

Eva Rosenfeld
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Interviewer: This an interview with Eva Rosenfeld by Miriam Basek and it's part of a holocaust series of interviews that we're doing through a project with Jewish Federation and Eva has been kind enough to consider having time to share her experiences and it's very profound I think.

Eva Rosenfeld: Thank you.

Interviewer: You're welcome. The first questions are background questions of information about name and address and so we'll just go over those. Eva could you tell us your name, full name?

Eva Rosenfeld: Eva Rosenfeld.

Interviewer: Okay and when were you born?

Eva Rosenfeld: I was born April 22nd, 1927.

Interviewer: And where was that?

Eva Rosenfeld: In Konigsberg, East Prussia in Germany. It's now Russian and it's called Kaliningrad.

Interviewer: In Russia. Okay. What's the name of your husband?

Eva Rosenfeld: Eric Rosenfeld.

Interviewer: And when were you married and where were you married?

Eva Rosenfeld: We were married in Rochester, New York, August the 20th, 1950.

Interviewer: And what was your father's name?

Eva Rosenfeld: Kurt [unintelligible 0:01:16.2]

Interviewer: And where was your father born?

Eva Rosenfeld: He was born in Konigsberg, as far as I know.

Interviewer: And his occupation?

Eva Rosenfeld: He was a pharmacist.

Interviewer: Then what was your mother's name?

Eva Rosenfeld: Margaret, Newberg is her maiden name.

Interviewer: Okay and what town was she born in?

Eva Rosenfeld: She was born in [unintelligible 0:01:40.0] Germany, as far as I know.

Interviewer: Okay and what occupation did she have?

Eva Rosenfeld: She was just a housewife.

Interviewer: Alright and then you have four children and what are their names?

Eva Rosenfeld: Okay. David is the oldest. He was born in Rochester in July the 3rd, 1951 and Vira is the next one. She was born September the 3rd, 1953 and Emily was born October the 20th, 1956 and our youngest, Ken, was born here in Nashville, August the 19th, 1963.

Interviewer: Okay. The first questions are mostly about prewar life. What was life like for you as a Jew in your town or city before the war?

Eva Rosenfeld: Well, I was just a child. We left Germany just a month before my 10th birthday and I was actually, I only went to public school, and I don't remember the school really, for the first year, and after that, I went to school at the synagogue which was quite a distance from where we lived. I had to take a trolley and walk quite a bit, but the school was down in the basement of the synagogue and most of the Jewish children went to school there. I don't know if they all did. Maybe they all did, I don't really recall, except that we were given a hard time. That first year at school, I know I was given a hard time by the gentile children. They would tease and I had long hair they used to pull my braids and we used to have ink wells and they'd stick my braids in the ink well and do all kinds of bad things. I mean not that they would actually hit me. At least I don't remember being hit. Just pranks. Mostly pranks and just, you know, bad names.

Interviewer: Do you have a sense that there was a policy that specifically restricted you from going to public school?

Eva Rosenfeld: I think so, but I couldn't tell you, you know, truthfully. I'm not positive of that, but I think Jews we're not allowed in the public schools anymore.

Interviewer: Okay. And so you then attended the school in the synagogue for how many years?

Eva Rosenfeld: Well, a couple of years and until we left Germany I went there.

Interviewer: Was that both the secular education in that school as well as religious education or...?

Eva Rosenfeld: Yes, we had Hebrew as well as the secular courses. But I don't really remember a whole lot of the school. It's just kind of a blank. As a matter of fact, when I came to the United States, some of my former classmates from Germany got back to me and said, "Remember, I used to be a classmate of yours." I just couldn't remember. I couldn't remember.

Interviewer: So that's not real clear in your memory of those years?

Eva Rosenfeld: No.

Interviewer: Okay. Were you involved in any kind of activities like youth movements or Zionist groups or other interest groups?

Eva Rosenfeld: No, I was too young for that.

Interviewer: Eva, do you remember being any play groups or social groups during those times?

Eva Rosenfeld: No, not really.

Interviewer: Okay. How did the Nazi's rule in Germany first affect you?

