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Question: ...mir was erzählen können, wie ihre Familie ins Burgenland gekommen ist und wie lange ihre...?

Answer: Ja, meine Urgroßvater war in Grosspetersdorf und er hat eine Geschäft. Albert Löwy & Sohn. Und mein Großvater war Sigmund Löwy, und er hat geheiratet ein Frau, sie war sehr hübsch, und sie hat geheißen Gisela Würzburger. Und dann mein Vater hat, mein Vater war die *eldest¹*, *eldest* von die Kinder, und er hat ein Schwester Elvira und Elsa. Und Elvira hat ein hungarische Arzt geheiratet, und er hat, ich glaub, er hat Árpád geheißen. Und Elsa hat Aladár Latzer von Güssing geheiratet. Sie haben gesagt zu mein Vater, vor '38, du sollst Geld schicken nach *Switzerland*, nach der Schweiz, und er hat gelacht, weshalb, wir, wir sind von Österreich, wir...ich tu das nicht...*impossible*, dass etwas kann geschehen. Also, wenn ich war drei Jahre alt, die Anschluss war in März, und in September wir haben...*we left Austria*. Und, ich glaub, dass mein Vater hat Geld gegeben, zu ein *agent*, zu kaufen Tickets für *Argentina*, aber er ist weggelaufen mit die Geld, und mein Mutter hat ein Schwester gehabt, das lebt in *Lisbon* in Portugal. Also sind wir alle nach Portugal gegangen, meine Großeltern von Großpetersdorf, und auch meine Mutter's Eltern, von Baden, sie haben geheißen Braun, Leopold und Luise Braun. Und wir sind zusammen gewohnen in *Lisbon*. Mein Vater's *sister*, Schwester, in nach *concentration camp* genommen, mit ihr zwei Kinder, und die andere Schwester war, ist gegangen nach *Argentina*, Buenos Aires, in ihre Familie. Und meine Großeltern von Vater seits sind gegangen nach *Argentina*, und mein Mutter seits sind gegangen nach *Mexico*, und wir sind in Portugal. Mein Mutter hat...war ein Lehrerin in Großpetersdorf von English und Französisch, also es war viel leichter für ihr, zu ein *job*...

Q: bekommen...

A: ...bekommen, in *Lisbon*. Und sie hat gearbeitet beim *JDC, the Jewish Distribution Company*. Portugal, in diese Zeit, war ein *neutral country*, es war nicht ins Krieg. Und plötzlich hat ein deutsches *submarine attacked* manche portugiesische Schiffe...*ships*. Ein große *ship* von die *United States* ist gekommen zu...*to take refugee children from France*. Aber *France was blockaded*, und das *ship* hat zu *Lisbon* gekommen, und die jüdische *community* sind zusammengekommen, um in drei Tag alle die jüdische Kinder in die Schiff zu *America*...kein Platz für die Eltern. Also ich war sieben, und mein Bruder war neun. Nein, ich glaube, ich war fünf und er war sieben, so etwas, und wir sind zuerst *New York* gegangen...

Q: Also ohne Eltern?

A: Ohne Eltern, und mein Mutter hat nur gefragt...*asked for* zwei Sache, das wir sind zusammen...sie lassen zusammen sein und wir sind nicht in ein zu reiche Familie, weil sie hat gewusst, wann sie kommen, wo sie kommen, das ist ohne Geld. Sie hat nicht gewollt, dass wir sind so *used to a life that they couldn't provide*. Wir sind gewohnt in ein *foster-home* mit Leute für zwei Jahr, und dann hat mein Eltern...*they received a visa*, nicht zu *United States*, war geschlossen, aber sie haben ein *visa* gekriegt zu *Montreal*. Die Schiff, das sie sind...*in the middle of the water, a german submarine attacked the ship*, und alle haben müssen runtergehen, in *lifeboats*. Aber mein Vater hat ein *bad leg*, er hat gehen mit ein *cane*, und er hat nicht gekonnt...*he couldn't climb down the stairs*.

