

447.1.2017 Laureen Nussbaum Testimony Transcript

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0:00:00	[INTERVIEWER] OK, great, so why don't we begin. Laureen, why don't you introduce yourself, and just say who you are, where you were born, and what year.
0:00:12	OK, my name is Laureen Nussbaum, I was not Laureen when I was born, in Frankfurt, in 1927, Frankfurt-am-Main, in Germany. My name then was Hannelore Klein. I am one of three sisters—I'm the middle one.
0:00:35	[I] That's good, why don't we do one more take of that, and maybe a short version of "My name is Laureen Nussbaum, I was born Hannelore Klein, in Frankfurt Germany, in the year you were born, let's try that.
0:00:48	The sound is OK? My name is Laureen Nussbaum, and was born in Frankfurt, Germany, at that time my name was Hannelore, Hannelore Klein, one of three sisters, I was born in 1927, I don't know whether I mentioned that. And, we lived in Frankfurt for 9 years, almost.
0:01:23	In 1936, my family left Frankfurt for Amsterdam, where I grew up.
0:01:30	[I] Can you tell us a little about your family, your father, your mother, your siblings?
0:01:34	My father was a financial expert of a large metal firm; he did all the banking and investing I suppose. My mother was a home, stay home mom, took care of the three of us, my older sister was three years older than I, my younger sister three years younger. So I'm really smack in the middle.
0:02:02	I remember the beginnings of the Nazi times in Germany. In 1933, when the SA marched through Frankfurt with the Hitler salute, and when The Stürmer, an awful weekly, was shown at all the newspaper stands, and I remember that even as a young child I was horrified at the caricatures they made of Jews in The Stürmer.
0:02:33	We had to walk to school and in bad weather we could take the streetcar, but normally we walked to school, about twenty minutes. And in 1935, Jewish children were no longer allowed to go to school with the other children.
0:02:50	Because there was a rather large contingent of Jewish children in my elementary school, the Holzhausenschule, they put us in a spe..., separate wing of the school, so we kept going to the same school, but a different entrance and we were separated from the other kids.
0:03:08	I was by that time a third-grader and I remember painfully that one of the girls that I used to walk to school with, a non-Jewish girl, would no longer walk to school with me. So even at this very young age, there were things that I was quite aware of. In 1930, ...
0:03:28	[I] What other things were your memories and experiences of living under the Nazi regime?
0:03:36	Well, one of the things that fascinated me, and I'm a little ashamed of that, was those columns, columns of Nazis marching through the streets, and even now I can sing, could sing, I won't do it, most of their awful songs, Die Fahne Hoch, for instance, which was one of their songs. As a young kid you memorize very easily.
0:04:00	And I remember walking through the long corridor of our apartment with my father's cane over my shoulder and singing those songs. And of course my mother was horrified

	and said, “No, no, no, no, no, you cannot sing those songs!” And that was the end of that one.
0:04:14	In, at the end of 1935, beginning of ‘36, we children were quite aware of the fact that my parents were trying to get us out of Germany. Many of our friends had already left, and in April of 1936, when I was eight years old, we moved, (excuse me, I’m sorry) [drinks water], we moved to Amsterdam.
0:04:47	My parents had gone ahead and found a nice apartment in a brand-new neighborhood, the River Quarter, which had been completed at the beginning of the Great Depression, and those apartment buildings were standing empty because people couldn’t afford to, the rent.
0:05:07	Uh, I still remember, I don’t know why, the rent was 75 guilders a month, which seems a pittance now, but that was too much for most people. Jewish refugees that left Germany as early as 1936 still could take some of their money, and so my parents could afford to live in that neighborhood and so did hundreds of other families. There was a very, how shall I say, congenial neighborhood, where you heard in the beginning lots of German in the street by refugee people.
0:05:50	[I] I’d like to focus still a little more on your memories of Germany before your family left, uh, some of your family’s experiences there. Also, tell us about your family; your family was Jewish; what was your identity as a Jew, and describe your family makeup a little more, and its identities as Jews.
