

Ready? Rolling. Ready.

Stand by. [INAUDIBLE].

Go. Go, go.

OK, go ahead.

OK?

Anne, you were saying that you wanted to tell me about your other grandparents.

Well, my mother came from a small town near Bad Kissingen, which was a very famed spa. And the Russian court was there every year. And my grandparents lived only about 20 miles from there, and much of their social life spent there. So this is how they came to have quite a formal life in spite of living in a small town.

My mother was one of nine children. Each of the children had played an instrument. Every Friday evening, they had to put a concert on for their father.

And my mother was a very good pianist, and she studied with Artur Schnabel. I don't know if that's-- well, he was a very famous pianist. And every one of those nine children was an accomplished musician in different instruments.

My mother learned Greek and Latin by sneaking in when-- they had two home teachers, teachers living in a house, to teach the boys. And my mother sat in when the boys were taught, and that's how she learned Latin and Greek.

She went to school with the nuns. And she has always loved the nuns. And after the war, she sent a lot of food to the nuns.

By the way, when Hitler's edict came out and nobody could visit the Jews anymore, no doctors or nurses, the nuns would come at night and bring food to the Jews who were sick in our hometown and looked after them. And when we heard that, of course, we send a lot of food over to the nuns.

Then, the first time I went over there, I visited the nuns. And she said, thank you, Mother, so much for all the food she sent the children. They never used anything for themselves. They gave it all to the orphans.

You had one other-- when you were talking about the nuns and the priests that reminded me about the story about your Catholic priest that you--

Oh, yes. Do you want to hear that?

Yes, I do.

OK. When I first started school, I was six years old, in 1916, during the First World War. We had two Jewish teachers in our home town. One was killed at the front. The other one had a shot through his throat and couldn't talk anymore.

You could not attend public school in Germany, if you didn't have religious instruction in school. The state and the religion was the same thing. The rabbi was hired by the state.

The rabbi in Germany--

Was hired by the state and fired by the state, not by the community. So I had to have religious instructions, so I went to Catholic lessons. And I learned by catechism. And we had a very lovely, wise priest instructing us. And when the children would kneel down, he would say, Anne, you don't kneel down. Our Christ didn't kneel down. He always

pointed out to the other children that Anne is the same religion as our Christ was.

Well, sooner or later, some people objected about a Jewish child being in-- learning catechism and what have you. So he took three candles. He took a Lutheran child and gave him a candle and a Catholic child and gave me a candle-- long candles. He lit all three candles, and we had to tilt them so they came together in the middle. There was only one flame.

And he explained to the children, it doesn't matter from where you pray, from which church or which temple. There's only one God, like there is only one flame here now. I was six years old, but I have never forgotten that--

Sounds like the first beginning of "We Are One" that we use in--

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Was beautiful thing. Mhm.

Yeah. And there was one other story, too, that-- well, we don't have to get the other story. I want to get back to something else that I wanted to hear--

OK. [LAUGHS] All right.

--and I hope we can get back in the mood. Anne, you had a lot of wonderful things happen in your life. I mean, your life was much more blessed than many others that were growing up with probably. So I just wanted to know if you can remember the first time that things were not so good in your family or your community, when you did not feel good about being Jewish.

Well, I lived through the First World War, with starvation more or less. I told you how I had to give my dollhouse up to get flour for bread. And I remember, when I went to school later on, when I didn't buy my book in the morning, when I went to school-- I was too late-- on the way home, I couldn't pay for it anymore, because the money devaluated so fast. Finally, we had to carry trunks with us for money to buy the smallest little thing.

I remember that my parents settled our rent for a pound of meat! And they were blessed ever after, because who could buy a pound of meat with rent? By the time the rent came around, money was nothing anymore, you know. And everything, more or less, was barter. So I came through a hard school then.

