

Said Don't move much

To the left. OK.

OK. Go ahead.

OK. I'm Judy Weightman. And I'm here today on June 21, 1989, talking with Carla Chotzen at her home in Honolulu, Hawaii. And Carla, I was going to ask you a little bit about your early life, and also what your present address is right now, and where you were born, and when you were born. OK. So you can just start with telling us your address. OK. And where were you born and when?

I was born in Weimar, Germany in 1924.

OK. What's your birthday?

January 15.

Oh, OK. Thank you. And I wanted to know a little bit about your time and growing up. Do you remember your grandparents?

Yes, I do.

Do you want to tell us a little bit about your grandparents?

My maternal grandparents lived in Berlin. And he, Siegfried, was a rabbi.

Siegfried is your--

Is my maternal grandfather.

The last name?

No, the last name is Gruenfeld-- G-R-U-E-N-F-E-L-D.

OK, thank you.

And we were living in Weimar. And so that was about a four-hour train ride. So we would occasionally go for holidays or a-- and I have that memory of them.

What do you remember about being in Berlin at that-- you went to Berlin for the holidays.

Yes.

What do you remember about Berlin at that time?

Well, originally, we were going there till I was eight years old, when we emigrated. But I remember the ceremony, and the busy household, and the Friday nights. And my grandmother had a sister who was in a wheelchair. And I used to entertain her. And so I did a lot of dancing already in the house.

Oh, you did.

I remember dancing on their Persian rugs.

Yeah.

Was this the grandfather that was a rabbi?

Yes.

And he would go to the Berlin Zoo with me, and feed the monkeys, and watch me do my cartwheels, and so on. It was a warm relationship.

And where were your parents at that time? Did they go with you to spend the time there?

My mother would. My father had this big knitting mill. And so he was usually too busy to be visiting. And he knew all the religious ceremonies. But he didn't observe.

So your childhood at home, at least, there was no religious observance.

Exactly.

And did you have any brothers or sisters?

Yes, three.

Girls?

A sister a year older, a brother four years younger, and then a sister that was born in America after we emigrated.

Oh, I see.

And did you stay in Weimar?

Until 1932. From '32 to '35, we lived in England, trying to get ahead of Hitler. My father was very foresightful and decided to believe what Mein Kampf said. And well, we, therefore, emigrated in '32, trying to establish a branch of his business.

He had a large knitting mill and with partners, his own brother and two other brothers. And in order to make a living in England, that was very difficult. And also, you have to pay about a third of your income to Hitler if you were living abroad. It was called [? Divisen, ?] a tax that you had to pay if you were not living in Germany.

How would they ever get it? I mean, what would happen if you didn't send it?

Well, that was the reason that we went back to Berlin in-- let's see, we were there from '32 to '35 in England. We returned in order to protect his brother and the other two partners who were still there in Berlin while the factory was in Apolda, which was near Weimar, a smaller city, and had about 1,000 employees. It was a large knitting mill.

So you went back to Berlin after?

Yes. And then when the Gestapo was after my dad, made an appointment for him to come see them. Then he escaped across the border to Czechoslovakia with the help of a woman friend from Weimar, who was familiar with the forest and the guards.

Prior to going to England, do you remember any antisemitic acts at all?

Well, only insofar as we were evicted from school when I was eight. We were not allowed to go to school anymore as Jews. And that was the first time I was really aware that I was something other than a German child. I thought I was a

German kid up until that time.

What happened? Was it just suddenly?

Well, at first, every morning in the auditorium, they sang these songs, Heil Hitler, sharpen the knives to let the blood of the Jews flow freely and similar songs. We were then excused, my sister and I, from the assemblies, which were the morning ritual. And shortly thereafter, we were not allowed to go to school anymore and went to a Jewish school temporarily. And then we were sent to Switzerland to escape.

So this was back in '32?

No, that was right after we-- well, this was in Berlin. And in Weimar, I don't remember much antisemitism. Our friends were all mixed. And I know that we had to leave. And I was hopping on and off the moving van. But the reasons for having to leave were not that clear at that time, especially at my age.

Well, you said that your father had read--

Mein Kampf.

--Mein Kampf and he knew.

He was very conscious of the possibilities of this coming to realization, and more so than anyone I know, he felt it was time to go.

Did your mother feel that as well?

My mother was more or less doing what he said. However, later on, then, when he had escaped to Prague in Czechoslovakia, and she still maintained the house in the suburbs of Berlin, I know there were lots of tears. And people were disappearing. And nobody knew where to. So I was sort of the rock of support for my mother after my father left at age 11.