0:06:15	Okay. My family was not really fully Jewish, and I was quite aware of that as a child. I loved to go with my grandmother, my maternal grandmother, to mass, to Catholic church, I really liked the incense, and I liked the singing there, and I was quite aware of the fact that, yes, my father was Jewish and he liked to keep up the Jewish traditions.
0:06:41	We had a menorah, did Hanukkah, he could do a beautiful Seder, but my mother was, my mother always went along, but it was not part of her background and that was tangible even for me as a child.
0:06:57	So quite often after my grandmother moved into the apartment below ours in the same house, she owned the house, typically we would do Hanukkah upstairs and then go down and have Christmas downstairs.
0:07:11	So there was this feeling of mixed background already in my childhood in Frankfurt. However, because my mother had adopted Judaism, it was, we saw ourselves as a Jewish family.
0:07:28	And we did go to Friday night services once in a while, in the liberal synagogue, in the Westend-Synagoge in Frankfurt, and I don’t think we had any Jewish instruction in Frankfurt. I know in Amsterdam, but in Frankfurt, I don’t believe so. But I, we sang in the choir of the Jewish synagogue, we sang Judas Maccabeus, which is Handel of course. I remember, I can even sing a little bit of that still, so that was part of my background.
0:08:06	We became a little bit more “Jewish” in quotation marks when we were marginalized, when we could no longer go to public school. I remember that we had a Jewish club where we danced Torah, which we had never done before, and being pushed out of the mainstream we tried to make the best of being the sidelines. So that was all I remember of Frankfurt.
0:08:34	[I] How did you feel about that with the fact that; so your mother was not Jewish, right? Not born Jewish.

0:08:41	My mother was, really if you go by “blood”, which the Nazis loved to do, she was half-Jewish. But she was raised non-Jewish. She was not raised with her, with her father, so she was, she... Actually, my mother was raised in a Protestant family in Dresden. Because my grandmother was a professional singer and she was traveling all the time.
0:09:05	So my mother spent her first seven years of school from age six to thirteen in Dresden in a Protestant family, where, in Germany at the time you had religious education at school so she went through a Protestant religious education.
0:09:25	And then my grandmother gave up singing and moved back to Austria, my grandmother was Austrian, and took my mother back to take care of her, and at that time in Vienna I don’t think my mother had any much religious background. But it was quite clear that her mother was Roman Catholic and the family of my grandmother was Roman Catholic.
0:09:50	But, and how much that impacted my mother is hard to tell. My mother and my grandmother both were very wide open to all kinds of religions and I remember when my grandmother was an old woman in Amsterdam, she would once in a while go to church, to a close-by Remonstrant church; Remonstrant was a rather liberal Protestant persuasion, and she had a Jewish prayer book under her arm. She just did whatever she wanted to do with regard to communicating with her God.
0:10:23	She was not at all narrow-minded or bigoted or what have you.
0:10:28	[I] And your mother; so your mother’s mother was not, was Catholic? So, by Jewish description, by the matrilineal bloodline, you would not be officially Jewish. How did your grandmother’s family react to her marrying a Jewish man?
0:10:50	Oh, my grandmother was at least one of two sisters of the Austrian Catholic family who married Jews; apparently that was perfectly fine. And I do not know anybody of my grandmother’s family, except of two cousins of my mother, but these cousins had a Jewish father.
0:11:15	And so I did, I, the Catholic batch of the family was not part of my direct daily life. I only heard about them but I didn’t really know them.
0:11:28	[I] I think I recall that the marital status of your grandmother was relevant when you got to the Netherlands, right?
0:11:35	We, what my grandmother and what her marital status meant to our survival, I think we get to that later on. [I] Okay.
0:11:52	[I] Did you, as the persecution increased in Germany, for being Jewish, did you embrace your Jewish identity or did you feel like, why is this happening to me? You know, I don’t have full Jewish blood. That’s not fair! Did you try to actually see your way out of it?
