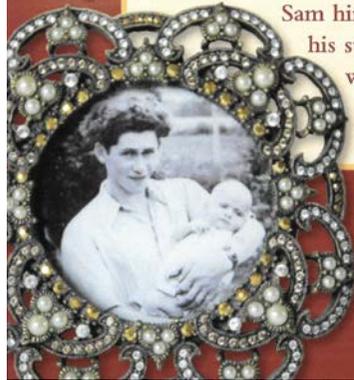


Forced to leave the idyllic fruit farm owned by his Jewish family in Poland for generations,

Sam Heider's family members were sent to the Bialobrzegi ghetto, "one of the worst of all the ghettos because of over-crowding, rats, fleas, and lice." Allotted one loaf of bread daily for the family of eight, Sam escaped to find food for his parents and siblings.

Later, shoved onto a wagon bound for the Radom concentration camp by his own cousin, Sam survived beatings, starvation, typhus, death marches, Dr. Josef Mengele, the rigors of forced labor, and the concentration camps of Radom, Auschwitz, Vaihingen, Hesselental, and Dachau. Near death many times, Sam was saved by the intervention of another person, event, or situation. As

Sam himself says of his survival, "It was a miracle of miracles."



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Szmul Josef Hajder (Samuel Heider)



- Born April 5, 1924, to Avruhom Jankel Hajder and Chaja Hochenbaum Hajder in Biejków, Poland (east-central Poland).
- The third of six children (two brothers and three sisters)



Laja,
sister

Sam,
1936,
age 12



- Along with paternal aunts and uncles, Sam's family inherited the family's 140-acre fruit farm.
- A gifted student, Sam was the only Jew in his school.



Brother
,
Moszek
, age 18
Sam

- In 1937, with anti-Semitism pervading Poland, Sam's family moved to Lodz, Poland, and leased the farm for two years.
- Sam studied in a *yeshiva* (the highest level school for a Jewish education) to prepare for his *Bar Mitzvah*.



- Older brother, Moszek, trying to assist his cousin, was stabbed in the lung by some *Andekis* (anti-Semitic youths); spent nearly a year in the hospital.

- With rumors of impending war, the family returned to the farm before Sam could celebrate his *Bar Mitzvah*.
- In November of 1938, at age 14, Sam heard news of *Kristallnacht*, the “night of broken glass,” when Jewish synagogues and stores were burned and windows smashed.
- In September of the following year, Hitler invaded Poland.



- The Germans did not know the Hajders were Jewish, because it was unheard of for Jews to own farms.
- German soldiers felt free to talk with the Hajders and buy food from them.



- The family's peaceful life on the farm ended abruptly one September night in 1940.



THE GHETTO – BIALOBRZEGI

- Small apartment for the family of 10 (now including Sam's brother-in-law and one-year-old nephew) plus another woman and her child.





- To keep warm, Sam had to gather firewood for the little stove.
- Only one loaf of bread was allotted the entire family per day.
- Sam braved capture to provide for his family.



- Szmul became Yanek.
- His identity was discovered.
- One of the first miracles occurred.

- Sam's descriptions of his close calls defined the book's title.
- In August of 1942, Sam was sold out by his own cousin.



RADOM CONCENTRATION CAMP

- Radom, a place of cruel, unprovoked beatings and innocent deaths.
- The most difficult time of all for Sam: when he learned of the deaths of all of his family members.



- Sam reveals tales:
 - Would-be escapees and a tunnel that collapsed under the weight of a commandant's horse
 - Discovery that two cousins survived
 - The life-saving power of a sliver of Palmolive soap
 - A boot full of diamonds.
- Russians advanced into Poland, and Radom had to be quickly liquidated. The first of several death marches began.



AUSCHWITZ DEATH CAMP

- An astounding camp greeting.



- Facing Dr. Josef Mengele, the “Angel of Death,” who decided who would live and who would die.





Laja, 1936

- Another death march, and then the cattle car.



VAIHINGEN CAMP

- In the Fall of 1944, after three days without food, Sam arrived in Vaihingen.
- Assignment: build an underground factory to make long-range rockets that could reach England.
- Weak prisoners were not tolerated.



