

Hello. I'm Marilyn Goodman. With me is Eva Luedecke. Eva, thank you so much for participating in this important project.

I'm very happy to be here.

Eva, first of all, we'd like to know something about your present life, where you live, where you work, if you do work.

I live in Lakewood. And I'm retired from NASA for about five years.

And are you doing any kind of volunteer work or other work?

Yes, I do. I work for Project Learn, which is a-- I'm teaching English to foreign students, foreign adult students, on a one-to-one basis. I do that twice a week. I teach them English and reading and writing.

And before you retired, what kind of work was that? Can you tell us a little more about that?

I was a physical science technician at NASA. And I worked there for 12 years. Before that, I didn't work. I started working after my husband passed away. And before that, when we came to this country, I worked as an analytical chemist at different commercial companies.

Do you have any children?

Yes, I have a married daughter in Columbus, Ohio. She is a principal of two schools. And she has no children.

Now, first of all, we'd like to know what was life like before Hitler came into power?

For me--

Like around 1930, how old would you have been then?

I was 16, 17 years old then. And for me, life basically was all right. My father passed away-- or died for his fatherland during the First World War. And my mother was working, besides having two pensions, in order to give her children a good education.

So you were going to school at 17--

I was going to school, yes.

What kind of school did you go to? Was it a Jewish school or a regular school?

No, it was a regular school. Yes.

And then after high school, or your equivalent of that, you went on to a technical school?

That's correct. Yes, I went on to a technical, sort of two-year college and became an analytical chemist.

What was your family life like? Did you have brothers and sisters?

I have one sister.

And how did your family get along financially? Would you say they were well off?

Well, I would say they're middle class. Part of the family was upper middle class, part of the family was just plain

middle class.

Who made the major decisions in your family? Was this your mother because your dad had died?

Yes, my mother did.

Did you have any non-Jewish friends?

Yes. Up to 1933, until Hitler came, I had a very good non-Jewish friends-- friend, who dropped me right away after Hitler appeared on the scene.

Were you shocked by this?

Oh. Yes. They actually closed the door in front of me when I rang the bell.

Did you belong to a synagogue?

No, in Germany, you don't really belong to a synagogue as you would do here. You go to-- the upkeep of a synagogue in Germany is paid by taxes that everybody pays, everybody who admits to being Jewish or non-Jewish or whatever. And so we went to a certain synagogue, but did not belong as such.

Did you go regularly?

More or less. Well, we didn't go every Friday night or Saturday morning. But for the--

Holidays--

Yes, for the holidays. And I also went to a Reform Sunday school. And I also had, as in Germany, religion and state are not as separated as here. So I had Jewish instruction in school. A Jewish teacher would come and give lessons to the Jewish students.

Now before Hitler, did you feel comfortable being Jewish in Germany?

I was very proud, I don't know why, especially on High Holidays when I didn't have to go to school and carry my prayer book with me and went to synagogue. I felt very comfortable, even though there was antisemitism in the school I went to because I have a very few Jewish students there.

So in spite of some antisemitism, you felt comfortable being Jewish and were proud of it.

Yeah.

Did your family-- were they involved in any political organizations?

No, they weren't at all.

Were they Zionists?

Yes, I had one cousin who was a Zionist. And I was very-- well, I wasn't a Zionist, but I was very Jewishly oriented, let's say.

What was the main language spoken in your home?

German.

Was there any other language spoken?

No.

What kinds of things did your family do for entertainment?

We had a big family in Berlin. They all lived in Berlin. My mother is one of seven. And basically that was the entertainment, you know, visiting with relatives. And, of course, in Berlin, Berlin at that time, now again as I understand it, was a very, very interesting city as far as concerts, theaters, et cetera, is concerned. But I didn't go to many concerts. I was young after all.

Let's talk about personally. How do you remember yourself in those days? What were you like?

I was very shy. And I was, as you would say, a very good kid. I was very good in school. And basically that's--

What-- do remember your plans for the future at all?

No. I didn't even think about it. I met my husband when I was still in high school. And we belonged to a-- after Hitler came, there was a Jewish-- they would call it Kulturbund. I mean an association of theaters and concerts. And so we would go there.

And we would-- Berlin is a very beautiful city. We did-- I have lots of beautiful suburbs. And we had a boat. And we would spend a lot of time on a boat.

And we did not realize in 1933 that this was basically the end for Jews in Germany. And we were very young. And we did not think of emigration at that point because at that time, my boyfriend said, well, we are much too young. We don't know anything. How can we emigrate? We didn't have any money either. So we waited more or less till the last moment to leave Germany.