0:12:14	Oh, in Germany we were considered Jews because they went by the number of Jewish grandparents; well it’s just like in the United States: A person who has one black grandfather is called black. So I mean this is so prejudicial that’s, but we considered ourselves a Jewish family in Germany. Yes.
0:12:37	And I noticed that we were marginalized, that we couldn’t do things that we used to do. And, my mother did not have many friends in Frankfurt, just one very, very close friend, Alice Koppel, who’s the mother of the rather well-known Ted Koppel, but otherwise the friends were more my father’s friends.
0:13:01	And they were Jewish, and we did Sunday outings together, and things like that. But otherwise, as to being more consciously Jewish, yes, as I mentioned before, we danced Torah and we sang Jewish songs and we had the typical metal box to collect money for

	Erez Israel. We had that and so, yes, we considered ourselves Jewish, there was no doubt about it.
0:13:30	At that point we did not differentiate and say, oh, we are only three quarter Jewish; that, all of that came much later.
0:13:36	[I] And you talked a little about how the Nazi legal and societal discrimination affected you not being able to go to the same school and can you give any other examples about how that affected you and your family and your memories of what was going on then in the early part of the 30s?
0:13:58	The only thing that I remember clearly had to do with swimming. I liked to swim as a child and even now I swim. There was a special time in a big stadium in Frankfurt where Jews could swim. There was a Jewish sports society, "Schild", and I don't know whether we were members or whether we tagged on, I don't remember that.
0:14:24	But we swam, when I say we it's my older sister and I, at the stadium at a certain time and our Sunday outings as we were pushed out of the general population were also with Jewish people. I remember swimming in the Nidda, I think, was the little river, also with Jewish friends of my father's and their families.
0:14:54	That's about all I remember. But then I was eight years old, you know, so I don't remember any details. I do remember gorgeous vacations in 1933 and 1934 but that was on my mother's side. This was at the house of her foster mother...
0:15:13	...in Saxony near the Czech border and we were very welcome there and had a wonderful time but I don't remember playing there with other children or the "Jewish thing" there was of absolutely no importance as far as I remember.
	GAP IN TRANSCRIPTION TO 40:00
40:00	Before the war broke out, I, well my ok, this was really all and we saw each other at Jewish holidays at the Jewish lival synagogue and Mrs. Frank was always very active on holidays.
40:21	She would organize the little walk around the kids with the little flags and so on. She would be an organizer. My mother never organized those things she wasn't into.
40:31	And my father never prevailed upon her to. It was a very agreeable relationship. That was the way it was and we didn't think anything of it. So I did not really know the Frank girls particularly well til the war broke out.
40:52	But by that time, 1940, I already knew my future husband. Of course, I didn't know he would be my future husband. Rydi whose father had a little drug store around the corner. Again in the same block. And since I had a bundle of energy I offered to take whatever deliveries he had on my bicycle and deliver to different people in the neighborhood.
41:18	So I got to know his clientele very well and the Franks were one of his clientele, so I remember delivering whatever they needed. Not necessarily medication because this was a drug store, so there was also staples like rice and flour and so packaged and so I would deliver that.
41:39	I knew exactly where the Franks' lived. And was in their house, but I did not have any particularly close relationship to the Frank girls. Except bicycling with Margot which I always enjoyed because I liked her very much.
41:56	The closer relationship only came after the German occupation when Mr. Frank and my father and other families tried to help refugees that didn't have an income.
42:14	There was this German journalist Annalise Schutz who would eventually translate Anne's diary into German. She had the first translation. She had no income, so the

	parents organized I think twice a month, I'm not sure, where Annalise Schutz would read the German classics with the older children:
42:49	And I was considered to be too young to be a part of that group, but whenever they met at our house, I was allowed to sit in. So that's where Margot was and Rudi my boyfriend was part of it, my older sister of course, and lots of other refugee teenagers most of them between 15 and 20.