² So my mother said, „I don't go, too“. So, *ich weiss nicht wie, aber* the news came to the United States and to Philadelphia, and the papers came to photograph me and my brother, the children, whose parents are on an ship, that is being attacked by the Germans, and they're the only ones left. Also, at the last moment, a sailor *hat mein Vater genommt und geworft ins lifeboat und dann mein Mutter hat auch gegangen. Mein Mutter erinnert sich, dass diese Nacht, das war the most beautiful sunset das sie hat gesehen, und sie hat gewusst, das ist die last, die letzte sunset, das sie will sehen. Aber etwas ist geschehen, und die captain of the Portuguese ship made an arrangement with the German submarine und they were not left...and the torpedo...they were not torpedoed and they were all brought back into the ship. Because of this, when my parents got on the train from the United States to Canada, all the windows were black, because it was a trainload of refugees, and they didn't*

¹ Das Interview beginnt auf **Deutsch** mit eingestreuten **englischen Wörtern** (in *kursiv*), setzt aber später komplett in Englisch fort.

² Ab diesem Zeitpunkt wird das Interview auf **Englisch** fortgesetzt, eingestreute **deutsche Worte** werden in *Kursiv* hervorgehoben.

want anyone to get out. But because of the publicity of my brother and I, the mayor of Philadelphia made a request: "Can the train stop for half an hour in Philadelphia, so that my parents could see us?" And that's what happened. The train stopped and my brother and I were taken to the platform and we saw our parents, for the first time in two years. And then they went to Canada, and...

Q: And you still stayed in...?

A: Yes, because they had to have a job, they had to have an apartment, before they could send for the children. So, two months later, we went to Montreal, and then I was seven, and my brother nine. So we grew up in Canada. My parents lived in Montreal, we went to school and university in Montreal, and my mother is now ninety-five years old, and my brother³ is the Rector of Concordia University in Montreal, and I go back every summer to see them, so she will be very...

Q: So your mother is still alive?

A: She is very much alive, yes. She worked all her life and she is, she received her Bachelor, her BA, when she was eighty years old, and she studied until she was ninety-two. And then she became very annoyed, because she didn't get all grade "A".

Q: Oh.

A: And we told her it didn't matter, it didn't matter...so, anyway, just in the last few years, but she still, you know, she reads philosophy and she's very interested in everything around her. So she's very happy that I'm here, and now looks forward to hearing what my impressions of Austria are, because this is my first time in sixty-two years, that I return. So is just a little bit of the story of...you know...of the family. And my father died when he was eighty. They lived for a while in Toronto, so...that's a little bit, you know, of the story.

Q: Do you still remember when you went to the States or...?

A: Oh yes, I remember...my first memory is leaving Austria on a train, with my grandmother there and my mother, and the train. And I remember Portugal, I remember Portugal.

Q: What were you told, why are you leaving or...?

A: I think when you're living something, and a) you're trying to survive and find out how you're going to bring in money for bread, nobody sits you down and says: "Now, we left because such and such happened" It's something that you are enveloped in.

Q: But were you aware that it's something...?

A: Yes, we were aware that it was wartime. We were aware that it was special circumstances. We were aware that, I mean I never felt poor in Portugal, even though we were poor, but we were never poor in aspiration⁴, you know, and we never felt poor. We knew when our parents put us on the ship, it was to save our lives. We didn't think "How could our parents leave us?"

Q: So you were aware...

A: There was no question of that. We knew, because our parents would have given their life for us, and we knew it was circumstances, you know. But I also think, when it's wartime, you have no time to philosophise. Survival, you have to survive in some way, and I think all your energy and all your instincts are there in order to survive. You cannot stop and reflect. I mean, I have travelled in many places in the world, I have lived in many places in the world. I have never, until now, been very interested to come back to Austria. And it's just now that, you know, the interest comes back and sometimes, when something so shocking happens that you can't take it in, it takes many years until you can take it out and look at it. And you are very busy just living. The good thing about being thrown out is that you can live in many places in the world. There are always people you find they say "You don't

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⁴ **aspiration** - a strong desire to achieve something high or great b : an object of such desire (Source: Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Online)

make a friend, you recognize a friend", and wherever you go in the world, you recognize a friend. I can come into a new town and in six months know everybody, and know how the town works, and I've done that. And that is because I was forced, at a very young age, to go. So now, I can go, I think anywhere, and acclimatize and be happy in different places. I don't think "Oh, I miss so and so..." I think of it, the other time, but you make new friends, and you make a new life, and it's possible to live. So I...now I came to Austria, you know, with a completely open mind. You know, with no bad recollection "Oh, it's gonna be..." No, I just came to see. So, I'm accepting things now as they come and as I see them.

