

Lucia Modiano Sulam

4.3.1923 - 2.4.2010



Lucia Modiano Sulam was born in Rhodes on March 4th 1923. The fourth child of the Modiano family, one of the most respectable families of Rhodes that originated from Thessalonica.

Life in the Modiano family was quiet until 1943, when the Germans occupied Rhodes following the downfall of Mussolini. In 1944 (towards the end of

the war in the Balkans), the Germans transported all of the Jewish population of Rhodes, including the Modiano family, to the Auschwitz concentration camp where Lucia lost all her family except of her cousin Sami Modiano.

Lucia survived Auschwitz and after the end of war, she spent three years in a refugee camp in Italy waiting for authorization to return to her home in Rhodes. Of all the Jews from Rhodes that survived the war, she was the only one who returned to Rhodes. The rest of the survivors had chosen to build their new homes in different parts of the world.

After returning to Rhodes, Lucia met Moshe Sulam, also originally from Rhodes, who managed to escape to Turkey when the Germans occupied Rhodes and joined the army of the Allies.

Lucia and Moshe got married and had three girls: Bulissa (Lina) Gracia and Diana. Later, Lucia

had seven grandchildren as well as fourteen great-grandchildren. Lucia always said that the family that she built was her revenge on the Nazis, who destroyed all her family.

In Rhodes, Lucia and Moshe were taking care of «Kahal Shalom" synagogue, which is almost the last reminder of the great Jewish community of Rhodes that was nearly completely exterminated.

In 1982, Moshe Sulam passed away suddenly. Lucia, a young widow of 57 years was alone after her three children immigrated to Israel. Lucia insisted on staying in Rhodes and was refusing to join her family in Israel.

During her years in the synagogue, she shared stories with the visitors commemorating in this way the glorious past of the community and the extermination of the people from Rhodes.

They were all charmed by Lucia's kindness and honesty and the fact that she was always smiling and joyful despite all the hardships she had endured.

She was mostly appreciated and loved by her friends and neighbors.

In April 2nd 2010 at the age of 87, Lucia passed away.

May she rest in peace.