Eva Rosenfeld: Well, mainly through what was happening to the adults and my experiences... Of course, I looked at all of these things through the eyes of a child and that's different from the way people felt who were already adults, but as far as I was concerned it affected me because my father and my grandfather both were pharmacist and they had a pharmacy they owned the whole building. My grandparents lived above the pharmacy and it was a three-story building, I recall. Then, I don't exactly know the date that this came about, but we were not allowed to have the pharmacy anymore and it had to be forcefully sold for a pittance. I mean, you just were not allowed to keep a business of any sort. So my grandfather was already dead at that time, and my father and my grandmother who actually were co-owners of the business at that time, just had to give it up and there was nothing for my parents to do but leave. There was no way they could earn a living, and you were not allowed to work or to have a business and we were ready to immigrate to another country. I don't recall. I'm not sure; I go by some of the things I heard later on about exactly what my parents did at that time, whether they had already applied to come to United States when they were still in Germany or if they applied once they

got to Italy, because that's where we went. We went to Italy. We went to Genoa, Italy, and we could take household items with us because, I remember, we had furniture and dishes and things like that, but we were not allowed to take any money out of Germany. So, I don't know why, but through advice, I supposed, that my parents had gotten, my father had bought a bakery in Germany. Now he was a pharmacist, he was not a baker and had – well that was the only way, I think, by transferring the money to buy this business that you could get any kind of capital out. Everything else, you just couldn't take. I just have one brother, and my brother didn't want to come with us to Italy, and the reason we went to Italy, from what I understand, was that my grandparents just didn't want my parents to go so far as the United States, or maybe it was because we couldn't get into United States at that time, and we had to get out. So we went to Italy, I know a lot of people went wherever they could get to even if it was suppose to have been, you know, a temporary country. Anyway, we went to Genoa, Italy and my brother didn't want to come with us because he didn't want to learn a new language and he was already in high school. He was three years older than I am, and he wanted to finish high school in Germany and then come to Italy to join us. So, he stayed behind with my grandmother on my father's side. My grandfather on my father's side had already died, and my grandparents on my mother's side, I don't know whether they had left then already or not, but they came to the United States. They were able to get out.

Interviewer: Directly or did they...?

Eva Rosenfeld: They came directly to the United States, because my father had a brother and my mother had a brother. There were just two in each side. So my father's brother came to this country. He was a physician and he was called to Boston University. So he came. He was a professor of medicine. So he was in Cologne for a while. He was the head of the Jewish Hospital in Cologne, then he was called to Boston. So he came to this country. And my mother's brother was also a physician. He came to this country also earlier. So my mother's parents – I guess it was easier for them to come here because my mother's brother was already here, so he, I assume, got his parents over here. But I think as far as my parents' and our quota number – or maybe he applied later. That was too high a number and we just...

Interviewer: You couldn't get...

Eva Rosenfeld: ...we couldn't get to the United States on time. So we went to Italy, and my brother who stayed in Germany never did get to join us. He eventually just made it out in time to England. He went to England with the children's transport. My grandmother unfortunately lost her life at Theresienstadt concentration camp, and my brother was suppose to have

gone to a Jewish home in England, a watchmaker who... Apparently, the family, somehow, for some reason, backed out at the last minute, and he ended up in a non-Jewish home of English people who were very kind to him. Then he went into the British army. He was in the British army during the war. Then he stayed in the army, made it a career, and he was all over the world with the British army. He was in Vietnam. He was in Korea.

Interviewer: Where is he living now?

Eva Rosenfeld: He's deceased. But after he got out of the army, he stayed in England, and his family is still in England. He had five children – they're all married. I have eleven great nieces and great nephews. But as far as I'm concerned, in Italy, I had a lot of bad experiences. Like I said, my father was a pharmacist, and he didn't know from baking, being a baker, and my father and my mother worked very hard at this bakery. First of all, they got unfortunately cheated in the purchase of this bakery. The former owner apparently didn't pay his debts and so they had a hard time trying to get supplies for the bakery. They had to pay the other previous owners debts before they could get supplies, and they worked day and night, and so I was left mostly to my own devices. Again, in Italy, at first, I think I could have gone to an Italian school, a public school, but I didn't. I again went to school at a synagogue. At first, things weren't so bad. We were allowed to have a... A lady came in to clean, and, you know, to take care of some of the household things, because my parents were at work. But then, before too long, we weren't allowed to have any domestic help or anybody to come. So I was supposed to take care of all kinds of chores at home, but I was just a young teenager and a typical young teenager. I'd sweep the dirt on the rug, and I'd let the dishes sit in the sink, and this Italian lady that used to work for us, she was so nice, she would come without pay. She would come when my parents weren't there, and she'd come and she'd wash dishes and clean out...

