

HENNY WENKART
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Henny was one of the 50 Viennese children taken to the United States by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus in 1939. She was born in Vienna in 1928. Her father originally came from Galicia and was a lawyer. Her mother came from a Hasidic community that moved to Austria because of pogroms in Poland. Henny remembers a very good life in Vienna during her childhood and aid her father really spoiled her. She also had a sister who was 9 years younger. When Jews had to leave school, she was tutored at home. She remembers going to Hasidic festivals with her mother's family.

Henny remembers the family started thinking about emigrating after the Anschluss. Her uncle was sent to Dachau and then Buchenwald where he died. Her father escaped harm during Kristallnacht because he was in a phone booth. His aunt during that time was forced to clean the sidewalk with a toothbrush in her fur coat. Henny feels guilty that she chose to go on the kinder transport even though she was leaving her parents and sister. She still feels guilty to the present time.

The children left in May 1939 on the SS President Harding. Henny remembers being in Berlin for a night and remembers the Krauses teaching the children the Star-Spangled Banner. There were new foods on the ship, including Jell-O and tomato juice. At Camp Shalom in Pennsylvania, where all the children spent a few months after landing in New York, she remembers the boys were taught baseball and the girls sewing. She remembers that Eddie and Rudy had bar mitzvahs in the Camp

Henny first lived with relatives in Brooklyn and then Baltimore. Her parents came on the SS Laconia on September 1, and they moved to Providence Rhode Island where her uncle lived. Her father got a job at \$10 an hour drilling holes in fake rubies, but then became a detail man for pharmaceuticals and then a comptroller at a factory run by Adolph Miller. Henny went to Classical High School and then Pembroke College. During this time, she still lived at home. She and her husband, also a refugee, were charter members of the Hillel at Brown. Her husband and his brother had lived in an orphanage in Holland until they were able to get to England with their parents just before the Nazis invaded Holland.

Henny got her MS in Journalism at Columbia. She married and had three children and worked 15 years to get her PhD in Philosophy. She taught for many years at Harvard and at Stern School in New York. She has lived the past thirty years in New York City. She had three children, all of whom went to Harvard. She has 5 grandchildren. Her sister is an anthropologist in Toronto.

Henny still regrets that she left her parents behind to go on the Kindertransport. She is against telling children the real details of the holocaust until they are in their teens, because she says it only scares the children and thus gives the Nazis a victory.