43:13	I was younger a little younger still, but that's when I learned to appreciate Margot particularly well because she was so mature and so well composed and I always admired her for these qualities. And then it's the same exclusionary degrees were propagated in the Netherlands and we couldn't go to museums and concerts and opera and to beaches and all this total exclusion that we had already gone through in Germany and Warsaw.
43:49	Then we tried, the families tried to keep their cultural hunger satisfied by organizing home concerts. There was a chamber music member, there was a fine pianist, and a lovely artist, Rudi's father played the violin and Rudi played the piano. So we had lots of chamber music.
44:08	And at that point and I had the grandiose idea that I had bought a play from Germany which we done in third grade, at the end of third grade of really a Purim play which we had done and I had the book. And I suggested to Annalise Schutz that we do that with the younger children to entertain the parents and the older siblings.
44:34	And that's when Anne played the leading role in the play and Annalise Schutz was nominally in charge, but I was the stage director because I had bought the book, so that when I saw Anne regularly and marveled at her quick wit and also was annoyed at her.
44:54	At her lively, talkative personality. I was lively myself, so I was particularly sensitive to liveliness in others, so.
45:03	[I] Can you tell that story again in kind of a sound bite version, about how you directed the play with Anne Frank?
45:13	Yes, so the play was called the Princess with the Nose. It was a Jewish play which we did December 1941 with Annalise Schutz in charge and me being the stage director. It was done in our apartment because my mother was always extremely generous in making people welcome and making, helping others.
45:39	So we used the velvet curtain between the living room where the audience sat and the dining room where the stage was and we played this play, the Princess with the Nose and I am not 100% sure, but 90% sure that Anne was the princess. She could have been the Queen, but I think she was the princess. And we rehearsed and we played it
46:05	[I] Could you say her full name? Because we haven't referred to Anne Frank yet in this entire thing yet, so
46:11	Oh so, this was done by the younger children, so mostly my younger sisters' age mates. So this was 1941, they would have been 11. But, Anne Frank and another Sara Lieberman who were a year older were also in the play. And I'm not entirely sure, but I think that Anne Frank was the Princess and Sara Lieberman was the queen.
46:38	And we did this play twice because our living room was not big enough to accommodate the audience. So, parents, siblings, friends were all welcome. It was of course in German which was already becoming a foreign language to my sister and to Anne and their contemporaries. We older children who had learned to read and write in German had a much better basis of course than the toddlers and kindergartners.

47:07	But anyway, this is when I saw Anne regularly for a short period of time. And we always, always, all of us loved Mr. Frank. He was just an outstanding daddy and much admired by all of us because on Sunday, he brought breakfast to his wife's bedside which was unheard up in our circles.
47:31	The women were in charge of food and the men brought in income. This kind of gentlemanly service was unbelievable. So, that's what I remember very strongly.
47:45	[I] Sure, what, tell us about your memories of directing Anne Frank and what she was like.
47:52	Well, I don't remember anything in particular directing Anne Frank. I knew the play by heart and so I knew everybody's role and would whisper the text if somebody forgot. I don't think she needed any extra prompting because she was lively and very well able to fulfill whatever she had to do.
48:21	I remember people who were less gifted who had minor roles, who needed much more prompting than Anne did. She certainly didn't need any prompting.
48:32	[I] What kind of girl was she?
48:34	Anne was a very lively girl and I think her liveliness is was stood out really. Not only in the play, but also on the way to school.
48:48	I'm not really jumping ahead right here because as of the fall of 1941, we had a repeat performance of what happened in Germany. Then the Jewish children could no longer go to public school. We had to go to separate schools.
49:03	And the Frank girls went to the Jewish lyceum and my older sister and I went to another Jewish high school. But we needed to use the same street car to get there. We lived at the very terminal of the street car line and the Frank girls lived two stops in. And I remember, very distinctly Anne standing in the middle, lots of kids around her and she was hold forth.
49:30	She was always holding forth with lots of kids around. Whereas Margot was always quiet and composed, so I remember that quite well. It didn't last because after a while we weren't allowed to use the streetcar anymore. We had to walk to school which was a 3km walk each way. So that was quite a feat.
