

Leaving Rischard



a family drama unraveled by
Swedish Television SVT and Mark Ejlenberg,
July 2018

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Author's Note

"Finding an Heir" is a documentary series of 12 episodes on Swedish television, produced by SVT, the Swedish national public TV broadcaster.

The series is about people who have died in Sweden, without the authorities succeeding to find any family. The mission is to find relatives and if possible, bring families who have lost contact, back together. Sometimes there is also an inheritance for the legal Heirs.

One of the episodes is about the son of Henryk and Pola Lefkovitz-Raszewski, **Rischar** Lewkowiez¹, who was born in Malmö on October 27, 1946 and died May 30, 2012.

He left a small amount of SEK 30.000, the equivalent of approximately Euro 3.000. This amount had to be distributed to the legal heir(s).

Rischar had Down's syndrome. When he was buried in Malmö in a public cemetery, there were no relatives to accompany him and his story was unknown to both the authorities and to Rischar's cousins, the closest direct line of family still alive.

The Editorial and Production TV Team of "Finding an Heir," is headed by Lisa Jarenskog, Kattis Ahlström and Niklas Källner who do the interviews and Dan Nordgren, who films the episodes.

The editorial team started an investigation to find out more about Richards family. A publication on the internet of the Hespeed (Eulogy) for Tola Ejlenberg-Raszewski, Pola's sister, by her son Mark Ejlenberg, gave Lisa's head researcher Anna, a clue.

Gerry Eilenberg in Malmo was subsequently contacted by Lisa and Gerry suggested that she should get in touch with me.

Lisa's call in April 2018, to ask me to cooperate with the documentary surprised me. Who was this Rischar? Lisa's research documentation made it clear, he was a full first cousin.

A few questions arose: Why was this cousin treated like a family secret? Why was he not buried in a Jewish cemetery and why were no relatives present at the funeral? The story intrigued me immensely and I agreed to cooperate.

Subsequent conversations and fact-finding based on my family archive and public archive, started to put layers on a timeline, with fragments of information and facts.

Over the years I had collected family documents and pictures and my wife Vera and myself had populated an extensive family genealogy database. It was a family tree, but it had no family story.



Rischar Lewkowiez in 1946

¹ The original Polish spelling that was converted to Lefkovitz. In Malmö Richards' family name was spelled as Lefkoviez.

My late mom, Tola Ejlenberg-Raszewski, always wanted to write her family story. She already had a title for her book: "Tzu Bin Ikh fun a shteyn geboyren," which translated from Yiddish means: "I was not born from a stone."

Miriam Dubi, a professional biographer, started taping her story, but my mother stopped, stating that it was impossible for her to write such a biography. Her recordings were transcribed and digitally stored. They contained valuable background on her family in Brzeziny.

Tola also had a shoebox with 313 pages of postwar letters, mostly written in Polish ("shoebox letters"). These letters were written in 1945 and 1946 and are evidence of correspondence, mainly between direct family members of Tola who survived the war.

When Tola passed away in 2012, my sister Felien Neuhaus-Ejlenberg and I donated the letters to the Ghetto Fighters Museum in Israel and they translated the letters to English. It transpired that much to our surprise, the shoebox also contained letters Tola and other relatives had sent. She must have collected these letters from the recipients in some way, at a later moment.

It was not until the trip with the Production Team of the Swedish Television to Lodz in May 2018 that all the bits and pieces of information, started to become more insightful.

Slowly the transcripts, the shoebox letters, the family tree, the Swedish files about Rischard and other archival material weaved together the fabric of unique family history, during a period that tore the family apart.

In Lodz, our researcher Petje Schroder was very instrumental in helping us to complete our Raszewski family tree with data going back to 1789 in Brzeziny and important information about the Lodz Ghetto.

The collective material is a key witness of family events, as they unfolded in 1945 and 1946 and give testimony of the family disaster during the Shoa.

As in a detective story, the sketchy facts transformed into a gripping family picture and pixels of information kept flowing, rendering a more intricate picture and reconstructing personal experiences of specific people.

Rischard, who lacked the speaking ability, made us speechless and was the catalyst of an intensive quest to unearth family secrets.

In the search of understanding what happened to Rischard, the story of the Raszewski Family, parents and 8 siblings, during the 2nd World War, is unraveling piece by piece. The events are covering all aspects of life and emotions: sadness, grief, barbarism, tragedy, but also forms of love, respect, appreciation, luck or lack of luck.

Based on documented evidence, a family story is recreated and better insight is obtained on decisions and actions involving life and death, that had to be taken, during an absurd era and in an insane framework.

Moral and ethical dilemma's are discovered and give rise for reflection today.

This document about the Lewkowicz/Lefkoviz family in general and Rischard in particular, is supporting the script for the TV program. It brings together various resources and thus formed a basis for the storyboard: why was Rischard left on his own?

The expanded Raszewski family manuscript, now in progress of writing, will become a publication in its own right and will include Rischard and his family history.

The combined efforts by the Team, Mark's wife Vera, his sister Felien and several cousins brings to light a very sad family episode of the Holocaust that went beyond the original goal of "Finding an Heir".

A special thanks to Gerry Eilenberg who was the main contact in Malmö with all the authorities and Avi Raszewski, who provided most of the Lefkovitz pictures from his archive.