When did Hitler first start to worry you? Did he worry you before he became chancellor?

No. He didn't worry me. In Germany, we had from-- well, I'm not quite sure when it started. But there were different chancellors every three months, every two months. And so when Hitler became chancellor in 1933, we said, all right, give him a chance too. And I had never read his book Mein Kampf. So it didn't really-- well, it bothered us. But, of course, in Germany, it started very slowly with his very, very severe restrictions.

Now, you mentioned your friends, your best friend stopped talking to you in 1933. Did you have other incidents with non-Jews where they started to behave differently towards you then?

Well, after I left the two-year college, which was in 1935, I was looking for a job. And I couldn't find a job because I was Jewish. So I finally decided forget about the profession I had. And I became a dental assistant to a Jewish dentist.

Now, in between, of course, there were the Nuremberg laws, which prohibited people from having maids under 45. And so I worked for him even though I didn't know a thing about dental assistants and also watched his child and washed the dishes or something like that, which I didn't like.

Then I also applied for jobs in my profession. And nobody wanted me because I was Jewish. There was one company, and they more or less hired me. And they found out I was Jewish. They said, sorry. And I explained to them that my father had died for his fatherland during the First World War. And it didn't bother them at all. So they didn't give me a job.

I finally got a job in a Jewish chemical company in the lab. But they didn't pay me. They just wanted to give me something-- I think I told you that. They wanted to give me some experience in working. And they paid me the streetcar fare and one meal-- they had a cook in the building-- one meal a day until I finally got a job, and also in a Jewish

company, as a analytical chemist. And I--

Were you starting to get alarmed at this point when you couldn't get a job because you were Jewish? Were you starting to think that maybe this was more than just another chancellor for a couple of months?

Yes, I guess I did. But, as I said my, boyfriend, whom I later married, he didn't want to-- he just did not feel capable of starting anew. And even though my sister emigrated to Palestine-- at that time it was Palestine-- in, I think it was, 1935, my mother tried to talk me into leaving too. And my boyfriend said, no, he doesn't want to go to Palestine. So we stayed, and we stayed, and we stayed.

Now, your mother, did she want to leave?

Well, my mother wanted to-- all my relatives-- no, let's say most of my relatives had gone to Palestine. And so she went for a visit in 1936. And I stayed back in Berlin. And I wrote to her and I said, why don't you stay? And she said, no, you are still there, and I'm coming back. So she came back. And when she wanted to leave it was too late, later on.

Did you still feel then it was possible to stay in Germany permanently--

No.

--at this time. After, excuse me, after 1937, we found-- we decided that it isn't possible anymore.

Did anything specifically happen around 1937 that really changed your mind?

No, just that it got worse and worse. And one got scared.

Now, you said that your mom couldn't leave, but you were able to leave. How did that come about, your leaving?

Well, my sister-in-law, who worked as a secretary for a very big company, basically for the president of a very big company, also a Jewish company, got a letter from somebody who went to Shanghai. And they said, the letter said, Shanghai is just absolutely great. So my husband, who was a very brilliant person and in a way more adventurous than I was, he thought, that interests me.

So he went to one of the travel bureaus in Berlin and said, how do I get to Shanghai? And they said, did you want to go Monday or Thursday? And he said, well-- it must have been a Saturday or Friday or so. And he said, well, how about next Thursday? So they got him all the visas and everything, and he left.

Now, when was that?

That was in 1938.

And when did you get married?

We got married in 1938 in March.

And he was leaving--

He left I think in May or June.

Now, did you plan on meeting him there or what was the plan? Was he just going to see what it was like?

Yeah, he was going to see what it was like, yes. And he wrote and said-- the letter that we had gotten or we had read before, it said the climate is great and this is great. He said this is all a lot of nonsense. Let me just see what's going on because there was a war there.

But it got worse and worse in Germany. And I said, never mind whatever happens, I will go. And there was a Jewish community or a Jewish committee in Berlin. And they said, you can't go. We won't let you go because there's a war, and there's this and that. And I said, well, never mind, my husband is there. So I went in September 1938 via Palestine.

Now, before you left, were you able to work up until the time you leave and get enough food and was life--

Yes. Yes.

OK.

I worked until the last moment. As I said, it was a Jewish company. And I worked. And we always had enough food.

And I mean times were not normal for Jews. But I-- well, I was once called to the Gestapo to-- they asked me whether my husband will come back. And I said, of course.