Interviewer: She'd fix things for you.

Eva Rosenfeld: She fixed things up for me. But my mother got very sick, and she was home. I found out later, I didn't know at the time, but she had a heart condition, and she was at home in bed for six months before they took her to the hospital. She couldn't be home anymore. Also at the same time, things got very rough in Italy because the Italians and the Germans had joined and the Germans were putting pressure on the Italians to get rid of the Jews, and again my father lost his business and my mother was so sick at the time and there was just... That was just a real bad time. We couldn't keep the apartment and my mother...

[technical 0:19:32.2]

Interviewer: And your mother was quite ill. Okay and we're just gonna follow up on life on Italy and that there was some very difficult times then.

Eva Rosenfeld: Yes. Well, my mother was very sick, and after she got to the hospital and my father lost his business, things were just upside down. My mother passed away in January of 1939, and after that, we gave up the apartment, and we took whatever we could and sent some of our possessions to the United States at the time. I remember that very distinctly because my father had me helping him pack and list everything that would, and – but not until years later that I find out that it never got here. It never arrived. It just got lost or never left or disappeared wherever. Anyway, it never got here, but we gave up the apartment and we stayed with an Italian lady in rented room, and I was still going to school and...

Interviewer: Eva about how old would have been right around then?

Eva Rosenfeld: I was twelve years old, and my father was still partly busy with the business. But like I was saying, the Germans were urging the Italians to get rid of the Jews. So there would be raids like they would just pick up whoever they could catch, and one day, I came home from school and some friends intercepted me and said, "Your father is in prison and you have to bring him his overnight things," and so I picked up his overnight things and I took the trolley and I went to the prison all by myself. The guards met me, and I told them I was bringing these things for my father, and they went through the things that I had put into this little suitcase and they pulled out his razor and pair of scissors and anything that was sharp and said, "He can't have this," and I left. I didn't realized until later how dangerous it was for me to even go to the prison. I mean, they could have just put me in their, too. Anyway, they kept my father and a lot of other people they had caught that day. They kept them there a couple of days, and I was all by myself. When they let him out, they told him that he had to leave the country within, I think it was two weeks or something. A very short period of time, and there was no place to go. So friends of my parents, some friends, some people went and they just went into hiding, and they told my father to just go into hiding and, but he wouldn't do that. He just couldn't do that. So the way a lot of people did is they could get to France illegally. There were like fisherman that would take people at night and get them from Italy over to France. They would be paid a certain amount of money to do that. Then when people got to France, they would have to pay a certain fine to the French government, and then the Jewish organizations would take over and take care of the people that had fled to France that way. So my father didn't want to take me on this very dangerous trip, so he left me with these friends of my parents, Dr. Kleiman and his wife, whose quota number were pretty close to the quota number that we had for coming to the United States. The way the my father figured and they agreed to take me with them to the United States and that

my father would go to France by himself.

Interviewer: So he wanted to ensure this safe passage?

Eva Rosenfeld: Right. He wanted me to get out. So my father did get to France, and he live there very tense life. He was provided for by the highest in the Jewish organizations, but we had tried to send him some of his clothes, because the only thing that he was allowed to take when he fled was a knapsack on his back with a change of clothes and that's all he had. So a change of clothes and enough money to pay the French government whatever fine that had to be paid. So we managed to get some clothes to him, but that's all he had. He had no way of earning any kind of money or anything. Unfortunately, in 1942, he was taken by the Germans and I still have his postcard. The way he writes... He was gonna leave on a train the next day, and that was the last we ever heard of him. Years later, through the Red Cross, the only thing that we were able to find out is that he was put on that transport, but he never even made it to camp. I don't know what happened on the way. But getting back to me, I then stayed with the Kleimans, and I continued to stay in this rented room with this Italian lady. I would sleep there and I was supposed to take care of my own things, and I used to go over to the Kleimans who also just had a room. They just didn't have a space for me. They were just a young married couple. I used to take meals with them, but I'd sleep there. It was a rough experience for me, because they tried very hard to take good care of me, but I resented the fact that they were not my parents. I was just a young teenager and very impressionable age, and I guess if things would have worked out where we would have come to the United States the way we expected to within a few weeks, things would have been better, but unfortunately, what happened was that we never did make it out. We did get our visas, and we were ready to leave on board a ship, but there were other documents that were still missing. We were gonna go by way of Lisbon and a whole lot... I even have the old ticket that was never used that my uncles had gotten here in the United States for me. But we just couldn't get all of the papers and everything together to be in time to sail for the United States. Then the harbor was closed and nobody got out anymore out of Italy.

