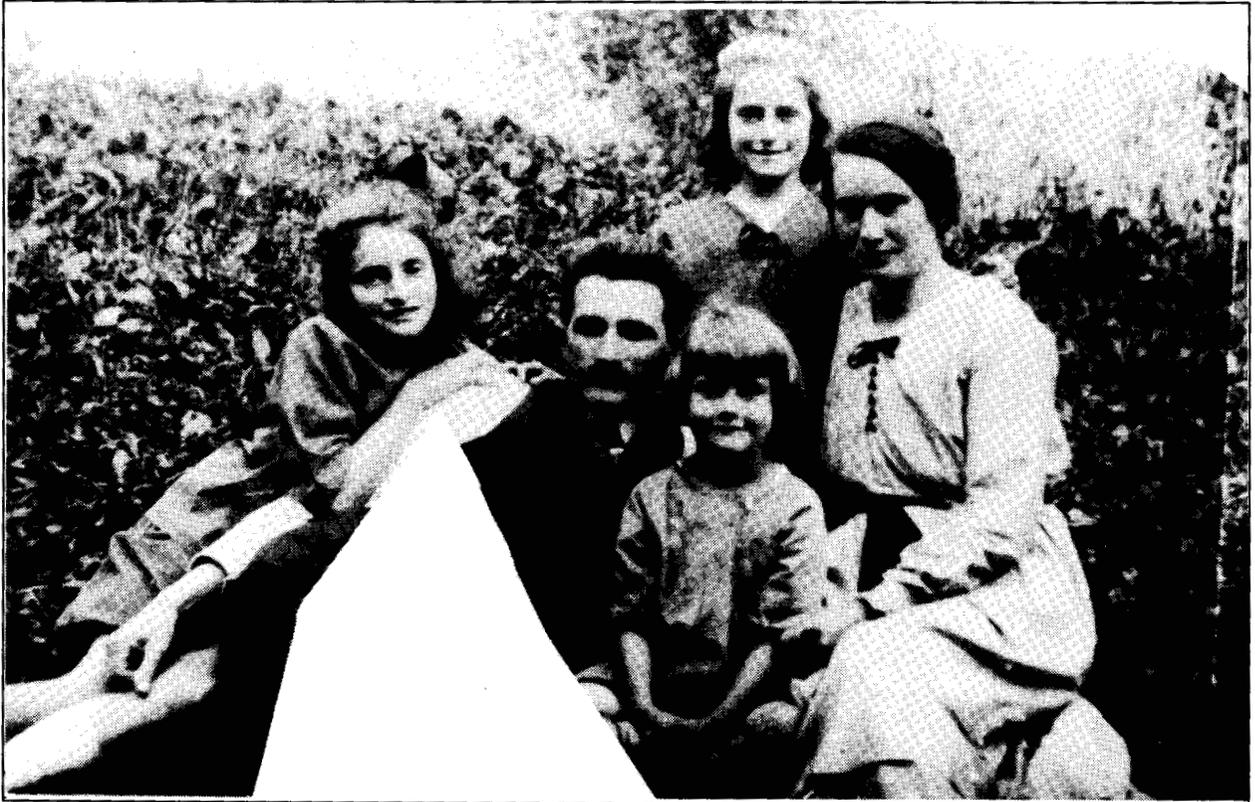


home is a loaded word

by Eve Goldberg

Fragmentation. Leaving. Separation from people, separation from place. Pieces of myself that I have left behind as I explore an ever-expanding emotional and physical landscape. Surveying this geography is a way to begin to put these pieces together.



1. rootlessness seems to come easily to me
as a Jew
granddaughter and great-granddaughter of
Jews who left the shtetls of
Poland, Ukraine, Russia;
who themselves were most likely
grandchildren and great-grandchildren of
Jews who left someplace else
to arrive there

some stayed behind
 to meet
 another fate
 known to me only
 in the tiniest pieces,
 I grieve their absence



2. home is loaded word.
 someone
 must have come from Israel
 at some point
 Israel.
 home?
 a land
 occupied by other peoples now
 where invading armies
 claim their land in my name
 can I call such a place
 home?

we land
 here
 this turtle island
 of north america
 home?
 a land stolen
 from other peoples
 littered with broken promises
 made in my name
 can I call such a place
 home?

3. two sides with many sides
 immigrants/
 Jews/religious/agnostic/atheist
 working-class/communists/
 bigots/intellectuals/
 cantors/pharmacists/
 educators/linoleum cutters/housewives/
 fighters/musicians/



4. some separations
occupy so much space
that I cannot remember
what must have been before them

5. I have left a lot of places.

something that I was must
be back there too
I am going back to find

this is me
this is me
that is me
this is me, too
and this is me



Eve Goldberg is an American Jewish activist and musician.

These photographs were originally part of an exhibit called "Lifelines: Recovering Family and Community History," organized by The Moment Project of the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice in Toronto, May 1993, coordinated by Anne Pyke.