

Gary Rosenthal Virtual Book

Gary Rosenthal was born in Vienna, Austria in 1933. His father was a publisher of a pharmaceutical magazine. In 1938 Nazi Germany marched into Austria: this event is known in history as the Anschluss.



(Cheering crowds greet Hitler as he enters Vienna, Austria, March 1938. USHMM)

Life changed dramatically for the Jews after the Nazis took over.

Gary's parents had different opinions about what to do before the Anschluss: his father wanted to stay but his mother wanted to leave. After the Anschluss all the Jews wanted to leave.



Of course nobody at that time had any idea what was about to happen to the Jews in Europe.

In order to find someone to help them leave Austria, his parents wrote to people, strangers, with the name Rosenthal and Blaustein, his mother's maiden name. They got the help they needed to come to the US. In September 1938 his family boarded a train for France and then boarded the SS Washington and crossed the Atlantic arriving in the US on October 8th, 1938.



World War II began on September 1st, 1939.

Gary has no first hand memory of the Nazis but this early experience impacted his life...