

THE ROSE TEMPLE

A Child Holocaust Survivor's Vision of Faith, Hope and Our Collective Future

by S. Mitchell Weitzman

Born Jewish, Rose Berl's identity was taken from her in 1942, when her parents gave away their little girl to a Polish Catholic couple, in a desperate attempt to save her from the Nazis. Now known as Alicja Swiatek, at age five she discovered that she was Jewish. She remained with her adoptive parents, but the revelation reverberated throughout her hometown, where anti-Semitism still persisted.

In her early twenties, distraught about her future in Poland, Alicja discovered American relatives who supported her. This drew the attention of Communist authorities and she was arrested. Released temporarily, she fled Poland, tearfully leaving her adoptive parents behind.

She arrived in America in 1962, married a Jewish man, and assumed yet another name, Lucia Weitzman. Locking away much of her past inside, she focused on family and community. But beneath the veneer of life as a traditional Jewish wife and mother, Lucia harbored a secret and lingering spiritual angst. Years later, deep in mourning following the loss of her husband, long-suppressed emotions rose to the surface and Lucia confronted God at Jerusalem's Western Wall.

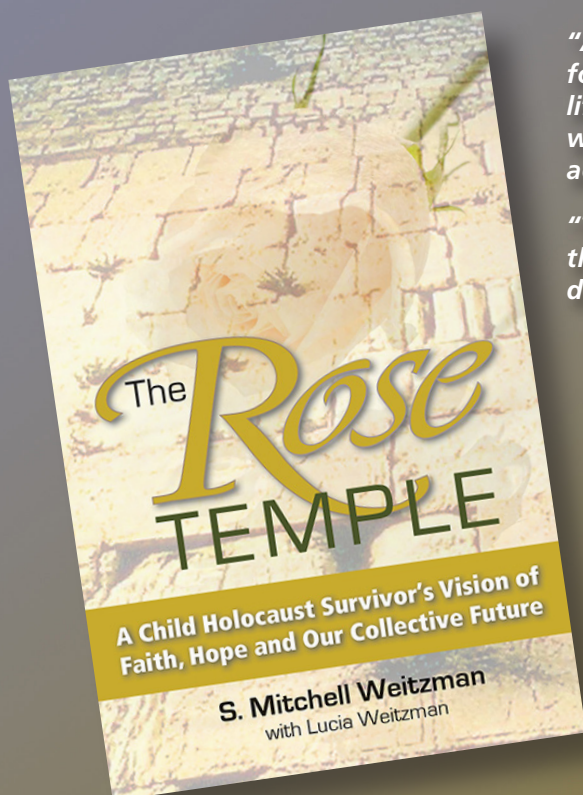
Why had He allowed her to be orphaned yet again? Why had she been spared as a child? And what did her experiences reveal about her life's purpose? Unexpectedly, she sensed a comforting response.

Lucia considered brushing the incident aside, but more unexplained experiences followed that seemed to call on her to decipher their messages. At first frightened, she learned to trust her spiritual sensibilities that gave deeper

meaning to her experiences while answering larger questions about God's presence during times of evil and suffering. She began to share with her son, Mitchell, her mysterious writings and dreams.

He was at first concerned about the reaction he thought his mother would encounter in sharing her experiences with the wider world. But as her resolve strengthened, so did his. Together, they set out to tell her story.

The result is the Rose Temple, a true tale of one woman's transformation from child Holocaust survivor to spiritual messenger. In an age of escalating hatred and violence, it is a testament to the power of choice that lies within each of us, to transform and attempt to heal both ourselves and the troubled world in which we live.



"A debut memoir about adversity, identity, and a mystical quest for spiritual succor. The poignancy of her revelations...and her lifelong quest to rediscover her lost self will enthrall even readers who are skeptical of all things mystical. A beautiful, meditative account, of literary and historical merit."

— Kirkus

"The spiritual lessons of The Rose Temple open to a future where the spiritual paths of many traditions may flow together within a deep and common stream of human spirituality."

