

## **Summary of Oral History: Oral History Interview with Manya Breuer**

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**This summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on 03/2022**

### **Summary**

Manya Breuer (Hartmeyer) was born in Berlin, Germany. During the war, she was hidden in a convent in Rome, Italy before going to the United States. (She does not relate how she got there nor what happened to her parents.) In the convent she was lonely, often hungry, scared of the Nazis capturing her but grateful to the nuns who hid her. Fortunately, she was selected to go to Oswego, New York, which was very ironic given that her parents had been trying for years to go to the United States but were denied visas.

Life in Oswego was like coming to heaven for Ms. Breuer. For the first time in years she could wake up without the fear of dying. She married in Oswego after the head of the camp gave her special permission to leave the camp and go to city hall. She also had a child in the camp. She mentioned that many people in Oswego and in the camp aided her in her celebration of her wedding and in the birth of her child. For the first time in many years she had hope for the future.

Asked why this fifty year reunion at Oswego (she was interviewed at the reunion) was so important, she replied that she was rescued in Oswego for a reason – so she could tell the world what it was like to feel love in the midst of this period of hate, to tell the world that the Holocaust really happened, and to tell people that they must do everything possible so nothing like the Holocaust would happen again.