But somehow, the family was happy together, and we lived in a beautiful town. We hiked a lot. We were trained--

After the Treaty of Versailles, Germany could not have a standing army anymore. But they insisted on training the people anyway. So we had to make a hike from kindergarten on. And kindergarten was 1 mile. By the time we came out of high school, you had to hike 20 miles a day with a full pack.

So it was the equivalent of military training. And many of those things were equivalent of military training. The hang gliders came out of that time. We weren't allowed to have any airplanes with engines, so the hang glider was invented.

Many of those things were inventioned out of need. But if everybody does the same thing, you don't feel deprived.

That's true.

You know--

What about after then? You got married, you had your children, and then what was your first awareness of the Nazis?

Well, when it came in closer and closer and closer. But it didn't hit my immediate family because we didn't have a doctor or a lawyer. See, in the beginning it hit only the professional people, who couldn't do their professions anymore.

How did you hear about that?

Oh, we heard that every day. We heard it on the radio. We read it in the paper, when those things were withdrawn. And new edicts came out every five minutes, and you heard about it. And we had constantly people leaving, you know, saying goodbye.

But at that time, as I said, it was a financial necessity. When we left, it was a matter of life and death to leave.

But actually, before that period, you were realizing that there might not be a reason for you to stay in Germany any longer.

Well, no. It took an awful long time to realize that we thought we were Germans! My god! There came a man, a paperhanger from Austria, and told us who have been since 1500-and-something in Germany, had contributed so much to the culture and to the science in Germany, that we weren't German anymore. The man was insane. I mean, we just couldn't believe it. It was, either he was insane or I was insane! You know? [LAUGHS] I mean, we just couldn't believe those things.

Did you in any way try to show the people that you were more German or that you were just like they were?

No. We had proof. I mean, the family had done so much. And the Jewish people had done so much. I mean, all the scientists, from Freud, Semmelweis, Ehrlich on down, but all this-- I don't know if you ever heard-- when all the books were burned, other things.

Tell us about that.

You couldn't do much! I mean, when all the books and everything were burned, they didn't want to have anything which came down from Jews. And of course, their whole culture fell apart, as we found out afterwards. And they had a terrible brain drain, because all the scientists left. I mean, the people who invented the atomic bomb were German Jews.

Did they take the books from your home or from your school where there--

At that time, we had already packed our lift van, but it wasn't sent out. It was confiscated. We then had subleased-- we were in our country home and then had subleased a smaller apartment from some friends who had already left Germany. And that was one reason they didn't find my husband, early that night, because we had subleased something, and they were not looking for him in that place.

In the meantime, my French governess took him, you know. So that's how he escaped. When you weren't at your home and they--

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

--and you heard later that they came to your home?

Oh, yes. I was there when they came.

What did you do when they came to your door?

Well, I have an eerie sense of humor. They came and they took everything apart. They took my jewelry and pocketed it and everything that was there. And then we had a bathroom in the front, and the men unrolled the toilet paper. They were looking for foreign currency.

And I stood there. And I said, we only wipe ourselves with dollar bills. And of course, that was the wrong thing to say, [LAUGHS] you know! My maid stood behind me, and she kicked me. And I suddenly realized what I was doing. You know, you don't make fun of the Gestapo, you know? [LAUGHS]

So they took everything apart. They took the films out of the camera. They slashed the pictures. And--

Did you stand there when--

Yeah, mhm. Nothing I could do. And they slashed the quilt, looking for money, everywhere. The feather all over.

You know, the thing is that many things were funny to me. I always had a hard time to controlling my laughter. Like, grown-up men pulling pillows apart! I mean, it was silly! You know? It was silly, when you analyzed it. You saw a big soldier, taking pillows apart, and be covered with feathers. It was silly!

Did you feel that way while they were there?

I had a terrible sense of humor. I mean, it very often came up to me, the silliness, the-- it just hit me very often.

Were you afraid at all with any--

I think I was past the state of being afraid. I was afraid for my children, all the time. But they slept. They were fast asleep when they came in.

Did they go in their room?