Interviewer: And that would have been...

Eva Rosenfeld: So instead of being with the Kleimans for a matter of a few weeks, I ended up being with them for four years. From 1940 until 1944, when I came to this country. We were interned by the Italian government. What the Italians did... I guess we were lucky to have been in Italy and not in Germany. But what the Italians did is they separated families. They took the men and put them in concentration camps – they did not have that many concentration camps in Italy – and they took the women and the

children and the old people and interned them in small towns all over Italy. At first, Dr. Kleiman was put in a concentration camp, and Mrs. Kleiman and I were sent to a town called Potenza with a lot of other Jews as well as Italian political prisoners – I mean – dissidents, or whatever you want to call them. So it wasn't just strictly Jews. There were other people that were also confined. At that time Mrs. Kleiman was pregnant with their first child, and since her husband was a physician, she petitioned the Italian government to let her husband come where we were interned, to be with us. And it was granted. So he came, and he was with us. We were in Potenza for quite a while, and that there were quite a few people there, but we were confined to the boundaries of the town, the city. It was a small city. And from that time on, I was not allowed to go to school. Well not even before that. I missed about five years of school, and as good as the Kleimans were to me, it was a very traumatic experience for me as a teenager, simply because, like I mentioned before, I felt they were not parents, they couldn't tell me what to do or what not to do. Since I wasn't allowed to go to school, they wanted me to learn a trade. So they said I should go to this Italian lady that was a seamstress, and I should learn how to sew and I didn't like that, especially since this lady just had me do all the nitty-gritty work, and she really didn't teach me a whole lot. In any case, I had nobody to confide in to, that I felt I could talk to or confide into, and I just ate that bitterness up inside myself all those years. And there were all kinds of experiences we went through. Anyway, from Potenza, we were again divided up and put into smaller towns, a few families here, there. We had to report to the police every day. Nobody was allowed to work. We were given from the government a very small amount of money that you couldn't live on. We were lucky that Dr. Kleiman was a physician, even though he had nothing but his little black bag. He didn't have any medication or anything or couldn't get anything to help people that way, but this little town Tito that we were sent to after Potenza only had one doctor, one Italian doctor, and he had left. So there was no doctor in town at all. So the people of the village that were just farmers would kind of come to the back of the world so to speak.

Interviewer: Needs his services.

Eva Rosenfeld: To get some medical advice and in turn they would bring us you know some vegetables and the things that they grew, or they would bring us eggs or whatever they had that they could possibly spare. So that helped us a lot. Now Mrs....

[technical 0:39:59.1]

Eva Rosenfeld: I do recall one experience, though, we had in Tito because... And also the fact that, really, like I mentioned before, we were lucky to have been in Italy rather than in Germany...

Interviewer: Not in Germany.

Eva Rosenfeld: The Italian people basically...

Interviewer: Can we -- okay. We're still talking about life in the small community of Tito in Italy.

Eva Rosenfeld: Well, we were lucky, as I had mentioned before, being in Italy. The Italian people were very kind. Even with what little they had, they would be willing to share and under the conditions that was, most helpful. This little village we were in, the people were very poor and the living conditions were terrible, just terrible.

Interviewer: Eva, were you kept in a certain part of the town?

Eva Rosenfeld: Well, we could not leave the boundaries of the town. We could move about the town but we could not leave. Things were rationed, and whatever everybody else had, we got too. But you could never get things like meat. If there was ever any meat available, you would stand in the long line trying to get whatever meat you could. I think I came in contact with every bug, you name it. And it was kind of hard for us in the sense that coming from such a clean country as Germany to be... Well, a lot of it had to do with being in the very warm climate too. But also, the living conditions and the people were so poor. And sanitation, there was no running water. There was no way we could carry -- we had to get an Italian woman, and they'd carry these big barrels on their heads. They have almost like a turban type of thing on their head, and then they'd have this big barrels, and they'd have to go to the town square to the pump to fill the barrels with water. We couldn't do that. There's no way we could carry, so we had to get a woman to do for us, to pay her to get us the water. We had a wood stove and, like I said, no running water, and the toilet was like an indoor outhouse, and it was bad.

Interviewer: It was primitive huh?