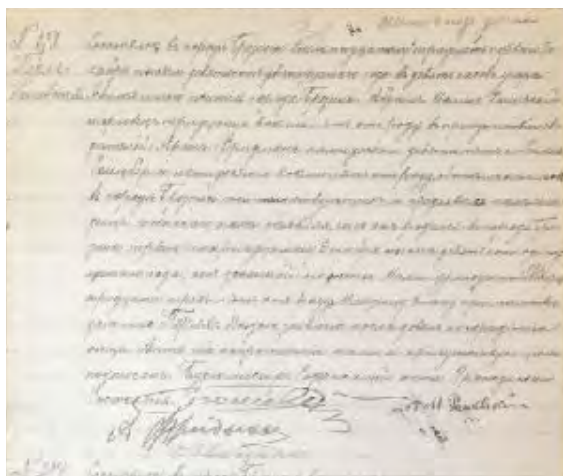
As a first step, to make wrong things right, on July 6, 2018, Rischard was reburied, from a public cemetery to a Jewish cemetery, also in Malmö, in a religious ritual, led by Rabi Shneur Kesselman, from Chabad.

We could not find Rischards Jewish name in the papers we had received. Based on the family tree, we found that the second oldest brother Icio Raszewski, was not represented in the names that were given to the postwar generation in memory of those who perished. Icio was married to Laja Lewkowicz. Both were gassed in Chelmno in 1942. So Yitchak is Rischard's Hebrew name, the son of Hillel, as is written on the new tombstone. In Malmö Rischards family name was recorded as Lewkoviez and so this name appears on the tombstone.

The Chewra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society) in Malmö (Martin Uncyk and his board) and the Swedish authorities have made it possible for this to be realised, under the guidance of my cousin Gerry Eilenberg, his daughter Nina Wemrin-Eilenberg and Birger Signäs.

Rischard is now reconnected with his family and has embraced him.

The ultimate goal of the TV program is to distribute an "inheritance" to an Heir: money in a bank-account or other assets. In this specific case, no legal heir could be found and the Swedish Heritage Fund has ruled to apply the sum of money Rischard had saved, for the partly financing of the reburial. Thank you Mr Michael Morsing for being instrumental to get the approval.



birth certificate Pola Raszewski 1911, in Russian

From inheritance to heritage

Rischard leaves much more than a sum of money.

Without speaking, he has set in motion a very valuable family asset: the enrichment of our Raszewski and Ejlenberg/Eilenberg family heritage.

The heritage is what we want to convey to our children and our grandchildren. It will give us, the second generation, a better understanding and our children, the third generation and their children's children, a deeper insight of the roots of 150 years family heritage.

It will also remember 14 Raszewski family members that perished and have no place of rest. Their names are listed on the back cover of this booklet.

All of the roots were destroyed or uprooted, but the survivors started a new generation in different geographic locations. But in spite of being spread around we hold firmly together.

This generation can be proud of its family heritage.

It is the intention, as a second step, to write a book about this family heritage and launch the book at the 75th Anniversary of the Ghetto of Lodz in the Marek Edelman Dialogue Center, which is scheduled for end of August 2019. At that moment we will also include the commemoration of the destruction of the Jewish cemetery of Brzeziny. In this cemetery 150 years of Raszewski family heritage got lost and the tombstones were used by the Nazis for roadbuilding. The book will also connect to the Ejlenberg/Eilenberg families.

By then, posthumously, my late mothers dream to have her story covered in a book and have her most precious asset of the shoebox letters immortalised, will be fulfilled.

For now, the following monograph focusses on unravelling the Lefkovitz family drama and analyses why Rischard was left alone.

The discovery of Rischard all started by the TV program and will be aired on Swedish TV in October 2018. Thank you Team for all your outstanding work.

M. Ejlenberg, Tel Aviv, July 2018

Family Chronicles

Before 1940

Brzeziny, a Shtetl of 6.000 people, 20 km from Lodz, was the origin of the Raszewski family.

Fajwel Raszewski, born in 1789 is the eldest ancestor on record. For 150 years most of the family was living in the Shtetl; they were born, married and died in the little town and were buried on the local Jewish Cemetery.

Avraham Moszek Raszewski (b. 1874) and Machla Rozensztrauch Szwarc (b.1879), my grandparents, had eight children.

Three brothers and two sisters, Shlomo, Itzhak, Fishel, Ephraim, Fella and Pola, married and had left their maternal home:

- Shlomo was married to Majca/Mariem Zyman and they had 4 children
- Itzhak (b. 1901) was married to Laja Lewkowicz, Their first son died after six days and they had another son, Mendel.
- Fishel Ephraim became the representative of the family business and lived in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He married Dora Hanower and they had two children; Blanche and Mary.
- Fajga-Fella (b.1909) was married to Moritz Krell (b.1902); they had one son, Mulik (b.1935), and had moved to Lodz where they operated a well known kosher restaurant, which was known outside Lodz as well.
- Pola married Leon Ikka and they had a little daughter named Esther or Estucha (b.1939).

The three other siblings were single: Godel, Israel and the youngest of the eight, my late mother Tola.

World War II period

World War II caused the family to be completely uprooted and broken apart.

The German Army captured their hometown Brzeziny in the early 1940's and a Ghetto was established in May that year.

Brzeziny, a Ghetto without children

At the beginning of the war, Leon Ikka, Polas, husband deserted from the Polish Army and together with his brother-in-law Godel Raszewski, escaped to Russia. Leon left his wife Pola and daughter Esther behind. Pola preferred to stay close with her family and continue to help in the family business. This would not be the only difficult dilemma that she would face in her life.

Tola, on a visit to her sister Fella in Lodz, could not return to Brzeziny as the Ghetto Lodz was established during her stay.