49:52	[I] What was your opinion of Anne?
49:56	As, I said before, Anne was two years younger than I. You don't think very long about kids that are two years younger than you. She was lively, sometimes I wish that she would shut up. She was just really lively. But I was much more interested in listening to Margot, because Margot was a lady and I definitely was not a lady I was a tomboy. So, I liked to pattern myself after Margot, certainly not after Anne.
50:26	I didn't have anything to learn from Anne at that point.
50:29	[I] Would you say that Margot was a friend of yours?
50:33	Well, she was not a close friend. Margot was not a close friend of mine no. Why should she? Again, she had her own friends one grade ahead of mine. But we did things together, like going to the religious education and the reading of the German classics.
50:50	So we knew each other, but I guess this is very European, we made a difference between friends and acquaintances. So we were certainly acquaintances. I wouldn't call Margot a friend. Nor Anne. We were well acquainted, but not friends in that sense.
51: 07	[I] So, the Nazis invaded the Netherlands in 1940, so let's talk about that and how that impacted your family and

51:23	Well, maybe I should backtrack a little bit and talk about the beginning of the war in 1939. My older sister and I visited with the relatives in mas second star school with my grandmother and the aunts and uncles. While my father went on a business trip.
51:46	He was a, he no longer was a financial expert, he was now trying to sell notions wholesale to stores in the middle east and South Africa. Woolworth and other stores, so he was a traveling salesman if you want to put it that way.
52:08	And on his trip for 1939 he went via Metz and Strasbourg to see his siblings and his mother and dropped my sister and me off in Strasbourg. And he went on his trip. My mother went, in the meantime, flew to England. No, didn't fly, took a boat to England to visit with her best friend Alice Copper. And my youngest sister was farmed out to a neighbor family and stayed with them.
52:43	And then there were horrible sounds of war being imminent and I see the French troops training in Metz and Strasbourg and saying "au parla, au parla!" and they were really ready to beat the crap out of the Germans. And so we quickly all reconvened in the Netherlands.
53:04	And we made in late July early August before the war broke out. Yeah, it must have been August by that time. That was the summer of 1940, no the summer of 1939, I'm sorry.
53:24	The fall and winter 1939 -1940, of course the Netherlands was, there was no war. I remember we were collecting all kinds of good things for Finland because Finland had been overrun by the Soviet Union. And there was great sympathy for the Finns, but we still felt relatively safe.
53:48	And then in May of 1940 the Germans overran the Netherlands and within 5 days the Dutch capitulated. The queen fled, which was important, because the Danish king did not flee and the Belgian king didn't flee either, but our queen fled and took all the whole cabinet along.
54:10	After the Germans had installed themselves in the Netherlands in the summer of 1940, they first made sounds like they were not going to interfere with the Dutch way of life as long as we were not sabotaging their efforts people would be, could live a comfortable life and everything would be fine. Ha ha.
54:33	It didn't last because already after a few months they had already started excluding civil servants and then went through all the measures that we were familiar with, things that happened in Germany. And so by the summer of 1941, we were told that we couldn't go to public school any more, we had to go to Jewish school. So, then by that time, the segregation was already in full swing.
54:56	And then it took less than a year to start the deportations. So, by the spring of 1942 there was already practically total exclusion. May of 1942 we had to start wearing yellow star which we had to stich on our garments.
55: 17	And in July 1942, that's well known from Anne's diary, the first calls came refugee, young people ages 15-45 I think to report for labor camp in Germany. Well, we very soon found out that is wasn't labor camp, but they were just being deported.
55:37	And from them on there was one thing after another. It went very fast from July of 1942 'till the end of the year, I think, more than 40,000 Jews had been deported from the Netherlands.
55:55	[I] How did you hear rumors or information about what was happening to Jews in?
56:01	Well, this was our life, I mean, I didn't. The rumors were not rumors, we went to school one day and we were 15 students and we went the next day we were 10 in a class. And

	of the 5 who did not in school, maybe 4 were rounded up and deported and 1 went into hiding. We never quite knew who went into hiding and who did not.
