

## Lida Lerner

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Lida Lerner was born in Odessa (formerly a part of the Russian Empire) on January 10, 1913 to a Jewish family. She enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at the Università di Siena during the 1934-1935 academic year; in 1937 she moved to Turin, returning to Siena a year later. Enrolling in her final year on November 18, 1938, she attended all six years of university consecutively and graduated on July 15, 1939. The Questura asked news of her whereabouts at the university on January 18, 1939.

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### Wedding and Emigration to New York

Lida married a colleague, Philip Ernst (Jeruchim Fischel), who also graduated with a degree in medicine from the Università di Siena in July of 1939. The young Philip Ernst, who was of Polish origin, had emigrated to New York in 1928 where he obtained citizenship; he then moved to Italy to pursue university studies.

On April 6, 1940, Lida Lerner left for America from Genoa on the ship *Manhattan*<sup>1</sup> with her husband. In October of 1940 they settled in Brooklyn, on 165 Minna Street. It is not clear whether she had a job; her husband Philip was employed at the nearby Unity Hospital at 1545 St. Johns Place<sup>2</sup>. The couple went on a trip to Israel in December of 1949, where they presumably had relatives; Lida and Ernst, who relocated to Mays Landing, New Jersey in 1950, had two children, Jerome and Doris; the family returned to Israel during the summer of 1953<sup>3</sup>. Lida Lerner Ernst was widowed in 1980 and died

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<sup>1</sup> Ellis Island Foundation, *Passenger Search, ad nomen* <<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org>> (date of access August 2020).

<sup>2</sup> The National Archives and Records Administration, St. Louis (MO), *Draft Registration Cards for New York State, 10/16/1940 - 3/31/1947*, «Philip Ernst» (available online after registration at <<https://www.ancestry.com>>)

<sup>3</sup> Regarding the trips, the initial plane departure took place on December 11, 1949 from New York, while the return took place on January 8, 1950. The departure of the second trip took

on October 3, 1998 in Sayville, New York<sup>4</sup>.

### Archival Sources

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- *United States, Social Security Death Index (SSDI), 1935-2014*, n. 085-12-8271 (available online at <<https://www.ancestry.com>>).

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place on June 3, 1953 and the return on August 24, 1953, cfr. Ellis Island Foundation, *Passenger Search, ad nomen* <<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org>>

<sup>4</sup> United States, *Social Security Death Index (SSDI), 1935-2014*, n. 085-12-8271 (available online upon registration at <<https://www.ancestry.com>>).

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