At that point, the family was separated between Lodz and Brzeziny and in each location the family started to suffer dramatic losses:

In an article by David Tuszynski "There Once Was a Jewish Shtetl Brzeziny", David described the blackest day in the history of Brzeziny:

"On the fourteenth and fifteenth of May 1942, a gang of SS men came into the Brzezyner ghetto with the chief, Hans Biebow. Biebow's name already had a reputation at that time. That name of his aroused horrible

fear in everyone. Biebow issued a command that mothers had to bring their children to him, up to the age of ten. It rained on that day in Brzeziny; it rained torrentially, and through the streets of the ghetto came neatly dressed Jewish children with their hair freshly washed and combed, led by their mothers. The mothers were crying, and the children calming them, trying to quiet them, "Mama, don't cry. Why are you crying?"

The children were all assembled around the town square near the town hall; they remained there the entire day with their mothers. Night fell, the tired children fell asleep on the ground near their mothers. Some children cried, begging, "Mama, let's go home. Why don't we go home? Why is it so dark? Why don't we turn on some lights?"

Suddenly at three o'clock in the morning, there was a great commotion. A drunken clamor awoke the children. A command was heard – turn over all the children – and right after that, they began to tear the children away from their mothers. A lament from the mothers and children, a cry, an entreaty, and the SS men tear the children away from their mothers' clenched hands. Children scream and cry, "Mama, I want to go with you, Mamusia [Mommy]!" The mothers fall at the feet of the SS men in entreaty, kissing their filthy boots. The SS men kick them with their boots, strike heads, prod them, and a contemptuous laughter echoes through the hall, mixed with the sound of pointed tips of rods on the flesh of the crying mothers. The mothers plead, "Take us along also; we want to go together with our children." It does not help.

They take the children away, and in the hall remain the battered, aching and sobbing mothers.

The next morning, the Brzeziner ghetto was empty of children".

Pola describes in a letter to her brother Fishel Ephraim in 1945 what happened to the remaining family members in Brzeziny²:

"I will say only briefly what we endured here: in May 1942, we were expelled from Brzeziny, we were torn cruelly from our mothers and children, and to this day their whereabouts are unknown. You can imagine the tragedy we felt in our hearts. We were sent to the Lodz ghetto.

The whole family was together: mother [Machla], father [Avraham Moszek], Matka [Majcia Szlomo's wife] and Szlomo with the family [3 children], and Icio [the second oldest brother]. On the way we experienced the first loss. On the way, our elder brother [Szlomo], our most beloved, was hit on the head by an SS officer, and collapsed on the ground, lifeless.

We brought his dead body to Lodz. We did not tell father about it. We told him that he (the elder brother) was sent somewhere else to work".

The Ghetto of Brzeziny was destroyed in 1942 and nothing remained of the Jewish Cemetery. The tombstones were used for roadbuilding by the Nazis.

Lodz Ghetto, Allgemeine Ghesperre, a family decimated

Pola arrived in the Lodz Ghetto, with her remaining family, but without a husband and without her young daughter. Sadly the family would soon be decimated.



Deportees from the Lodz ghetto who are being taken to the Chelmino death camp,

² See inside front cover page for original letter in Polish

In September 1942 the so-called Allgemeine Gehsperr (szpera) was announced. Citizens had to stay home and many got a "wedding invitation". It stood for the largest deportation operation in the history of the Lodz Ghetto.

Except for Tola and Pola, all the other Raszewski Family members, in total 14 persons, were gassed in trucks in Chelmno during 1942. Their names are listed at the end of this booklet.

Tola and Pola would remain together in the Lodz Ghetto until its liquidation in 1944, but each sister had to find a way to survive the drama. Their future destinies would take totally different turns.

- In the Lodz Ghetto, Pola met Henryk Lefkovitz. Henryk's first wife, Gitla Buchman and their 3-year-old daughter, Sjandla Mirla, were gassed in Chelmno in 1942. Both lost a spouse and a young child of same age.
- Tola met Pinchas Ejlberg and got married on September 5, 1943 by Chaim Rumkovsky. Their life story is part of a separate manuscript.

Paula and Henryk start a new life together, it was short-lived

On October 15, 1943, two heartbroken people, Pola and Henryk, tried to find new "happiness" in the sad surrounding of the Lodz Ghetto. In the years to come, they would face drama after drama.

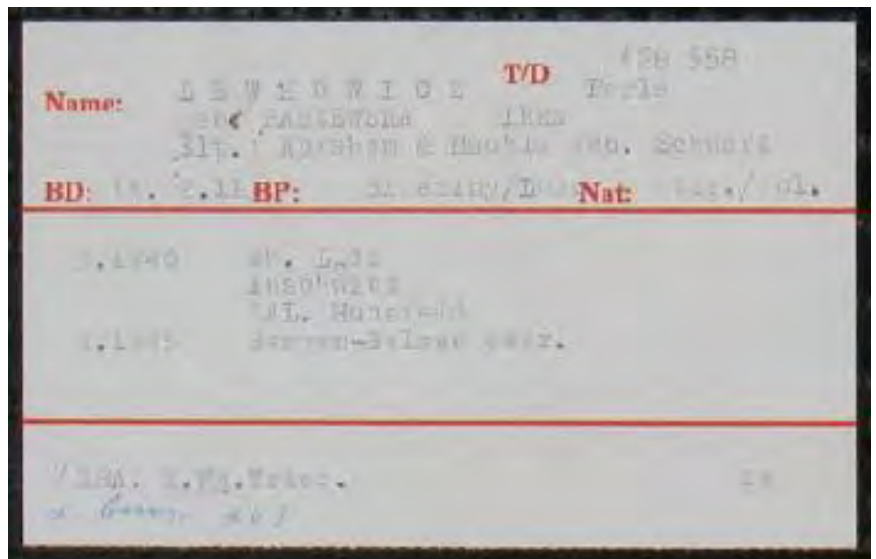
From Camp to Camp

When the Lodz Ghetto was liquidated in 1944, the men were separated from the women:

- Pola and Tola were "transported" from Camp to Camp: -Mauthausen, Austria and -Gross Rosen, Germany, concentration camps, -Auschwitz II-Birkenau, Poland, a death camp and finally Bergen-Belsen in Germany another concentration camp. They were liberated in Bergen-Belsen by the British Armed forces on April 15, 1945. Their last days in Bergen-Belsen were horrific. Pola and Tola were diagnosed with Typhoid and were hospitalised.

