



Marta Fuchs has written the story of the heroic Seventh-day Adventist commander who saved the lives of 100 Nazi work-camp prisoners — including Fuchs' father — during the dark days of the World War II Holocaust. (Courtesy Marta Fuchs)

"There is a sort of hierarchy among survivors," Marta said during a telephone interview exactly one week before Yom HaShoah, which some people refer to as Holocaust Memorial Day. "Death camp survivors are on the top of the pyramid. That is clearly how my father saw it. I used to tell him, 'Dad, you endured five years of forced labor. You were marched and threatened and denied food. You lost all your family in the concentration camps. You are a survivor.'"

Still, it wasn't until some 30 years after the family escaped to the United States in the wake of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 that she learned how clearly and powerfully the word "survivor" can be applied to her father — and how much her father's survival of the Holocaust was due to the heroic intervention of a Seventh-day Adventist from Hungary.



Dr. Noemi Mattis pauses for a moment after lighting the memorial candle at the Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Memorial Commemoration and the Utah State Capitol Rotunda in Salt Lake City, Utah April 16, 2004. (Tom Smart, Deseret News)