

--whatever may happen?

Well, we-- [INAUDIBLE] I don't know. My mother always said to me, it can never happen here. The Americans are bright. They can be pushed only up to a certain level. But I cannot imagine-- and I'm quoting her now-- that anyone, any one person, can get the American people to do these things to anyone.

And at the time, I wanted to believe her. I tell you very frankly, I don't anymore. I think it could happen. It could happen anywhere. I don't think it would happen in the next five or 10 or 15 years because the Nazi party is going but not going that fast. I don't know.

But I'm scared, not for myself. I'm scared for my children. My children are used to a good life. And they worked hard for it. And I think one parent to go through this is enough. Two parents-- my husband went through the same thing.

I think it can happen. Our temple was put on fire last week. I belong to Beth Israel Judea on Brotherhood way. And somebody tried to burn it down but used, obviously, something that doesn't burn enough. I forgot. I think it was not the stuff that burns. It was something else. Whatever he used, some windows are gone and the wood is black. Well, the whole thing could have burned down.

Now, by saying, well, antisemitism exists everywhere-- I know it does. But that doesn't make me feel very secure either. It has existed before the Holocaust too. I'm sure here in this country also. But when I was in Israel-- we were in Israel once with a group from our temple.

We were there for two weeks. The first thing that I said-- our rabbi asked us, what does this trip mean to you? I said, for the first time in my life, I feel I'm in the majority. I felt this is where I belong, really. I know that you are spoiled here. You don't live this fear in Israel.

However, if I wouldn't have children here and grandchildren, I think my husband and I would both seriously consider going over there [INAUDIBLE]. Now obviously, there's never a right time for those things. But I couldn't imagine living there, because it feels good to be in the majority.

And it's the only place I ever felt this way. I've only been there once. We were supposed to go-- we were supposed to have a reunion, a Shanghai reunion, people that lived in Shanghai. And that was the last one in 1988 in Jerusalem.

And I was dying to go. We had reservations then. Everything was ready. And five days before, I broke my hip. And that was [NON-ENGLISH]. But my mother, who was very farsighted when she was in Germany, I think maybe she felt she couldn't deal with this again anymore.

Maybe she was right. Maybe the Americans cannot be pushed to that point. But I cannot honestly say I feel it will ever happen again. I hope it will not. But I think there is always a possibility. Maybe in different ways, I mean more sophisticated-- I don't know.

But I think it's possible. I really do, unfortunately. And my son feels the same way. And he's never really had much-- he never really felt much antisemitism in his own life. But he watches people, and he reads them. And he knows what's going on.

And he also says never say never. Anything can happen. I hope not. But yes, I do think the possibility is there. Definitely.

Could you tell us what your parents' full names are?

Yeah, sure. My mother's name when she was married was Kate-- she was born Schlesinger. Want me to spell that?

Sure.

S-C-H-L-E-S-I-N-G-E-R. When she married, her last name became Lindner, which is L-I-N-D-N-E-R. And when she remarried, it was Goldsmith. And my father was Ernest Lindner, L-I-N-D-N-E-R.

I married a man, Fritz, which is now Fred, Sello, S-E-L-L-O. I got divorced after six years. And I remarried my present husband. My mother died in '79, the normal way, by illness. So our family is shrinking. That's why I'm so afraid. When we are gone, who's going to be there to remember?

Because if people forget, then it can happen again. Only if people know. You know as well as I do, there are lots of people now that say, don't believe it. You can see it in a movie. You can see it anywhere. You can show your number.

There are people that say it never did happen. They don't believe it. How can you convince those people? There's no way, I don't think.

I just wanted to know something about your early years. Did you belong to a temple in Berlin?

Yes. There were [GERMAN] Rabbi-- he was here. He bar mitzvahed my husband. Well, you didn't have Reform. It was a Conservative temple. And I mainly went for holidays. And my parents were very relevant. My grandmother had never entered into the synagogue.

But if you are Jewish, we didn't have Christmas or anything of the sort. I joined a Jewish Maccabi Hatzair, a Jewish club.

A sports club, wasn't it?