56:23	We did not know that the Frank family had gone into hiding because we had been fed a story that they had made it across the Swiss border and that wasn't very likely, but it wasn't totally impossible because Mr. Frank had been an officer in the German army. And he might have had officer friends and not all Germans were Nazis. So he could have, you know, it could have been that they had made it across the French/Swiss border, but they were in hiding.
56:55	And in my school, well the first year 1941-42 the Jews were still allowed to be normal. But starting in the fall of 1942 it was a dismal experience because by that time Jews had been rounded up by the tens of thousands and you never knew the next day what was going to happen.
57:18	[I] You said you knew they weren't being deported to Germany, they were being deported to other places, how did you know that?
57:27	We did, we did, we did not know what happened after people left the transition camp Westerbork. They were being transported east and we never heard of them anymore.
57:41	The fact that the original ploy was that it would be younger people who would have to do forced labor which had a certain possibility. Once they started picking up whole families with babies and grandmothers that story didn't wash because these were people who clearly who were not material for forced labor.
58:05	So, we knew that something much more sinister was going on. Without knowing the details. We did not know about the death camps. But, relocating people by the tens of thousands and never to hear of them again is spooky to put it mildly.
58:21	[I] Do you remember when you first saw Nazi soldiers on the streets of Amsterdam?
58:28	Well, yes, the German army occupied the Netherlands in May of 1940 and they were all over. And they, in the beginning, the soldiers behaved pretty decently because they had been told that the Netherlands was scheduled to become part of the German Reich. These were Aryans, these were their brethren, so they better make a good impression and behave well.
58:54	And the soldiers by and large did. What has to make a difference, I think, between the regular soldiers, the conscripts, and the SA, the SS soldiers, the fanatics and the ideologues, they of course a different color of fish.
59:13	[I] Tell us what it felt like as a child to have to wear a yellow star?
59:16	Wearing the yellow star was, I think, rather humiliating. On the other hand, it had at least one good feature. My father often came home with good news from the BBC people. He had sort of surreptitiously listened to the BBC which was course was not allowed.
59:41	And they knew that if they had any good news to tell, they better tell a Jewish person because it might warn them of. So he brought the good news which was endearing and helpful.
	GAP IN TRANSCRIPTION TO 1:19:40
1:19:40	[Interviewer] Tell that, tell that story again because that kind of was in passing, you glossed over that. "Okay, um, when the first calls came in July of 1942 to report for labor – I think it was July the 5 th – the call went out to 7000 people ages 15 to 45 and they were, as far as I remember, all refugees.
1:20:04	The Germans were very clever. They knew that the refugees did not have a support system. We were newcomers, we didn't have, you know, friends and relatives all over

	the country, so we were much more vulnerable. So let's get rid of those people first and then we can see about the rest.
1:20:21	So Margot got a call, my older sister got a call, and several of my classmates got a call. See us still standing – at the time we still had bicycles – at the street corner, I know exactly the street corner. And one young man, was my class, said I got a call and my mother wants to hide me. I'll be darned if I live in a closet. I'm strong. I can do work. I go. Period.
1:20:50	And there was another girl in this case who was really coy who said "I wish my mother would want to hide me but they don't, they don't want to even hear of it because they're afraid that if I go into hiding and don't show up that the rest of the family, grandma, the baby, everybody will be implicated and in danger. So, this happened, you know, just before I turned 15. You can feel the agony. It was awful, it was really awful.
1:21:19	[I] Did you know at the time that Margot had gotten a call? Or did you only know that... "No, but it was assumed. Just everybody did. I mean, everybody who was of refugee background got the call at the time, you know. Although we knew the Franks, they were not, as I said they were not close friends, and so I didn't particularly keep track of the Frank family at that point. I kept track of Rudi, my boyfriend, and the kids in my class as far as I could and that was it.
1:21:48	[I] And of course after the Fra- after Margot received that letter, that was the trigger. "That was the trigger. The Franks went into hiding the next day, actually. And that's all very explicitly explained in Anne's diary so, that...yeah.
