This is a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs. Thea Lindauer in Anneapolis, Maryland on August 23, 2017. Thank you, Mrs. Lindauer, for agreeing to meet and speak with us today and to share your story with us.

Thank you.

I'm going to start with the most basic questions. And from there, we'll build your story. So the very first one is, can you tell me the date of your birth?

My birth date is July 17, 1922.

And where were you born? I was born in a small town in Germany in the Palatinate. It's called Eisenberg.

Eisenberg.

And if you want to locate it, the Army had a big base nearby, called "The Big K", Kaiserslautern.

Ah, in Kaiserslautern. Well, the US Army did after the war?

Right.

Yeah, OK.

And Eisenberg was a town of about 6,000 citizens.

What was your name at birth?

My birth name is Thea Kahn.

How do I spell that?

K-A-H-N.

OK. And tell me a little bit about your mother and your father. I will start with your father. What was his name?

Well, my father was quite-- I'll show you a picture later-- quite a handsome young man. And he courted a woman named Frida Loewenstein.

Excuse me, what was his name?

His name was Samuel Kahn.

And let me ask a few questions about him before we talk about Frieda. When was he born?

I'm sorry, I'm not quite sure, but in 1879, I think.

OK, so he was around 40-plus years when you were born?

Yes.

And was he born in Eisenberg? Is that--

No, no, he came from Trier.

Oh, from Trier?

Mhm.

OK, so his family was from Trier?

Yes, and actually from a little suburb called [? Baben. ?] [? Baben ?] was a suburb of Trier. And he was born there.

And so was his family from there originally?

Yeah, well, as far as I know, because I never knew his parents. They were both dead by the time I was born.

What about brothers and sisters? Did he have brothers and sisters?

Yes, he had two brothers, Benjamin and Herman. And I got to know both of them. They both-- well, they were all over Europe. The family was very European oriented.

Tell me, in location to Eisenberg, how far is Trier?

Oh, it's quite a ways. Trier is in the Upper Rhineland. And Eisenberg is in the Palatinate. So in terms of the United States distance, it wasn't. But as European distances are, it seemed quite a long way.

So your father was one of three boys?

Yes.

Was he the oldest, the youngest, the middle?

I think he was the middle.

OK, and the other two were Herman, and-- remind me again?

Benjamin.

Benjamin. Did they all have higher education?

No. As far as I know, they all went to grammar school and training school, which, again, that was, in Europe, a very acceptable way of being educated.

And your grandparents on your father's side, even though you didn't know them, do you know how they supported the family, you know, what kind of--

No, I really don't. Strangely enough, I know more about my husband's family than I did about my own. I really don't know. I thought he was in, my grandfather was in livestock trade. That seems to be the occupation that most--

There were a lot.

Yeah.

Yeah, there were a lot of people who were in that trade, a lot of Jewish people.

Yes.

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Did you know your uncles? Were they part of your life?

Yes. I knew both of them. I used to visit them during summer vacations. One of them lived in Saarbrucken, Heusweiler. And I'm trying to remember where Uncle Benny lived. I really can't. All I know is the last that I heard of him and saw him, we were in Luxembourg where one of his sons was living.

OK, so these are very pretty parts of Germany and of Europe. Saarbrucken is a lovely little city. Luxembourg is as well. Do you know what kind of businesses they had?

Yes.

Or were they in business? I mean--

Yes, they were. Again, I think my uncle was also in the handling of the buying and selling of animals. My father was a merchant plus a-- how would you call him? An agent for different things like life insurance, fire insurance.

He was an insurance agent?

Yeah, he was-- well, not insurance, but--

A broker?

--he would get tickets, bulk tickets. He would have life insurance, fire insurance, and whatever kind of insurance was needed. But in general, he was a merchant. He had a general merchandise store--

I see. --with a tailoring attached, because people would buy fabric. And he had someone there to manufacture [CROSS TALK]

So it was custom clothing?

Yeah.

And my Uncle Herman was in the same business.

Uncle Herman?

Yes, the one who lived near Saarbrucken.

OK, but it was a separate store. It wasn't like they were in business together.

No, no, they both had their own.

OK, but it sounds like, then, these stores had been established, these businesses had been established by them--

Yes.

--not inherited, not something that had been in the family.

No.

Do you know why your father settled in Eisenberg?

I really don't, except that his first wife was from Eisenberg. She was a Lowenstein. And they were largely in-- what was it-- hardware, well, the hardware business. So she was a local of Eisenberg. And I have a feeling that's where my dad

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settled in.

OK, so he settled closer to her family and her place?

Yes.

OK. And her name was? Was also Frieda.

Frieda.

Frieda Lowenstein.

OK, and did they have any children?

Well, they had-- I had two half sisters. And they were quite a bit older, because they were married before the war, the First World War. And the two of them grew up actually with my Aunt, my mother's sister, because their mother died of Spanish influenza during World War One.

So this-- was this the influenza pandemic in 1918? I see. I see. Now, do you know the year your father married his first wife?

No, I do not.

Do you know the year your sisters were born? The years your sisters were born.

Oh dear, that's also difficult to say. But I would say they were born well before she died, before the mother died.

Of course. Were they part of your childhood, these sisters?

Yes, to a degree, but as I say, they were quite a bit older. And they were known as, what you call in Germany at that time, backfisch.

Backfisch?

Backfisch.

And what is a backfisch?

A backfisch is an outgoing modern female. It's like--

Emancipated?

--a very active teenagers. They were very active teenagers.

Did they live with your father and your mother and so? Or did they--

When my father married my mother, yes, they came to live. But before that, they were with my mother's sister, who was married to the brother of the first wife.

I see.

And she more or less raised them. And then my mother took over.

So your mother had at least one brother and one sister.

My mother had 11.

Oh.

They had 11 children, I think, if I remember correctly, six boys and five girls.

Now, here is an unfair question. Can you name them all?

I wish I could, but I can't. But they all had interesting histories, because my mother's father lived in Alsace.

Alsace-Lorraine?

Alsace-Lorraine. And you know, that piece of country was always in-- how should I say-- in transition--

It was contested.

--between France and Germany.

That's right.

And as it turned out, half of my uncles were in the German army. And half of them were in the French army. So it was like Civil War, you know?

Oh, how painful.

Yes.

You know, that-- you know, in contested territories throughout Europe, that often happens.

Yes.

It's something people don't think about, that that's what could happen.

No, they don't, but this also accounts for the fact that they spoke a patois, which I really didn't realize that half the words were French and half of them were German until later on, when I took French, I said, oh, wait a minute. This is part of the language I learned.

So did your parents also speak this patois? Or was it more German?

No, my parents spoke German. They were-- because, by that time, my mother had moved to Eisenberg. And I can't remember. The only one that I remember speaking it besides the German was my grandfather.

And your mother's first name was what?

Also Frieda.

Also Frieda?

Yes, so he married two Friedas.

And what was your mother's maiden name?

Samuel.

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Samuel? OK.

Yeah.

And did her-- although the family came from Alsace-Lorraine, did her parents also live in Eisenberg? Or was it only some siblings?

No, it was my-- my grandfather, after my grandmother died, moved in with us. So I always remember being raised by my grandfather, more or less, besides the nanny that we had.

What was his name, your grandfather's name?

Bernard.

Bernard Samuel? Can we cut for a second?

Sure.

We're hearing the alarm from the-- so your--

OK, do you want me to start again?

Yes, please.

OK, let me just-- OK.

So your grandfather lived with you. And you say he raised you.

Well, he-- I was very close to him.

Tell me what kind of personality he had.

He had a very outgoing personality. I would say, acceptance of life as it was was his strength. And he was dearly loved by everybody. And of course, I adored him.

And in fact, later on, you'll find out why I was attracted to this old gentleman named Bernard Baruch. who was quite a figure. But I didn't know that. All I know is he looked like my grandfather. And he had the name Bernard. So I always took liking to

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

--that name, I felt they were so trustworthy. He sounds like he was easy going, if he accepted life as it was.

Yes. Yes, he did. And even in his final years, he accepted the cancer and didn't want anything done. And he didn't even want to be around me when the time came. So he went to live with a sister of my mother's.

Did he die in Germany?

Yes.

OK, so he died before the war?

He died before-- well, actually, if I remember correctly, he always-- he knew I was leaving. By that time, he knew I was

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leaving Germany. And he says, I don't want to be around when you're gone. He says, I'll be gone before you. So--

So you were very special to him?

Yes, I think I was.

So did your mother's side of the family, the 11 brothers and sisters, how did-- first of all, how had your grandfather made a living to feed all these children?

No-- well, he did, he had a very successful bakery business. So you can feed a lot of the children with that.

That's true. That was in Strasbourg. And he had one of the sons in a place also in Alsace. Wissembourg, it was called. And they had a bakery there. And one, I think one of the sons was running it.

OK. Was either side of the family particularly religious?

Yes. They were quite. They were what was known as German liberal, which is conservative more than Reform type, although Reform Judaism had come out of Germany. They were more religious than that.

But unlike Eastern European Jews, not Orthodox.

No, no. As a matter of fact, a religion-- being Jewish was treated at that time as if you were Catholic and Protestant, because you paid your tithe. You went to your services.

And it never was, until it became an ethnic problem, because you were a religion. You were German. And then you were a Jew. So this--

So your ethnicity was German.

Yes.

Your religion was Jewish.

Yes. That's how at that time it was looked on until the changes came.

Yeah. Let's talk a little bit about your early years. You were born in what year, 1922?

'22, Yes.

OK. Do you have any earliest memories?

Well, I have early memories in terms of my mother was somewhat of a social butterfly. I had a lovely nanny, I mean, kindermadchen, as they call it. And I always remember my mother being dressed up ready to go places. And we were always well taken care of.

What was the kindermadchen's name?

Lenchen.

Lenchen. Was she a local person?

Yes.

Was she Jewish?