- No more tattoos.



- Prisoner number 424 became Prisoner number 145,450.
- Starvation prompted volunteerism to a new camp.



HESENTAL CAMP

- In late 1944, 806 starving volunteers go to Hesselental
- Another site of unbearable cold, filth and typhus



Messerschmitt ME 262

- A day's ration: watery soup and a bit of bread.
- A scramble for crumbs.
- Like many others, Sam caught typhus. Of the 806, 182 died.
- Still weak and fevered, in April of 1945, Sam joined the infamous "Hessental Death March."
- After the train was bombed and with the Americans moving in, Sam and the others had to walk.

- After stumbling and crawling in the cold rain, prisoners, most of whom were ill and fevered, were herded into stench-filled cattle cars bound for Dachau.



Dachau Death Train

DACHAU DEATH CAMP

- All ill and many near death, they arrived in Dachau.
- Many prayed to die.
- Conditions in Dachau: the most inhumane Sam ever witnessed.



4. DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP, DACHAU, GERMANY, MAY 1945.

A CLOSE-UP TAKEN IN FRONT OF THE SAME BUILDING SHOWN IN PHOTOS NOS. 1 & 3. ON SOME BODIES ONE CAN SEE THAT THE LARGE TOE OF THE RIGHT FOOT HAS BEEN TAGGED FOR PURPOSES OF IDENTIFICATION. IT WAS NECESSARY TO DISPOSE OF SOME OF THE PILES OF DEAD BODIES BY CREMATION EVEN AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICANS.



- At only 74 pounds, Sam was a walking skeleton.
- Chased out of the barracks and onto a train, the bombing began.
- A brief escape and dreamlike encounter.
- 9:30 in the morning, April 30, 1945-- the sweetest sound.



DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP

- Recouperation in sanatorium in Lagenstein, Germany, SW of Berlin, then to the DP camp.
- Manager of a large apartment buildings that once housed German officers.
- Ever an entrepreneur, Sam opened a small grocery in his room.

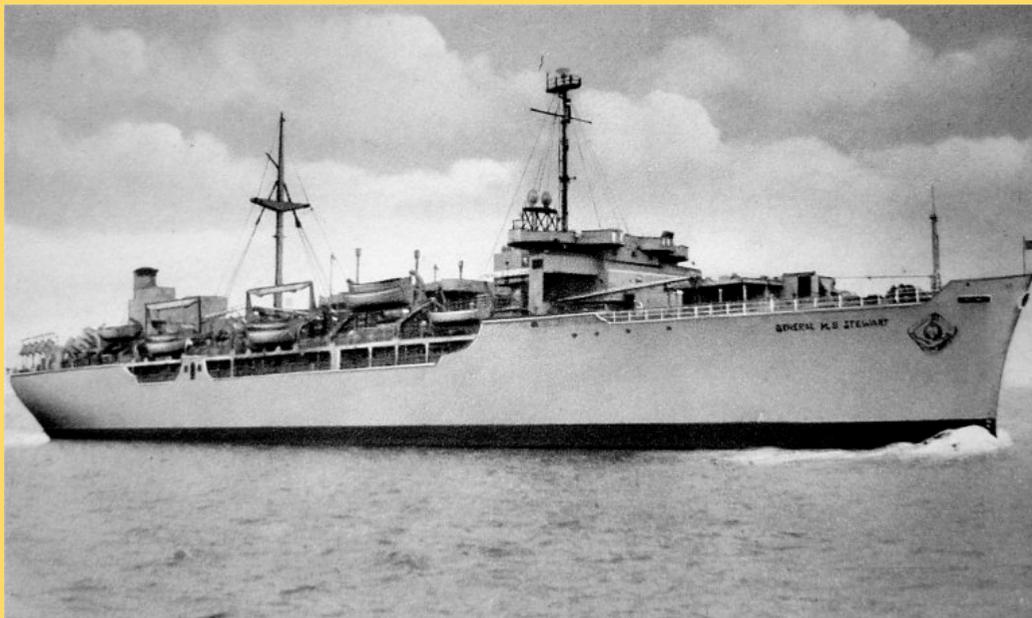


Sam with all the bread he can eat!