Were you fearful when you were at the Gestapo?

Yeah, I was shivering, yes.

Did your mom try to go at that time or was she--

No. My mother said, I will stay here. There will be a war. And after the war, you will all come back. That was my mother. And she was she was a great person and very, very thinking, only thinking of us, never thinking of herself.

Now, how did you get to Shanghai? That's quite a trip.

Well, I went to Shanghai in 1938. As I said, I stopped in Palestine first to see my sister and my relatives. And I went by boat from Trieste to Haifa. And I stayed in Palestine about three weeks.

And then from Haifa, I went to Marseilles. And from Marseilles, I went-- all by boat-- and from Marseilles, I went also by boat to Shanghai via the Suez Canal and Ceylon, which is now Sri Lanka, and Singapore and Hong Kong.

Was it a hard trip?

No, it was a beautiful trip because I went on a French boat. And it was a beautiful trip. And there weren't many refugees on it. The only problem was that I had to cross the Mediterranean three times. And I tried to get an Egyptian visa at that time to go from Palestine to Egypt and meet the boat there in Alexandria, I think. And the Egyptian consulate didn't want to give me a visa at that time because I was Jewish.

Did you have a sense of relief in leaving Germany?

Well--

--at that time?

Well, I don't-- I don't remember. I-- yes and no. One, of course, I left my mother and another aunt. On the other hand, of course, I was going to meet my husband. So it's such a long time ago that I don't know. It was not easy. It's extremely hard to leave the country that you were born in.

The advantage is that you can't go back. I sometimes think about the Russian Jews nowadays who sometimes are very unhappy wherever they go. And they theoretically could go back. But I couldn't go back, which helps.

Now when you got to Shanghai, what did your husband do for a living? And did you work also?

Yes, I worked. I worked as a-- first of all, I was teaching chemistry to one chemical salesman. I was teaching German and French to the wife of the British consul. I was working in a factory, in the lab of a factory. And that was it. And my husband was a salesman for a drug company, I think, or something like that.

Do you remember what type of home you had?

At first, we lived in a British boarding house. And then we-- after my daughter was born-- she was born in Shanghai-- we moved into an apartment, which was sort of part of a house.

What type of Jewish community was there?

There was a big Russian Jewish community. And there was, as we used to call it, an Arabian Jewish community. There were Jews from Syria, Iran, Iraq, who had been there for quite some time and were extremely wealthy. Some of them were extremely wealthy, so were some of the Russian Jews. And then, of course, slowly there was a community of German, Austrian, and Eastern European Jews.

Did you enjoy life there?

Well, at first--

--getting there?

Yes, actually we had a good life except during the war, when the Japanese established a ghetto for us.

Now, was there a synagogue?

There were a few synagogues. There was a Russian synagogue. And there was this-- we had a synagogue, the German and Austrian Jews had a synagogue.

Now, when you first got to Shanghai, who was in charge there politically?

Well, we lived in the international settlement. And they had their own government.

And you said with the war, things changed, that Japan--

Yes--

--took over?

Yeah, but Japan put in a Quisling, sort of Chinese, a Chinese government, which was, as we say, Quisling, Japanese oriented. But the Japanese had the say.

Now, when did that happen?

Right at the beginning of the Pacific war in 1941, slowly, of course.

You mentioned them putting people into a ghetto then. When did that happen?

In 1943. They established-- they took part of the Chinese city and sort of board-- not, they didn't board it up, but made it into a ghetto. I mean took part of it.

Now, you stayed where you were living. And then they just boarded it up around--

No, we did not stay. We had to--

You had to move?

We had to move. We had to move. We tried to stay out of the ghetto. We tried everything to stay out of the ghetto. But it didn't work. We tried to become Chinese citizens. We tried to become Portuguese citizens. The Portuguese consul gave you a passport and you became a Portuguese-- and he took a lot of money for it. But I guess his home government said, no more. So we finally had to move. We moved in 1944, actually a year after the proclamation of that ghetto.

What was life like in this ghetto?

We lived in a Chinese house with three families. Actually, we had to buy that. And it was no pleasure because it was a very small-- basically, we had 1 and 1/2 rooms. And we had a kitchen, which all three parties used. We didn't have running-- well, we had running water. But the bathroom facilities were not as you would expect them.

And it was-- and we had-- my husband had been doing extremely well before. After becoming a salesman, he then worked for the government of the international settlement. And he did very well. But you never know-- we never knew how long the war would last. In other words, how long the money would last. He got a permit to leave. And he became the a partner in a architectural company.