Q: So...you went to school in the States?

A: I went to school in Canada. I started in the States 'cause we spoke no English, so in Philadelphia, we learned English.

Q: And you were together always with your brother?

A: I was together with my brother always, yes, yes. He was always the good one, and I was always so happy, you know, that my mother had my brother, so she shouldn't think she's a failure as a mother, 'cause he was always good, you know. Just naturally, he was just a very, very good child, a good young man, and a good man now, so I was always very happy. And of course then we went to Montreal, and went to school there. And when I was 18, I went to Israel for a year to study, but then, I would have gone anywhere in the world, as far away from home as possible, and I went to Israel and fell in love with the place and came home for two years because it was a scholarship for a youth leader and part of the scholarship was that you came back and led youth groups, which I did, and I studied Hebrew in Montreal, 'cause there was a large Jewish community, and then I went back to Israel to join the National Theatre there. And I was there for while, and then came back to Canada, to Montreal, and my brother was Editor of Miguel University. They have a paper every single day, so if you're editor, you sort of get a year off, a sabbatical, where you...that's what you do. And we both were counsellors at summer camp, and one of the men who was the chairman of the camp owned a newspaper, called the Canadian Jewish Chronicle, and they were looking for an editor, and I went to see him. And he said "Oh Lowy, Lowy, yes I know the name!" And I said "But, but..". He thought I was my brother. He knew that one of us wrote. He said "I know, I've read what you wrote!" I said "But.." He said "No no no, I have one question to ask" I said "What's that?" He said "Have you any plans to get married?" I said "Me! I'm never getting married!" "Okay, you've got the job!" So I became Editor of the Canadian Jewish Chronicle. That was my first real job. So, for the first few weeks, I kept my ears open, my eyes open, and my mouth shut, and I looked, you know, so I got into it and I enjoyed that very much, but then I did meet somebody, who was an American pop singer. He was, you know, when he sat down, that was okay, and the boss, who hired me and talked very fast, was this big. And...I introduced him, and I said "I'm going to marry Salomon" And he looked and then he stood up, and he was 6 foot 8. So he looked down on us and said "Oh, wonderful, wonderful, yes, yes!" So then I married and left Montreal. That was in 1960, and we went to Mexico and lived in Mexico for a year. And then we had one child and then we travelled all over America and we had two Children, and we travelled all over and we had twins. So I said "You go wherever you want"

Q: You have twins, too?

A: Yes.

Q: I've never heard about so many twins before...

A: That's all in the family, yeah. So, it happened to be Toledo, Ohio, and I said "You go wherever you want, I'm staying!" because I had four children under five. So, I stayed in Toledo, and he went to England to see...cause he had a very big voice, and at the time, they didn't like a big voice in America, they just liked a lot of noise. So he went to England, and then he had a number one hit, and we all came to England. So that's really what brought us to England, and he said "Find a house in London, I'm going to South Africa!" And I saw if I was to live in London, I would have to live outside, because for the children to have a...you know, schools and everything, so when he went to Manchester to sing, I said "Let's look in Manchester, Manchester is a nice, small town, only three million people!" So I said it doesn't matter where you live, I have to bring up the children. So, we settled in Manchester and I lived there for over twenty years, and two of my...my twins live in Manchester, because since they're little boys, one is Manchester United, one is Manchester City, one dressed in red, the other in blue,