A few days later, the Red Cross, headed by Count Folke Bernadotte from Sweden, entered the hospital and the patients were evacuated, medically treated and transported to Malmö, Sweden.

- In 1944, Henryk was "transported" from Lodz Ghetto to Auschwitz II-Birkenau and arrived via concentration camp Riese Oberwiestegiesdorf in Bergen-Belsen. Henryk also arrived in Malmö, Sweden, via the Swedish Red Cross.



Record showing locations of Pola 1940-1945, Lodz, Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen

Post 1945

Arrival in Sweden

By miracle, both Pola and Henryk survived and reunited in Malmö on the same day, July 11, 1945.

Henryk's profession was typesetter. A job that was closely related to languages and Swedish was not in his skillset. Pola was a bookkeeper. They both had to work outside their competences and barely could make a living.

The location Sweden was just transitional and it was obvious that it was their intention to relocate. Their dream was to immigrate to the US and join Henryk's relatives. In 1946, they started a visa application procedure, a prolonged and difficult process.



Sweden list No 7
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
LOCATION SERVICE BELSEN - CAMP
Date: 25.11.1947

Surname: <u>Baszewska</u>	First Name: <u>Irena</u>
Previous Name:	Birthdate: <u>12.12.18</u>
Birthplace: <u>Warszawa</u>	Nationality: <u>Polish</u>
Present Address: <u>Sweden</u>	Address before Depart:
Name of Father:	Name of Mother:

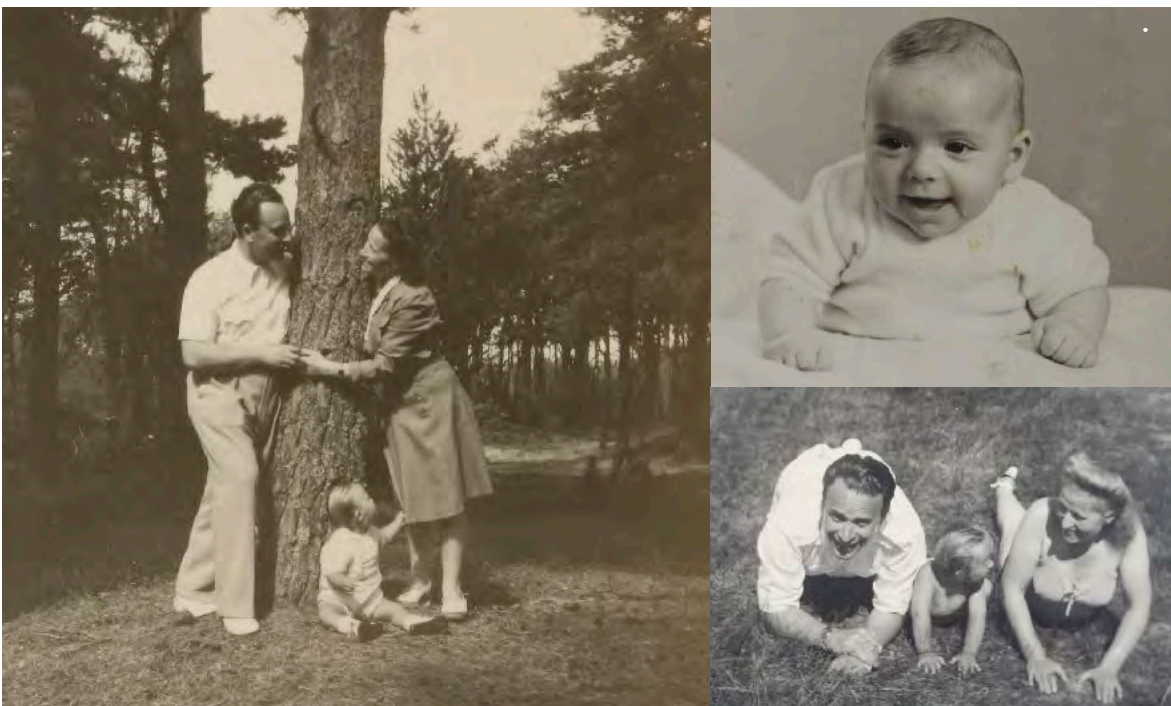
Information learned about above person: Arrived in Sweden after June 26th 1945

UNRA relocation card from Bergen Belsen for Pola

Birth of Rischard

On October 27, of the same year, Rischard was born in Malmö. Rischard was for both Pola and Henryk, their second child, but their first child together.

Would his birth be the beginning of a happier period in their lives? The heartbroken memories of Esther and Sjandel Mirra must still have been fresh in their minds.



Photographs of this period show a happy Rischard and his overjoyed parents.

In 1951, Pola was pregnant again and during her stay at the maternity ward, Rischard was placed briefly in Berga childrens home. There it became apparent that Rischard had Down syndrome.

Pola and Henryk's new daughter, Marlene, was born on July 11, 1951. Her Hebrew name was Machla, She was named after her maternal grandmother, gassed in Chelmno.

