



Tell Us Your Story

Dr. Irma Zarinsky

I am the granddaughter of emigrants.

Both my paternal and maternal grandfathers emigrated from Russia with their families in the 1890's. As teenage young men they saw no future in Russia. They came by boat and were processed through Ellis Island.

The grandfathers had to learn English, go to work and support their families. My paternal grandfather and his family settled in South Boston. My maternal grandfather settled in Quincy and raised five children. Both grandfathers pursued their Judaism and were members of synagogues.



My father walked from the South End to MIT every day and graduated a chemist. He met my mother, married and settled in Quincy. When my father could not find work in the thirties, her father who was a successful businessman in the automotive field (new and used cars, a junkyard), gave him the junkyard to run. My father worked hard and prospered.

Three themes are a major influence on the offspring of both grandfathers: family, Judaism, and the importance of education. The families have thrived in America with many achieving high academic degrees.

Photo: Grandfather Maurice Weiner with his sisters, Anne and Eva, circa 1880