— Rabbi Gerald Serotta
Executive Director

Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington

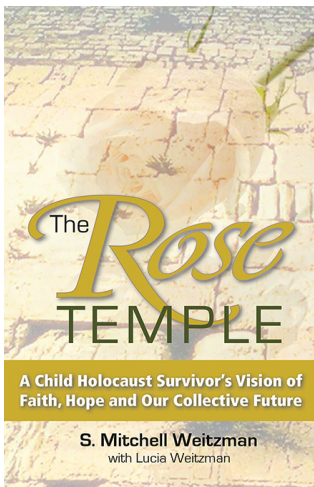
- ISBN 13: 978-0996117708
- 6 x 9 hardcover w/jacket
- 18 photos & illustrations
- 264 pages
- Perfect bound

Order By Phone
443-334-5132

RETAIL \$24.95

TheRoseTemple.com • solomon-berlmedia.com

SOLOMON BERL
M E D I A



Book Title: **THE ROSE TEMPLE**

Subtitle: ***A Child Holocaust Survivor's Vision of Faith, Hope and Our Collective Future***

Author: **S. Mitchell Weitzman with Lucia Weitzman**

ISBN 13: 978-0996117708

Pub Date: May, 2016

Retail: \$24.95

Interior: Black & White

Cover: Full Color Jacket

Trim/Extent: 6 x 9 / 264 pp.

Illustrations: 18 photos & diagrams

Binding: Hardcover

Category: Holocaust Studies / Spirituality / Memoir / History

Distribution: Ingram, Baker & Taylor, Amazon.com, Smashwords, Kobo

Synopsis: Memoir of Rose Berl, a child Holocaust survivor who lives through Poland's Nazi occupation as "Alicja Swiatek," the daughter of a Catholic couple, and discovers her Jewish origins after the war. Sensing a dim future as a Jew in Communist Poland, she barely escapes authorities to America. There she reclaims her Jewish heritage, marries and starts a family, and changes her name yet again, to Lucia Weitzman. Later, haunted by her past and grieving the loss of her husband, Lucia makes a spiritual trek to Jerusalem's Western Wall, where she confronts God. Unexpectedly, she senses a comforting response. Following this experience, she begins to have vivid dreams containing deep spiritual symbolism, which spill over into her waking life. She shares these experiences and the fear and wonder they inspire with her attorney son, Mitchell. Together, they write this fascinating account of her life and the compelling conclusions she draws about the real meaning of suffering, hope, forgiveness and spirituality.

More than a Holocaust history or memoir: a heady read that ultimately asks readers to examine their own lives...fueled with the passion of an individual's journey, accessible to a wide audience: a standout read in the literature of Holocaust survivors and Jewish spiritual exploration.

– Midwest Book Review

Lucia Weitzman lives within the awareness of [her dreams] each day, somehow having this inner knowing they will ultimately lead her to the heart of her authentic self. And most beautifully, she understands that this journey never really ends—it is just the beginning of a soul finding its wings and living from the center of that truth.

– Barbara Techel, author

"Through Frankie's Eyes: One Woman's Journey to her Authentic Self, and the Dog on Wheels Who Led the Way"

Promotional Support:

- Active, dedicated, regularly updated book-centric website – TheRoseTemple.com
- Active social media presences for author & title on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter
- Active author website with blog – MitchellWeitzman.com
- Direct mail campaigns to Jewish organizations, gift shops and schools
- Generous review copies & press kits, with active review outreach
- Ongoing author appearance schedule for book signings and digital slide presentations at Jewish organizations & museums, libraries, bookstores and schools
- Ongoing press releases around author appearances, events & related topics in the news

12129 Faulkner Drive • Owings Mills, MD 21117

SOLOMON BERL
M E D I A

TheRoseTemple.com • mitchellw@solomon-berlmedia.com • 443.334.5132