

Ursula Marx

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Summary

Ursula Marx was born as Ursula Guthmann February 5, 1920 in Breslau, Germany which is now part of Poland to Martin and Elise Regina Lowey Guthmann and has a sister, Suzana Guthmann Rosenberg born October 12, 1917. Her father had a business partner and they sold truckloads of corn and grains. They lived in a large apartment and Ursula shared a bedroom with her sister. They had indoor plumbing, electricity and a radio. They had a maid, a cook and a part-time nanny. The family spoke German and were assimilated Jews. She and her sister attended a private school where most of the students were Jewish. They would vacation in the mountains. Her father's business failed with the Depression and they moved to Berlin where he secured another business partner. The business was a success for several years until the Nazis were active. Their life proceeded nicely with Ursula attending high school and going to the opera and synagogue occasionally. Her friends accepted her until Hitler came. Ursula gradually became aware of Hitler due to movie news showing Nazis marching, park benches not available to Jews, the Brownshirts on the streets, prohibition to hire a maid under 45, and the onset of Jewish theatre as Jews were not permitted into theatres. School stopped in 1936. Her father was not worried as he had served in World War I. He was saved on Kristallnacht by hiding in a friend's home where the Nazis had already searched. The next day Ursula saw the broken glass and burning synagogue and wanted to leave. She realized she had a cousin in the US and secured affidavits for her and her sister but they had to await their quota number. Meanwhile their friend, Dr. Balderson, arranged for them to be taken care of by Dr. Harding a Quaker living in England. They had to pay the German government for each belonging they removed from the country. They took a train and while being checked at the border, missed their train and had to stay overnight for the next train. They took the ferry to London and soon moved to Sussex. They secured positions for their parents so they could come to England (maid for mother and chauffeur for father) but war started and they could not leave. They could not secure affidavits for them to the US so applied for Australian visas for them. Meanwhile Ursula and her sister took positions as maids on the same street. Their own visas to the US came through and they took a ship from Liverpool but it collided with a Canadian troop ship so returned to London and took the next ship out. The sisters arrived in the US on January 3, 1940 and stayed with their father's friend in Washington Heights and got jobs as maids. They obtained a visa for their parents for Santo Domingo and their parents started their voyage through Russia to Yokohama. There they took a ship to Panama and flew to Santo Domingo as there was a shipping strike. A few months later, in '41, their parents took a ship from Santo Domingo to the US. Her mother soon got sick with kidney disease and passed away December 18, 1941 and later her luggage arrived. Ursula married Eddy Kline who she knew from Berlin and lived with her father while he served during the war. He got a medical discharge due to Hodgkin's Disease and they had a daughter. After he passed away, Ursula married Harry Marx in 1959 and had another daughter. They visited Germany on business where Ursula did not hold bad feelings toward the people as they were not born during the Holocaust. She has gradually told her story to her children.