1:22:05	And well, many of the kids – I have a picture still of my class, my 9 th grade in the Jewish school. We were 16. And I think 4 of us survived of the 16. The rest were all killed in concentration camps. And they survived because they were either hiding, or at one - one boy also had a similar history to my history, so he got out the legal way, so to speak. But, it came awfully close.
1:22:36	[Interviewer + another] Is that background noise okay? It's been there all along. On and off, and we delivered it...[indistinguishable conversation] turn the heat...is it the heat?...no it's the refrigerator...oh the fridge. Yeah.
1:22:49	[I] Um, alright, how are you doing, Lauren? "I'm fine, I'll have another drink. [drinks from water glass]
1:23:03	[I] We haven't talked much about Rudi. Tell us about Rudi, how you met him, and who is Rudi? "Okay, I mentioned my boyfriend Rudi several times. Rudi was also from Frankfurt - not originally, he was born in Furth , near Nuremburg. The Nussbaum family came to Amsterdam in 1938, and leased a little drug store around the corner from us.
1:23:33	Mr. Nussbaum had been a pharmacist, but he didn't have a license to run a pharmacy in the Netherlands, so a drug store was the next best thing. And Rudi's emigration history is complex – just to make it very short. The family first went to Italy and when Mussolini got instructions from Hitler to do something against the Jews, and again the refugee Jews were the first ones to be picked on. So that's when they left for the Netherlands.
1:24:08	And when they settled in Amsterdam, in our neighborhood, of course all the many refugees who lived in the neighborhood frequented the drug store and everybody, everybody tried to help Mr. Nussbaum find his bearings. For my family, number one my mother, I think knew Mr. Nussbaum from the choir, but I'm not sure.
12:24:34	He had a very nice voice and he played the violin very well. And son Rudi played the piano. And the two families met over chamber music. My mother had a grand piano

	and our house was always very hospitable. So, we had trios and leader evenings and always chamber music around. That's how Rudi got to visit frequently with my family.
1:25:00	And pretty soon there was a friendship between really the four of us, my older sister Susie, Rudi, and Ralph, Rudi's friend - the one that eventually, who had been to the Jewish farm and eventually was sent to Mauthausen and killed in 1941.
1:25:23	Rudi did not have much of a school education because they had left Germany when he was 14 and he was looking around what he could do in Amsterdam to get independent as soon as possible. So, he went to [hada araqi] place to a ship engineering school and was working to become a ship engineer.
1:25:44	It was a two year program, which he did extremely well. But Ralph was picked up and sent packing just before Rudi did his final examination. And one of his traumatic experiences was should he sit for the exam or should he go into hiding. Well, he missed the first day of the exam because he couldn't make up his mind to go, and then grace to the director of the school, he could catch up on the exam. He finished it.
1:26:17	The day he finished doing the exam, he had his bicycle parked and he went out in the countryside and went into hiding. Much earlier – that's July 1941 – much earlier than most everybody else. And he was, well, even while he was doing the exam, he was living with this gentleman here [points] there's a picture, David de Jong who was a painter and a writer [points] this man there.
1:26:44	And then eventually he landed in a small peasant's house, really, very, very small. Subsistence peasants. That's the house there, [points] picture, there he was hiding for a whole year. So he was hiding all the way through the war in different places. It would be too long to give all of the details.
1:27:06	but I always, I always knew where he was I always could take care of him by bringing him things and, for instance, in May of 1942 when we already had to wear the star I took off my star early in the morning when there were no people in the street, went on the train, visited him, and bought him whatever could cheer him up.
1:27:30	And certainly took care of him. He was my, my responsibility. In August of the same year when the big roundups and the, and the deportations had started. I did not have the courage to take off my star anymore. It was too dangerous. I mean, within just, you know, three months, again, things had changed dramatically. It would have been too dangerous and I would have endangered the whole family, so I didn't, right, not look him up anymore and then
1:28:05	But, he had to leave where he was because some people had been f-, some hidden Jews had been found, and there was a change in police force, and Nazi police, I think had all the police had been installed there, so it was not safe where he was. And by that time he had gotten in touch with the underground, and the underground found him a place to go into hiding near Amsterdam, in a suburb of Amsterdam in Amstelveen.
