

Dr. Peter Aldrin

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Abstract

Dr. Peter Aldrin was born as Peter Abenstan October 29, 1932 in Severing Petrobras (?), Germany near Berlin to Ellie Henrietta Meyerhof and Otto Abenstan as an only child. His father raised cattle and traveled to obtain breeding stock for the locals. Peter tells how stones were thrown at store windows by a mob who said, "Hit the Jews until dead." The family left for Hamburg where they stayed a year or two and then on to Luxembourg when his father was arrested in Belgium where he was buying leather. Peter attended many school due to the family's many moves and was always looking to make friends. His father was placed in Les Milles concentration camp in France so Peter and his mother went to live near his camp. His mother was hidden and he was placed in a Children's Home where he was always hungry, had frostbite and missed his mother. Next he entered a school run by monks and his mother took him out when the war ended. His father had been deported to Auschwitz. Peter was placed in a school in Toulouse and his mother married Mr. Fleishman, a non-Jewish German who was a painter and educated Peter in art. He had been arrested and interned during the war in a concentration camp in France until he escaped. After the war, through the internet, Peter found eight of his classmates. In 1952 at age 19, Peter got a visa through his uncle and came to the U.S. and went to Kansas City, MO and his mother and stepfather came soon after. He obtained his Ph.D. at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. in Clinical Psychology. He was in private practice in New York. He sees "Survivor Syndrome" in his patients and in himself. He was married twice and had two children. He wrote his memoir which he donated to the Holocaust Museum along with other materials. Peter has nightmares of his Lycee scapegoating experience. He believes he has Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome due to lack of childhood during his formative years, absence of parents and anxiety.