It was a sports club. And that exposed me a little bit more to also the religious side and to the songs and all the things that I liked. And when we came to Shanghai, I don't say I went to Temple for the first three or four years. I only started going to Temple there when I-- as a matter of fact, in '44, when I married, because my husband was fairly Orthodox.

But the-- I mean, you know, I didn't need that sort of service. But that was my help.

Did your parents feel more German than Jewish?

My mother did not. More than Jewish?

More German than Jewish, yes.

Yes, I think so. I think mostly my parents did. My father had the Iron Cross from World War I. And he said, what do they want? My God, I fought for them. I can prove it. Yeah.

I think my mother, at this point, up until she died, it took a while so she felt more Jewish than-- she was an American citizen also. But at the time, definitely, she was a German. The Jewish religion, it was religion it was not a-- not a country-- I am missing some words here. My mind is--

Well, you probably know, it wasn't a race.

Right.

Hitler then made it into--

Right. Right. It was a real religion, and we were all Germans. Some people in our family left as early as '34. They went to Israel. And they also had the same background that we had pretty much. They didn't know how to cook or do anything.

And they started was a chicken farm in Herzliya. And the mother, father, and two children-- and the mother was a cousin of my mother. They were very, very close friends. And the first letter that came from Israel, it was addressed to my mother.

It was-- I never was able to tell the difference what's the front and back of a chicken when I bought it. Now I'm learning. And they did learn. But we always [INAUDIBLE]. And as I said at the time, nobody really got divorced. You didn't do those things. And Jewish women didn't work. That's changed.

How do you feel about united Germany?

I think it's terrible. I hate it. We didn't need that again, another big power. My brother had a very good idea. Originally after the war, they should have just divided up the whole country-- a little bit to France, to whatever. Just get rid of it.

I think the united Germany is terrible. Just awful. First of all, I feel it's going to start up again. And secondly, economically it's [INAUDIBLE] I don't think. But we all feel-- I think most Jews feel the same way. I should hope they feel the same way. It's going so fast. Everything happened so fast.

When the Berlin Wall came down, we saw it. I just couldn't believe it. Reunification is something I could have very well lived without. It's very scary to me.

Have your children been over to Germany or to Europe?

No. No. My children have not. And I don't think they ever want to go. We've been there twice. The first time, I told you. The second time was when I broke my hip. We were invited to Holland. My husband, I think you might remember, the woman he was hiding for a long period of time wanted to see us. And my husband wanted to see her.

But the way we had to go-- one of his older brother was a New York University professor of modern history. Because of a woman, has moved back to Berlin, which I just don't understand. He comes here twice a year, but he still has moved back.

And when we arranged to go to Holland, we decided to see Tom. He was in bad psychological shape at the time. We wanted to make sure he's OK. So we stayed six days in Berlin and had the identical feeling I had the first time in '73. Out of here-- let's get out of here fast. I wouldn't get out fast enough.

The country-- the city is beautiful. It's a beautiful city. Berlin is gorgeous now. The people the same. Maybe not the young ones, but the older people are the same. [INAUDIBLE] how he can-- I mean, he was in [NON-ENGLISH] when he fought the Germans. He liberate one of the camps. How he can go back there, I just don't understand.

He was married twice. He was into Jewish girls. Now he's involved with a non-Jewish girl, woman. He's 70 now, retired, but what can you say? To each his own. But my husband said, no matter what, he would never again-- that's twice for them, twice too many times.

I feel the same way. They didn't want us. It has nothing to offer to me. Nothing. We have a friend who said-- who went back after Shanghai, back to Germany, an acquaintance who said she goes back to hate. [SPEAKING GERMAN], she said. I go back to hate.

I'm sure she got some other things too. She goes back to Berlin. She lives there too. I mean, you can't-- people do what they have to do. I think I'm pretty much talked out unless anybody else has a question.

Any more questions of anybody? No. Well, Ursula, thank you very much--

Thank you very much.

--for being with us and having told us your story.

I'm sorry I cancelled this many times. As I said before, the main reason was I really felt I was living too well, considering the way other people will live. Things come back when we talk. Thank you.

Thank you very much for being with us.

Thank you.

May I use the telephone?

Sure.