

# Sara

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• Anita Mayer •

*Résumé: Anita Mayer nous livre ses réflexions sur le devoir de mémoire; elle explique comment ce devoir se manifeste chez les survivants de la Shoah et se transmet chez les générations suivantes.*

*Summary: Anita Mayer reflects on the duty survivors feel to tell their stories and how that duty is carried on by succeeding generations.*

For years I have worked to put Auschwitz-Birkenau behind me. Speaking to students in schools had nothing to do with my feelings. The speaking and recalling was something I had to do because my father had said: "The survivors have the duty to tell so the future generations know all about it." Then, on the evening of April 21, 1996, I got a phone call from my granddaughter Sara who had left a week before on "The March of the Living." One week in Poland and one week in Israel. The old and the new. The March of the Living is a walk from the horrible past of the Holocaust to the rebirth of Israel and, of course, to all the great things that happened there.

Sara had arrived that day in Israel and she wanted to hear my voice. She went through pain and agony. She had been ever so close to her and my past and ever so close to her murdered relatives. She said: "Oma, I am so glad to be out of Poland." I answered "Me too!" A great pain went through me for her feelings but it brought back Birkenau. Something came out of the closet that had been carefully hidden. It was very real again but I will not let it hurt ever again.

I am very very proud of Sara not only because she took the trip with 6,000 other young people from all over the world, but because I know that she will carry on and tell the world that the Holocaust did happen. The Nazis of the world have to be stopped before they come to power. I am only sad that Sara and the other young people had to have the experiences in Poland. It will last in their souls a lifetime.

I wish I could tell my father that his great-granddaughter will tell the next generation what took place in 1940-1945 in Europe.

Never again.

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*Anita Mayer is the author of **One Who Came Back** (Oberon P).*