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No. No, she was Catholic. That's why, I believe, I knew my catechism before I knew my [NON-ENGLISH].

Did she take you to church? Some--

No.

--kindermadchen did.

Yeah. No, I did not. She didn't take me to her church. I had gone for-- because when I went to school, religion, the study of religion was part of the curriculum.

Yes.

And consequently, I was exposed to Protestantism, Catholicism, and of course, Judaism. My father had a cantor, or a rabbi, whatever, come from a town called Grunstadt.

Grunstadt?

Grunstadt, which also was in-- not more than 20 k's away. And every Wednesday, I had my Jewish lessons. And as I say, I became familiar with all the others.

In smaller towns, in some ways, life is more intimate.

Yes.

And so it's easier almost to get to know about such things.

Yes. Well, not only that, in kindergarten, the best one was run by the sisters, by the nuns, so that's where you went. So I had a Catholic kindergarten and started grade school.

Public grade school?

Public grade school. Then I went away for a year when I was nine years old.

Why was that?

Well, they wanted me to be more exposed to other education. So I went to school in Switzerland for a year. But it still was not home. And so I came back to the town school.

Yeah. Well, nine is a young year.

Yeah, but that was the year you see-- that was a decisive year if you would go on to higher education. And so it was like a middle school, you see?

Was that something that was emphasized in your home, that education was important?

Oh, yes. Yes, very much so.

As I said, my father was very intelligent. Although, he, as I say, I don't think he went past trade school. But he read all the time. He read ferociously.

What kind of a personality did he have? Tell us a little bit about him.

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Well, he was a very determined man. I won't call him stubborn. But he saw-- I call him the Prophet Elijah, because he always could project ahead. That's how this whole thing happened. He saw something coming. And that's when he made the statement, I want an ocean between us when I left.

We'll get there.

Yeah, OK.

We'll get there.

But no, those are all the things. He would always project ahead. So he only saw the very best in terms of education for all of us. And in fact, by that time, when I left, my half sister Gerda was already in medical school in Leipzig. So that was--

That's pretty impressive.

Yeah, it was very impressive.

Were there any brothers in your family?

No, not that I know of.

Somewhere-- I don't know where I picked it-- oh, yes. I picked it up from the other half sister who was quite a rebel. And I guess you call that the black sheep of the family. But anyway, I thought there was a six-year-old boy somewhere that passed away by the name of Joseph. I really can't verify that.

OK, what was your-- Gerda was one of your half sisters. What was the others name?

Elsie, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth?

Yeah.

And did you have any other full siblings?

Yes. I have a sister who is now 90, believe it or not. And she lives in Evanston, Illinois. Her name is Ruth.

Ruth, OK.

And she was born about three or four years after I was.

Oh, OK, so you were the eldest of the second set.

Of the second set, yes.

OK. Do you have any memories up until the time your own sister is born of being the only child at home?

Well, I'm here again as being-- I was not, in the sense, the only child, because the two other older ones were still there. And they were in high school. And they always loitered. And of course, I don't know how this fits in, but Elizabeth, Elsie, was always a troublemaker.

And I remember one day my mother giving me an order or wanted me to do something. And Elsie very quietly nudged me and said, you don't have to listen to her. She's only your step mother.

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But she was only her step mother, she wasn't yours.

Yeah, well, but that was beside the point.

Yeah, of course.

But she wasn't she included me in that inner circle. And so of course, I repeated this to my mother, which meant I had blue marks on my behind.

Yes. You don't-- that's not something you say to your mother.

No, it's not. And she knew what was coming from. So actually, Elsie, as she was called, packed up when an uncle or somebody left. I don't remember who. And she came to the United States in 1927 already.

So that's pretty early on. So one-- Gerda was in Leipzig.

Yeah. And Elsie came to California. But we were in contact with her, but not very close.

OK. Which of your parents had the greater influence on you when you were in Germany, still in Germany?

I would say my father.

Yeah?

I knew my mother, but it was not as intimate a relationship as you have as a mother, because she was always busy. She was a good mother, but her world was culture, and as I say, just being--

A social person?

Yeah.

Did you visit your father in the store? Would you go to see him?

Oh, yes. Yes. In fact, he had a manager, a lovely woman. And I became very close to her. And then, of course, the people that were employed by my father like the tailor and so on, they would make our clothes too, our dresses and so forth. So we had good relationships.

Were these people Jewish? Or were they not?

No.

No, they weren't.

This was one of the reasons that frau-- I can't remember her name-- could keep her job. You know, they weren't supposed to work for Jews, but she was over 40. And she could keep managing my dad's store.

Because she was older? Was that a reason why?

Older people could still work for Jews. At least this was the story gave me, she still stayed. She was still with my dad.

Was there a Jewish community in Eisenberg?

Not a big one. There were just isolated families. I don't think there were more than six, seven families.

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And did you socialize with one another?

Somewhat. The one family was actually in competition with my dad, so I didn't know them. We knew the kosher butcher's family. But actually, my mother socialized mostly with Christians.

And did you-- your neighbors and so on, were they Christian children?

Yes. We played together. And everybody loved my family. It was a different sort of a relationship than you had in cities.

Tell me about that.

Well, I just felt we were part of the population there. My father was in the City Council.

You're integrated into the community.

We were integrated in the community. And I think this is one of the reasons it wasn't so hard for my father when Hitler came, because everyone kind of avoided it, and to the point where the police commissioner used to come and say, Sally, I think you better go visit your relatives, meaning there was some kind of a program coming into effect. So they did look out for him.

How would you describe the town itself? Was it a conservative kind of place? Was it a quiet place? Was it--

It was quiet. Well, it didn't reach city status until after the war when more people came there, but it was a neighborly town.

Did most people know each other?

I can't say they did. Certain neighborhoods knew each other. And of course, it's back when-- with the school children, you got to know more people. But I wouldn't say it was particularly social, that you had those inter-related things. Don't forget, my mother and my mother's sister, many of the things that they did together, that excluded everyone else, because they were family.

Yeah. Tell me a little bit about the development. Well, let's start with your own home. Did you live close to where the store was?

Well, the store was in-- we had a huge house. The store actually was in--

Part of it?

--in the first floor. And we lived in the second floor, except for the kitchen and the dining room. It was just a huge house, to the point that the synagogue was in my house, even.

Oh my goodness.

And on holidays, the people from around, all around the area would come to our house for services. My father was a cantor, among other things. And my mother would be hospitable to all of them. We fed all everybody that came. So and that, she was a really excellent, an excellent hostess.

And were you living in the center of town? Well, it was-- yes, it was the center. It was the main street. And of course, a lot of, what you would call a lot of traffic, which wasn't really that much, I mean--

Were there more horses or cars?

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Well, I hadn't thought of that, but I would say more horses, because there were a number of cars. I know we didn't have one, but my uncle had one. So we were on the go with them. But I would say there was still a lot of farmland, small farming, even within the town.

Even within?

What was the name of your father's store?

Sam Kahn-- Sam Kahn, something. I forgot how he worded it.

I know that after the war it would be [NON-ENGLISH]. But I wonder whether that was the case before the war.

What, [NON-ENGLISH]?

Yeah.

No, he wasn't [NON-ENGLISH]. But in some way, I can't remember how that his agencies were a very important part.

Would it be Samuel Kahn [NON-ENGLISH]?

No, it wasn't. He didn't specify what. It was like an incorporate, but I don't know what the--

What the term is. That's OK. That's OK. I was just curious. So you lived above the store, in other words?

Well, we lived same floor with the kitchen and the dining room. And then everything else was above.

And the house had electricity?

Everything.

Plumbing?

Plumbing, yes.

Did you have electricity, plumbing-- what kind of heating?

We had-- well, we had--

Was it cold?

--hot water radiator heat. In the kitchen, we had one of those tiled ovens.

Oh, was it [NON-ENGLISH]?

[NON-ENGLISH]. And we also had gas, because our cooking was done on a gas stove.

OK, so you had both types of--

Heat.

--heat. These are more modern developed types of heating devices.

Yes, I know.

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Yeah. And indoor plumbing, so no one had to haul the water in or anything like that-- did you have a radio?

We had a radio. We had a record player. My mother was-- well, us today, you would call her a groupie, because she was very much taken with, at that time, the most popular German tenor. His name was Richard Tauber.

Richard Tauber?

Yes.

Really?

And my mother had friends in Frankfurt. And she'd go to see every time he performed there, so she'd get to see Richard Tauber.

And he must have had records too.

Oh gosh, yes. As a matter of fact, I still have, I-- my son and got me a DVD. And I have his records.

Oh my.

So we're still with Richard Tauber. He went-- well, because he was Jewish, he went to England when all of this came.

All this came, yeah. Let's talk a little bit about your school experiences. You say you went to a Catholic--

Kindergarten.

--kindergarten, and then to public school.

Public school, yeah.

Do you have any memories of the kindergarten?

Well, I have some memories. The nuns were very strict, I know that. And one of the things I hate to this day is black stockings, because at the age of five, I learned to knit black stockings to go with my uniform. So don't-- if I make anything knitting, I will not be black stockings.

Oh my goodness, but wouldn't stockings be very thin and therefore difficult to knit?

They were heavy.

They were heavy.

This was wool. All I know is--

If you never see you another one, it's too soon, huh?

No. And I have always hated black stockings since, but they went with the uniform. And they were very patient with me and my mistakes. And eventually, they got done and worn. So that would have only been one year, this kindergarten. Is that right?

No, it was-- I think it was two. I [INAUDIBLE] four and five that you could go there. But there was no such thing as pre-K. You know, they took you-- actually, I think there was some children that were three years old, but I don't know. But I know I was four and five.

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And then you went into regular public school?

Yes.

What was that like? Did you like going to school?

Yes, because first of all, I had a very, very nice first-grade teacher. And they were all nice except one already had, as far as I was concerned, the leaning toward Hitler at that time.

