

ELIZABETH ZINGER DAVID AND FRITZI ZINGER NOZIK
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Liz and Fritzi are two sisters who came to the United States as 2 of the 50 children saved by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus. Fritzi was born in 1930 in Vienna and Liz 3 years later. Fritzi relates that their childhood was happy. They lived near the Engelsplatz within view of the Danube with their parents and paternal grandparents. Both parents were from Poland, and at first their father thought they wouldn't be affected because he had served in the Prussian army. After Kristallnacht they had to move out of their apartment and the school was closed. Fritzi remembers that Jews had special times to shop. Their mother saved their father many times; on Kristallnacht she hid him in an armoire and was almost taken by the Nazis herself.

The parents heard about the selection of 50 children for America and wanted to have the girls accepted. They remember Mrs. Kraus only because she had red fingernail polish. They were crying as they got on the ship, the HH President Harding, but thought that their parents were going to join them later. Liz was seasick on the ship, and Fritzi remembers another girl, Hildi Braunbasser, getting sick in her cup.

At Camp Shalom in Pennsylvania Fritzi recollects that they all loved Mr. Kraus, whom they called Uncle Gilbert. After two months in the camp they were taken in by distant relatives whose own children were grown, Uncle Max and Aunt Birdie from Utica, New York. They came with their sister in law Helen to pick the children up in camp. In the car trip to Utica, Liz threw up on Helen and Birdie's nice dresses. The family was wealthy and had maids

The girl's grandparents were sent to Theresienstadt and perished, but eventually their parents came to the United States vouched for by relatives. At first it was strange being reunited with their parents after a year. The aunt and uncle wanted to keep the girls and felt that they could provide a rich home for them, but their parents insisted on having them move in with them. They stayed in Utica and were poor, but happy. They remember that their mother cleaned houses and their father made \$10 an hour at various jobs. They belonged to the conservative synagogue, Beth El.

There was conversation about the importance of keeping the Jewish tradition for their children and grandchildren because of all the sacrifices that had been made and the importance of continuing the religion. They said the Krauses had been benefactors to the children despite having been non-religious themselves; what they did was a miracle.

Now both living in Florida, Fritzi has 3 children and grandchildren; Liz has 2 children and three grandchildren. They have a special bond. In 2000 they had a reunion with some of the other 50 children. They specifically remember Kurt Herman from this reunion.