Were there any other children in Weimar that were Jewish children going to your school at the time?

Yes. There were some, but not a lot. Not a lot. It was largely Gentile, I believe. Most of our friends were Gentile. But there were some Jewish friends.

And nobody talked about your being Jewish at that time? That was in '32.

Right. That was between '32 and-- well, before '32, actually, because we left--

Because you left.

--in '32 and went to England.

But your other family members stayed behind? The uncles stayed?

They all were living in Berlin?

Oh, who took care of the mill in Weimar, then, when your father went to?

Well, that's true. His brother was there. And it's possible that the other two brothers were there too. I don't know the details.

OK. And then you went to England. And you said you spent the three years there.

Yes.

Were you in an English school there?

Yes. We were in an English school on a scholarship in uniform, a summer uniform and a winter uniform with a felt hat and straw hat. And we knew no English. And we could count up to 10.

And so we were put back into kindergarten, and then moved along as we learned the language, and had to draw rabbits, and write rabbit, and so on. And that took about six months to learn the language at that age. And it's a very fast process when you're thrown into a situation where everyone speaks in English.

Especially with other children around.

Right.

So did you like living in England?

Yes. It was very exciting. I mean, we had a little house on a street with trees. And it was a very friendly country. You would give up your seat to older people. And they would take kids on their laps that weren't their kids on the street cars and so on. So it was a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Do you remember hearing about moving back to Berlin and what that would mean? Did your father and mother discuss it with you?

No, because that was then 1935 that we moved back. I was not aware that there was any sense of urgency at that time. That was quite early still.

And so in '35, when you move back, you went to school in Weimar?

No, no, in Berlin. And that's at that point when we were kicked out.

Were there other Jewish children in the school when you were kicked out?

A few. But this was a suburb. And I don't remember having that many close friends there at the time.

Do you know whether your family had any other non-Jewish friends or non-Jewish people that they talked with in Berlin at that time?

We had, of course, a non-Jewish maid, Thea. And there was one little scene, where my brother, who was four years younger, was playing with some playmates in the garden and buried a statue of Hitler. And so she got word of that and reported it to the authorities. So people sort of lived in fear of being in courts discovered.

What happened when she reported?

Nothing much happened, except that she reported us. And so then came the appointment with the Gestapo and so on. But the idea that this little boy would be burying a statue of Hitler was offensive.

And so did you allow her to stay with you after that?

Yes, because it would have been more dangerous to kick her out than to keep her as a, in quotes, "friend."

And do you remember your parents talking to you about what-- when they took you out of school?

Yes. Well, I don't remember any serious conversations, except that when I was 11, my dad took us-- my sister and myself-- aside for a serious conversation about shedding the shackles of Judaism and possibly becoming non-Jews.

Or in other words, we were 11 and 12, but he suggested that we marry non-Jews in order to escape further persecution in the future. And that was a little shock, or maybe a big shock, because I wasn't aware that being Jewish was a bad thing. And to have to drop something that I was was difficult.

Did you talk to your sister about that at all?

Not really. It was sort of internalized the fact that he made such a big deal out of it at such a young age, of try to marry Gentiles to make life better for yourselves, that was sort of a shock.

And what happened when you were in the school and they were singing the songs to about killing the Jews or sharpen the--

OK.

OK. Are we ready? You don't have to do the--

Our bars are already going.

Oh, OK.

But the [INAUDIBLE] in the way. OK.

Ready?

OK. Carla, we were talking about what it was like when you were in school and they were singing the songs about sharpening the swords.

The knives, yeah, to let the blood of the Jews flow freely. And we asked to be excused from this exercise. But at first, we stayed in the assembly. And then we were later excused from the assemblies and shortly thereafter dismissed altogether from the state school.

Did your parents go in and ask to be excused? So you must have talk to them about that?

I believe so. I don't know.

OK. At that time, were any non-Jewish children talking with you or playing with you at that time?

Yes. I had a close girlfriend. And I was a very friendly kid. So I'm sure I had plenty of friends.

So even though they weren't supposed to be friendly with the Jewish children, you were able to still have some non-Jewish friends?

Yes. This was still early on.

Because Walter had mentioned that he had none about that time.

Yeah, he was totally alone.

Right. So when you were kicked out of the school, then what happened?