And you would have been how old when you get this sense from her? What grade would you have been in?

Well, I didn't have her. But the teachers all know each other. And they-- because it was that kind of a school. And somehow, I felt a great apathy for this woman. Now, I don't know if this came out later or not, but it was--

Was her manner different towards you than to other children? Well--

Or was she just--

--not really. She was just a very tough woman. And the others were more benign, and more understanding, and so forth.

Did you have any favorite teachers?

Yes. But this was later. In fact, I went to see him when he was retired. And he was still alive in Germany when I went out on my first tour with my husband.

So this would have been after the war?

Oh, yes.

So before the war, about how old were you when you had this particular teacher that we were talking about now?

Well, I was in seventh grade. I was 12.

12, OK, so that would have been already after Hitler comes to power. And what was this man's name?

Steuer, his name was Steuer.

Herr Steuer? OK, and what did he teach? Well, they all taught general.

I see.

They had no particular subject that they taught above others. I know he was always very interested in flowers and biology. And I remember bringing him little bouquets of violets and something like that. So it was very nice.

And his assistant, then he got an assistant who was also, whom I wanted to see in Germany when we went back, still alive. And of course, he was quite a bit younger. And well, during the war, I guess he lost a lot. And he, I remember he j limped. And I never asked him about it, but, when was in the war, of course, fought for Germany. So there are certain things you don't ask.

And this was about-- what year would this have been after the war?

Oh, I would say, let's see, '54, '55.

Later when we come to that part, I'm going to ask you more questions about this, because not many people returned to

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Germany. Many didn't want to.

Yes, I realize that. You had some very opposite. There was one woman who went out there and lived in vengeance. And I always felt, how can she do this to herself? Because she was bitter.

And so it made her so miserable, just be out there, unless you could return with-- oh, how shall I put it-- a feeling of understanding, forgiveness, realize there were not all black and white. There were shades of gray of people who were caught in situations.

Like the man who helped my father out of Germany lost two sons in the concentration camps. He was a newspaper editor. So how can you condemn the whole human race, so to speak? I know a lot deserved it, but I-- well, come to think of it, I had to work with a psychologist for about six months before I could go out--

Really?

--because I did not want to go along a street thinking of everyone as in, what did you do in the war?

Well, tell me, how did that-- that's an interesting point. And even though I would normally come to that later, let's explore that a little bit now, because I think there were a lot of people who would have the same feeling and might still have the same feeling, but take it to generations, that is, not what did you do during the war, but what did your grandfather do during the war, and that you look at somebody like that. And did you find, when you say you went to a psychologist, did you find that you were thinking that that is how you were going to look at everybody and you didn't want to?

Yes, in a way. I felt it would be such a waste of time, and energy, and emotion looking at everybody that came in my path, because we were sure to meet Germans. I knew we would, because my husband actually worked with Germans when he was out there.

He was part of the US armed forces?

Yes, he was.

And so I just could not see myself going through this questioning period day, after day, after day.

And so you anticipated this?

Yes, I did in a way, that I could not-- see, let me backtrack. When I left Germany, I still had great feelings, because I had not suffered, you see? And then knowing what happened afterwards, the what ifs, and so forth-- but I couldn't say, was he a friend? Was he not a friend? What do I remember about them? And so I felt that would just take time and energy, that I did not want to question.

And so what was the process that you went through when you started seeing this psychologist, or having a conversation, or more than one conversation? What developed from that?

Well, then I was able to live in Germany, and enjoy the things I used to enjoy, and make friends. What their role in the war was, I don't know, because some are military, so I didn't ask. But I think I got a shock only once, where I went to a what they call a shopping center and went into an antique store.

And there in the display were what were obviously Jewish silver ornaments. And that shook me, because there was a Shabbos set in silver. So other than that, I accepted what they said.

Yeah, I'm sorry to interrupt, but how did the psychology experience help this question not to be the dominant one? I ask you this because other people have these questions. And there is a process one has to go through.

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And some say, I don't want to go through that process. This is how I want to look at things. And other people will say, well, I don't know how else to look at them. Help me. You know, so that's why I'm asking.

Yeah, well, I took everyone at what there was. We were introduced. They knew I, because of the way I spoke German and everything else-- which incidentally, I had to relearn, because I did not speak German from the time I came over here until my parents came again.

And then my father wanted to talk English. But the point is, if they had something to blame themself for, that's their business. Then let them. If they could see me, they know I survived.

Whatever was on their conscience, that was up to them. You see? And I only remember one woman whom I also met, who was the wife of a former German officer, saying to me, I'm glad you got out, and meant it. So whatever she had on her conscience, that was up to them.

And it made it easier for you?

Yes, it made it very much easier for me.

Let's go back now to school.

OK.

But let's cut for a minute, just for a second.

What time is it?

Yeah, I wanted to--

So at school, when did things-- when did the atmosphere change for you? Or did it change?

Well, don't forget, I was away for a year.

That's when you're nine years old?

Yes, so I was 10 so when I came back. And the teachers were still, except that one woman teacher, were still not Nazified. They were still helpful, pleasant.

I was still-- well, you'll see, there is a group of my seventh grade. We were all together. The children, all, we had the picture taken before I left, which is in my album.

Did you ever experience anybody saying anything, any of the kids saying nasty things in the schoolyard? You didn't hear any of these types of things?

I'm going to tell you something. I did not. I was never called a dirty Jew. I was never approached on it. And in fact, if I-- I can really only say I've had good relations.

Oh, but I wanted to say, I met a woman here in Annapolis. And when she told me about her upbringing and how Annapolis was anti-Semitic at one time, I said, you know, you had more anti-Semitism here than I have in Germany, because it so happened again. My family was well liked. And it's reflected.

When you are now in the early 1930s, you're still a little girl, but growing. You're 8, 9, 10, 11.

Yes.

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Were topics that had to do with politics part of your world at all?

Yes, they were, to a degree, because my father always said, I can see it-- I see something coming. He'd come home from a card game or something. He liked to play Skat or something.

And he says, I can understand-- even the Jews were for Hitler at that time. He was going-- you have to remember, the Germans were so humiliated after World War One. I used to write to a professor in Switzerland.

And we both agreed, if there had been something like the Marshall Plan after World War One where we would help them, there wouldn't have been a Hitler. But we had placed them so low, so insignificant, I suppose is the word, or-- I couldn't--

This is interesting. You lived in a part of the country that was close to France, and therefore could have experienced a French influence of some kind more than the rest of Germany. And was that felt, that the French were lauding it over the Germans after World War One? Was there--

Yes, it was, because the French occupied the Rhine. And here again, you had that split. I remember the one town my uncle lived in, it was Bouzonville when it was French. And it was Busendorf when it was German.

So it was French at that time. Alsace-Lorraine had become French. And don't forget, again, the morale was so low. And there was so much needed to build them up. And Hitler, he gave them a warm uniform, three meals a day, and--

Pride, and pride as well.

And pride.

Yeah. I just-- we're going to come to the part where your father asks you if you want to leave, you know? And I'll let you tell that story. But I just find it so prescient and so early on. Very few people had this sense early on.

Yes, early on, they didn't, because-- there were several reasons for people not being [? impressed. ?] But my father, first of all, it wasn't a Jewish move. It was started by the Quakers, because Hitler wanted to take away the children of all the sects, the Quakers, Seventh Day Adventists, Mormons, whoever, whatever sect there was in Germany, because they were still teaching the Old Testament.

So Jehovah's witnesses probably were included there too.

All of those people, because they were teaching the Old Testament, whereas he, in his glory, wanted everyone to believe that Hitler was a Teutonic deity. I mean, it boggles the mind, you know? And these people weren't going to teach that. So he was going to raise their children as wards of the state. And of course, when my father, he was in Frankfurt on a business trip, he met a man from Philadelphia, actually, a Philadelphia lawyer, who personally, he and his wife brought 50 children out from Germany.

So your father met this man?

Yes.

What was his name?

I-- I'm sorry. I don't remember.

Could it be Krauss?

I--

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Don't remember.

I don't remember. All I know is he actually was a Philadelphia lawyer.

That's right.

And they bought a summer camp outside of Philadelphia so they could take care of those children. And then, but she suggested-- then my dad got a hold of HIAS. And that's how the Jewish facet of that developed.

So let's step back just a little bit. You're still in school. It's 1933. And Hitler gets elected to office. Do you remember that day when he became-- got into power?

Well, I remember, because the Brownshirts started lauding it over everybody. And there was a big fight. It was at my Aunt's when there was a big fight between the communists. And there were a lot of beating up in the street, I remember now, to the point where I couldn't go home. I stayed overnight at my Aunt's.

So this was an Eisenberg, a town of 6,000 people. Did you know who the two-- did you know personally who were in the two groups? Were these neighbors that were known to you?

Not really. I knew some of the people who were Brownshirts, but I had no dealing in that sense with them. And for the communists, I didn't-- I was not that aware of politics yet.

Yeah, of course. You were a child. You're a child. I'm asking more to see-- to get a window through your eyes and through your memory of what it was like, life like in that town when this momentous thing happens in Berlin.

Yeah. Well, when this happened in Berlin, as I say, it really cut it in between the two. You saw the Nazis coming to the forefront. And they initiated-- for another thing, it drew a lot of attention because they instituted a free soup kitchen for everybody who wanted to come and had, showed propaganda films, started sending teams to the different athletic association and had festivals lauding the beauty of the German body, so to speak. Believe me, the publicity, the public relations that were done by Goebbels were unbelievable.

And you still were around to see some of that?

Yes.

You mentioned earlier that the editor of a newspaper had two sons in a concentration camp. Were non-Nazi newspapers allowed still to publish?

Well, then this man was, in that sense, he wasn't Nazi. He just reported the news. But his sons apparently were more adamant about anti-Nazi, and were young people. And that, actually, they didn't go to camp until-- this was just before I left, I think, where--

But that's pretty early.

