They took my father into forced labor, where he perished. My mother and aunt then brought me to a Swiss-protected house but that didn’t help. Arrow Cross soldiers grabbed my mother and took her away; my aunt ran with me into the ghetto. Somehow Mom came back to us and we continued hiding in any place we could find, even in a public toilet. We were terrified they would find us or a bomb would hit us. Somehow, we survived.

Olga Sólyom is a regular guest of Café Centropa, a bimonthly social club for Holocaust survivors, which is underwritten by the Claims Conference. Olga receives a monthly pension from the Claims Conference Central and Eastern European Fund, and some homecare to make living alone easier.

Olga Schwarcz was born in 1934 in Budapest. Her father had been a military officer, her mother a dressmaker. Olga was studying in a Jewish school when war came to Budapest in 1944. She lost her father to forced labor. She, her mother and aunt survived the Budapest ghetto, where they hid from marauding bands of Hungarian Arrow Cross soldiers hunting for Jews.

Olga worked as foreign trade manager. She is divorced and has one son, who visits her regularly. Olga is a passionate believer in relaying her wartime story to high school students, and although well into her 80s, she is in constant demand.