So he could leave the ghetto to go to this job?

Yeah, but he had to get a special permit. But I never left.

And most of the people were not allowed to leave--

Well, you had to get a special permit, which wasn't easy because the Japanese were very rude and rough and beating up people. And it was no picnic.

What about food? Was it hard to get food there?

Well, we got all the food. But some of the food was hard to get. But we never were hungry-- as long as you had money. Now there were about 18,000 people in the ghetto. And the American Jewish Joint committees sent some money over for people who had absolutely nothing. They lived in camps and were very desperate. And there was a lot of sickness and disease.

But we were lucky. We were one of the lucky ones because we had saved some money. And it got us through the war.

Were you scared for your lives at all--

Yes--

--knowing that they--

After-- well, when the war got a little bit rougher and the Americans started to bomb Shanghai, then I was scared. We were scared.

Did you get any war news there?

Yes. We were actually very short of electricity. But we listened to the radio news, which were in, I guess maybe in-- not in English or not in German. All we heard were cities, names of cities, of Russian cities, where we followed on the map where the Germans were thrown out of Stalingrad and thrown back. And we just listened to the names of the cities. And then we realized that the Germans are losing. In other words, they were thrown out of Russia, et cetera, et cetera.

Did you get news from your family?

Off and on through the Red Cross we got news from the family, yes.

And what happened to your mother?

My mother was deported to a concentration camp.

In what year?

I think in 1940-- I'm not so sure. I think it could have been '41 or '42. She was one of the first.

Did you hear about it right away?

No. No.

You did not know then all this time what was happening?

I had no idea. No, we didn't have any idea.

In which camp did your mom go to?

She went to Minsk.

How did the people in your ghetto respond to being in a ghetto? Did they organize any kind of resistance?

No, not at all. Not at all. They-- we-- the ghetto actually in itself became a very lively part of the city. We had cafes and restaurants. And we had-- if you could afford it, you could go to the-- we had a little theater.

But the whole situation, of course-- they had a kitchen, for instance, a communal kitchen where the people who had no money could get one hot meal a day. And they were-- the ghetto was not as you imagine a ghetto. Well, I don't know how you imagine a ghetto to be in the early days in Poland. But it was a restricted area. And within the restricted area, we also had Chinese living there and Sikhs, for instance, and Japanese. So we tried to make the best of it.

How did the non-Jews treat the Jews?

Well, if you talk about Chinese they treated us very well because they didn't know the difference. For them, like some people, some Americans, for instance, say all Chinese look the same. They treat us very well because they didn't know anything about being Jewish or non-Jewish.

The Germans, there were lots of Germans, real Germans in Shanghai. Well, they didn't treat us like anything because we had no contact with them. And after the war-- during-- after the war started, the British and the Americans who lived in Shanghai were put into camps, internment camps. And so these were non-Jews, but--

Well, we actually sent-- we personally sent parcels to the English people who were-- some English people whom we knew before we sent parcels to them. But otherwise, we had contact with quite a few English and American people. But they treated us like everybody else.

Were the Japanese under pressure that you were aware of any way to exterminate Jews the way they were doing?

Yes. Yes. I guess they were under pressure. As it came out later, they were under pressure. But that's why they started the ghetto, put the Jews into a restricted area. But they didn't know much about Jews either.

So they weren't very apt or they didn't really want to kill the Jews then that they had there?



No, they didn't. They didn't.

Now, you said your mother went to a camp in Minsk. When did you find out about this?

After the war.

It was afterwards. Now, do you remember how you were liberated when the war ended and, let's say, you were free to leave the camp and it was no longer, I mean, a ghetto?

Well, the minute the war was over, that basically was it for us. Since the Americans did not have enough, I don't know-- the army, I think, the American army or navy or so couldn't take care of Shanghai per se. They didn't have enough manpower, I guess. So they left it in the hands of the Japanese who were, of course-- had been conquered, so to say. And they just went away.

And for a while nobody took over. And then, we moved very shortly after the end of the war. We moved out of the ghetto and back into the area where we lived before.

Did you get any help in those immediate post-war years?

From help, in which respect?

Did the Joint Distribution Committee try to help? Or the Red Cross or United Nations? Did any--

Nobody helped us because we didn't need any help.

Did someone try to help you as far as finding family members who were still in Eastern Europe or who you had left in Germany?