Yeah, they looked in there, and both kids were asleep. And the nurse was sitting with them. But they didn't take anything apart in the children's room. They took my jewelry apart, and they took all the papers, valuable family papers, and stuff like that.

What did they say when they left?

Well, there were people from out of town. But one man was an older man. When he saw the decorations my dad had gotten in the war, he said, well, maybe we should leave you those things, you know. And the other said, certainly not, you know, and went away. The younger people didn't care for anything. The older people, who were in the war, know that the Jewish people fought next to them just as bravely as the others.

Did they take your father's--

Yeah, they took everything away, yeah. And the [INAUDIBLE] they took all the things with them.

And that all of a sudden--

Yeah. It's all gone. But that's the least. [LAUGHS]

Yes.

Yeah. [LAUGHS]

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

I don't know, except that we were darn lucky, and I was darn lucky with my children, that I came out all in one piece. [LAUGHS] So.

You certainly were.

Mhm.

Because all of your family survived, pretty much.

Right. Yeah, well, except uncles and aunts were--

You didn't-- what happened to the--

Well, they were taken to concentration camp but never heard of again, you know-- quite a number.

From Germany?

Yeah, yeah, there. My immediate family, my brother and my parents came out, and my husband's family came out. And Arnold, the boy who was in the English army, that I told you was-- he came after the war over here, and he is living here now and has raised three lovely children. So the immediate family came out-- and, very often, miraculously, came out.

So your uncles and aunts-- that was your father--

My father's family, yeah. Many of them were killed.

Why didn't they leave?

They couldn't! You had to have somebody here-- you had to have a black sheep in the family who emigrated to America in 1860 or '80, who had made enough money to vouch for you. So you wouldn't be a public nuisance.

And I wanted to just ask a few more questions.

OK.

What would you most want Americans to remember about that Nazi experience, if you had anything to say to them?

Well, I think that sooner or later it's going to be forgotten. Already my grandchildren hardly know anything about it. And I'm sure that-- maybe they know because they are directly connected, but I'm sure their friends in college would not know about it. I told you that I was interviewed by a girl from the evening paper who had never heard the word "pogrom" and didn't know what Crystal Night was. And she was a college graduate from Iowa.

And she interviewed you--

She interviewed me.

--about your experience.

Yeah. Yeah. Mhm. And had no idea.

So what do you think we can do to have people know about this experience and not to forget?

I think comparative religion and understanding each other is the most important thing. We should study the New Testament, and they should study the Old Testament. More understanding is the most important thing.

So do you think that a lot of what happened was due to prejudice and--

No, what happened was really the end of the First World War, when Germany was completely degraded. All their factories were dismantled. It was occupied by foreign powers. And the biggest degradation was that when the French brought all the Negro people in to occupy the Germans-- who had never seen a Negro before and were completely--

The Germans were starved. They had to feed first the foreign armies before they could put food on their own table. And in the complete degradation of Germany, Hitler could rise.

I mean, you talk about the Depression here and the apple sellers and food lines. Well, that was all over Germany. And then, of course, after the Second World War the Americans leaned over backwards. Then they had the Marshall Plan and built up Germany and German factories before they built up our own factories here.

Do you think that could happen here, that a Nazi experience could happen here?

Oh, yes. Yes, it can, because if people have a gun in their hand and people are afraid, what are you going to do?

She needs to say that.

Hmm?

Would you say that, please?

If people have a gun in their hand--

--that the Nazis--

--that it's possible that--

Yeah, it's possible.

--the Nazis-- go ahead and say that in a statement.

Say that it's possible--

Oh. It's possible that same thing could happen here. If somebody has power and has a gun in their hand, then you can't do anything. And as long as you want to protect your family, you will always give in, order to protect the child, the life of the children and of your family. Doesn't matter what. If people have a gun in their hand, they have the power.