We went to a Jewish school, a private school, briefly-- several months. And then my parents made arrangements for us

to go to Switzerland to a pensionnat to learn French. And he dropped us off in Basel, which was the German part of Switzerland. And we went on by ourselves to Lausanne, which is the French-speaking part of Switzerland. And it was a little scary because we didn't know if we'd ever see my dad again.

Did they let you know that that could happen? Or what made you think that?

No, but you sort of sensed it.

Your dad was with you?

Yeah. He took us to Switzerland and dropped us halfway on in the country, yeah.

And what about your mom? She was still in Berlin with my brother and a mentor, who was a professor, a Jewish man from the University of Berlin. And he was also being sought. And so my mom was-- I don't know. All I remember is that she was in tears a long time.

And then when you were in Switzerland, you said goodbye to your dad.

Yes. We were initially going to stay for two months. And he said, no, you have to learn the whole language in two months. And so we wrote home in French, and took all of our subject matter-- math and everything-- in French right from the first, and were very conscientious about only speaking French to each other. So it turned out that we stayed six months. And we were then fluent when we were on the ship to America. And we spoke French to each other, my sister and I.

You spent that whole six months together?

Yes.

And then what happened? Did your father come to get you again?

No, he didn't. He escaped to Czechoslovakia and waited for the visa from my mother's brother, who was in Buffalo, New York.

So when he left you in Switzerland, he went from there to Czechoslovakia, do you think?

No. His Gestapo appointment was subsequent to our departure, after he was back in Berlin.

What was your father's-- what was your name before you got married?

Glaser-- G-L-A-S-E-R. Willy Glaser and Inge Glaser, my mother. But interestingly enough, my mother was born Sarah-- Sarah. And he had changed her name when they got married to Inge to be more Germanic-- I-N-G-E.

So her name, she then called herself Inge S. Glaser. So that was sort of a premonition of needing to be something other than Sarah. Was strictly a Jewish name in Germany, and not like in America, where it's more common.

So you don't remember what happened when your father felt it necessary to go to Czechoslovakia?

I just know that he did not keep his appointment with the Gestapo. He disappeared.

Did your mother let that he was in Czechoslovakia at that time?

Well, we rejoined. And we never went back to Berlin. We spent six weeks in Prague waiting for the visa. My father had already left for America.

He was not in Prague any longer when you got there?

No. I think he had already gone ahead. I'd have to verify that.

So your mother met you in Prague? Or did she come?

Yes. And we stayed there. I don't remember too much about Prague.

Do you remember how the visas came about, how you were able to get the visas?

Having an affidavit from my uncle, who was a physician in Buffalo, New York. And he was lucky to have escaped early because he was accused of having done some abortions. And so he was already in America in '36, 1936. So that was very fortunate.

Is this your mother's brother?

Yes.

And so you were how old at that time, about 12?

11 when we came to America.

You were 11. And did your mother talk about the experience for her in leaving Berlin, how she was able to get out?

Not really. I think I remember a happy reunion. We had a brief time at the Paris World Fair in 1936 and then onto the boat in The Hague. And we came over on a Dutch boat, the Statendam.

There was a sense of relief and release. And I have some happy pictures from the boat, from the ship. But my mother spoke mostly with tears of concern of that kind, rather than words, which was impressive. But I don't remember any words.

Do you remember where your grandparents were at that time?

My grandparents had already gone to live with my uncle in New York, in Buffalo. And my father's mother had gone to England because his brother that was running the factory then got out in time to go to England and still has a retail knitting business there. And oh, I remember, he's no longer, but his son. And my father's mother was very lonely. And we were trying to bring her over to America. But it never came to pass.

So what happened with her during that?

She was sort put in a home and didn't actually live with her younger son. And I don't know.

You don't know.

Yes.

And what happened to this mail that you had?

That was probably sold at a very reasonable price to the German people. I don't know. If you need more detail on that, my older sister might know.

She would know, yeah. I just wonder whether they had taken it over when your father left.

I know that we left Germany with \$2,000. And I admired my father for not feeling sorry for himself. He used those

\$2,000 to buy into a gas station after having been in charge of this large enterprise and was then cheated out of his share. So he literally had to start over again because the little money that he had saved was in a partnership. And he got working on that.

Oh. So then what did he do?

But he didn't complain. He started a little photo studio with my mom. They had passport identification. And they were very popular and served a need. And my mother was very good with people. And my dad was behind the camera. So it worked out.

And this was in Buffalo still?

Yes.

So they stayed in Buffalo all of those years.

Right, right.

And then what did you do? You grew up in Buffalo, then.