Eva Rosenfeld: Very primitive. How some of these poor lived in homes that didn't even have a window -- they only had a door -- and they would live in a place like that with the chickens and with the different animals, the goats. Like being right there in the barn. Just so poor. But good-hearted, so good-hearted. Well, one experience I'd like to say among many others, these little towns were all strung along southern Italy, and the main road would usually go right through the middle of these towns. So all the fighting between the Germans and the Allied forces that came after they started occupying Italy and came up from Sicily, up the boot, went right through the middle of the towns. And the convoys would come through, and the planes would come over, and they'd be bombing these convoys along the

road. We could just stand on the window and watch it all happening. And as the Allied forces were coming up Italy and the Germans were fleeing, we had just observed a German convoy that had been bombed, and shortly thereafter, there was a knock on our door, and when we open it there were some German soldiers, and we were scared to death. Now, Dr. Kleiman, looks very German and very Jewish, very blonde. Didn't look Italian at all, with a very Jewish nose, and you couldn't mistake him for anyone else. But these German soldiers came to the door saying that some of the Italians had said that there was a doctor there and they had a very badly injured officer, and they wanted Dr. Kleiman to go with them to see to this very you know badly injured officer. So he had no choice but to go with them. We were scared to death. We figured he would not come back. He would not come back. But what actually happened was – and we immediately left and went into the hills to hide – he did go with them. He couldn't do a whole lot for this badly injured officer, but he did the best he could, and he didn't think he was going to live. But they did bring him back, and they even asked him you know what they could do for him and so he said, "Nothing, but if you have some food, we would appreciate it. So they did bring some food, and we were amazed, but we were so afraid, Dr. Kleiman were so afraid that – he said the officer was not gonna pull through – that if the officer died that they would come back and get him. So we went into hiding for a few days just to make sure, but there were all kinds of incidences, similar ones, trying to get food to eat. It was just hard. There were times when we walked from one village to another to a market in order to try to get some food – anything, chickens, pigeons. I mean, if it was edible, we ate it. Except for one thing. Dr. Kleiman and his wife came from a very orthodox family, very kosher, and she said...

Interviewer: They wouldn't eat pork...

Eva Rosenfeld: ...she said, "I eat anything but pork," and she would not eat pork no matter how hungry we might have been. She said, "If God gets us out of here, she said I'll go right back to the way I was." They're in New York now, and they've very strictly orthodox.

Interviewer: So Eva how did you come to the United States?

Eva Rosenfeld: So I have to tell you another story. Now this is after... After the Allied forces came through our town, all of Italy was not liberated yet. They were still going up north. But we were free. The minute that they came through, we were free, but we had no place to go. And I'll tell you how I was found by my family. A man who was also in this town, there were several internees in this town. He got himself on the train, and trains were almost impossible to get on, to the next largest city. He just wanted to see if he could get some business or something, because we had to start earning some kind of money to support ourselves. And he saw some

Israeli soldiers. The Israeli soldiers were with the British, there was a division of soldiers from Israel fighting with the British. And they were sitting in a café around a table, and he joined them and started talking to them and asked them if they had any relatives in Italy, and one of them happen to be my cousin. Not a first cousin. A second cousin. A first cousin of mother's. I did not even know he existed. I only knew of the existence of my closest relatives, my grandparents and my aunts and uncles, and that's it. And he mentioned my father and me and said that the family was looking for us. So this man said, "I know where the daughter is." So before this man had returned to the town, there was a knock on the door, and this very handsome soldier – I had opened the door – this very handsome soldier told me he was my cousin, and I had no idea. so he came and he told us who he was and that he was married and his wife was in Israel. He brought us a whole bunch of rations and all kinds of food, and he asked me if I would be willing to go to Israel to be with his wife until such time as the war was still going on. So I said, "Okay," and arrangements were being made for me to go to Israel. But before that that was almost finalized, President Roosevelt announced that he would take a thousand refugees from liberated Italy to come to the United States for the duration of the war. So we immediately applied to come to the United States, because most of my relatives were here, and due to the fact that Dr. Kleiman was still of military age, we were refused. So then they reapplied just for me, and I was accepted with the provision that someone that was going would take me on like a guardian. So this elderly couple said they would do that, and I was accepted to come, and we were shipped from different areas of liberated Italy to Naples from where we were leaving. Well, we went on a freight train, I mean there was just no – like ,on cattle cars, but transportation was very difficult. We were all taken to this collection camp or whatever you want to call that...

