

## VHEC ARCHIVES FINDING AID

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### FONDS/COLLECTION TITLE

Amalia Boe-Fishman fonds

### IDENTIFIER

RA041

### EXTENT & MEDIUM

530.9 MB electronic records (.pdf, .txt, .rtf, .doc, .jpg, .htm, .pages) 17 photographs : black and white, colour 1 album : 26 pages

### DATE

1930–2018

### CREATOR

Boe-Fishman, Amalia

### ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

Amalia Boe-Fishman was born in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, in 1939 to Johanna (née de Leeuw) (1908–1992) and Arnold van Kreveld (1909–1992). The van Kreveld family were a secular Jewish family well integrated into life in the province of Friesland in the Netherlands prior to the Second World War. Amalia survived the Holocaust in hiding at the home of a colleague of her father's named Jan Spiekhout, a member of the Dutch resistance. Amalia's parents and older brother (David, born 1937) were separated and the family hid in different places during the war. A second brother (Jan, named after Jan Spiekhout) was born during the war, in November 1944. After the war, the family rented a house on the same street in Leeuwarden where they had lived before the war. Amalia attended summer camp hosted by the Humanistisch Verbond Ethical Society in 1947. She remained close to the Spiekhouts throughout her life.

Amalia met her ex-husband, a Canadian Jew, while in Israel at age 21; they moved to Canada in 1962 after marrying in Holland that same year. The couple had three children. They divorced in 1983. Amalia remarried in 1994 to Kristen Boe.

In 1999, Amalia visited the Netherlands and her foster brother, Simon Spiekhout, who was her baby brother while she lived in hiding. Jan Spiekhout and his parents, Durk and Froukje Spiekhout, were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in 2008 for their role in sheltering Amalia during the war. Amalia and her children attended the ceremony honouring the Spiekhouts in The Hague in 2009.

Amalia lives in Vancouver and is an active Holocaust survivor speaker.

### SCOPE & CONTENT

Fonds consists of documentation supporting Amalia Boe Fishman's application to Yad Vashem's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority to have Fishman's foster family, the Spiekhouts, recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, and one letter and photographs belonging to the van Kreveld family of Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. Fonds is arranged into three series: Correspondence, Spiekhout album (1942–2009), Family

photographs (1930–1999) and My War Story website documents (2007–2018).

### **ARCHIVAL HISTORY**

Accession 2019.099. Digital documents donated in 2020 were processed as part of the 2019.099 accession.

### **IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION OR TRANSFER**

Materials were in the custody of Amalia Boe-Fishman prior to being donated to the VHEC in 2019. Amalia's son, Ben Fishman, provided access to the family's digital documentation in support of the Yad Vashem application to the VHEC in January 2020.

### **ACCRUALS**

Further accruals are not expected.

### **LANGUAGE**

Dutch, English

### **SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT**

Records are arranged into series by the archivist based on groupings established by the creator.

### **RIGHTS**

Donor relinquished rights to materials in fonds upon their donation to the VHEC but the fonds contains third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Researchers are responsible for determining the appropriate use or reuse of materials.

### **RULES OR CONVENTIONS**

ISAD(G) informed by Rules for Archival Description

### **ARCHIVIST'S NOTE**

Created January 2020 by Shyla Seller with assistance from Amalia Boe-Fishman.

### **DATE OF DESCRIPTION**

2020

## **Collection Contents**

#### Correspondence and Spiekhout album (RA041-01)

Series is made up of correspondence and an album of photographs, personal records and ephemera compiled by Amalia Boe-Fishman to document her childhood in hiding and relationship with the Spiekhout family over time, culminating in her visit to the Netherlands to attend a ceremony recognizing the Spiekhouts as Righteous Among the Nations. Captions written by Amalia accompany some of the photographs.

#### Family photographs (RA041-02)

Series is comprised of photographs of the van Kreveld / Boe-Fishman family and friends.

#### My War Story website documents (RA041-03)

Series consists of electronic records displayed on a website (formerly at [www3.telus.net/public/fishwit/Holocaust/Remembering\\_the\\_Survivors.htm](http://www3.telus.net/public/fishwit/Holocaust/Remembering_the_Survivors.htm)) designed by Jan Fishman in support of his

mother Amalia's application to Yad Vashem's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority to have the Spiekhouts recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. Once the recognition was achieved the website was taken down by the family. Electronic records are both born-digital and digitized copies of analogue originals. Records are photographs, speeches, stories, translations, correspondence and other materials gathered by Amalia Boe-Fishman as part of her application.