I went to college, that is, in the state of New York, you have to have 16 regents points to graduate. So my sister and I took fourth-year French and fourth-year German exams. So half of our high school was taken care of.

So I graduated when I was 16, which was not a good idea. But anyway, my father said, if you don't get scholarships, you will work at Woolworth and so that kind of threat. Anyway, we did get several scholarships. And so then I was out of the University of Rochester at 18, which was also not emotionally very sound.

You graduated at 18?

I graduated 18 and 1/2, yes.

Wow.

So it was wartime. And I accelerated, did a lot of auditing, and was a very serious kid, and really didn't take time to. I would have dropped out. I was sort of disappointing. The university felt sort of shallow. I didn't get all this learning. But anyway.

Did your sister go there as well?

And she went to another school. But she had another scholarship also.

And then what did you do after the university? I went to work briefly in a photo studio in Washington, DC. My father thought that that would be a good background and then proceeded to work in a school, Croton-on-Hudson, for children from divorced families. And that was quite difficult

Doing what? What were you doing?

I was just sort of a teacher. But I had to do everything-- galoshes and all that. And it was always especially difficult after the weekend visits from the parents. So I had been promised that I could take courses at Columbia University while I was in Croton-on-Hudson. That never came to pass.

So I didn't stay there more than a couple of months. It was difficult. And then went on to work at a newer psychiatric hospital called Institute for Living in Hartford, Connecticut as an medical aid. And they couldn't get enough medical students because it was wartime. So they took regular college graduates.

That was interesting also for a few months, but then I began to identify with a patient who thought he had heart trouble. I called his parents and said, he wasn't getting proper attention. In other words, I was beginning to side with the patients. And so I realized it was time to quit.

And then where did you go?

I went to New York and worked for the American Jewish Committee, translating French, and Spanish, and German periodicals for their magazine articles and stuff like that.

You might want to say what the American Jewish Committee does or did.

Tell me.

We don't have to put that in.

What was their purpose during that time, during the war? Weren't they helping in Europe at that time?

Yes. And apparently, also, they must have had some kind of file of articles in order to need someone to translate.

Right. You weren't translating the documents at that time.

No. No.

And articles.

And mostly newspaper articles and periodicals.

One thing I wanted to ask is when you left Berlin, were you able to take any of your toys with you, or any of your dolls, or anything?

No. My parents got some furniture in China were out so that we still-- well, the grandfather clock is Walter's. But we still have a few things that belonged to my parents. I think one fan, we were allowed to take.

And what happened to all of your dolls and your toys?

Oh, I always played with kids. I never played with dolls.

Oh, you didn't have dolls.

No. I mean, they were available.

Yeah.

But somehow, psychically, it's interesting that I always wanted a dozen children. And several psychics have suggested that even though it was before the time of Hitler, that somehow, the wish, since time has compressed psychically, that I was making space for some of the people that died in the gas chambers. That's been speculated upon by several psychic readings that I've had, that my need to have--

Many more children. And you might as well say how many children you have at this point.

Eight. And they're all bridges to making a better world.

Five daughters and three sons.

Yes. So that wish was partially realized.

I'll say. You did your job. However, your children are not fulfilling the rest of that wish, not yet, not at this point. How many grandchildren do you have at this point?

Five, not 64.

Yes, I was going to say, we have a while to go yet to catch up with the 64. Right. But that is an interesting theory, though, that it could have been possible to want to make up. Did you lose any other family members in the camps?

No, some cousins. Walter is the one that lost most of the people in gas chambers. One of my mother's cousins and their whole family came to America too, and then couldn't bear to part with their money, and went back, and disappeared. And we still are in contact with the cousin, the daughter of my mother's cousin there, who gave us hospitality in Munich recently. She was hidden by a Catholic family.

And that was the rest of her family that disappeared then?

Right. And I know that you did not stay in New York. So let's find out.

Well, in Buffalo. No.

We're in New York still.

I was working in New York. You're right. No, one of the people that my parents were friendly with in Berlin was Walter's sister, who's 10 years older, and her husband, who was a dermatologist in Berlin. And they had also escaped and came to New York.

And I had heard rumors that she had a charming brother. My mother spread the rumors. So I gave my ration stamps for sugar and butter to my then to-be sister-in-law in order to get a glimpse of this person who was Walter.

So say he was stationed in New Jersey with an ordinance depot as an Italian interpreter for prisoners of war in Italy. And so I would take my chances and take my ration stamps that were allotted to me since I didn't need them.

And so that's how you met Walter?