- Desiring to meet a nice Jewish girl, he traveled to Bergen-Belsen.
- After a courtship, wedding, and later birth of a son, Sam was offered to go live anywhere he chose.



- December 2, 1949: the little family left Bremerhaven, Germany, aboard the USNS General M.B. Stewart, a Navy troop carrier.

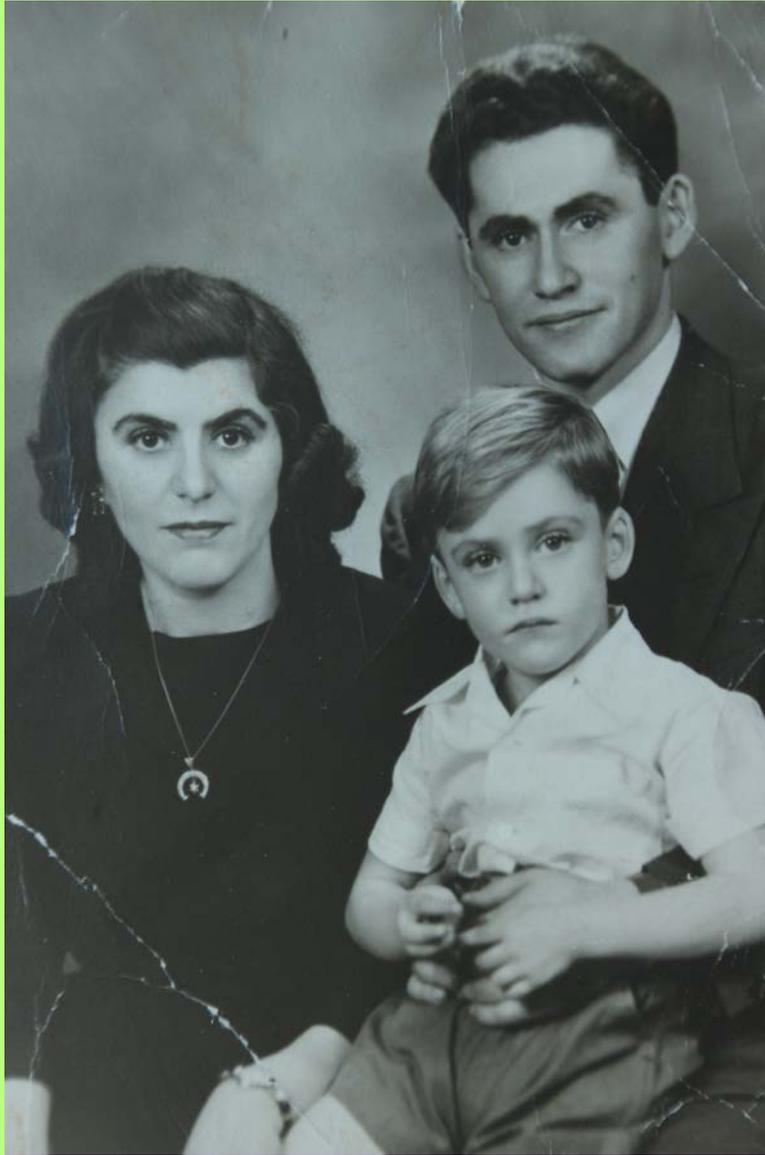


DAYTON, OHIO

- Arriving in NYC at Christmas time



- On to Dayton and learning a new culture and language



Fela (Phyllis), Szmul (Sam),
and little Moniek (Morris)
Heider, Dayton, Ohio, 1952.

The final chapters of the book:

- Becoming Dayton's first recycler
- Interview with Steven Spielberg, researching "Schindler's List"
- Letter to Oprah Winfrey
- His soulmate's story
- Stories of what became of other characters
- Glossary of Jewish terms

About the book

Miracle of Miracles: A Dayton, Ohio Man's Story of Holocaust Survival

- ◆ Designed as a teaching tool
 - Glossary
 - Pronunciation Guide
 - Map
 - Photos
- ◆ True, unembellished memoir

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Zachor!