Yeah, it was.

That's pretty early. But then there were labor camps. They were not--

Right, right, they weren't concentration camps or death camps. They were labor camps where you might die. Your father's business, did it-- did things change? While you were still in Germany, did you see any changes for him in the store and in his other businesses?

Not really, because remember, I told you, he had a Christian manager. And they still came. I do remember, there were some steps taken. For instance, my father was used to selling the material and the making of communion dresses.

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So well, the word went out, those children who bought their communion dresses from my father's store were not going to get communion, you see? So the woman, Misses-- I can't remember-- Schuler, I think her name was. She had her grand daughter's communion dress made.

And she still was-- she had that much hold over it. So but others were afraid. I mean, fear is a tremendous factor in a relationship that is so split by something like the politics that existed at that time.

I think that's an important point. I think many people who have never lived in fear don't know what it will--

No, they don't.

--make you do.

No, they don't know what you do. And yet, I always remember Father Niemoller, what he said about, when they came for the communists, I wasn't one, therefore-- I'm sure you've heard it.

Yes.

Yes. And when they came for me, there was no one to stand for me.

Yeah. It's a very famous and--

Yes, he is. But there is [INAUDIBLE] and see so many-- you cannot tell me a country that was so Lutheran, which was still part of the Old Testament, would accept Hitler's theory about Christ. And you know that he was a Teutonic deity, something like--

Excuse me. You're saying Hitler's theory was that Christ was a Teutonic deity, because he couldn't have been a Jew?

No, there was no Jewish history. No, I mean, that's the thing. No, I can imagine a little [INAUDIBLE] father, what's he going to teach? He's afraid to teach that. Is he going to teach that theory? So you had an awful lot of people unsure of what they were actually going to be able to do out of fear.

Yeah. Do you remember how your parents talked about Hitler's coming to power? Do you ever remember any conversations at home about what this meant?

Not to any really degree other than my dad saying, [NON-ENGLISH].

[NON-ENGLISH], yeah.

Something is going to happen. And then that's when I gave him the title of the Prophet Elijah, because he saw something coming. I mean, as I say, for that time, incredibly prescient.

It was, because there were, at that time, even Jews who believed he was going to be good for the country. And I think that's also one of the reasons, when dad asked families if they want to send their children, they thought he had rocks in his head. There is nothing going to happen.

And besides that, if you think of the way the middle class Jewish family existed, there were no camps. There was no over night at so-and-so's house. You took your family holidays together, you see? So you didn't go away to a camp--

Separately.

--separately

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Yeah, that's much more an American type of--

Yes, it is. I mean, I went to camp here and everything. But it was-- again, this was something very American, and to have your child away from home over night. Don't forget, here, again, we had-- the first Kindertransport was not to like the one to England where they took any child, any age, and so forth. We had to fit a profile. We had to have been away from home or knew how to be away from home, had good grades, could possibly keep those grades in traumatic circumstances, and in other words, fill the profile of a socially outgoing child.

That's a lot of responsibility.

It was. And fortunately, I fit the profile. I was away.

You had [CROSS TALK]

My sister was too young. My sister had-- every night, there was a battle to get had to go to the nursery to bed. You can't wish that on strangers, you know? So I, again--

So tell me, how is this introduced to you as an idea? Your father comes home one day and says what?

Well, you see, how would you like to go far away and have a wonderful adventure? I mean, it's in the book.

And you were how old? Yeah, how old were you?

I was 12.

That sounds pretty appealing.

It was appealing. thought saw it was going to be like Gulliver's Travels. And I thought myself, sure, why not?

How did your mother react to this?

Not very well. By that time, my mother had started, because her social life had retrenched, she had started to become very introspective. And she said, well, she's so young, and this, and that. And then the argument with my grandfather and my mother was, why can't she go to relatives we had in Sweden, we had in Luxembourg.

We had all the relatives distributed all the-- and that's when my dad took a stand. No, there must be an ocean between us, which was the title of--

OK, I think that's a great point on which for us to stop for right now and break. And we'll come to the rest of your story after lunch. Thank you.

OK, thank you.

What time is it?

Perfect.

Yeah? So before the break, we were talking about all of these events that led up to your father coming home with the idea that it might be great if you, for educational purposes, go to the United States and have an adventure. And your mom is very concerned about that.

And your grandfather thinks, why not some other place in Europe where other relatives are? Was there any talk that this was temporary, that you would go only for a short time and come back?

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Well, not so much. Well, it was supposed to be temporary, because it was all on a student visa. It was not considered that I'm permanent. We don't know how far the student visa would have taken me, but at least through the high school and possibly college. We don't really know. I don't think any of us knew just how long the student visa would.

So do you remember the month in 1934 when this conversation took place, when your father broached the idea with you? It was in the winter, probably January, because by April, we were already in the works.

OK, that was my question, is, what did you have to have happen to prepare?

Well, for one thing, I had to be accepted.

By whom?

By the provisions of the HIAS foresaw, and in other words, to fit what I call a profile. And then of the nice things was, then that went into motion. Next thing I knew about, April, I went to the consulate in Stuttgart. And a very nice family hosted me there.

What does that mean to post somebody there? That is, were they--

There were people there who I could stay with while I was in--

Oh, I see, in Stuttgart.

--in Stuttgart.

OK, this wasn't people who said, we'll sponsor you into the United States?

No.

No, OK.

There was nobody in Europe other than the HIAS who were then the sponsors. I didn't even know what HIAS stood for, that it was Hebrew Immigration Society. But they came soon. As I say, once I was passed Stuttgart, I know I was [INAUDIBLE], because that's where I had to get my passport, everything. All the papers had to be filled out.

Wow, that's quite-- that really is quite adventuresome for a 12-year-old, all of these official types of documents, and tests, and things like that. Did you have a physical you had to take? Did they have to do [INAUDIBLE]?

I had a physical. I'm trying to think how-- I can't tell to what depth. But I had to go to some hospital for a physical. And considering what it was then, it must have been a hospital with Jewish connections.

And after you were in Stuttgart, was that the only time you had to go to the consulate, the US Consulate?

Yes.

OK, and was that in April?

That was about April, yes.

Yeah, and that's very, as we keep mentioning, very early on, 1934. Did you see lines there? Were there Lots of people wanting to--

No, I didn't see any lines. And the people that hosted me were also-- this was a new experience for them, because there hadn't been any people before that, because they too were surprised that I was a single child that they hosted.

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Yeah, and did they have connections with your parents?

No.

Was this through HIAS?

They apparently must have been. It was-- well, I didn't know them before. And they had no connection to my family. So after the paperwork was all taken care of, at what point in 1934 did you finally pack your bags and had to say goodbye?

Well, first of all, when I knew I was going, I made around of all the relatives. I went to see all the relatives in the area. And then in November--

November '34. So did you start the school year already that fall?

I started the school year. I started that all. I think that's when that picture was taken that you saw with my school class. And then at the beginning of November, I mean, I was out of school.

Just to show how non-- how shall I say-- non-Hitler the children were, they came to the railroad station, some in their youth uniform, and presented me with roses. Now, roses in November-- and the ironic part was that they were in their Hitler Youth uniform, some of them. And of course, by Monday morning, I'm sure they had to explain to the [NON-ENGLISH] why they saw a Jewish girl off at the railroad station crying and with flowers. I mean, it's paradoxical.

Yes, but it's also something that happened. It's part of what reality was. And then reality changed, but that's how it was when you said goodbye.

Yeah, well that was the early part of the game.

And were there any teachers amongst this group of--

Well, Herr Steuer was there.

Herr Steuer was there?

Yeah.

OK. And then did anyone from your family accompany you?

Yeah, my father. In fact, I was the only child who came to, because I was the youngest, who came to Hamburg accompanied by a parent. There were no, none of the other children-- because I didn't meet the other children until the next morning when we went on a boat, but then it was very perfunctory. I mean, you didn't sit down with them or anything. We were just interested in getting ourselves on the boat.

OK, so your father takes you to Hamburg. And the following day, you're already on the ship to go--

That's right.

--to the States. Do you remember the name of the ship?

Yes, President Harding. It was the US-- I don't know if it was an actually passenger ship alone. I seem to think it was passenger and cargo. And it was not a big liner.

Describe it a little bit to me. What kind of facilities did it have? Was there enough space for everybody?

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Well, there was enough space. And I was to share a cabin with another girl, a 15-year-old girl. And as I remember, it a nice dining room. It had the facilities to carry passengers. But it was not one of the luxury liner I was hoping to go. You know, we all are.

What was it like saying goodbye to your father?

Very difficult. He came to the dock and gave me the blessing, the three-sided blessing. And he, in his first letter, he wrote, I looked so small going off in the distance. He must've also been filled with worry how it would be for you.

Well, worry, but on the other hand, I saw myself as this giant Gulliver--

Yes, you said that.

--going out to the wide world. So in spite of the fact that I would miss my family, there was so much I felt was ahead that I can't say it bothered me that much.

Well, you did say he presented it to you as an adventure. And that's how you took it.

And that's how I took it, yeah.

OK, now, was there someone from HIAS on the ship as well?

Not on the ship. I can't recall. There must have been, yes. There was an accompany-- there must have been an adult. I don't really remember just the setup. But I think I told you, I did not really get to know-- there was six of us.

Only six?

There were only six, yes. We came out in driplets and droplets. I mean, there were no bulk of children that came out. And as I say, I had a estate room with a 15-year-old.

But I don't know if I mentioned, in my wisdom, I wanted to see the sunset over the Irish Sea, and therefore, sit in my deck chair, fell asleep, got seasick, and then couldn't get to my stateroom, and consequently, caught a pneumonia. So I was in the infirmary all the way across.

Oh my goodness.

Yeah, it was 10 days-- and that was a 10-day trip.

Oh my goodness.

It was a 10-day trip.