1:28:38	He - on the way there he stopped by and saw his parents once more, and pleaded with them to go into hiding. They were still having their store and trying to sell as much as they could to have cash to have something to finance going into hiding. And he, when they finally found a hiding place for him via the underground, and when people came to pick his parents up, they were gone. They had just been deported the night before.
1:29:09	So that was very traumatic. Very, very traumatic. Rudi and his mother were very close and that was a terrible blow for him. Yeah. But he stayed- [I] But they were, they were gone when they came to get them. "When the, when the underground came to pick

	them up they were gone, they were not out of the country yet, they were in West- [I] when the underground came to pick them up they were deported.
1:29:31	They were already deported, yeah. The night before, they were deported. They were sent to Westerbork to the transit camp, Westerbork. Was a strange camp. There were thousands, tens of thousands of people. They had an infirmary. And the infirmary needed a pharmacist, so Mr. Nussbaum was for a while deferred to be the pharmacist for the infirmary. They were actually deferred from November 1942 till February of 1944. So that's long they were in Westerbork.
1:30:10	Which was a boon because we could send them packages. They, they couldn't send much in the way of communication. It, it was, they were allowed, I think, one postcard ever, every two weeks or so. So, not enough to, to really be in touch. But Rudi's mother was pretty clever and she befriended some people who were, they were called the couriers, who were, went back and forth between Westerbork and Amsterdam because as long as the camp was still so huge, there was connection back and forth.
1:30:47	And so the couriers would bring us little notes - and of course it was a boon that my family was still where we used to be and above ground so we were the liaison between Rudi and his parents for 15 months nearly. And then as Westerbork was being emptied, there was no need more anymore for the pharmacy, for the infirmary and for the pharmacy, so eventually they were sent to Terezin, to Theresienstadt.
1:31:19	And then of course you are way after of the film Terezin, Theresienstadt and when they, it was beautified there in order to show the Danish and International Red Cross what a beautiful place it was. And in the project of beautifying Theresienstadt, thousands of people were sent to Auschwitz, including Rudi's parents.
1:31:44	They were just - it was just so crowded in Terezin that they needed to thin out the population, that's when they...and many Jews from the Netherlands were sent to Auschwitz and to their end. That's to say it was the end of Rudi's father. Rudi's mother, who was very strong and very, great, had a great vitality managed to be sent with a contingent of younger Jewish women.
1:32:11	And I don't know how much it is known of that, they had a contingent of Jewish women sent from Auschwitz to Harburg, harbor city of Hamburg to clean up the rubble after the bombardments. They were, so they were rubble cleaners. And Rudi's mother made to there in August of 1944. Two different Dutchmen sent us messages that so we knew that Rudi's mother was still alive.
1:32:41	Then she was sent to Bergen-Belsen and she was liberated in Bergen-Belsen, and Rudi saw her on a list, and she died after liberation because the British were very, very ill-prepared to take care of the people who had typhus and were terribly undernourished. So he thought his mother would come back but she didn't come back.
1:33:06	[I] So she survived only to die just after liberation? "Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Mhmm. The British were taking mercy on those people and fed them their K rations which of course was totally wrong. [I] So Westerbork, Auschwitz, Belsen - she was in many of the places that Anne Frank was. "Yeah. Yes. Yes." [I] And must have been at the same time. "Definitely must have been in Bergen-Belsen at the same time as Anne and Margot Frank.
1:33:29	I don't whether anything is known, whether Margot and Anne were also part of the contingent of women who were clearing the rubble. I don't think so. I think they were on a different transport.

1:33:41	[I] How did Rudi keep in touch with you when he was in hiding, how did you know where he was?
	TRANSCRIPTION INCOMPLETE