

Rosa Koklin

Born 1920 in Stockholm. She had an older sister and a younger brother. The family came from Riga in the 1910s, a few years before she was born. The father was a wholesaler of fur products and settled in Stockholm. She believes that the reason they moved to Sweden was that he wanted to escape the Russian war service. Rosa spent the summers in Riga, by the sea. The parents spoke Russian at home when she did not understand. The parents only fell with Russian men, but she felt Swedish. Her family went to the synagogue on Saturdays and held Jewish days, but were not religious. She attended the religious school of the Parish twice a week and also in the congregation to prepare for the confirmation. It was obvious to her that she would meet a Jewish man. However, the brother married a "Swedish".

She grew up on Norrmalm in Stockholm's inner city. She did not think there was any difference between her and the other children when she went to school. But her parents did not allow her to go to school games, as the other girls received. She does not remember being exposed to anti-semitism at school. As long as she went to school and at the time of the student, she did not suffer much from the outbreak of war or what happened to Jews in neighboring countries during the war. However, the outbreak of war on September 1, 1939, she was very aware of, as she returned from the summer visit to Riga the day before. She had a feeling of just coping away. Thereafter, relatives came from Latvia and lived in her family in Stockholm. Her mother also had brothers who lived in Berlin and who came to Sweden.

When Norway and Denmark were occupied in 1940, Rosa had taken the student and she said that the occupation of neighboring countries and Permittent traffic, to train with German soldiers on their way to Norway, was allowed to pass through Sweden, engaging her. But it was especially after she met Charles, who moved from Norway and whom she then married, as she gained consciousness.

Charles was politically active in Norway and, according to Rosa, this was the main reason for his escape. She met him through the SJUF (Scandinavian Jewish Youth Association) after arriving in Stockholm. They married in 1943 and Rosas parents were pleased to marry a Jewish refugee from Norway. However, Charles sisters were upset, who also moved to Sweden when they beat big in connection with their wedding, as parents and other siblings remained in Norway. The deportation of Jews from Norway with the Danube engaged Rosa.

Through the newspaper press they found out the Holocaust and what happened to the Jews. She says it was a miracle that people survived the Holocaust. The survivors who came after 1945 met in Jewish associations that she was with. They told me what they were doing. She listened and tried to participate. But do not think she has been so affected. She is grateful that she was born in Sweden and escaped the Holocaust, but was ashamed that she did not engage more for those who came.

She believes that the congregation received completely different tasks because many refugees came.

Rosa says that she is both proud of being Swedish and being Jewish. The founding of the state of Israel perceives her as an incredible event, but it is clear that she has had her life in Sweden.