Was this the very first, I guess-- I don't want to say transport. I want to say, the very first boat that is taking children, Jewish children out of Germany?

Yes, it was.

So how do you know that? How is it that it's known that no other boats came before?

I don't know. But they say, you're the first Kindertransport, [GERMAN] Kindertransport. And that's all I knew. But I don't know if there were any before or not, but there were-- as I say, they didn't come out in masses of children.

As a matter of fact, there is a gentleman-- what is his name? Mr. [PERSONAL NAME]. And he came out, but he didn't come out, again, in driplets until she was in Portugal all the time, and finally came over. And it still was called the

Kindertransport, which was not until 19-- I think he said '46, which, yes, he was kept away. And he was in-- don't quote me, but it seemed to me it was, I was very surprised to hear that's the time he came over.

And in '46, so he actually lived the war--

Yeah, in '46, and he was in the war in Portugal.

OK, so at the time, you don't know you're on the first group of children that is coming to the United States, but all of them are under the auspices of HIAS.

HIAS, yeah. And we stayed at the place in New York. I don't remember. But I remember just seeing the people walk above us, so it must have been below street level. And we just spent the night, because we were leaving the next day.

For?

For-- and I did not know who was going to be my sponsor. I had no name.

Do you remember sailing into New York?

Yes, I remember that, and the Statue of Liberty. But the interesting thing was that I knew that immigrants came through Ellis Island. And we didn't. We went straight, docked in New York, were taken by somebody who was obviously a HIAS--

Person.

--person to this home. And ready to go the next day to wherever we going.

Did you know where you were going to, where you were going the next day?

Well, I found out that, in spite of my begging, oh, I hope I don't go to Chicago, because all you could hear about Chicago was the gangsters, and especially-- well, that was all over Europe when they had that Valentine's Day--

Massacre.

--Massacre.

Yes.

Oh, don't let me go to Chicago. I wanted to go to Hollywood, which was already a dream. And since I knew my half sister was in California, I thought that would be the easiest. But anyway, so where do I end up? In Chicago.

OK, there we go.

Now, we-- when they took us off, I don't even remember saying goodbye to the other four, three or four children. One went to St. Louis, and I don't know, somewhere in Indiana. I really-- it's very vague, just because it happened so fast.

So you got to Chicago. And what happened with you?

Well, for that stay, I told you, my-- by that time, the Lowensteins were in Chicago. He was an engineer in one of the hotels. And she had the housekeeping.

I didn't know about this.

Who are the Lowensteins, in this sense?

They were in Chicago, but he could not sponsor me or that they could take care of me, because they had three children. They did not have enough income.

The Lowensteins, what connection are there to your family?

They're my Aunt. My mother's sister was that Lowenstein that raised the older girls.

OK, I didn't realize that she was now in Chicago.

Oh, yeah. They had emigrated, I don't know, in '31, '30 or '31, something like that.

And so they had three children of their own.

They had three of their own. And they lived in very, well, tight circumstances, because they were given an apartment because they both were employed by this hotel.

I see, OK.

See? And then I spent the day there. And then she told me that we were going to this family on the south side of Chicago the next day.

OK, and what family was this?

This was a doctor. He was the head of the medical department of the Chicago-- the city of Chicago. His name was Dr. Joseph Sonnenschein.

Sonnenschein?

Sonnenschein. And his wife's name was Grace. And they were older, middle-aged people. So they were lovely. It was in a high rise right across from the museum in Chicago.

The Museum of, what is it?

Science and Industry. And-- because that became a playground for me while I was there. And it was also close to the University of Chicago, because the school I went to where all the professors children and so forth went to school, but that went only up to fifth grade. And that's where I settled.

You were put into the fifth grade?

Yes, which was devastating, because I was supposed to be in seventh.

Yes, but not knowing any English and with a terrible accent--

Oh.

--it was--

Well, for a child, that means a huge difference.

It meant a lot. I had to learn English. But the other thing was, because my accent was so strong-- and I never forget that I wrote to my dad. They all called me Kraut.

And he wrote back. And I've never forgotten it. He says, Thea, let them call you Kraut. It's better than being called a

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dirty Jew.

And that was end of that. I saw the reasoning. He always pointed out things that were one step-- how should I say-- one step ahead of my fears or my compliance. I don't know what I'd call it.

Well, this is what parents need to do. But you were able to go to them with these heartaches, and concerns, and worries, and that they're able to acknowledge it and then--

But he was--

--help you.

--really on top of all the situation naturally. He didn't write much about politics. I mean, what is a father of a 12-year-old going to tell his child about the politics?

Yeah.

So when I saw--

How long until his first letter came? Excuse me that I interrupted. How long was it before you got his first letter?

I guess a week or so.

So fast.

It wasn't very long. I wrote him. First of all, I wrote him a postcard when we were in that house in New York. And I think my first letter wrote when the minute I got to the Sonnenschein's. And it seems like that's when it started.

Did they become your foster parents?

Yes, they were my foster parents. And they were lovely, except they, finally in April-- this was November. In April, they somehow-- they must have been in touch with HIAS, because they found another family for me that had children, and dogs, and horses, and all the things that I missed as a single child with older--

People

--people.

And but we kept our friendship. But of course, I never forget when I wrote to my father, the first thing was, what did you do wrong? Why are they letting you go? You must've done something wrong.

And I had to right away write, there was nothing I did. It was just the circumstances, where I would be alone a lot. There were not many, because it was an expensive high rise with apartments, there weren't many children, young children in there. And so I mean, he understood [INAUDIBLE].

What was the name of the new family you went to?

The new family was Pearlstein. And they were-- they had all those things. So in a sense, when you think about it, I really lucked out, not only one, but two caring families.

And tell me a little bit about them. Who were Mr. And Mrs. Pearlstein?

Well, they were very-- how shall I put it? I hate the word [INAUDIBLE]. A prominent Jewish family on the North Shore of Chicago. He was President of the Pabst Brewing Company.

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And she, of course, was his wife. At one time, I think she worked for the company too. I'm not sure. And they were very, very heart-warming people. And they had two children of their own. And so I fell right into--

And what was their home like?

Well, it was impressive. I can tell you that. And I had a huge, huge bedroom with a sitting room, in other words, a corner but made up like a living room, my own bath. Well, it was just very impressive. I was very--

Were they, let's say, better off? Were they wealthy people?

Yeah.

And he was-- he knew everybody in politics. He knew everybody in Jewish and Is-- well, it wasn't Israel, but Palestine. He was friends with a great many well-known people.

And by the time you got to them, did you already speak English?

Yes. Yes, I did. How should I say? I was ready to go in my right grade. Actually, they were responsible for even better English, because they gave me the, like-- what's his name? Henry Higgins's treatment with the marbles in my mouth so I would--

No, really?

--so I would lose my R's. And if you notice, I don't have an R.

No.

And it was quite an experience, as I say.

Were the children close to you in age?

Well, they were-- no. The little boy was three. The girl was about seven or eight. And again, this shows you the competitiveness of children. They were both adopted from a very famous adoption home in Evanston.

And the little girl always let me know, but we're really adopted. And you're not. You're just here for a while. And then of course, I had to come back with, yes, but I know who my parents were, which didn't help any.

Yeah, but it's what children do.

Yeah, well, that's just what children do. the oneupmanship is always there. And she took us in. She was a very wise lady, and says, we love you all equally. You're all dear to us. So it got to be an, well, an understanding between us.

So did your father write to them directly as well as to you?

No, he wrote to me. And the strange thing is, he couldn't be grateful enough for what they were doing for me and let me know just then-- now, you think how far back this is. This is 1935.

He says, but no way are you going to ask them to supply papers for us. I will do it myself. He had business friends here. He felt he could do it himself.

Did he?

No. Finally, after being turned down for several years, because don't forget, between the recession, and the depression,

and what you would not dare hire someone to take the place of an American who didn't have a job. So even though he had different references and so, it was not enough. And my uncle could not help him, because he had no one else wherewithal.

So let's turn now. We'll talk more about your American integration, particularly through this family, but let's turn back now to Europe and what you left behind. What was going on with your parent family in Germany that they were-- that they told you about, that you learned about through the letters?

Yeah, that they were-- well, they wanted to come. They saw how things were worsening. There were all kinds of, even in this town now-- well, as I say, even a chief of police would come to him and say, Sully-- they called him Sully-- I think you better go see some relatives, because that means they were, the Nazis were watching the store, and who would go in. A they'd insult people.

But people would still coming. But the store, I must admit, was going down. But what saved him were the different agencies that he had.

The insurance?

Insurance, and the fire, and you know, they didn't-- in fact, he was able to get travel tickets for a lot of people except himself.

Oh my goodness. So he was also a travel agent?

Well, yeah. You could buy [SPEAKING NON-ENGLISH] and all those. He had an agency for all those.

I see.

And like I say, he says, I'm still writing travel tickets, but not my own, he used to write back.

So you were-- he was there. Your mother and your younger sister were there. What happened to Gerda? The last we spoke she was in Leipzig studying medicine.

That is, in itself, a story that's unbelievable, because meanwhile, she had married a German physician who was the head of the Leipzig hospital. And because Mr. Hitler wanted a him as a showpiece, he said to him, we will not put your wife in a concentration camp. He knew she was Jewish. We will not put her in a concentration camp if you divorce her. And we will pay her medical schooling in South America.

No, really?

My sister was paid to go through medical school by the Nazis.

Oh my goodness.

Yeah, it's unbelievable.

What was the name of her husband?

Well, named Dr.-- what was it-- Gaspar.

Gaspar?

Yeah, Gaspar. What was his first name? I can't-- I can't think of his first name at the moment, but it was Gaspar. So that's how she ended up in Brazil.

And they did divorce?

Yeah, but he was always friends. Whenever we were in Europe, he would come to see her. But she meanwhile married an Austrian refuge down there, also a doctor, who was a psychiatrist.