Ah, well, we tried-- we did that ourselves. My sister, who at that time lived in the United States, tried to find out what happened. And then, of course, most of my family really was living in Palestine. But nobody really helped us. We were on our own.

So you decided to stay in Shanghai?

Yes, that's correct. Yeah.

And what did you do then? You went back to work or--

No. No. My husband was in a partner in a company of architects and interior decorators. And they started a little factory making all kinds of materials, cotton materials, and so on. And he had a very good income. And they built a lot of-- all the embassies, the Dutch and the Americans and the British embassy moved back to Shanghai and Nanking and so on. And the company was very busy. And so I didn't want work.

Your daughter was about how old at this time?

My daughter was born in 1939. And after the war-- well, the war ended in '45. So she was six years old. And she went to a British school. And when we left, she was-- we left in 19-- what did I say? '50. In 1950, so she was-- at that time she was nine years old, 10 years old.

Now, you eventually left Shanghai. Why did you leave? What happened in those years between the war ending and you're deciding to leave?

Well, the communists came and conquered Shanghai-- or conquered all of China basically. And they basically wanted to

get rid of the foreigners and were not very-- they were kind of rough to all the foreigners.

You see, when we lived in Shanghai, we never paid any taxes or anything. So they started, you have to pay taxes. You have to do this and that and retroactive taxes. And no foreigner could make a living. So since we couldn't make a living, we decided we had to leave.

Then what did you do?

We applied for an American visa in 1948. And the Chinese closed all the consulate-- the American consulates in Shanghai and Peking, all over. And so you couldn't get a visa.

So we waited basically for a-- for a visa. Let's put it this way, we waited to get out, which was very hard because on the mainland were the Communist Chinese. In Taiwan were the nationalist Chinese.

They bombed each other. They closed the harbors. So the boats, the ships couldn't get in, and very few planes. So we had a hard time to get out.

Now, how did you finally get out?

We finally got out by an American evacuation liner, which couldn't get into Shanghai because the harbor was blockaded by the nationalist Chinese. So we had to go to Tientsin, which is north of Shanghai. And the evacuation liner sort of anchored outside of Tientsin. And we went to San Francisco.

There were lots of-- we were a group of 110 German and Austrian Jews. And there were lots of Americans and British and all kinds of nationalities on it, on the boat. And we went to San Francisco.

And what happened when you got there?

When we got there, they said, well, it's very nice to have you here, but you can't stay here because you don't have an American visa. By that time, we were not Germans because the Germans had taken away our nationality. We had a passport from the United Nations, yes. And that didn't help anybody. So they took the 110 Jews and put them on the train, on a sealed train, to New York.

What do you mean by a sealed train?

A sealed train is a train where you can get out. In other words, in every compartment there was a guard watching that we didn't get out. Now, the guards usually were very nice. As we went through Utah, for instance, Ogden, Utah, and he said, OK, you can get out and walk around a little bit on the platform.

But we got to New York. And meanwhile, the Korean War had broken out or was about to break out. I'm not quite sure. And so we were afraid that there would be another real world war. And so we asked Governor Lehman for permission to stay in the United States. And the whole thing went to the Senate, I guess.

I think President Truman-- wait, a minute-- yeah, President Truman was the president at that time. And I mean nobody could help us really because as I told you the laws of the United States you have to be outside of the United States to get in. So we spent three weeks on Ellis Island in order for everybody to make up their mind, could they stay or couldn't they stay? Well, they couldn't stay.

They decided that you couldn't stay.

We couldn't stay.

They discussed it in the Senate?

Yeah. Yeah. And they said, you have to go back to Germany. And we give you a special immigration quota for 110 people to come back. So you go back to Germany and in no time will you be back here.

They sent you back to Germany so that you could come back and enter the United States.

Yes, that's correct.

What was life like on Ellis Island for three weeks?

Terrible. [LAUGHS] It was so bad. The food was horrible. And women were in a different dormitory than men. And they couldn't even visit each other. I mean it was just terrible.

And I think we were teaching English to some of the immigrants. Some of the immigrants had never learned English. And my husband, as I said, who was very extremely bright. And he said, I'm not going to stay here. I'm not going to stay here. Look at the Statue of Liberty from the back. And I don't want to stay here.

And I sort of implored him. And I said, look, if there's 110 people, we just go back to Germany. And then we come back right away. Well, it didn't work that way.

What happened?

