

Elul 1 The Table Ruth Broitman



My father was a skilled carpenter. His ability to build furniture saved his life when the Nazis invaded his town in Poland and took all the men. He was assigned to build furniture and he was then able to save my mother. In 1950 my parents came to America and my father opened a carpentry store in the Bronx. My mother fell in love with a table that she saw in a showroom in Brooklyn. Sketch pad in hand my father traveled by train at night to draw and duplicate the table. The table stayed in our apartment in the Bronx until 1975 when it went to Florida with my parents. It was then painted white. It came back to New York and went to assisted living with my mother. When I got the table in 2010, it had suffered and was now in nine white pieces. I found a furniture restorer who brought it back to its original beauty. It now stands in the hallway of my home.

I told my children this story and asked them to preserve this table and pass it on to their children. I want them to know that their grandfather's skill and determination to live saved his life. He went on to create a new life and again his skill and determination allowed him to create a thing of beauty which lives on with all of us.

Ruth and her husband Stan have been members of Temple Beth Torah for 28 years. They have three children Tamara, Adam and Natalia and a little grandson Axel. Ruth is the director/owner of a pre-nursery program which she has been involved with for 40 years.