I see.

And in fact, I have--

Do you know if this was a joint decision on their part?

I would imagine so. I would imagine so, because they were friends all the time yet.

What a hard thing for a young couple to do.

It was. I mean, it sounds selfish of him, but all he could think of was saving her. And what'd it mean to him? It wasn't that big a deal. And that's something I can't think of his first name, but he was a very nice man, because we met him when he came to see her when she visited us in Europe [INAUDIBLE].

After the war, yeah.

No, not-- yeah, well--

After the war.

Yeah, when we were after the war. Yeah. And again, she married an Austrian. And their son is also a physician in Brazil. In fact, his daughter was a surprise for me at my birthday party.

Oh, last week? Or last month?

Yeah, she's in the United States. They come to the United States quite often.

So your father's three daughters-- three of your father's daughters were in the Western hemisphere, one in South America and two of them in the United States. And your grandfather has gone away. And he has passed away.

Yes.

Now, I'm not talking about the wider family of your mother's various siblings, the 11. But your own small family, then, your mother, your father, and your little sister, Ruth, they're still back and Eisenberg? And fewer and fewer people are coming to the store. And it is going down. What happens then with them? You know, how did things progress?

Well, the thing is, eventually-- he was lucky. They didn't take his store away. But another merchant bought him out, but he still had the agencies, you see.

Ah, I see.

And so he was able to--

Was this an Aryan--

That bought him out?

Yes.

Yes. Yes, he was German German, I recall, but a very nice man. And then the thing though is, people who had been on credit with my dad for years and years came to pay him off, believe it or not.

Really?

Yeah, some of them paid him off. We owe you whatever the amount was. So they did all right. I don't really know to what extent that my grandfather left him some things, because he had some goods.

And as I say, that part, I never really kept after. I know they were all right. But then finally, after all was exhausted, in April of 1937, my dad finally relented and said, I'm going to have to ask you to ask your foster parents for a visa.

And how did they respond when you asked your foster parents?

Well, there was no question. He was a well-known man, well to do. And the governor was his friend. So Governor Horner of Illinois and my uncle's signature was enough to give him instant--

Amazing. Did he know how much your father didn't want to ask him?

Yes. Yes, he did. And he let them-- once I told him, my dad thinks you're doing enough for me. He doesn't need it, because, by then, dad still had hopes that this business acquaintance, that it would still come through.

We hadn't talked about a business acquaintance.

Well, there was, he bought some-- there were merchandise that came from United States for the store. I don't remember what it was. I think lingerie or-- I don't know exactly, to be honest.

And it didn't?

No.

It didn't work out? OK.

No.

And did Mr. Pearlstein understand your father's--

Reluctance?

Yes.

I really can't tell you he accepted it, when he said, are you sure we don't-- that is still a vague area of why didn't he, we could have saved three years. But there it was. He was determined not to accept help.

Was it offered earlier on? Did Mr. Pearlstein offer earlier?

No, I didn't ask.

So you didn't ask.

It was up to me to ask. And in that sense, my dad let me know early along, don't ask him. I don't want you to ask him. You know, you have your family's fate in your hands when you're 14, 15 years old.

I know.

Yeah.

This is why it never bothered me when I was growing up. And it's now I'm having the nightmares, what if, what if.

Really?

Yes.

Is there any one that recurs in your dreams?

Well, it's always something where I cannot-- I have no ID. I cannot get back home. I'm somewhere strange. And there is no way I can get back. It's not a horrible nightmare, but it's enough to give me an insecurity, until I realize I'm in my nice, warm bed. And that I'll wake up. And they'll all be there.

Yeah. Well, we don't know so much about how the human brain works.

No, we don't.

But what we do know is that people carry lifelong scars from trauma.

Yes, they do. And I don't say I carry the kind of scars that keep me incapacitated. That's not it. But to have now-- because all the times, I felt so lucky. There were so many new promises made to children that weren't kept, that mine, with all this education, this exposure to the arts, I had it all. In fact, Robin's daughter once said to me, oh, Nina, you lived in lala land.

Robin is your daughter. And so your granddaughter said this to you?

Yeah.

OK. So tell me a little bit about those three years. What was it like for you living with the Pearlsteins as you were writing back and forth to your father and he is exploring those other options? What was the world that opened up?

Well, the world to me was open. I met fascinating people. Sometimes I didn't know their so-called importance. Because of his position with the company, he knew actors. He knew comedians. He knew sports figures and all of that. And they all were around me and accepting me as a nice, little girl. And I thought highly of them, but never to the extent that they were in the national figures or something like that.

Could you go to them with your problems?

I wouldn't--

You wouldn't

--say. No, I would not go to them for-- if I had problems, Aunt Anne would be the only one I would go to.

Who was that?

Aunt Anne, as I called her. But I didn't-- there were no real, like I say, problems that I saw. Well, did you have heimweh? Did you miss your home? Did you miss your parents?

I missed my parents, but not to the extent where it bothered me so that I couldn't function, you see? What I missed were holiday events that we always had and things like that. It's very hard for a child that seems to have everything to look for something it hasn't got. You can understand that?

Of course. Of course.

And I felt I had everything, more than I would've had at home, probably. And we were together on-- I went to Florida. We went together on holidays. And so it just seems a wonderful life.

When your parents finally arrived, what month was it in 1937?

December.

So it was the last month of the year.

Yes.

Did you meet them?

Well, when they came, they came to Chicago.

So not in New York? You didn't meet them--

No. No, I met them in Chicago. They got Aunt there. I could see my father was smaller. Ruth had grown to the age I was when I left. And my mother had become very introverted. She was no longer that social butterfly that I always imagined her.

Was she a much quieter person then?

Yes, she was a quieter person. She seemed-- but you see, here again, I was raised in a sense by Aunt Anne. And my values were American values that I had learned over those years or so--

And Aunt Anne is your mother's sister?

No. No, Aunt Anne was the adopted mother.

Ah, Aunt Anne Mrs. Pearlstein.

Yes.

OK. And so in a sense, I felt like I was almost a stranger until I really got to know my mother again, which was quite different than it was in Germany, the relationship.

How did it evolve? What happened? What kind of relationship did you have, the new one? Well, in the new one, I felt very torn apart. I loved my parents, but I also loved my foster parents. They were in one sphere. They were in another. So I felt torn between them at all times. And it was not an easy way to be.

No. No, it's not. It's not. When a parent gives up a child, they don't really think that they would be giving up their child not to be their child anymore.

Yeah. And when I was with my parents, I felt I'm missing all of this with the others. And when I was with them, I felt guilty about not being with my parents.

Did they meet one another?

Oh, yes. Yes, they met him right off, yes. And but they still, they were in two different worlds.

Where did your parents first live when they came to Chicago?

Well, they lived in that-- where my uncle was the engineer, in that building.

In that hotel?

Yes, because they gave my father a job as a bookkeeper. And my mother helped my aunt as the house, the lady who was in charge of the linens, and the silverware, in other words, the housekeeping of the hotel was in my aunt's charge. And so she helped my mother. Or my mother helped her, rather. So they were fine in that sense. It's just it was--

Well, these are two different worlds.

Entirely.

Now, did you move back to be with your parents? Or did you stay with the Pearlsteins?

Well, I stayed with the Pearlsteins through my junior year in high school. My allowance reached enough so that it could help my parents. But then it became almost impossible. So my senior year-- and you should never do this to a child, move them to a new school in a senior year. It was devastating, because I came from a number-one high school in the country to an inner-city school that wasn't-- well, it was all right, but it wasn't.

It wasn't.

I was lucky I got good teachers. And here again, in the school I was, I had the advantage of every one of the arts. There was a time-- well, I don't know if you know about it. When President Roosevelt came in, we had the WPA.

Yeah, sure.

Yeah, OK. WPA hired artists, and writers, and singers, and musicians of any kind and put them into a school program. So I had Thomas Hart Benton in my art class. And I had-- what's his name-- Izler Solomon. He was a conductor of the symphony. And Burl Ives, wo taught us.

Oh, my.

Yeah, I mean, they were all people who, at that time, had no jobs. And they were all part of the school system then.

But of the better-- of the school that was the prominent school.

It was the best school in the-- it always had that reputation. And I went to one in town. And it was fine, because here, again, I kept up my grades and got involved [INAUDIBLE].

But when you went to the new high school, did you feel like some part of that world that you had been introduced to was closed off to you?

Yes. In fact, I had dinner with someone last week. And I wanted to introduce you. They had come in. And because he says, you know, Thea, I had a case at one time were a teenage boy sued his parents for not supplying him with the things he was used to. I mean, it was one of those rare cases, well, you're not giving me what I'm used to.

I can see why you say that, how can somebody who had all these promises made to her and kept to her complain about anything? Why should I-- but nevertheless, there were stresses. There were disappointments.

I could not keep up with the friends I was raised with. That was something else. I no longer felt like a European. And yet, the crowd my parents traveled with, of course, were refuges like they were.

Of course. Of course.

But I felt alienated, because that's how I was raised anymore. And it's not to my credit. I mean--

I wouldn't be so hard on yourself. I mean, I think that what we're looking at is someone who was 12 years old to 15 years old, which are developmentally--

16, yeah.

--those are certain years where there is a growth. And for children, for young teenagers having their social life and their friends becomes so incredibly important.

So--

Oh yes.

--it's not a matter of character. It's a matter of development.

And the type of life that encompassed all of that, camp, and overnights, and weekend trips, you know, all these--

All of these things.

--things that no longer functioned for me.

And you have to navigate it. You have to navigate the disappointment. And do you think your parents felt that from you?

I think so. They felt it. I can't help but innocent, but I don't want to go into examples, but where I was with them, with these friends. And then afterwards, they'd drop me at my parents' house.

