



## *John Rosenberg*

**JOHN ROSENBERG** was born in Magdeburg, Germany on October 7th, 1931. His father was a Jewish schoolteacher and assisted the local rabbi while his mother kept a kosher household. Although too young to recall much of the Nazi Regime's rise to power, John remembers attending first grade in a school for Jewish children that his father helped organize after a Nazi decree forced Jewish students from a school for Aryan children. John also has vivid memories of Kristallnacht, "The Night of Broken Glass."



KRISTALLNACHT. MADGEBURG, GERMANY

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After World War II began, John and his family immigrated to the United States. He eventually studied law, serving 8 years as a trial attorney and then Section Chief in the Civil Rights division of the US Department of Justice.

In the 1970s John was drawn to the unique social justice issues affecting the poor mining communities of eastern Kentucky.

John and his family settled in eastern Kentucky, where he helped found the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund in Prestonsburg, which provides free legal aid to people in need. He and his colleagues provided legal assistance on serious issues such as black lung disease and loss of land due to strip mining.



John and Jean Rosenberg in 2016

John and his wife, Jean, still live in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, where they raised their two children, Michael and Annie. Jean is a Quaker. Despite their interfaith marriage and the absence of a large Jewish community in Prestonsburg, the Rosenbergs ensured their children were raised in the Jewish tradition. Jean says that in their marriage the two traditions feed off each other since

*Judaism is  
"a continuum of  
history."*