and when I left to go to London, I said "Do you want to come?" "Mum, when Manchester United and Manchester City go to London, then we go to London!" So they have always, you know... But I wanted the children to grow up normally. When I moved there, it looked like my husband was going to be an international star. He was with Tom Jones, Engelbert Humperdinck, those kind of... you know. And I was so shocked because I thought England was a very sophisticated country. But the adulation they gave to footballers and pop stars, I couldn't believe, because in America, it's the young people who look at pop stars and... not older, but here, the whole world... they just were crazy, and I thought I don't want my children to be catered for because their father does something. In the end, I needn't to worry, he didn't become an international pop star, but anyway, that's why I wanted to live in a normal situation. My older son now lives in Washington, and he has two children, and my daughter lives in Leicester, and my twins live in Manchester. And after about 25 years, my husband wanted to go back to America, and we separated. So he went back to America, and I stayed on in England... and, you know, we separated and divorced. And I thought "That's it, I go to London" and I had a wonderful job at the Royal College of Art, which is the only post-graduate university for art in the United Kingdom, and I was Head of Public Affairs and Exhibitions, and Publications. And we had 17 departments. Any person in the art field came to the Royal College. And I was in charge of all the receptions and parties and it was a very, very wonderful job. Very great job. Then I met somebody who I didn't want... you know? Anyway, he was an artist, and we got married, and he was a muralist, and he worked on one painting for nine years, with 450 figures, at Great Ormond Street Sick Children's Hospital, which is the most famous children's hospital, and the author James Barry gave the copyright of "Peter Pan" to this hospital, and my husband Edmund drew the painting, the narrative "Peter Pan" in the hospital. So, anyway, he did that for many years, and then we went to Scotland on holiday, and we loved it. And we both said "If either one of us has the opportunity to work here for a few years, let's take it" We got home to London, I opened up the "Independent" newspaper, and there was a big article, a big advertisement: "Dundee is famous for its cake" It has a fruit cake called "Dundee Cake". And there was a big picture of a cake with a slice taken out and it said "Can you organize the liveliest city in Scotland?" The oldest, liveliest. So I said "Look at, man!" He's laughed, he said "Well, go on!" So I wrote "You bet I can!" So I went there and got the job, and he was painting anyway, so we went there for two years, rented our house in London, and then just fell in love with it and found a very old, like a *Schloss*, an old country mansion that was divided. So we have one section, and it's in a beautiful park, and we decided we were going to stay there, and instead of going to Scotland on holiday, we'd go to London on Holiday. So, that's what we did, and then Edmund died, four and a half years ago, and I still remain there. And I go every summer to Montreal, and my mother said to me last year "Look, I really enjoy your coming and I love to see you, but do me a favour: when I die, don't waste your money coming to my funeral!" She says "I'm not going to enjoy it, I won't know you're there, just come now, while I'm alive, but don't waste your money!" So I said "Thank you for telling me", I said. If I can come, I will, but if I can't come, then I won't feel guilty. So you know, that's what she says. So, that's more or less, you know, where I am, up to now.

Q: Sounds interesting.

A: Well, many things have happened, of course, and life is interesting, and I believe that the best is yet to come, you know?

Q: Yeah.

A: Yeah. So, the world is I think full of adventure, and I look forward to the next half.

Q: We have to come back once more to your parents.

A: Yeah.

Q: Did you speak German?

A: Well, they spoke German at home. So, I never learned German, as it is obvious, but yes, I spoke... *ich hab es zuhause gehört*.

Q: Und haben sie...die Eltern haben miteinander...?

A: ...*Deutsch gesprochen, ja*.

Q: Und mit den Kindern auch?

A: Ja, manchmal. Mein Vater hat niemals Französisch gelernt, nicht mal Portugiesisch gut gelernt, auch nicht Englisch, aber er hat immer Englisch mit Deutsch gesprochen. Es war viel, viel schwerer für mein Vater. Da, er war ein reicher Mann, da, hat er ein Geschäft gehabt, er hat auch Möglichkeit zur university gegangen, aber kein Interesse.

He would inherit the store, so obviously he was no longer the bread-winner, when he, when we were out, you know? He had small job, but he was never again the man in charge, it was really my mother, you know, who kept the family alive financially.

Q: And was it harder for him, not just not being the bread-winner, but to get adjusted to...?

A: It was hard a bit. He had a very, very sweet nature. He was very loveable, you know? And very, very kind. And he thought his children were the most wonderful things on God's earth. And my brother now has a very important position, my father would not be surprised, he'd say "That's just what he deserves!" You know, if I'd been the President of the United States, he'd go "Yes, that's just what she deserves!" So, even though he wasn't able to give financially, he gave us both, you know, really so much love and I think, it must have been difficult, but you didn't see it, because he didn't feel sorry for himself.

Q: Did they ever want to come back or...?