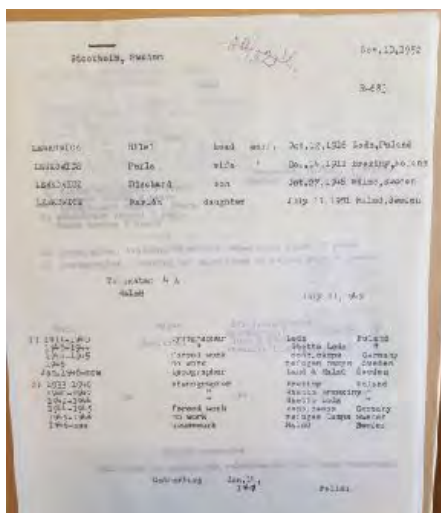
Pola and Henryk must have felt euphoric and dismayed at the same time.

Pola was advised to send Rischard to a mental institution, as he would never be able to be educated normally. Pola could not decide to send Rischard away from home as she felt he had made satisfactorily progress and according to the documents we found, he stayed with his parents.

Later that year, in a state of financial despair, Pola decides to illegally sell alcohol in Malmö. Prices were kept high by the state monopoly and selling outside the monopoly was a way to make extra money. Pola was arrested. The investigation was documented by the Malmö police and Pola is on record:

"Marlene is 4 months old and Rischard is five years. I wanted extra money to make the future brighter for my beloved son Rischard".

Visa's for US- a moral dilemma



Application of Visa for all 4 Lefkovitz family members



Both Rischard and Marlene appear on the passport

After 6 years of applying to the US authorities for emigration for the 4 of them, they were finally granted visa's for only three family members. Rischard was not admitted because of his mental disability. Based on the correspondence available, Pola and Henryk, left no stone untouched, to get a Visa for their son.

They were placed in an impossible moral dilemma: drop the US plan or leave Rischard behind and realise their long awaited American dream.

They decided not to jeopardise the validity of their Visa's and leave Rischard behind for the time being. Pola and Henryk were begging to find an urgent and adequate solution for their son. From an application letter for a place in a Children Home dated February 1, 1953:

"The Consulate, informed Pola and Henryk that they must, within a few days decide to take the opportunity of going to the United States and if so whether they could make arrangements for their son to stay in Sweden. In case the offer was rejected, it would certainly take 5-6 years before obtaining new entry permits".

*"The parents were apparently greatly attached to their mentally handicapped son and firmly intend not to lose contact with him. Provided they succeed to enter Americas, there is a prospect, after having proved to be self supporting, they obtain an entry permit for Rischard and realise their plan of having him with them."*³

On February 14th, 1953 Henryk in another effort to get approval is quoted in a letter "leaving his son behind, would be like killing him".

On May 28, 1953, the family breaks apart. Three members of the family depart to the US on flight 1039 of Seaboard & Western Airlines, they change their name to Lefkovitz.

Three days before their departure, Rischard was placed in a children home. He stays behind. The lifelong separation for 7 year old Rischard and his parents begins.

The parents keep trying to get a Visa from the US for Rischard. However a devastating medical opinion written on 23 October, 1953 described him "as mongoloid, uneducable and partly stupidly passive"⁴.

The American dream

For most of their lives, Pola, Henryk and Marlene lived in Long Island City, Queens, New York in a poor neighbourhood dominated by African Americans. They have two cousins Harry Lefkovitz from Brooklyn and Getrude Lieb from Pennsylvania that helped them to get the immigration permit.

They lived in a modest flat in Long Island. Henryk worked in his profession, but over the years typesetting became obsolete. Pola was a full time mother and took care of Marlene. Marlene was an excellent student.

Marlene never moved out of the house and preferred to stay with her parents. She worked office jobs and never got married. She was very close to her father.

In 1979, Henryk passed away, at the young age of 62. Unfortunately, he never realised his American dream, he was never able to become financially strong enough, to guarantee Rischards transfer to the US.

Five years later, Pola passed away and Marlene stayed in the US without any relatives except for my cousin Avi Raszewski who visited her regularly, he worked in New York in the 80's.

Around the year 2000, Marlene, was diagnosed with MS and slowly became handicapped and had to stop working. This led to financial stress. From time to time, her first cousins helped her financially, because she did not have sufficient income.

In 2008, Marlene passed away at the young age of 57 years.

By coincidence, I was in New York at the time and attended her lewaja, funeral. Two people attended: Katherine MacDaniel and myself. She was buried on the Jewish Mount Richmond Cemetary, thanks to my cousin Avis last minute intervention, as the plan was to bring her to a public cemetery.

Katherine and I had met before; when I visited Marlene in her apartment during her illness. Marlene introduced her as her "caregiver". Katherine was always very nice and was very supportive to Marlene.

As it was recently discovered, by the Swedish Television in their quest to find an Heir, the relationship was different:

³ See full letter page 13

⁴ See full opinion on page 18



Marlene was close to Henryk



Katherine, a patisserie chef, wearing the Magen David of Marlene around her neck as a

Reportedly, in 1977, Marlene became pregnant and had an illegal daughter, who she gave away for adoption. This was kept as a family secret, we did not know about this until recently.

Two years later Henryk died at the age 62, he had hoped for a different future of his beloved and promising daughter.

Years later, Marlene and Katherine reunited and Katherine took good care of her mother during her long illness, until Marlene passed away. The family is very grateful to Katherine.

Rischarð survives his family

Rischarð survived everybody of his family and died in 2012.

Over the years he lived in different institutions, but most of his life he spent in Pilängens vårdhem Elinelundsvägen, a home in Malmö for people with mental disabilities.

On 23rd, October 1979 Rischarð received Swedish citizen ship.

