

Hedy Weiss*

I was born in Vienna, Austria in 1905 to Emma Jellinek and Jacob Jellinek
(Both parents were killed by the Nazis.)

Before World War II, I had a beautiful life in Austria. I studied at the Vienna Conservatory of Music; my husband, Robert, owned a shoe factory. Our second son was born two months before the Germans invaded Austria.

My husband was taken to Dachau where he remained for one year until his father secured papers declaring the entire family Yugoslavian. We then fled to Yugoslavia and lived there for two years until the Germans arrived.

Fleeing again from the Nazis we purchased Bolivian papers and trekked across Southern Europe through Italy and Portugal. There we managed to buy visas and passage to Cuba. I learned to play the accordion in order to support my family until my husband found work. When the war ended, we came to the United States. My husband and I have two sons, Ernest and Peter, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

What I remember most about those years was the constant fear. Sometimes I have difficulty believing that we really made it.

*Deceased October 26, 1990.