Interviewer: Where you would embark from.

Eva Rosenfeld: ...from where we were. And we were given all kinds of inoculations – I remember my arm was this big – in preparation of coming to states because they didn't know what kind of diseases we might have or might have picked up. We went on board a ship and were on a ship from a week in the harbor before we even sailed. But we went... Well, the ship that we were on was the Henry Gibbons and it's...

Interviewer: You have a picture of that. Okay.

Eva Rosenfeld: We were in a convoy of ships. Now, I don't know if all of them, but the ship that we were on was bringing wounded American soldiers back to the United States and we were assigned three decks, four decks, the front of the ship... What's the front of the ship called? I don't know. Anyway, there were 250 people per deck – men, women, children and it was in

August, it was hot, and I was in the lowest deck right down the bottom of the ship. People were terribly sick. We were on board, we were on the gulf for a week before we got into New York, but one week we were already on board...

Interviewer: Just sitting there.

Eva Rosenfeld: I don't know how many ships were in the convoy. We were treated just like the rest of the soldiers. We were given a mess kit and we got fed twice a day – in the morning and in the afternoon. After the soldiers were through, then they would feed us, and we got plenty of food, but the same kind of food the soldiers got, like powdered eggs that were green. But anyway, a lot of the older people, it was really rough on them, and we had one incident where... Of course, it was a very dangerous. It was during the war, and there was always the danger of submarines and possible sinking of the ship. So one time, there was a blackout, and they had forgotten to close off the vents, and all the smoke came inside the ship, and people got very panicky thinking it was a fire. We were allowed to go on top of the deck if we could, but there wasn't much room for people to be on the deck. But the soldiers were very nice. There were a lot of children, and they would be in that center part of the ship, and they were above us, and they would talk to the children, and they would give them candy and toys and things like that. It was very nice.

Interviewer: And then where did you land Eva?

Eva Rosenfeld: We landed in New York harbor. We were taken right off of the ship and directly put on a train, and we were taken by train to Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, that used to be a military camp. It was surrounded by barbed wire, and we were not allowed out. We lived in barracks, but the barracks were adjusted to like apartments. If there was a family, they would have...

Interviewer: A room confined together?

Eva Rosenfeld: Uh-huh. It was simple, but everything was done that you know could be done. What was the most distressing was the barb wire, because we felt that, you know, you're in America you're free...

Interviewer: You're free.

Eva Rosenfeld: We couldn't get out of the camp except by a pass and the – by the guard house. The children were allowed to go to public schools and since I had not been in school for five years – I was seventeen years old – they put me in the sixth grade...

Interviewer: That's when you really stopped.

[technical 1:02:29]

Interviewer: ...and then I'll do these last questions. Is there anything more you want to add or how that's affected your life? Okay. Eva, I know that there are so many things may have happened in that camp that would have been interesting but I'd like to know how long you were in the camp?

Eva Rosenfeld: About a year and a half. Well, President Roosevelt died, and President Truman... well, there was a lot of pressure put on, because we were actually supposed to go back after the war was over but all the families and Jewish organizations and everybody just put a lot of pressure on the United States government and on the president to let us stay. So finally, whoever wanted to go back could go back, and some people did go back, but the rest of us, if we had relatives that would give us an affidavit or otherwise a Jewish organization would take over and do so. So if we wanted to stay, we could. We still had to have a quota number and some people still stayed at camp longer than others, waiting to be let in because they were different, they were German Jews, they were Czechoslovakian, Yugoslavian, Russian I mean...

Interviewer: So where there quotas for each subgroup?

Eva Rosenfeld: Yeah, there were for whatever country you were at. So since Oswego was close to Canada, what they did is, as soon as we were ready and we were put on a bus, we were driven Niagara Falls across the bridge into Canada. All the papers were legalized in Canada. We were put back on the bus and came back to the United States as, you know, being legally immigrating...

Interviewer: Immigrating from Canada.

Eva Rosenfeld: ...from Canada because we weren't – you know, we had been in the United States, but we had not been in the United States legally.

Interviewer: I see.

Eva Rosenfeld: Like we were illegal aliens.

Interviewer: Did you then go and to live with your uncle?