In the mental institution, he was well treated and had a relatively good life. One of the caregivers Lisbet Svensson, established a closer relationship with Rischarð and took him to her home to meet and play with her family. She describes her bright memories of him in her eulogy at the reburial.⁵

Lennart Bjergert was manager at the nursing centre for several years while Rischarð was living there, he was what in Sweden is called his "good man". He was responsible for Richards finances and ensured that he receive the care he needed when there were no relatives around.

For reasons unknown to us, his parents never visited him. His uncles and aunts never spoke about him. We did not know about his existence.

We also did not know about the dramatic and shocking experiences his parents, Pola and Henryk, had endured and how impossible their decision must have been to leave Rischarð behind and never be in touch again!

The time has come to reunite Rischarð with his family.



Rischarð in 1981.



He love to play with children

The Reburial

On July 6th 2018 Richards remains were transferred from the Limhamn Public Cemetery to the Jewish Cemetery in Rosegard, Malmö. He was reburied in the same row as Mary Eilenberg, to be close to his relatives.

The ceremony took place under the auspices of the Hevra Kedisha Malmö (Mr Martin Uncyk) and was led by Rabbi Shneur Kesselman of Chabad. I had the honour to give a Hesped (Eulogy) and Rischarðs caregiver Lisbeth had a little speech about Rischarð delivered by her son. The text appears on page 18.

It was a very dignified ceremony, recorded by SVT Television. The documentary will be broadcasted later this year.

Welcome Rischarð. We now can give your story a place and give respect to the Lefkovitz family drama.

Mark Ejlenberg

⁵ Full text can be found on page 18



Until July 5, 2018 Rischard was buried in the public cemetery of Malmö-Limnham

Marlene was buried in 2008 at Mount Richmond Cemetery, New York



AIR PASSENGER MANIFEST
 Stockholm to Stockholm, Sweden
 MAY 28 1953

NAME	AGE	SEX	C	F	P	N	REL	NO
ALBERT, NACHER	54	M						707-3133761
ALBERT, NINA	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, OLGA	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, ERIC	54	M						707-3133761
ALBERT, TIRCH	50	M						707-3133761
ALBERT, GRACE	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, HENRY	54	M						707-3133761
ALBERT, POLA	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, SARAH	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, RAPHAEL	54	M						707-3133761
ALBERT, BEATRICE	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, ADAM	54	M						707-3133761
ALBERT, BENA	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, EMIL	54	M						707-3133761
ALBERT, HANNA	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, ISLA	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, LINA	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, HILDA	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, SYBIL	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, WILHELM	54	M						707-3133761
ALBERT, YVONNE	54	F						707-3133761
ALBERT, MARIE	54	F						707-3133761

New York: Pola and Henry had a gourmet taste

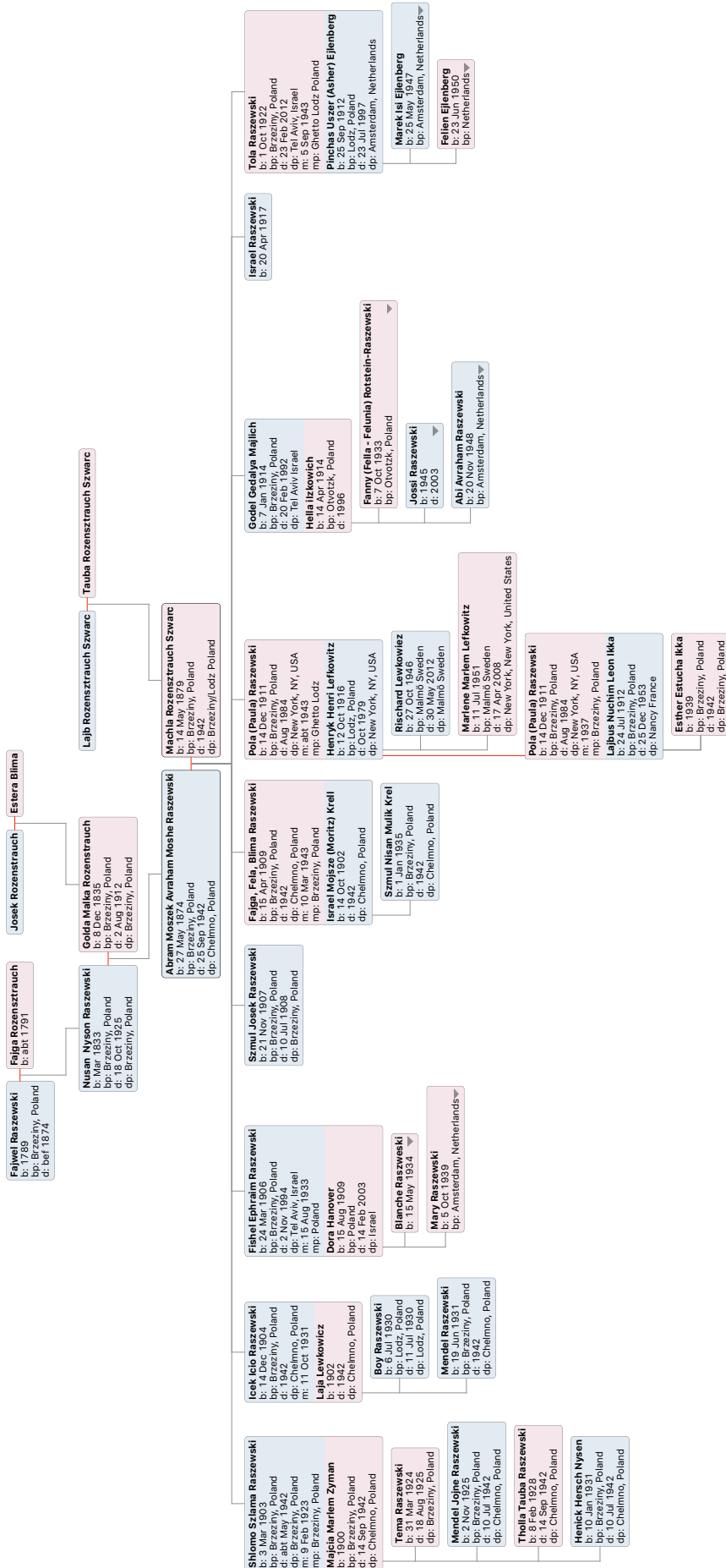
Air passenger manifest flight 1039 from Stockholm to Idlewild dated May 28, 1953