Right, and played tennis. And he told his niece to ask me if I would go out. And I said, well, tell him to ask me himself. So I guess it was meant to be.

That was about in '44, '45?

Yes, exactly. Yes. Yeah, we've been married 45 years.

Wonderful. And then from there, you eventually ended up going back to Seattle?

Yes. We had 2 and 1/2, three years in the army. And I would travel along and be a teacher on the ordnance depots. And Walter can tell you numerous stories of how I misbehaved with the army.

I'm sure it was difficult for you to listen to them.

No, no, no. He said, I would swim with the Italian prisoners, which was strictly forbidden. I would climb the fence and swim with the prisoners instead of waiting till 6 o'clock just for the captain and the enlisted personnel, the American personnel to swim there and stories like that.

So the Italian prisoners were able to swim?

Yes. They had their own captains and were allowed to work in ordnance work.

These were actually Italians from Italy? From Italy that had been brought over, about a million of them, to the various ordnance depots. They were called co-belligerents. And I saw no reason not to swim with them.

And what else can you remember during those periods? Did you remember talking anything about concentration camps at that time? Do you remember hearing about that?

Strangely enough, some of the worst times were when I was graduating from the University of Rochester. And there was very little known to me about how bad it was, how seriously.

Did your family talk about knowing about anything in camps? Well, at least Dachau was there, and others, when they were in Germany?

No, certainly not at that time. And even later, there was not much talk about it. And our children have always felt that we have withheld information about our feelings in this regard. And I'm not aware that we knew. And it's possible that we would withhold it or push it down under. But we were just living a new life. And there was very little we knew for sure about the horrors that were happening.

And when you were with the American Jewish Committee, you didn't know about-- they didn't talk about it there or anything?

Not really. I can't remember the articles. There were some were of scientific nature. I don't remember translating anything about this subject and all of the concentration camps.

Did you talk to your parents about that at all? It never came up in conversation with them either?

Well, there was some talk about the people that they had lost. But they were not immediate relatives. And that's really a fascinating subject. I keep wondering why Roosevelt didn't bomb the railroad tracks to the gas chambers.

But whether this was hushed up or-- it appears that when they opened the gates to the concentration camps, that was-- I don't know what impression you got from this about the Japanese folks, that some of us didn't, really, how bad it was until the liberation.

Do you remember reading anything in Life magazine or some other articles about the camps? Nothing at that that you can remember?

No, no.

Several other people had mentioned that they had read that. And I also wanted to ask you, take you back a little bit to Germany, and do you remember the most significant memory that you have of being in Germany?

With regard to Hitler, I remember a parade that was going through the Tiergarten in Berlin that was very noisy.

OK.

Ready? OK. What was your most--

We were, my grandfather and I, the rabbi grandfather, would go to the zoo, which in German is Tiergarten, garden for animals. And there was a large gathering, where Hitler spoke. And I just remember the feeling of it, rather than the actual words.

What was the feeling that you had?

Just of a lot of power, and anger, and support from the people. It just was sort of scary. And we walked away.

Did your grandfather say anything to you about it at that time? Did he pull you away, do you know? Or did you just listen and then walk away?

He might have pulled me away. I don't recall.

What was your first awareness of being Jewish?

Essentially, when we were kicked out of school in Germany. And I thought that this little piece, the festivities at my grandparents' house were just very nice. But it wasn't an integral part of my being. And so suddenly, I wasn't German. So what was I?

I see.

So that was like a big hole.

Do you still miss that?

No. I don't. I feel that I'm really an international and cosmic being and that I don't need to be German, or American, or anything in particular.

Have you gone back to Germany?

We went back briefly to visit this cousin in Germany who survived and drove by the sign that said Dachau on the road. And Claudia and [? Hef ?] said, we want to go see it. And Walter broke down, and cried, and said, no, I don't want to go see it. It was just off the road near Munich.

I don't have any hatred of Germans. We've had a lot of German guests here on a program called Servus International, where we give hospitality to people from all over the world for a couple of nights and breakfasts.

These are young people?

Young people that come with backpacks. And most of them are quite oblivious to what went on. And I feel that it would be rather pointless to hate them. We've also been host to Danish people and thanked them for the fact that their king wore a Star of David. So we always are very open about being Jewish. And I enjoy wearing this very much because a lot of people like it that are non-Jewish, the star that I got in Mexico.

The Star of David?

The Star of David. And so I enjoy being Jewish. But I don't know how deep the consciousness is for me. I just would like to see all people have the same high regard for each other. And I'm very unhappy about some of the things happening in Israel today that are hateful and unforgiving.