So what can we do to stop that? Not just studying a religion. [CROSS TALK]

No, no. We should not have guns. We should not-- we have just have to more understanding and take the guns away from the-- look what happened yesterday, with how many people were killed. It's only because you can go and buy a gun anywhere. So if you have 100 youngsters buying guns, and they come in here and have you in front of them, what are you going to do?

Do you think anything is-- getting back to the understanding of people and understanding each other, do you think understanding about other people's ethnic groups and knowing them as a people make any difference?

Oh, yes, very much so. I think that's why we have a better and easier life here in Hawaii, because we have so many ethnic groups living next to each other. But in other places, that isn't so. Ethnic groups are little ghettos.

I think ghettos are very dangerous. We have to spread out of ghettos, whether it's a Jewish ghetto or any other-- Japanese or Chinese ghetto. We have to mix and understand each other.

Do you think that the experience you've heard about with the Japanese-Americans from the 522nd who are really attempting-- do you have anything to say about these men who are--

Well, it was a war hysteria. And whenever there's a war, you will have a war hysteria, where people desperately try to protect themselves. And that was happened then.

It happened when?

When the Japanese here were interned. It was a war hysteria.

Anne, you know about the Japanese-Americans who were at Dachau and now are working with them on this project.

Yeah, yeah, you told me about it. Mhm.

--yeah. What do you think about the idea that they are so concerned about, that this should never happen again, and that they go--

Because the next time it might be them again. They have gone through it once. It might be again. So of course they are interested not to have those things happen again.

Every ethnic group is afraid of that. Whether it's the Vietnamese or Laotian, every ethnic group is afraid that the next time it could be them. The only salvation is to understand each other and do away with ghettos. I'm not a philosopher, so. [LAUGHS]

No, that's-- Anne, I thank you so much for--

Well, thank you.

How much time do we have?

We have about five, six minutes left.

OK. We may as well do a few more-- just two more minutes on you. And that is, I just wanted to know-- you had told me about that one incident of, you know, no Jews allowed in Wisconsin.

Mhm?

Have you experienced any other antisemitic--

Actually, not, no. Actually not, no. I experienced some other things when I was in real estate in Wisconsin. And when I showed a Black doctor houses, I had to leave Milwaukee in a hurry the next morning.

When you were a Realtor--

I was a realtor, and showed a Black doctor houses in a White neighborhood. And--

What happened?

Well, there were calls coming into my office. And by the time I came back to the office, my boss had made a reservation for me to leave the next morning for Hawaii, to get out of town. And it was time that I left it. You know, that was in the '60s, with the freedom walks and all that, and Wisconsin was in the middle of it. And it was very sad-- many things.

Wow.

Yeah. For many experiences-- not against Jews only. I mean, against Black-- and it's still going on, as you know. It's human nature, I guess.

But we were very lucky. And my husband insisted on the best schools for the children. And we were very lucky that we could do it. He started a tannery in Wisconsin and worked there and had it until he got sick.

Well, thank you so much.

Well, thank you, Judy.

Does anyone else have anything to ask Anne?

[? Paul? ?]

Anything? Tim?

Yeah, I have one question.

OK.

You moved to Milwaukee during World War II.

Pardon me?

Did you move to Milwaukee during World War II?

Yes, uh-huh.

There was supposed to have been a group of Japanese internees in the Milwaukee-to-Madison area. And I was wondering if you ever ran into any of them.

Yes. Yeah. My friend Sebias had a Japanese girl working for them, a lovely girl. And out of this internment camp-- it wasn't a very big camp-- people could hire people to work for them. And they were all good workers-- and was very successful.

Could you just repeat that about the relocation camps, the internment camps, that were in Wisconsin, the Japanese--

Well, I only know of very few people who hired people out of that camp to work-- yeah.

Out of what camp?

--out of that internment camp-- there was one, I think--

Where?

--to work in their homes.

And this was where?

In Milwaukee, in Shorewood-- the suburb. And our friends, who also live now here, had a Japanese girl all during the war.