A: No, no.

Q: No. It was out of question?

A: Out of the question. Out of the question. Never.

Q: And they never came back?

A: Well, my fath...well, while my father was still alive, we couldn't really afford to come back, and then of course, my mother came back with my brother. He was giving a paper in Jerusalem, and they made a trip here to *Großpetersdorf*, and I think she was very happy to see it, yeah. But I think, they wouldn't have come back.

Q: So they were never homesick or...?

A: Well I'm sure, yes. I'm sure they were...

Q: But it wasn't so that they...?

A: Not so that they would c... no, no. I think the fact that...I mean when my mother was a young girl, she was born in *Mauer bei Wien* and then grew up in *Baden*. And when she was a young girl, there were pogroms in Poland, and young Jewish people were coming here. My mother was so interested, and she wanted to learn Yiddish, and my grandmother said "Yiddish? In my house? Only people who don't speak German "speak Yiddish!" She wouldn't let her speak Yiddish in her house. So that's how they were very assimilated, you know? I think to think that you know, you could live in a place, and bring up children and have neighbours and have a life, and that thing could be snatched from you like that, I don't think, I don't think they could have come back, you know? And also, they were busy making a life, you know, because, I mean they didn't have a lot of money, but we never ever missed anything, you know? And neither my brother nor I would ever, ever ask them for anything. My mother would say "I think you need a new bicycle" I said "No, I don't need a new bicycle!", you know? And one day, I was maybe 17 or 18, she said "I think it's time we moved house". I said "Why?" She said "You're growing up now, and you'll be going out and it would be nice to be in a nicer neighbourhood" I said "If I go out with anybody, and they don't like where I live, they can go". I said if that would be a reason why somebody would go out with me, I wouldn't go out with them, so we wouldn't let them move, you know? But, they always had our welfare in, you know? That was the foremost thing, they wanted to give us a chance to have a life and I think they did that and my mother now...I mean all my old friends in Montreal, they all go and visit her, they want to take her out, they all feel that she really is an inspiration to them, because, you know, she has lived a life, and she is still so interested and so curious, and

all her grandchildren...To be alone with her for an evening, they considered a treat, you know? So that's good.

Q: It's good.

A: Yeah, yeah. Because all our life, she had to work, and then my father was ill and she took care of my father and then my brother was Head of Psychiatry in a hospital in Ottawa, and he had a child of four, a child of three and an eighteen months old baby, when his 32-year old wife died, of a brain tumour. So my mother left Montreal, with my father, moved in to take care of the children, and she said "I will be here as long as I'm needed", and then he became Dean of Medicine at Toronto University, and they went to Toronto, and five years later, he met somebody who was determined to marry him, so my mother stayed till the honeymoon was over, and she and my father went out. And then he had another little girl, and now they're all grown up. So, she always had, that's why when my father died, it was the first time she was able to go back to study, because she loved to study. So for the first time, her life was not dependent on helping others. She had her own life, and I think that's why God has given her these extra years with a good mind and health to enjoy, I think for all the good things that she did in her life without ever, you never saw her without a smile, you never saw her not happy. She never considered the duties a burden. They were just something she did with good grace, and that I think is very special.

Q: It is.

A: Yes. I don't think I could do it with... I could do it, but not with good grace, not with a smile on my face, not like my mother. So, it's...it's good to have that as an example.

Q: How do you feel about this visit?

A: I think it's fantastic!

Q: Can you...You were yesterday in Großpetersdorf, can you tell me about it, how it was?

A: *Großpetersdorf* was very interesting. I saw my house. I had a picture of my house, I didn't think it was so big, and it's on the corner, it's 7 *Hauptplatz* and the store, the Lowy store which is not there anymore, it's *Friedrich's* store is right nearby. And *Frau Schreiner-Schneller* lives there now. Her parents bought the house from my family. And he was a taxi driver, and my mother said how helpful he was, and when they had to leave he took them by taxi to wherever they were leaving from. And she doesn't really remember except what her parents told her. She said she made many alterations to the house, and her father, they made a huge garage because as well as taxis, he then had buses. So, but the house inside is immaculate. And she said she made...you know, she...the kitchen, she made this and that, but the bedroom, and I took a photograph, she said "*Das war der Löwy's bedroom! Mein Vater hat mir gesagt, das war der Löwy's bedroom!*" So that was my father's and mother's bedroom, so I took a photograph and everything. And, she was very nice, very nice, and I had asked "*Is it Werner Baumgartner?*" The historian?