So just the idea of being Jewish, it just something that I am. But it isn't that I'm proud of it or I'm not proud of it. I'm neither ashamed nor proud. I just am Jewish. And sometimes, I'm proud of it. And sometimes, I'm less proud of it when people are doing things that are not good for other people.

And then you also were involved with the Civil Rights movement, pretty much.

Yes, totally.

Maybe you want to talk a little bit about.

That was in Seattle, where we lived for 30 years and raised the children, the family. Yes, I was education chairman for the Congress of Racial Equality, and was very happy, and felt very much at ease with Black people. We lived in the heart of the Black area, never locked our home, and never had a theft, although people would come for help oftentimes.

And then when we got kicked out after Stokely Carmichael and so on, suddenly, there was this cutoff point-- no more whiteys in the movement. That was a little difficult because I felt very bonded to some of these people as friends. But I realized that maybe there was some justification in saying, we can do this ourselves now. We don't need the white people.

There were a lot of Jewish people involved with the Civil Rights movement.

Yes.

Do you feel that there was any connection? I mean, just taking it back.

Probably. I think the Jewish people have always been for the underdog.

Most of the time.

Right, most of the time.

Can't say all.

Yes.

But I just wondered if you felt any connection at the time that you were working with CORE and with the other groups, whether you felt that there was any more reason for you to be doing this because you were Jewish or whether you got into it for that reason? Maybe you can think a little bit about how you did get involved.

I'm sure that would have had a bearing on my interest, although Walter is very liberal also. But of course, he didn't have much time to devote to things like that. We've always worked with the American Friends Service Committee for peace. And were on the board and sent the children to Indian reservations to work, under the auspices of the Friends Service Committee. So the idea of uplifting your fellow man was a natural.

And you're still doing all that work. You still do a lot of work for peace.

Yes. I ecology peace, whatever it is, it's all interrelated-- to save the trees, to save the whales, to save the people.

OK. Well is there anything else that you would like to say, to add to the stories you've been telling us? Any last words that you would like to give us?

Well, I feel that I've been blessed with the positive feelings of having everything be an adventure, rather than a tragedy. And I still feel that I'm not looking for suffering. And if it does come my way, I hope that I can turn it around and bring joy to other people as well as myself.

And you want to talk maybe a little bit about your photography and how you do that because your photography is self-photography.

Well, I just have a gift of getting very close to people in a hurry, whether it be in China or wherever and with no barriers. And I was hoping to do a series of books on the fact that there are no strangers. And so far, that hasn't come to pass. It was sort of a fantasy, hoping that someone would discover me.

How were you going to do this, Carla? Maybe we'll discover you. How were you going to do this?

Well, starting with the China series, that was very warmly received, five weeks of large pictures at the [? Georgette ?] Richards Street Y. And I so many pictures. The old Chinese people would come by there at least once a week or more and just say, this is the China that I remember. And that was from 50 years ago.

And so obviously, I was able to get through to the spirit of the people in a very short time. We had three weeks there. And I was hoping that the idea that not only are the emotions of the Chinese people the same as ours, but all over the world, regardless of income, or nationality, or the face you're wearing, that we have the same needs. And we love our children and so on. And that, I was hoping to make a series of there are no strangers.

Well, you can still do that.

I saw the photographs, and just magnificent work. I also saw it, of course, at Kahala Mall when you first came back. What was the year you went there?

'81, when it was first opened.

And what type of books would you like to do?

Well, photographic, but they're very expensive to produce. And so I just sort of set that aside. And anyone is welcome to use the pictures. But I don't see too much benefit. Several publishers have said that they could sell several thousand, but they need to sell 20,000 in order to make it pay.

Well, maybe we can do something with the year of the Chinese right now. There's a lot going on. We'll have to visualize that, right? Get that out of the universe because they are wonderful.

It's not like a language, but it's there.

No, just really wonderful photos. And you do that. Your life, a part of your life, at least, your work, your life work is photography.

Yes. And I'm fortunate that I never was not working. And I've been very blessed that I have work that I love and that the family each did their thing. And I was continuing to do my thing. I didn't have to take time out just to be a mom.

Right.

That's important.

With your eight children, yes.

Well, thank you so very much, Carla. I really am so happy I had the opportunity to do yours. And I know your children, the eight of them-- at least, the five that I know very, very well, or the six that I know very well will be delighted. I know they've been wanting you to do the interview. So we have it.

Thank you.

OK? Thank you so much, Carla. Thanks so much.