And I couldn't even ask them. Before that, in the Pearlsteins, I could ask them, come on in for a cup of hot chocolate. And you know, it was a hospitality. And I couldn't do that with my parents, because they had a small--

And if you had been still in Eisenberg, you could have, because your mother was a hostess who had hosted people when there was--

[INAUDIBLE]

--the holy days, but not here.

No.

Not here. Let's turn back to Europe a little bit. How many of your mother's siblings got out with their families? And how many did not?

I really don't know to the extent. The ones in Busendorf, the ones in the French zone stayed there. I don't know what happened to them afterwards. But the ones, I would say, four-- the two brothers and a sister got out.

And one sister-- and here again, you say, what is a decision that you make, and you may regret, and still you had to make the decision. The one Aunt who lived near a place called Speyer, which is on this side of the Rhine-- my Aunt lived there. And because she wanted to be with her future in-laws-- her son was engaged to a girl-- she crossed the Rhine, as simple as that, crossed the Rhine and was caught and sent to the eastern [INAUDIBLE], to a concentration camp. If she'd stayed in her town, she would have been Gurs. And there are people who survived Gurs for the most part.

The concentration camp in France? Yeah. But how was she to know?

You can't. But just think, crossing that Rhine.

Yeah.

They all ended up in--

What about your father's brothers?

Well, that's interesting too. Uncle Benny ended up in South America in Bolivia. And uncle Herman from Luxembourg, because he wasn't a farmer, he says, I need a big town, they moved to Amsterdam. Where I have-- I don't doubt it, where he was a friend of Otto Frank.

Really?

I think so, because he kept saying, at least I'm with people now who have the outlook on life as I do. And I know this man was a sophisticated-- well I'm not saying, but the thing is, his family was wiped out the first time they bombed Amsterdam. [CROSS TALK]

Your uncle's family?

My Uncle Herman's family. And if I'd been with them, that was it.

And he himself, was he part of that? Was he bombed out too?

Oh yeah. Well he was

The whole family?

The whole family was.

The whole family.

The whole family was.

Oh my.

So here again--

What makes you think that he personally know Mr. Frank, Otto Frank?

Just from the way he talked about the Jewish community there, the way he talked about the [INAUDIBLE] of the Jewish community and how some of them were under, you know, under [INAUDIBLE], so to speak--

And sort of yeah, hiding.

--and hiding. And I can't-- to me, that just was the first name that came into my head.

So we know that some of your relatives made it out and some did not, and for a variety of reasons, either direct bombing or crossing a bridge.

Crossing into no man's land.

How did your parents adjust to the United States, independent of your difficulties now being torn?

No, they did. They did very well, because father, when dad came here, he was already learning English. And dad and I always spoke English. Once in a while, my mother would lapse into German. And mother was very much conscious of social levels. You know, the Europeans, they weren't all the same either.

No.

There was this coffee klatsch, and that coffee clatsch, et cetera, if you know what I mean. And she belonged to one group. And she was my mother-in-law then, but Mrs. Lindauer belonged to another group. So there was always this-- there is a hierarchy.

But she made her adjustments within her own community. She had no American friends, so to speak. But she functioned very well here. And I think the fact that this stigma of Europe, I think she overcame that, because she no longer felt the pressure of it.

So did you start to come out of herself again?

Yes, she did, which was a good thing. I can't exactly say when, but she took an interest in clothes again. I mean, there are signs where you know this is a revitalization.

Yeah. You know, people, when they know that, particularly in hindsight, that there were great traumas, and catastrophes, and things like that happened, it kind of overshadows what everyone's personal difficulties were if they weren't part of that, which doesn't mean that they didn't go through something.

Yeah, well, no, that's very true. They went through it. And how do you overcome it but to go on and normalize your life? And I could see where this was happening to her. And then of course, my younger sister was a big help, because she right away became Americanized.

Was there a point at which you stopped feeling torn? Well, I think once I moved back with them and I was over this, the friends that I lost, and gained new friends through the high school, I think I settled in, because there were some very lovely people that went to that school. I cannot condemn it [INAUDIBLE], no. Like every other institution, it had its ups and its downside. But and the minute when I became involved, when I saw the teachers respected me and saw that I was capable of doing things, then I think that again--

How often would you still see the Pearlsteins?

Oh, maybe once a month, a weekend a month or every six weeks. It all depends. And sometimes I not only by now there, but I went places with them to visit. Like in the winter for Christmas, they always invited to the men-- the men had a wonderful choir in the Pabst Blue Ribbon factory in Milwaukee. And he'd invite me, Thea, come on with us. So it was a matter of keeping in touch.

So you stayed part of their lives.

I was part of their lives, yes. I was [INAUDIBLE] when she passed away. And he married and moved to Chicago. And even then, up to the very last, he always wrote me and kept in touch with me.

Tell me, when was the year that Mrs. Pearlstein passed away? You don't remember. And what about him? You can look in the-- I don't know if I have the book here.

That's OK.

But I imagine that he was about 90. Yeah, I would say it was in the '80s.

In the '80s, in the '80s, OK. And earlier we spoke that you met your husband when you were in Chicago, is that right?

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Yes. When I was visiting my family in Chicago-- and here again, you have to remember, this was not my element anymore. But to pacify my mother, I went to a party. I didn't know any of the young people there, because they all belong to that refugee group. The young people all knew each other.

And it was just something I felt I had to do. So on one of those nights, I met a very young, nice young man in a gray flannel suit, and not a uniform. I was tired of uniforms. And we had a wonderful evening.

And the funny thing is, to go back, I knew that Lieutenant Lindauer was in town, because all the girls at a former get together let me know that, excuse me, but I have to-- you know, so they were all ready for him to become part of their social life. And I wasn't part of it. And the last person in the world I wanted to meet was Harry Lindauer.

So the night I did meet him, I had the wrong name. So let's not go into that. But my mother always debriefed me when I-- the next morning when I went to any place that she recommended.

And I mentioned about this very nice young man and so forth, and that she knew his mother, and she lived on such and such a street. And my mother said, I don't know I knew Mrs. So-and-so on that street. The only one I know on that street is Mrs. Lindauer Oh boy, I had made a date with Harry Lindauer. And that was something that, again, that was a dare.

It was a dare?

Well, it was a challenge.

Yeah.

It was a challenge. So let's just say life has very funny ways of working out. And he had a great career in the army. He was still in the army.

You met what year?

Hm?

What year did you meet?

1946.

OK, so after the war is over?

Yeah.

And he's back. And did he introduce himself as Harry Lindauer?

Well, I don't remember. We were talking about him and a friend in Paris. And I got the other name, but I didn't get his name.

OK.

So I presumed the other name.

And then when you found out it's him, did you go out on a second date?

Mhm, yes, because we found out that we did have a lot in common. There was something about a European, the symphony and arts that were part of my life, but they weren't that big a part of my life. So here again, as a child growing up where I did, there were certain customs you observed.

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You went to a fortnightly dancing school. You went to certain parties. You had a country club to go to. You had just social life that had nothing to do with the arts, necessarily. But here again, once I came to town, the arts took over.

When you came back to, let's say, your parents' world a little bit, yeah. Interesting how we have to kind of traverse through many worlds in our lives. And some of them you choose.

And adapt, yeah, and adapt to them. I can't imagine not adapting to any place I've ever lived to some degree, because even when we were abroad in Japan-- certainly there was nothing more strange in my life than living in Japan three years. Even that became exciting, interesting. The more I knew, the more I wanted to know.

And this was part as part of your husband's career in the military?

Yes. Yes, he had a very, as I say, a very exciting career in the military. And we were in Japan for three years. Then we had three German tours where we were back in Europe.

And as I say, you fitted in. You didn't stay-- what did I say it? I didn't stay in the American ghetto. I went out and saw what they had to offer. And even though you might say, well, in Germany, you could understand a language, that had nothing to do with it. In Japan, I couldn't understand the language, but I still made it a point to go see plays, or to see dances, or to be part of the so-called art world, including painting, that I would never have dreamed of if we hadn't been there.

It sounds to me, tell me whether-- you know, I'm putting this in my own words-- whether these words are relevant at all. That one of the ways that you've lived your life is to become engaged in life and to stay engaged in life.

That's a very fine way to look at it, you know. I think so. There wasn't ever any time when I wasn't interested in what life around me was all about. Even if I knew nothing about it, it was an interest.

Well, that's quite something, on how, when we always have this question, no matter what age we're at, how should we live?

You do, yeah.

How should we live our lives?

Yes. And it becomes more and more challenging. As I am now, I'm living a life, well, it's restricted to a degree, physically restricted, but it doesn't have to be mentally restricted. And thank God. If I had my choice, I'd rather have the--

This way.

I'd rather have it this way, yes. So I cannot think, in projecting into the future, I can't think of the change I would have to make.

I think this has been wonderful. Is there something I haven't asked you that you--

No, I don't know. I can't think of it. And I think I would certainly let you [INAUDIBLE]. There is so many things you, like I say, by words that I've come to live by, like looking at my seven great grandchildren, say that's my touch of immortality.

There are certain milestones in your life that have become sort of a thing to hold onto. And I look at my family. And I say, first of all, it's my religion.

I feel my family is my religion, and the fact that they've all turned out that good. And then, again, where do we go from

here? Somewhere.

Yeah. Mrs. Thea Lindauer, thank you very much.

You're welcome, my dear. This has been an extreme pleasure to review so many things that I've run across.

Well, the pleasure and the honor is all mine.

Oh, thank you very much. What I will say is that this part concludes our interview, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs. Thea Lindauer on August 23, 2017 in Annapolis, Maryland. And now we will film some photographs.

All right, if you go ahead and you find them all there.

So thank you, ma'am.

So Mrs. Lindauer, who is this a photograph of?

This is a photograph of a young man who was my father. And of course, he was quite a bit older when I was born.

About when was this taken, do you think?

I would say this was taken when he was in an apprenticeship, when he was a young man, before World War One, when he was-- well, the only thing missing on there is the straw hat that he wears.