Q: Werner?

A: *Nicht Werner? Wie heisst?*

Q: Gerhard.

A: *Gerhard! Gerhard!* He's from *Großpetersdorf*, and my mother told me that we had a lady who cooked for us. We had an infant *Mädel*, and we also had a lady who cooked. *Und sie hat geheiratet jemand Jandl, und sie heißt Paula Jandl.* So I asked Gerhard did he know of somebody *Paula Jandl*. He said "Oh yes...*vor zwei Monaten ist sie gestorben.*" *Gestern in Großpetersdorf*, I went with the *Heinrichs*, and they have a family who corresponded with their father. And *Strohriegel*, *ich glaub, so etwas...* *Und hab ich ihn auch gefragt „Did you know Paula Jandl?“ Sie sagen ja.* It's a pity she died. "She didn't die, she lives next door to us! It's her sister who died!" So they took me, but she said "*Gerta Strohriegel*", *sagt sie, „war sehr krank.“ Und ich seh ein alte Frau, viel älter sehen wie mein Mutter...sie ist jung, aber...ohne Zähne.* I don't think that her mind is very clear, but I explained who I was, and..."*Ja, ja, ja...*" Her eyes lit up, and she said "yes", and I said "*Ich hab ein Bruder gehabt.*" "*Fritzerl*", *sagt sie.* And that was his name. So, *sie hat etwas...und es war sehr gut, ich hab auch Fotos für mei-*

ne Mutter genommen. Also, das war sehr...and it's strange to walk around and think "If I had lived here, this would have been my town", you know? And,

Q: What your life would have been...married in Großpetersdorf.

A: What my life would have been. That's right, I'd probably would have gone to University, maybe in Vienna, I don't know, but, you know, that would have been my home town. And it's funny, because all my life I've lived in big cities, but now in Scotland, the town closest to me in Scotland is a little place called Broughty Ferry, it's the same size as *Großpetersdorf*, and I thought "how strange" that now I go back to live sort of in a country, country little village you know, but I think *Großpetersdorf* is a very nice, very nice place, and I think I'm going back this afternoon, because *Barbara* and *Richard Heinrich* have met someone else who is a historian and knows the area, so I will check and see, so yeah...

Q: Did your parents talk a lot about Großpetersdorf?

A: Of course, of course, of course. They did, and they, you know, corresponded with friends and family from Argentina who had been from *Großpetersdorf*, and, yeah...yes, they talked a lot about *Großpetersdorf* and the store and, and my grandfather (???), he was very good in the store, as was my grandmother, and he used to tease the gypsies that used to come to buy, and their curse was "you shouldn't be able to die" I remember that story, so...yes, we grew up, you know, with stories of *Großpetersdorf* and they were happy memories, you know, until they left, so this was, this was their home, and, you know, this was where their family lived, and this is where their life was, so... So, my life would have been a little bit different had, you know, had it been here...

Q: Were there other...in Montreal, were there other people from this area?

A: Yes, a few people, a few people. Yes, and my parents also helped, you know, people who were from this area and came a little bit later and had nowhere to live. They would come to live with us for a while until they found, you know, accommodation. Yes, so they did keep in touch with, you know, the people who were from this area or around here, and of course, my mother's and father's family just gathered all over, you know.

Q: Are your children interested in...?

