
Kurt Stern

Kurt Stern, an only child, was born on April 12, 1929, in the city of Chodov, Czechoslovakia. His father, Julius Stern, born in 1904 in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, died of tetanus in 1935, when Kurt was 6 years old. His mother, Arna Kronberger Stern, was born in the Czech Republic in 1903.

After the Germans occupied the Sudetenland in 1938, Kurt and his mother fled to a small town near Prague. In May 1939 Arna and her brother Walter managed to include (10-year-old) Kurt and his (12-year-old) Cousin Ruthie in the list of 669 children approved for transfer to England.

The rest of the family was deported to the Theresienstadt Ghetto after the Nazi occupation, from whence they were sent to the Auschwitz death camp, where they were all murdered. The kindertransport was organized by volunteers, and the initiator and living spirit of the enterprise to save the children was a young British man named Nicholas Winton, who was later knighted and became Sir Nicholas Winton.

When Kurt arrived in England together with his cousin Ruth, they were taken in by Mr. and Mrs. Nunn, the husband a farmer and the wife a teacher, Christians who lived in northeast England in the village of Red Grave. Kurt lived there until age 15. Kurt received the terrible news of the death of his mother Arna and the rest of the family from the Nunn family. In 1944 Kurt moved to London, where he studied to be a pastry chef and lived in a youth hostel for Czech refugees.

In 1948 he volunteered in Mahal (the IDF program for foreign volunteers), joined the army, and served in the Golani Brigade. As a soldier in the reserves, Kurt fought in the Six Day War and in the Yom Kippur war in the central command section. In 1952 Kurt married Aliza, they had two children: Yoel-Julius and Arna. In the 1950s, Kurt and Aliza travelled to Zurich, Switzerland, and then to London, where he studied to be a pastry chef and became an expert in sugar and marzipan constructions. Upon returning to Israel, Kurt

worked as a pastry chef at several hotels, and then opened his own business. For his sugar creations he won prizes in Israel and overseas.

In 1968 Kurt decided to change professions and became a tour guide in English and German, a profession he loved. He worked as a guide for many years. Kurt has 2 children, one granddaughter and 4 grandsons, and one great-granddaughter. This month Kurt celebrated his 91s birthday, may he live to 120, or as he prefers to say, "To 100 like 20". ■