Yes, it looks like the early part of the 20th century.

Yeah, of the 20th century, yes.

And your father's name was Samuel Kahn.

Kahn-- OK, thank you. All right.

Can you tip it back for me?

Yes.

Rolling.

Mrs. Lindauer, tell me, what is this?

This is the book I wrote of those years when I was this little girl growing up in the Midwest, and how my father's letters inspired me--

I see.

--to do that. And the saying there was what he uttered when they were all arguing about where I should go. And he said, I want an ocean between us.

Yeah. And there-- and you translated his letters, is that correct?

Yes, I did, for a symposium we had in Chicago. And I thought, for the professors who were there, I would just translate the letters. I had been used to translating for the Naval Institute, so this was no problem. But when they saw the letters, they decided it should be fleshed out into a manuscript.

And the symposium was what year?

In 2001.

So now it would be 16 years ago?

Yes.

That's when you first presented to the public?

Yes, but the book didn't start until '05, because there was a lot that had to be reckoned with before I could feel I can write a book on it.

Well, congratulations. And thank you.

Thank you.

All right, so now--

Rolling.

OK, Mrs. Lindauer, your daughter put together a lovely scrapbook of pictures from your life, photos from your life. Tell me, what is this photo right here? The one with the lady in the fur coat is my mother and myself coming from a trip to one of our relatives. This was one of the nice thing. And then one of the young lady in the corner was me at the age of 12. I believe that was my passport photo.

So that's when you left Germany?

Yes.

That says-- that's the 12-year-old girl who looks so small that--

That look so small to my father.

OK, let's see what else there is on this page, if we could take a look at her.

Well, that's my passport.

OK, and then to the side of those, I see some written, handwritten. That must be pages from your passport.

Yes. And the interesting thing is that, after the year, I think, 1935, every passport for Jew had Sarah as a middle name and "Jew" written across it. This does not.

This does not.

This does not, no.

That's right, it does not. OK, thank you.

OK.

OK, Mrs. Lindauer, this photograph down the bottom that has so many children there, tell me, what is that about?

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That is the seventh grade of my grammar school saying good bye. This was our farewell photograph. Now, I told you, some of these girls showed up on the train the next day in a youths uniform, Hitler Youth uniform with a bunch of red roses. And again, for November, to have red roses was quite something.

Yes, it was. And there is a little piece of paper on the bottom that says Thea. And that means that you're kind of in the middle in the dark coat?

Yes, in the dark-- next to the girl in the apron, so right in the middle there.

OK, thank you. And now we'll pan to another photograph.

That's a photograph.

OK, and what is this from?

That is my father, mother, and sister and her friend on a picnic. I don't think it's Gerda, but it's Ruth, definitely. And they were on a picnic.

And this would have been, then, before-- oh, this is after you've left.

Yes, that's after I've left.

OK. It says, Papa, Mama, Ruth, and Gerda, 1936. OK, let's go to the next page. And then we'll pan on the photograph-- the postcard, excuse me.

Oh yes.

And what is that of? That is the President Harding, the ship that I came to the United States on. And as I say, it was not a luxury liner.

It looks pretty big.

Well, it was, I think, a cargo passenger ship. And it may have had room for 125 passengers.

OK, let's pan to the photo of it next to it.

Yes, that's another view.

OK, and then let's go to-- this says the list of the manifest of alien passengers. So it's down underneath. And I see that in yellow, that's probably your name that's marked there.

It could be. I don't remember.

It's hard to focus in on, but you were-- that's the manifest for that ship coming over at that time.

Yes. Those are probably all the passengers that--

Thank you.

Roll again?

Please roll. You have six people that are kind of in parentheses. And I'm assuming they are the ones who were the children.

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The children, yes.

OK, so there is a Hilda Hirsch. There is a Thea Kahn. There is an Alfred Alle-- oh, I guess it's hard to see-- [? Alleleiner ?] or something. Another Thea, but it's-- unfortunately, the letters are too small.

There was one.

A Joseph Vexler-- there was one, you said.

Yes, the one, there was one called Ernest Guttier. Him, I remember, because he went to Chicago.

Right, Ernest Guttier, he's on here. So Hilda Hirsch, Ernest Guttier, Thea Kahn, Joseph Wagner, Thea-- and I can't pronounce. I don't see the last name. And then and Alfred with the last name. So these are the first six children from Germany.

Mhm.

OK. We can cut.

OK.

Tell me, who is in this photograph? You had one school picture from the seventh grade. And tell me, what is this?

This is the eighth grade I went to in Highland Park, Illinois, because we had moved from Winnetka to Highland Park. This was just across the county line. And it was almost, I would say, a private school.

It says Braeside School, yeah?

Braeside School, right. And there, I was in the eighth grade.

In 1935?

Yes.

Such a difference-- it was only a year, maybe a year and a half from the first one.

Yes.

And let's pan to the photo on the next page.

And here is--

And what is this of?

These are my camp mates who were in the same bunk with me. And this is where I say I turned already into a so-called, the typical American girl.

American girl.

It was in a summer camp in Wisconsin.

In 1938?

Yes.

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OK. All right, thank you. So tell me, what is this photograph of?

This is a photograph of my wedding day at the Pearlstein's with my mother and father.

And your mother is to the left of you?

Yes, right. And my father's side.

And what year? What was the date of your marriage?

1946.

OK, so soon after your date with Mr Harry Lindauer.

Yes. We dated for six months. And I would say he and I were both determined.

OK, thank you. OK, so tell me, obvious, we know who the bride is in this photograph.

And the groom was there in uniform.

So that's Harry.

And the lady to my left there is Aunt Anne, I called her, Aunt Anne Pearlstein.

Your foster mother.

My foster mother, whom I also did a portrait of. And I have no idea who has it right now.

OK, thank you.

Mhm.

And then the last photo of this round--

I am rolling.

They were a lovely couple.

Well tell me, this is the only photograph that we seem to have right here, but tell me who they are, the people whose faces we can--

Well, those are my foster parents, Mr. And Mrs. Harris Pearlstein. And at the time, they had built a gorgeous house in Glencoe, Illinois. So actually, we moved-- when I was with them, we moved three times, from Winnetka, to Highland Park, to Glencoe.

I see. I think the last photograph ought to be of your religion, that is, your grandchildren that you have. So that, whatever is over there, we can show that.

There is one, I'd appreciate it. They are darling. And I'm equally proud of the ones her-- her daughter, she--

Let's--

No, you don't have one with them.

Yes, I have one of you.

You have me and Teresa.

I have that. And I have another one, honey, that I had. I had another one of you and all the girls.

Is that it?

Oh, there it is.

OK, so we're talking about how many?

These are my seven great grandchildren. All right, we'll start with that. And these are Robin's--

This is you, Robin--

This is Robin and her youngest daughter.

All right, so we'll do that one.

Robin does not have great grandchildren for me, because her two daughters have just gotten married recently.

OK, so let's hold this up like that.

Hold it a little bit closer to you.

Like that.

And a little bit closer too, a little bit closer to you.

And that is my--

Still like this?

--my oldest daughter.

Hang on a second. Hang on a second. We're not rolling yet.

Oh.

Yeah, hold it just a little bit closer to your body.

Like that. Can you?

I just want to make sure I can focus on it. OK.

That's good, but it's not very focused, is it?

Well you know, maybe she has hold of the-- can you just sit back just a little bit? OK, let me just check with this. There. Now it shows.

OK. OK, zoom in a little bit.

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OK, now I can see. Great. Let's try to focus again. That's the sharpest I get.

All right, fine. Are we rolling? OK, who is this then, this photograph?

These are my seven, as I say, seven touches immortality. Those are my seven great grandchildren. And that's my oldest daughter, which actually is the middle child, and her husband who was a graduate of the Academy here.

I see, the Naval Academy.

Naval Academy, yeah. And the two little ones have the same haircut.

OK, thank you.

Thank you.

Should I cut?

Yes.

I am rolling.

OK, and who is this photo of?

This is also taken as a birthday photo of my daughter, my youngest daughter and her youngest daughter.

What are their names?

And this-- my daughter's name is Robin. And her daughter is Teresa. And she just started teaching.

OK, thank you.

I am rolling.

OK, so tell me, Mrs. Lindauer, these lovely young ladies who are surrounding you, who are they?

Well, they are the granddaughter from my other family, my older daughter's family, and the three that are Robin, my youngest. They are the youngest in a way.

So tell me the names of all these girls.

Oh, one is Leslie. One is Katie. One is Rebecca. And one is--

That's Sara.

I was going to say--

That's Sara. That's not Teresa.

What?

Sara.

That's Sara. not Teresa. You may want to [INAUDIBLE].

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Yeah.

OK, shall we do say this again? One-- can we start again? One is--

It's Sara.

No, is that Sara? It's not--

It's not Teresa.

It's not Teresa?

No, it's Sara. You did Teresa in the other one.

Oh.

Sorry.

Well, one is Leslie. One is Katie. One is Rebecca. And one is Sara.

OK, thank you.

And the other-- those are all of them.

OK, we cut.

I'm rolling.

OK, so tell me, what is this photograph of?

This photograph is the two mothers with all their girls, with the six girls. So we have Joan on this end, Robin on the other end, and then the six girls in the middle with me.

OK, got it.

You got it.

And this was taken in the--

You said it was taken on daddy's- funeral, my husband's funeral.

Thank you.

OK, darling.

All right, I'm rolling.

OK, so tell me, who is this a photograph of?

This is a photograph of my son, and my granddaughter Kristen, and my husband, and myself.

And your son--

They were in Heidelberg. And my son is David, who also spent 26 years in the army.

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OK, and Heidelberg in probably the early '90s, something like that?

Yes, something like that. It would be the early '90s. We had each one of our grandchildren except one that we took to Germany to visit their, well, family background.

OK, thank you. Thank you, very much.

Thank you, very much.

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