Name	I K K A Pala		File	C, C, v 16/a	
BD	12 Dec 1918	BP	Nat	Polish	
Next of Kin					
Source of Information	List of Survivors in Bergen-Belsen.				
Last kn. Location			Date		
CC/P	Bergen-Belsen, Arr.		lib.	Apr 45	
Transf. on	to				
Died on	in				
Cause of death					
Buried on	in				
Grave			D. C. No.		
Remarks	Last Address: L O D Z.				



From Bergen Belsen, Folke Bernadotte and the Red Cross organised White Busses, to transport survivors to Sweden. Both Pola and Tola were on these buses to Lubeck and then continued by ship to Malmö.

The Raszewski family tree, 5 generations from 1789



Translation.

P.M.

Re: Richard Lewkowicz, born on October 27, 1946.

The parents are Polish Jews who came to Sweden in 1945 with a Bernadotte transport from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The husband is a typographer, efficient in his trade, and the family has all the time been self-supporting without social help.

The undersigned first contacted the family in 1951, when Mrs. Lewkowicz expected her second child and needed assistance to find a place for Richard during her stay at the maternity ward. It then became apparent that the boy was a backward child - mongoloid - and would certainly never develop enough to draw any benefit from school education. I talked with the mother on the subject and suggested that, in view of the great shortage of vacancies at mental institutions and the long waiting time, she should at once obtain a medical certificate for application to a mental home. The mother, however, thought that the boy had recently developed satisfactorily, and could not decide to send him away from home to an institution.

Now the mother came back and begged for our help. The family had already in 1946 applied for entry permits to America where the husband had relatives who were preparing for their arrival. After more than 6 years waiting they were, on the 12th February informed that their immigration had been approved for them, the parents, and the younger child but that their son Richard had, for the time being, been refused because of his mental debility. The Consulate informed Mr. and Mrs. Lewkowicz that they must before the week-end let them know whether they were prepared to take the opportunity of going to the United States, and if so, whether they could make arrangements for their son here in Sweden. In case the offer were rejected it would certainly take 5 or 6 years before obtaining new entry permits.

The parents are apparently greatly attached to their mental son and firmly intend not to lose contact with him. Provided they succeed to enter America there is a prospect that, after having proved to be self-supporting, they obtain an entry permit for the boy and realize their plan of having him with them.

Owing to the shortage of vacancies in the mental institutions - we have, at the moment, 6 children on hand for whom no place is available - it is out of the question that the boy could be placed in the usual order of succession within the time allowed.

In view of prevailing circumstances request is made by the undersigned that the Board may examine the possibility of giving the parents guarantee for the boy's placing which is a condition for the parents' departure.

The undersigned is willing to support the parents' application. The boy does not seem so difficult to manage that he could not for some shorter period be taken to a Children's Home or a Convalescent Home while awaiting his admission to a mental institute.

Malmö, February 17, 1953

sgd: Greta Klinglund

Urgent letter written in February 1953, requesting a place in a mental institution, before leaving to the US. The letter evidences that the parents did not know about Richard's "mongoloid" condition, until Marlene was born in 1951

Richard's personality: his caretaker versus the doctor's opinion in 1953

My name is Christian Rasmussen, and I am reading this instead for my mom Lisbet who were one of the caretaker for Rischard during his time at the Pilängens nursing home.

There are many bright memories when I think about the time with Rischard. The year 1978 I was 25 years old and started working at Pilängens nursing home section 27. Section 27 consisted of 8 men divided into 3 double rooms and 2 single rooms. During the time at the Section 27, some of the patients had relatives who visit them and drank some coffee. During the occasions it felt like we were big family in section 27.

Rischard worked near Pilängen's nursing home, which enabled him to go to work on his own. Rischard's tasks consisted of packing different products in bags. Rischard really appreciated his job, especially when it was time for payday. For his well-earned money, Rischard bought music records. Rischard really enjoyed listening and dance to the music, especially typical traditional Swedish dance music. Another favorite for Rischard was to drink coffee and enjoy a piece of cake

Rischard was a calm person who took it at his own pace, no one could hurry him. Rischard was very orderly, he made his bed every day and it was always order in the wardrobe and drawers. He knew exactly where everything was in which drawers and wardrobe, and when a friend had borrowed a music record without asking, Rischard became angry.

Rischard appreciated choosing which clothes he would wear but also buying new clothes. His favourites: Jeans and long sleeved shirt with jeans jacket.

He also appreciated cooking and baking, and the favourite dish were swedish meatballs with potato and sauce.

Richard and his friends at the department 27 liked to visit Lisbet's parents. Lisbet's parents were farmers and had cows, pigs, hens, cats that Rischard and his friends could look and pat.

During the visit to the farm, it was often a trip with a Jeep, Rischard's place was always in front with Lisbet's father.

