



A Conversation with Oskar

This text represents a conversation between Sarah Forssell, Ewa Wymark and Oskar Tojzner.
The interview is based on questions that are often asked by students to Holocaust survivors.

ETERNAL ECHOES

Teach and Learn About the Holocaust



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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Oskar Tojzner, 2016.

1. How was it coming to Sweden?

How was it coming to Sweden?

– First we lived in Ystad for six months. Then we came to Malmö. We got an apartment here. Nina worked in nearby Lund at the Institute for Slavonic Studies and I became the Head of Department at a grocery manufacturer called Foodia.

– We continued speaking Russian to each other at home. Our children can speak a number of languages. It went well for them. Sofia was a qualified teacher even before we left Poland. She got a job as an illustrator in Sweden, and Michael studied to become a dentist.

2. Have you spoken to your children about what you went through?

Have you spoken to your children about what you went through?

– Yes, we've spoken about it.

3. Have you visited your hometown Dąbrowica or Sarny?

Have you visited your hometown Dąbrowica or Sarny?

– I tried to visit the memorial monument in Sarny but the Russians wouldn't let me in. I think that was in 1991. I passed by some time later with some others in my family on our way to Kiev, but we didn't stop there.



4. What is your family like?

What is your family like?

– I've got two children: Sofia (who is also called Sonia) and Michael. Sofia was a daughter called Eva, and she has three children, Nathan, Sharon, Joshua—they are my great-grandchildren. Michael has a son, Samuel-Oskar, and a daughter, Nina.

– So much has happened in my life. I didn't think I would get to be this old. And now I'm going to be moving in with my son Michael to live with him.

Oskar Tojzner with grandchildren Nina, Samuel-Oskar and Eva.

5. Do you believe in God?

Do you believe in God?

– I’m not particularly religious, but I do think that there is a higher power. Stalin and Karl Marx said that God doesn’t exist. That for me feels wrong. I think that humanity will continue to develop so that we can understand each other better. It is important that we show consideration to each other regardless of religious beliefs. You can’t speak badly about a whole group. There are good people in all groups.



Oskar with great-grandchildren
Joshua, Sharon and Nathan.

6. Do you often think about what happened?

Do you often think about what happened?

– When I was younger, I was too busy with work and being with other people. I didn’t have time then. I haven’t worked for the past seven years and therefore the memories have become stronger. I think a lot about my family.

7. Is it hard talking about it?

Is it hard talking about it?

– Yes. Afterwards, when I’m alone, it feels like everyone—my mother, father, and my brothers and sisters—are here standing around me. That feels hard.

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Text and cover photo: Ewa Wymark | Translation from the Swedish original: Carl Franks

Graphic design: Cecilia Undemark Péterfy