

HANNAH EISNER  
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Hannah was born in 1924 in Offenbach, Germany. Her family was not observant and she had many non-Jewish friends, who slowly slipped away during the 1930's. Her father didn't believe bad things would be allowed to continue, but family started thinking about emigration. Her father worked for a Jewish bank until 1939. During Kristallnacht the Jewish school was smashed, and many teachers were taken to concentration camps, Hannah didn't feel sadness of situation as a child, but knew to run away when pro-Nazi population was marching in the streets.

The family was able to emigrate to the US in April 1939 after they were sponsored by a cousin and uncle. They had to say goodbye to her maternal grandparents in the Black Forest; the grandmother later died in Gurs camp. She describes their life in New York as typical of immigrant families; her father sold Fuller brushes and her mother cleaned and did dressmaking and later worked as a companion and nurses' helper. They always took in borders. She doesn't think her parents ever assimilated. Hannah went to Humbolt Junior High in Washington Heights and then George Washington High School. She got a job as a billing clerk after high school, and always felt sorry she was not able to go on with education. Her social life revolved around the New World Club.

Her father died at 62 and her mother at 74 or 75. Her father was never able to get back into banking. She married an Austrian so travelled there but never went back to Germany. She became more Jewish oriented with the passage of time. Unlike her children, she considered herself more German-Jewish than American.