Richard and Lisbet's father found a nice friendship during the visits. The friendship between Rischard and Lisbet's father continued when Rischard started at a school nearby.

My daughter met Rischard many times, but unfortunately, she could not be here today.

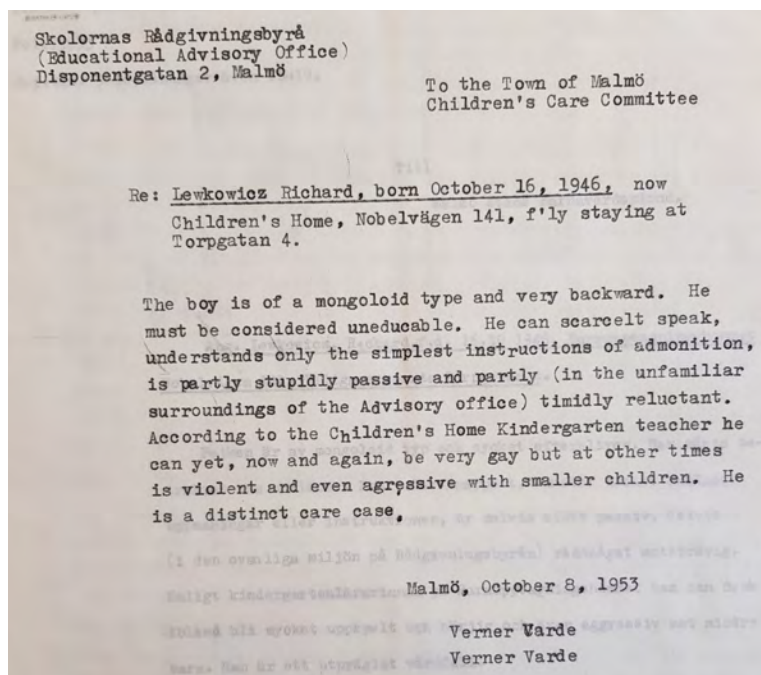
I hope you got a little sense of how Rischard lived and how he was like a person.

Best Regards
Lisbet Svensson

Speech delivered by the son of Lisbet Svensson, on her behalf, at the reburial of Rischard on July 6th 2018.

Lisbet took care of Rischard during 8 years and developed a special relationship.

The opinion of 1953 below is in stark contrast to Richards development during his life.



The final opinion in 1953 that led to the definite Visa application rejection.

Pictures of the Reburial, July 6th ,2018



Martin Uncyk, head of Hevrat Kadisha,



45 people of the Jewish community in Malmö attended. George Brown, Chairman Jewish Community Gothenburg pays his respect.



Rabbi Shneur Kesselman recites the



Mark Ejlenberg, first cousin and his wife Vera.



Christian Rasmussen son of Lisbet Svenson, caretaker of Rischar, Lisbet, Kattis Ahlström, Niklas Källner.



The Rosegard Jewish Cemetery in Malmö.

background picture of the entrance Cemetery in Brzezyne, totally destroyed and no signage

In Memory of 14 Raszewski Family Members, who perished in 1942

Grandparents and children, who perished in Brzeziny and Lodz during the Shoa, with no tombstone or place of burial

- **Abram Moszek /Avraham Moshe Raszewski** (b, May 27,1874) in Brzeziny, Poland -d, in Chelmno, Sep 25, 1942) he was 68.
He married **Machla Rozensztrauch Szwarc** (b.May14,1879) in Brzeziny. Machla died in Chelmno, Poland in 1942; she was 62.

The following children of Abram and Machla and their respective families perished:

- **Shlomo Szlama Raszewski** (b. March 3, 1903) in Brzeziny.
On 9 Feb 1923 when Shlomo was 19, he married **Majcia Marlem Zyman** (b. 1900) in Brzeziny. Majcia died in Chelmno, Poland on 14 Sep 1942; she was 42.
He was slain to death by the Nazis on his way from Brzeziny to Lodz in May 1942; he was 39.
 - * They had the following children:
 - i. Tema (1924-1925)
 - ii. **Mendel Jojne** (1925-1942 Chelmno)
 - iii. **Tholla** (1928-1942 Chelmno)
 - iv. **Henick Nysen** (1931-1942 Chelmno)
- **Icek Icio Raszewski.** (b. Dec 14,1904) in Brzeziny.
On 11 Oct 1931 when Icek was 26, he married **Laja Lewkowicz.** He was 38 and she was 40 when they died in Chelmno, Poland in 1942
 - * They had the following children:
 - i. Boy (1930-1930)
 - ii. **Mendel** (1931-1942 Chelmno)
- **Fajga, Fela, Blima Raszewski** (b. April 15,1909) in Brzeziny.
On 10 Mar 1943 at the age of 33, she married **Israel Mojsze (Moritz) Krell** (b.Oct 14,1902), son of **Michal Krel & Brandla**, in Brzeziny. Moritz and Fajga died in Chelmno, Poland, in 1942; he was 39, she was 32.
 - * They had one child:
 - i. **Szmul Nisan Mulik** (1935-1942 Chelmno)
- **Pola (Paula) Raszewski.** (b. Dec 14,1911) in Brzeziny. In 1937 when Pola (Paula) was 25, she first married **Lajbus Nuchim Leon Ikka** (b. July 24, 1912) in Brzeziny.They were separated around 1940 **Lajbus**, died in Nancy France, on 25 Dec 1953; he was 41.
 - * They had one child:
 - i. **Esther Estucha** (1939-1942), she was murdered by the Nazis in Brzeziny around May 15, 1942.

background picture of the entrance Cemetary in Brzezinye, totally destroyed and no signage