I see. What was the feeling about the Japanese at that time? Do you remember about--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

All our press-- everything was so full of hatred, you know, you didn't know where to turn. We only heard the one side of it. We never heard the other side. And of course, when we heard about the march in Bataan and all that, everybody was aghast.

You were too young to remember that [LAUGHS] on. It was a very sad winter. You know, and then the winter of the



Battle of the Bulge.

We had, on Rosh ha-Shanah in '45, six young sailors from the Great Lakes at our house. I called up there. And two were supposed to come. And they brought four more. And I made all the kids call home-- their homes. And at that time, I was a chain smoker, and I couldn't buy any cigarettes. So I told the kids, I can't buy any cigarettes. And they promised me they'd send me some from the base.

Now, I wanted to ask-- let me just get one question, before that, because the tape's going to run out. Did anyone connect there that the Japanese that were interned there were American citizens?

No. Never came up. I mean, that wasn't-- except for the few people who worked for private people, I never heard about the Japanese much. We were too far away from everything.

But let me just tell you about those boys who came for Rosh ha-Shanah. They all called home. Two weeks later, I got a package of cigarettes, postmarked New York. So those kids, after four weeks' basic training, were shipped to the Battle of the Bulge. Only one came back. That was the last Jewish meal they had in our house.

They were Jewish boys--

Yeah, Jewish boys. They came over for Rosh ha-Shanah. And then my husband got them dates from a private school, and they had a good time that evening. And then they were moved out to the Battle of the Bulge. And they only had four weeks' basic training. They were youngsters, 18 years old.

These were boys who grew up in the United States?

No, they were from-- yeah, from Los Angeles. They were from all over. They were for basic training at the Great Lakes. And for the holidays, or any occasion, we would call up there and had kids come to us. You know, it was only an hour ride away. And they stayed sometimes overnight. And they were happy to have a home away from home.

Did you know of any Jewish boys that left Germany in the '30s that were in the United States--

Oh, sure, many, like my brother. All my contemporaries and my brother's contemporaries fought in the American--

Could you just repeat the statement, in that, Anne, if you could just--

Oh. Many, many Jewish boys who left Germany, they volunteered here after they became citizen. And many of them went back. My cousins, my brother-- many. All my contemporaries went back to fight. Sure. Yeah.

Thank you so much, Anne.

OK, Well, thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

That was wonderful! --tape--

--stopping--

[BACKGROUND CHATTER]

Oh. Pat, you don't know if you're [INAUDIBLE].

And she [INAUDIBLE].

Hold still.

--and all kinds of things in Alaska. So here she is, giving us her expertise.

How many people--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

OK, they're just finishing up this, Walter. But you know what we can do in the meantime. I was talking--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

OK, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Oh, I'm sorry, Walter.

Come in.

I saw you [INAUDIBLE].

[INAUDIBLE]

One of our sisters is a the buro.

What's going on?

I got the macro. Let me-- hold it.

Jesus, look at that.

I can't. I've got to get further back.

Get a soft-focus tight shot.

[BACKGROUND CHATTER]

Just relax for one second.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Yeah, just stop shaking.

[LAUGHS]

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

OK, here.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Stop. Focus. Beautiful. Hold it. Don't move.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

It does, yeah, but it's an old picture. That's good. All right, now get the whole thing.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. OK, receipts. [INAUDIBLE] Beautiful.

Is that focused?

Yep. 1, 2, 3, [INAUDIBLE].

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

OK?

OK?

OK.

Is that in focus? It must be in focus.

Yeah. that's awesome because it's closer.

This closer.

Oh, oh, there.

There?

[INAUDIBLE] Good. OK? Thank you.

Boys.

Is that focused?

Yeah. Beautiful. Hold it. OK, I'm going to pan. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. OK, go. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. You can box it. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

Wait. Start again. OK.

It's OK. Now let's just [INAUDIBLE].

Right now?

When. You ready?

Yeah. It's rolling.

OK.

[INAUDIBLE]