

Interviewee:	<u>LEVY</u> , Elizabeth J.	Date:	August 12, 1983 <sup>1</sup>
Interviewer:	Eileen Steinberg		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

## SUMMARY

Elizabeth J. Levy, nee Dreifuss, was born in 1927 in Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany. She attended a local school as the only Jewish child in classes for Catholics, whom her parents believed were friendlier than the Protestants. She also studied Hebrew in Mannheim.

After the 1935 Nuremberg Laws, her family was ostracized and her father was dismissed as a language professor. She moved with her parents to Leipzig, where her father taught in a Jewish school until *Kristallnacht*, when he was arrested. He was held at Buchenwald until family visas and tickets to Peru were obtained.

In February, 1939, they left Germany with visitor visas for England where her father taught German language classes for British police and worked at Bloomsbury House, helping German Jews to emigrate. Personal connections enabled his family to avoid internment as German nationals. In February, 1940, they sailed to the United States. Mrs. Levy married in 1949, had three children and became a language teacher.

She believes her religious faith sustained her during her youth and maintains that Jewish people must remember the Holocaust by avoiding intermarriage and abortion, to compensate for those Jews who were killed.

<sup>1</sup>Elizabeth's granddaughter, Rebecca, age 12 at the time, did an interview with her great-grandmother Lina Dreifuss (Elizabeth Levy's mother) about her experiences in Nazi Germany. Mrs. Dreifuss is age 102 at the time of this interview. <https://vimeo.com/201457472/5b06ce1456>