

My name is Amy Rosoff. I currently reside in Ballston Spa, NY, where I own my home that I share with my mother, Lois Schechter and my daughter, Emily Rosoff, who is a junior in college. I was born in Nyack, NY in 1964, 3 years after my parents and older brother fled Cuba after their property and livelihood was seized by the Cuban government. My family lives modestly; we share a mother-daughter house, and I'm presently working for a plumbing supply company as their Website Coordinator.

My father, who died 10 years ago, was born in Havana in 1924 and held dual American and Cuban citizenships. He met and married my mother Lois Schechter, an American, in 1957. The Cuban revolution changed their lives dramatically. Their land had been appropriated by the government, essentially stolen out from under them, and it became increasingly difficult for them to earn a living because of the restrictions put on businesses. My parents left Cuba in April of 1961 on one of the last ferries to the United States.

My father eventually started working for my maternal grandfather in his shoe store in Nyack, New York. He was lucky that he had that opportunity, but his life was irrevocably changed. Cuba continued to be a part of our lives, however. Our family recipes are a bizarre blend of mostly Cuban food sprinkled with traditional Jewish dishes. My father kept in touch with Cuban friends, who had largely settled in Miami. For the remainder of his life, he always seemed happiest when talking and visiting with them. He never gave up his dream of returning to Cuba, and I hope to fulfill his desire to get our family's property back, or at least receiving restitution for the family property, history, and legacy that was stolen.