

# DIE LETZTEN ZEUGEN

## Leo RECHTER geb. 1927

USA

Family members, who were murdered:

- Joseph David RECHTER, father
- Adele HERSCHKOWITZ, aunt
- Jakob SCHUSS, grandfather
- Jakob WALDHÜTER, uncle
- Leizer SCHUSS, uncle
- Aaron SCHUSS, uncle
- Edith HERSCHKOWITZ, cousin
- Paula WALDHÜTER, cousin
- Bianca WALDHÜTER, cousin
- Fanny KOSUBSKI, cousin
- Gezer BLAUSTEIN, cousin
- and 6 other cousins named SCHUSS – first names unknown

Leo Rechter was born in Vienna, Austria, and attended his first year of 'Gymnasium' when the Nazis invaded. After the 'Kristallnacht' in November 1938, his family, including one younger sister, fled to Belgium where the Nazis eventually caught up with them. His father was deported and never returned; a baby brother was born two months later in 1942.

At a relatively young age, Leo became the principal breadwinner of the family.

They were repeatedly on the run: moved from one hiding place to another, in back-alleys and sordid tenements. At one time they were actually caught by the Gestapo, but managed to escape.

After World War II, Leo went to Israel in 1950, where he spent 7 years. In 1957, he came to the United States.

### A Message to Deniers

A Holocaust Survivor's Lament by Leo Rechter

The scars seemed closed  
The griefs reposed;  
Your callous claim  
Old wounds inflames – your brutish lie!

Our kin you slew  
Meek infants too  
Gone young and old  
Six million told – now you deny!

Erstwhile deemed mild  
The ache's gone wild  
Inside my chest  
As anger crests – All senses cry!

Don't near my face  
My rage might blaze  
My wrath might strike  
Your evil psyche – don't dare deny!

The true report  
Don't dare distort  
Don't let your lie  
More hurts decry – don't dare deny!

# A LETTER TO THE STARS