A: Not really, not really. My daughter nearly came with me, and then she said "Mother, I think it will be too sad, it will be too sad for me to come" and it isn't sad at all, and she would have had a wonderful time, you know? But she thought we would just be visiting concentration camps and doing things like that and she said that she really didn't feel that she wanted to ...at this time, but when I go back, I'll tell her the opposite. And my boys are so Manchester, they are so... You know, I mean, they might be interested a little bit, but not personally, they are not personally involved. Their upbringing had nothing to do, and I purposefully, I moved to the house in Manchester, because it was near a Jewish school, a Hebrew school, and I thought "I want this children to know their roots, if they're older, if they wish to throw it out or not to know, that's a privilege. But I want them to know." So they went, but now they really aren't very interested. When my daughter was eight years old, she said "Mum, I want two things in life" I said, "What?" "I want to be Catholic, and black" I said "Oh", and "When you're older, one is possible. You can be Catholic. Black is a little bit more difficult, but if you marry a black man", I said, "you can have black children." So, no...I mean, I will tell them, but, you know I think they have to live their own life and do what they feel is, you know, right for them. You know, I mean, they're very respectful, and they're very good children, they're just not that...it doesn't mean anything to them at this stage, but who knows? You know, maybe as they grow older, they'll have greater interest. But my daughter certainly would have like to come here, I think.

Q: Next time...

A: Next time, because she really thought it was going to be all old people...

Q: that's she expected...

A: Yes. She thought, old people, with long faces, you know...? (laughter) And she's all...Mum. "Mum, I don't think that will be much of a vacation!" she thought that it'll be lots of tears and old people and

concentration camps, and talking about, you know, the terrible things that happened, and you know, she thought "No, I don't think so."

Q: ...it was just the opposite...

A: Yeah, just the opposite.

Q: Cause actually, you see, I haven't laughed so much for a long time.

A: Exactly. I know. Yes, it's a positive atmosphere, very positive

Q: ...but I understand your daughter...

A: Yes, she said, "Mum", she said, "It's not gonna be a holiday. I need a holiday." So, anyway, next time, you know, I will be able to tell her, you know, what...what really happened. But I mean there's so many stories, you know, and I only am here because Regina Espenshade read a book...

Q: ...I know...

A: ...written by a friend of mine, who is an investigative journalist, and he wrote a book called "Pack of Thieves"⁵, and he went around to all the cities in Europe, and investigated and found out...well documented that the financial institutions of all the countries colluded, whether by silence or by actively helping the Nazis to...well, you know, launder the money, the property, the paintings of former, you know, Jewish families. And, when it came to Burgenland, he spoke about my father, you know, and said "Henny Lowy-King, now lives in Scotland, and her brother is Rector of Concordia University". So she couldn't get hold of me, but she got hold of my brother, you know, and said, "Would you give me your sister's address and e-mail?" And he did, and that's how I found out about this, so I thought "Right. I will come here."

Q: Do we have to change tapes yet? No? Would your brother come here if he had the time?

A: If he had come...If he had opportunity, yes. I think he would, yes, yes. But...yes. So he's very busy at the moment, they have graduations and convocations and degrees and everything, you know, this is the close of their, you know, of their, university terms, but I think it'd be wonderful if he was invited to lecture here at the Freedom thing, because...he started the Department for Bioethics at Toronto University, and he really speaks all over the world. So it would be nice if Burgenland got, you know, got him round to speak a little bit. And he speaks German, yes...so...

Q: Is there any story you still have to tell?

A: *Ach*, there's so many, but...we're reaching the end of the road, is that it? No? You still have time? Yes? The tape still has time, okay. Well, for the first time in many, many years, last month I went to Israel, again, because my best friend from Montreal telephoned and said "I'm going to Israel after 23 years, will you meet me in London?" And I couldn't, because I was very committed that week-end, so...so

(Jemand kommt herein und stört, Gespräch unverständlich)

aber...I mean, my parents were never religious as such, so I would have matching (???) more the conservative or liberal. My family never kept kosher, hier in Großpetersdorf, mein Vater hat so gern Schinken gegessen. Und einmal hat ein Rabbi zu mein Mutter gekommen und sagt: „Saba (???) , ich muss dir sagen, dass bei uns ist es nicht kosher!“ , hat er gesagt „Liebe Frau, hab ich dir gefragt?“ Gut, also sie waren Juden, aber nicht dietary Jews, you know. I mean, I studied Hebrew, I lived in Israel, I was very interested and still am in the culture, in the life, and I totally identify myself, but I've never...again, been a gastronomic Jew. My brother married a non-jewish girl, the first time, and she died, and the second wife is Catholic, and they had one daughter together, he had three sons, and when she was twelve years old, she had a communion. And I saw her last year, and I said "Sarah, you still go to church?" She said "Church?" I said "Yeah" She said "I don't go to church, I'm Jewish!" I said

⁵ **ZHESNOFF, Richard Z.:** Pack of Thieves. How Hitler and Europe plundered the Jews and Committed the Greatest Theft in History, 1999

"Oh!" I said, "You had a communion!" "Oh, that was just to please my mother when I was little" so, they had the Jewish holidays in their house, and the non-jewish holidays, and again, the children were able to decide for themselves, you know. If they wanted to, yes. You know, so both, you know...