Eva Rosenfeld: Then I went to live with my grandmother in Rochester, New York and my uncle was in Rochester, New York and another uncle in Boston. The story about the camp, actually, that came out years later that the lady was [unintelligible 1:06:01.9] who, at the time, was a war correspondent was commissioned by the United States government to go to Italy and

accompany this transport of people to the United States. She wrote a book on the camp and on everything that led up to this transport. She was here giving a talk on the book that she had written about the camp at a Hadassah donor luncheon where a friend of ours told her that I was one of the people that was with that transport and at the camp. So that's when she came and she talked to me and a lot of these things fell back into place. The book is available in the library.

Interviewer: What is it called?

Eva Rosenfeld: It's called "Haven." And then a documentary was filmed on the camp, and I have that tape about the people and the transport and how all this came about and life and camp, and it just tells a lot about the background of my coming here with that transport.

Interviewer: And that documentary is called what?

Eva Rosenfeld: It's also called "Haven."

Interviewer: Safe Haven.

Eva Rosenfeld: Safe Haven.

Interviewer: Okay. I'd just like to ask you some concluding questions, and then I want us to have a chance to look at those pictures and some of the special things that you brought with you today. How did your prewar and immigration experiences change you? I know that's a general question but... Do you look at other people and events differently?

Eva Rosenfeld: Well, I didn't have a normal growing up, so it definitely had an effect on our own children. My husband is also a survivor of the holocaust. As far as changing... Well, for one thing, when I first came here and I was still at camp and when my relatives finally were allowed to come in to see me, I was so scared and so traumatized, I wouldn't even speak to my own relatives, and it took me many years to even to come a little bit out of my shell, so to speak. There is a lot that I do not remember. It's just like a blank. I cannot for the life of me remember. Well, our children as they grew up, of course, got our story from us and to a certain extent, we don't know if they had – we tried to give them a normal growing up, but both my husband and I didn't really know exactly what a normal growing up is...

Interviewer: Didn't have that yourself.

Eva Rosenfeld: And our children have felt certain effects because we were refugees to start out with and ... I don't know how to put it really but it's definitely

had different effects on us as well as on our children.

Interviewer: Do you think you were protective of them in certain ways more so...

Eva Rosenfeld: Very much so, yeah. We wanted them to have everything that we didn't.

Interviewer: I can understand that. Eva the last question on this interview is, now that you have told me your story, what would like others to know? Is there a message you would like others to remember about your experiences?

Eva Rosenfeld: Well I really just – The only thing is, I can say to keep your ears and your eyes open, and hopefully, it will never repeat itself. But it was just something that was very difficult, very difficult, even though it probably was easier on me looking back on it, because I was a child, than it probably was on the people that were already adults, because as I got older myself, I realized certain things come with maturity, and you perceive things differently. So that's about all I can say.

Interviewer: Thank you. I want to thank you for what you have done today, and I think it goes a long way to increasing awareness and to tell a story of details that really was a difficult time and it's important to know those details.

Eva Rosenfeld: Well, every one's story is different, so I appreciate you taking the time to listen.

Interviewer: Oh good, you've given a gift and I think now what we'll do is to re-setup and we'll take some time and understand what the pictures are.

[technical 1:14:42.4]

Interviewer2: Eva can you -- can you pull me one of the pages where you had your kind of a passport type looking document. You said that you had to have when you were in Italy.

Eva Rosenfeld: Uh-huh. I'm looking for things to... I've been looking for a lot of things and I'm trying to put it together.

[technical 1:16:25.5]

Interviewer2: Give me another picture I think I'd like to...

Eva Rosenfeld: I don't know which one of these pictures you want.

Interviewer2: Is that them? The...

Eva Rosenfeld: This is them with two of their sons here.

Interviewer2: Those type of...

Eva Rosenfeld: No this is...

Interviewer2: I like that one, the one with the -- with the flowers, the two of them.

Eva Rosenfeld: Oh that's when they got married.

Interviewer2: That will be a good one for me.

Interviewer2: I want to go back and get some of our own.

Eva Rosenfeld: Okay.

Interviewer2: You refer -- for me you kind of pick the microphone and tell me who these people are for just because some people that someday might look at this may not, they need to know who this is.

Eva Rosenfeld: Oh are you taking all four or just the one?

Interviewer2: Just the two of them there, their wedding picture.

Eva Rosenfeld: So you just want me to say...

Interviewer2: Oh just tell me who they are.

Eva Rosenfeld: Okay, that's Dr. Max Kleiman and his wife Felicitas Kleiman with whom I stayed in Italy for four years and when I became their so to speak adopted daughter...