Well, we went back to Germany. And everybody was very, very lovely. The mayor of Bremen where we stayed was known to be a very, very well known anti-Nazi. And he received us. And I mean everybody was charming, you know. And he said, now, you can have your German passport back. And we said, really, we're not interested in that.

So we decided, well, we-- they had the International Refugee camps in Bremen. And so that was our-- that's where we stayed because we thought, well, in a few days, we'll leave anyway going back to the United States. Well, it didn't happen. So we had to take jobs. And--

Why didn't it happen?

Because the American consul had to give us a visa. And it just takes a long time to get a visa. And we had a very hard time because one of our friends from Shanghai had guaranteed-- you know, you have to make an application. And somebody has to guarantee-- application for an American visa, somebody has to guarantee it. And he did.

And he went back to Eastern Germany, which at the time, which was the time of McCarthy here, was about the worst. So they suspected us of being, A, Communist, B, Nazis because we lived in China under the communists, in Berlin under the Nazis. So it took us another year and a half to get our American visa. And--

So you stayed and worked in Berlin then?

No, we stayed in Bremen. I never went back to Berlin. My husband did because he had some relatives there. But I never went back to Berlin.

We stayed in Bremen. We had a little apartment within the refugee camp. And my husband worked for the International Refugee organization. And I worked for the American Jewish Joint Committee. They all had offices there.

And my daughter, who was at that time 10 years old or something like that, gave English instructions to little kids-- in that refugee camps, they were Polish, I mean all kinds of Eastern Europe refugees, all, everybody going to the United States. So she taught little children how to speak English. So that's what we did for a year and a half.

Where is Bremen, let's say, in relation to Berlin?

Bremen is in the north. You figure-- well, Berlin is sort of in the middle. And Bremen is in the north, on the more or less

on the coast of the North Sea.

How did you feel about being in Germany again?

Terrible. We suspected everybody to have killed one member of the family. And we spoke a little Chinese. And we would take a streetcar, and we would speak Chinese just to aggravate everybody. But we never intended to stay there.

And finally, you were allowed to come back into the United States.

That's correct. Yeah.

And that was when?

1952, in January.

And where did you arrive in the United States?

We arrived in New York. And my sister and brother-in-law at that time lived in New York. And we had lots of friends in New York. And after we saw how they lived, our friends, not my sister and brother-in-law, we decided New York is not for us.

And my husband had a cousin in Cleveland. They were both doctors on the West Side. And they said, why don't you come to Cleveland? So he went to Cleveland. And I stayed back in New York. And he said, it's a terrible city, an ugly city, but I looked through the papers and the job opportunities are great.

And since he was a trained banker, you would say, he got a job the first day. And after he told me in writing that this is a terrible city, I said, why don't you go to San Francisco because we had relatives there? And he said, well, we might as well try it here.

So we did. And I came here. And we lived in for a week and the worst residential hotel that I can imagine on 89th and Euclid, or something. Like at that time, it was pure white, but it was filthy. And then we got a-- since our relatives lived on the West Side, they said, why don't you live on the West Side? So we got an apartment, furnished apartment on the West Side in Lakewood.

And I got a job the first job that I applied for as a chemist. And I got that. And here we are.

How were the people in Cleveland towards you when you got here? Were they welcoming? Or--

Oh, they were great. They were great. These relatives introduced us to some people. They were members of B'nai B'rith. So they introduced us to-- we went to a meeting of B'nai B'rith.

And then we slowly got some friends who belonged to the West Side Jewish Center. And we didn't like that at all. And they and some other people decided to start a Reform congregation on the West Side. And we were charter members of that Reform congregation.

And I still belong to that congregation. My husband was vice president and president. I was treasurer, vice president, and president. And here we are.

How do you feel as a Jew living in the United States?

Great. I mean there's no problem.

You feel very comfortable?

Very comfortable. I even feel comfortable in the West Side.

Do you ever talk to people about your Holocaust experiences? I mean having to leave Germany and having family--

Well, they know since I talk with an accent. And most everybody knows that I'm Jewish. You know, I don't-- everybody knows it. Wherever I worked, I never had any problem.

Do you find that people are interested in hearing about the wartime experiences?

Some are. And, yeah, I guess so. I guess. As a matter of fact, I started writing a book, writing my experiences. But I never got very far in it.

How do those experiences affect you now?

Well, I look over my life and I think, it has been pretty miserable at times. But then, of course, part of it has-- people tell me, you know, oh, what an interesting life. And I say, well, if you call that interesting, that--

Well, I think we'll take a short break now and come back in a few minutes.

OK.