Q: ...she could trade with your daughter...

A: Yes, she could trade with my daughter. Yes, absolutely, yes. So, you know...I imagine all you can do to people is to give them the opportunity, and then in the end, the choice is theirs, you know? But my brother was in Israel also, and he speaks Hebrew, and as I was saying, my very good girlfriend, a very old girlfriend from Montreal, was going to Israel, and wanted me to meet her in London. And I couldn't that week-end, and my boys, my twins said "Well, why don't you meet them in Israel?" I said "I can't just go to Israel like that." "Why not?" I said "Because..." They said "Look, it's Mother's Day. It's our gift to you, we send you to Israel"

Q: That sounds nice.

A: Yeah, so they sent me to Israel, and I had a wonderful time. I know the tensions are there, but the people and the welcome there is really very, very exceptional.

Q: Do you have family there?

A: Yes, yes. My mother's cousin, who I think is also from *Großpetersdorf*, his family went there. He was in the wine business here, and he went to Rishon Le Zion, which is one of the places where they make wine. He went many years ago. His name was *Hansl Deutsch*, and he became Jochenan Hada-ni in Israel. And when I went as a student, when I was eighteen, I used to go to their house on the week-ends, and they took me in like a long-lost daughter. And they had a son, who married, he was just a few years older than me, and the old people are dead now, and so is my cousin. But his wife is still alive, and I stayed with her, and of course, he has sons, and she has twins as well.

Q: ...really a twin meeting...

A: Yes, yes. There is a town in the United States, where every year they have a convention of twins.

Q: I've heard about this...

A: Yes, and twins from all over the world, you know, come to that convention. So, yes...

Q: They're not all from *Großpetersdorf*?

A: Not all from *Großpetersdorf*. So the family in Israel originally came from this, from Burgenland, you know, and they're now in Israel, and they have a lot of friends who live now in Jerusalem, in Tel Aviv, in...you know. So, it was a very happy time as well, you know.

Q: Why did you not come back earlier or was it just because...?

A: Well, you know what, I like to think...

Q: or were there other countries to go to?

A: There were other countries to go to and...you know, lets say you're adopted, you know. Your parents, for whatever reason can't have you or give you away when you're a baby. If you are brought up by a wonderful family, some people want to find out who their parents are. And some people think, "Look, they gave me away, these are my parents! What do I want to look up the others?" You know, and in a way, that's how I felt about Austria. I'd nothing...I just thought, "Look, I was thrown out when I was a child. There's so many other countries around the world that are interesting, why do I have to go to Austria? I've nothing with Austria, they threw me out, okay!" You know, but now, the opportunity arose, and I thought "Oh, why not?" I didn't look to go, but why should I look not to go? So that was how I felt. And now I'm here, and I'll probably come back because it's really, you know, I like it very much, and I think the people are (???)

Q: (???)

A: No, no. Obviously, we're in special circumstances, we're guests and, you know...Pardon me, people are people, I mean, you know, there's certain people you don't get on with and you don't like...and, you know, you don't like everybody, but...in general. I think the feeling is that...of course, it's a different generation who we're talking about. I mean, nearly everybody who spoke last night either wasn't born when this happened or they were children, you know. And in the same way that my parents didn't sit me down on a chair like you've sat me down and said "Now, it happened like this...", their parents didn't sit them down and say to them "Now, this is what happened, and we were doing this and we did this..." They didn't. You almost acquire by osmosis what happened, and then you read yourself and you find out...and then you ask the questions. And I think as they become aware, they realize that some measure of responsibility has to be taken, even if it was just the responsibility of being silent. But I'm sure that in the same way that many Jewish families couldn't believe what happened, many of their fellows also couldn't believe that something actually like this happens, you know. So I think communicating has got to be the only way ahead.

(Ende Band 1 von 1)