

LYNN ORNE

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.



Lynn Orne, daughter of Ludwig and Melanie Toch, was born on October 18, 1926, in Vienna, Austria. Lynn had an older sister,

Katharine, and a younger brother, Heinz. Ludwig and Melanie owned and operated a poultry business. Lynn grew up in a middle-class neighborhood, and she had Jewish and non-Jewish friends. She attended public school, and while the family was Jewish, they were not religious.

After the Anschluss, the German annexation and occupation of Austria, life began to change for the Toch family. Anti-Jewish legislation was enacted, and Lynn was forced to attend a school for Jewish children. During the *Kristallnacht Pogrom* (the Night of Broken Glass, November 9-10, 1938), Lynn witnessed her parents' store being attacked.

Following the *Kristallnacht Pogrom*, there was a collective effort to bring nearly 10,000 refugee children to Great Britain from Germany, German-annexed territories in Austria and among the German Jews who had been forcibly pushed into Polish territory in October, 1938. These transports are known as the Kindertransport, or "children's transport." In January 1939, Lynn was sent to England on a Kindertransport. Shortly after arriving in London, Lynn became sick with diphtheria, and she spent three months in the hospital. An older patient taught Lynn English by sharing comic books with her.

When Lynn recovered, she went to a private school. She and the other refugees were allowed to attend classes, but they also had to serve as maids. During the Blitz (a German bombing campaign in 1940 and 1941), the school was evacuated to the countryside. Lynn got her diploma at age 15, and worked towards a "Nursery Nurse" degree. After the war, Lynn's uncle

arranged for her to immigrate to the United States. Lynn's parents and brother did not survive the war. Her sister, Katharine, settled in South Africa.

Lynn married Karl Orne in November 1954. They had three daughters. Lynn received her nurse practitioner degree and worked at Planned Parenthood. Later, she opened a women's clinic at Cal State Hayward (now California State University, East Bay). This interview was conducted on June 24, 1998, in Hayward, California.