קשר רב דורי – סבתא עליזה עלתה לארץ מדמשק שבסוריה (באנגלית)

By: Aliza Habov
Country of Birth: Syria

The immigration to Israel of my grandmother Aliza after the establishment of the state:

Grandma Aliza was born in 1947 in Damascus, Syria, and immigrated to Israel with her family in 1949. In 1949, anti-Jewish riots began in Damascus, grenades were being thrown into the synagogue, and as a result, Jews were wounded and killed. My grandparents were Zionist and decided that it was time to immigrate to Israel. At that time there were several possible escape routes: one option was through the Golan Heights on foot and the other was to go to Beirut in Lebanon and from there take a truck or taxis to the border with Israel and escape through the Rosh Hanikra crossing. My grandmother's father went first to Beirut and my grandmother's mother remained alone in Damascus with my grandmother and her sister Leah. At that time, she sent a cargo to Beirut containing some of the property in their home in the hopes that they could bring them to Israel and that would help them to settle financially in Israel. Most of their property was left in Syria.
After a while, my grandmother's mother decided to join her husband with the girls. To do so she disguised herself as an Arab, and got into a taxi with her two daughters. She was afraid that the girls would speak the dialect of the Jews, which was different from the usual Syrian Arabic and would give away their real origins. So she forbade them to speak and, even more so, kept their mouths shut all the way.
The ride lasted all night. They arrived to Beirut very frightened. In Beirut they met up with my grandmother's grandparents rented a truck and loaded all the assets they had managed to organize and set out for Rosh Hanikra.
Unfortunately, before Rosh Hanikra they were stopped by a Syrian guard who searched through their property and the Syrians found intelligence information that my grandmother's father intended to transfer to Israeli Intelligence.

Miriam my grandmother's mother Aliza:
The Syrians arrested her parents and tortured them harshly. They took them naked to the snow when earlier that day r they gave them flocks on their feet. My grandmother does not remember who was watching over her and her sister during that time. The Syrians confiscated the truck with all their belongings.

Chaim and Miriam my grandmother's parents:
When Israel learned of the arrest of her parents, the family in Israel operated the UN, and thanks to the intervention of the UN, the parents were released a few weeks later and brought to Israel.
Because of the hardships he suffered, my grandmother's father became ill, and he was hospitalized. My grandmother's mother spent most of her time at his bedside and my grandmother and her sister stayed with relatives. Within a few months my grandmother's father died at age 33.
At first they lived in Haifa and then moved to the transit camp in Kfar Shalem for several years. When my grandmother was five years old, her sister died because of an unsuccessful operation. When my grandmother was 9, my grandmother's mother bought an apartment in Yad Eliyahu in Tel Aviv.
At the age of 20 she met my grandfather Sammy and two years later at the age of 22 they married and had three children: the eldest (my father) Reuven Habov, who today is called Reuven Kalanon or Ruby Kalnoum, the second child, a daughter, Shirit Habib, who is now called Shirit Talis, and the youngest, a daughter, is Meirav Habuv who is now called Meirav Heimans. She worked for Amidar until she retired.

Enrichment:

Syrian Jewry: "The Jews of Syria were one of the largest and most important Jewish communities in the Middle East, and the two largest and most important communities in Syria are the Damascus community, and the Aleppo community is Aram Tzuba".

The Jewish community of Damascus: "The Jews of Syria were severely damaged after the independence of Syria, and in 1946, anti-Jewish riots broke out and basic rights were denied to the Jews." In 1947, following the UN resolution on November 29, severe riots took place in the cities of Aleppo and Damascus, Syria The community was severely damaged, the main synagogue of Aleppo was burned down, and property was torched or destroyed, and after the establishment of the State of Israel, most of the Jews of Syria fled, and of the 30,000 Jews who lived there before the mass escape, only 5,000 left. The situation of the Jews worsened even further in 1948. They were deprived of all civil rights and economic decrees imposed on them From 1949, the Jews were forbidden to leave Syria".