

Interviewee: Thea Aschkenase
Interviewer: Johanie Rodriguez
Date: February 20, 2009
Place: Worcester, MA
Transcriber: Johanie Rodriguez



Overseen by Dr. Lisa Krissoff Boehm, Worcester State College

Abstract: Born in Munich Germany in 1923, Thea Aschkenase lived during the Hitler regime. She talks in depth about facing discrimination because she was Jewish and fleeing Germany with her family. Thea and her family settled in Milan, Italy, where her father began his work as a tailor and her mother as a seamstress. At age 15 Thea was old enough to work as a maid. A year later, they were sent to an interment camp called Villanova D'asti. She speaks candidly about her family being captured and sent to the infamous Auschwitz. Sadly, this was the last place where she saw her brother and father. Thea and her mother survived Auschwitz together, after the war they returned to Italy where they attempted to travel to Israel, and participated in a 75-hour hunger strike. Thea met her husband Efraim in Israel, married and had a daughter named Lea. She depicts their move to Brooklyn and how hard it was to learn the language and adapt to a new environment. The Aschkenase family later relocated to Worcester, Mass in the 1960's. She was a stay at home mom until her son Steve went off to college. Thea is a 2007 graduate of Worcester State College, majoring in Urban Studies, and is a volunteer for Commonwealth Corps.

JR: Where were you born Thea?

Thea: In Munich Germany

JR: Do you have any children?

Thea: I have two children

JR: Where they born here?

Thea: One was born in Israel; the other was born in Worcester Massachusetts.

JR: Were you married?

Thea: Yes, I have been married for sixty years.

JR: How was your life like in Germany?

Thea: That's the whole story, I was born a Jewish child in Germany, and I was a happy child until Hitler came into power; and the discrimination against Jewish people began.

JR: Is it hard for you to talk about....

Thea: No, no it's not hard for me, it's just a whole story... maybe I should tell you my story. I was born a happy child in Germany, lots of family, everything revolved around family. We didn't, like it's done here, go out to eat; everything was done at home, everything was celebrated within the family. And there were occasions when one went to the family and one came back, so it was a different society than the one we have now. We didn't have television; we didn't have the communication that we have now. If something happened across the world, you'd know right away what's happening, [she is talking about the present], and we didn't.

Now when Hitler came to power he hated Jews and he wanted to do away -- have a pure German, Aryan race and we children were protected, and grownups didn't tell much what was happening. If they had to discuss something, children were sent out of the room and so we were not aware, but in our apartment house we had a big yard and kids congregated there to play and all of a sudden kids did not want to play with my brother and me. My brother was three and half years younger and we didn't know why, we didn't do anything, we didn't have a fight. They just didn't want to... Now I can think that their parents told them not to play with Jewish kids or they heard it from their friends, but it was a very hard thing for children not to understand why all of a sudden... we didn't do anything. Then after when I was about... A friend of my... a father of my friend jumped out of the window, killed himself because they said he was too friendly to a German woman. It was the fact that any accusation against a Jew was taken for granted. Around the time I was fourteen, fifteen, we couldn't go to movies anymore, we couldn't go to parks anymore, and we were sent away from our public school and they made a Jewish school for all the Jewish kids in Munich and we all had to go to this school. Now it's awful for a little kid to be sent away from school... I know I didn't do anything bad and my friend for the first few years said one morning to the teacher "My parents said I shouldn't sit next to the Jewish girl anymore" and the teacher said "of course you shouldn't." Any case, after this we were sent to a Jewish school. In 1938 I was then about fourteen we were told that we had to leave Germany or be sent to a concentration camp. Now Munich was a concentration camp; my uncle was visiting in October and the Nazis came to look for somebody else, not for him, but they found him in our apartment took him to this concentration camp near Munich and he was dead within two weeks. So we knew what a concentration camp could mean, but we didn't know of all the concentration camps they would have in the future, but that was only 1938. In 1939, we knew we had to leave Germany and now there was no place in whole world that would give us permission to enter their country. We were desperate we didn't know; in 1936 three years before we applied to the U.S.A; to emigrate to the U.S.A; (coughs), wait a moment, I'll drink a little bit of water. (Pause; Thea gets a glass of water)

We... Nobody would give us asylum. And in 1939, even though we applied in 1936, we had a sponsor in the United States... the quota to come here was still too faraway; quota means how many people can be admitted to the country from each country. So all of a sudden Italy opened the borders and said "no questions asked just cross the border and come." So this was like immunity and I'm forever grateful for Italian people that they did this for us. We could take ten marks each, now ten marks wasn't much; I can't tell you exactly how much, but at one time it

was much less than a dollar, so I don't know how the exchanges were, but very little. We brought one suitcase each and we had to leave everything behind, it's hard for a young girl to leave everything, in the suitcase and parents made sure you just put in your clothes your shoes and the necessities. We went to Italy; we went to Milano... by the way my father was a tailor and my mother helped him... in Italy they found out my father was a tailor, my mother a seamstress and I was fifteen years old by then I found a job with an Italian family as a maid. Now at home I didn't even dry any dishes, so I didn't know, but she was so kind and she said "I'll teach you... you'll take care of the children until you'll learn, and then you'll do the job. She was wonderful; it's all Italian people...

Now we in Munich we had a big apartment; there we had one room, my brother, my father, my mother and I in the room we slept we spent a day and we did our cooking on a little heating unit. But we were glad, we were free and we were together. A year later the Italian government made an alliance with the Germans and they had to send all foreign men to a concentration camp, the concentration camp was in Calabria in the south of Italy. Now concentration camp is not what we imagine of the camps over there... I'll come back to it later. A few weeks later they sent us to different place in Italy to await until they decided what they would do to the women and children. Now then they... after six weeks or so they sent us to the camp my father was in. My father had been there he... I mean it was a good camp, you can't leave the place you know you have to stay there but you could talk to the guards you could talk to the director, you had food. We young people made a playing field; sports court we founded a kindergarten for the children so we were free to do what we wanted, we couldn't leave, but there was no pressure... and everybody was extremely tolerant and friendly. We were there for a year and then they decided the families should go out to different villages. So out of Italy to live there, and not to stake him there was a boy that had no parents and he pleaded with my father to take him along; his name was Harry and my father and mother couldn't say no, they asked permission we took this Harry along. He was three, four years older... no two years older than I and four years older than my brother... more or else. We were sent to a village in Italy -- it's called Villanova D'asti, we stayed there maybe a year and a half. The people were wonderful to us; I mean I can't even say how kind everybody was. By then my brother and I spoke perfect Italian and the dialect... it was a wonderful place to wait for the end of the war. The end of the war, we hoped we could back to Germany. We left the whole family behind, my mother left her mother behind and lots and lots of relatives not only in Munich, but in Slovakia in Hungary, in Prague, in Czechoslovakia; all along there we had family. My grandmother came, my grandparents came from this part of Europe and it was just a really good place. And you know I couldn't leave the village and whenever I asked for permission, it was always given. The young Italian girls made some trips to a nearby movie with bicycles I always came, and the place there lent me a bicycle; it was a good place. Then in 1943 or 44 our landlady said, "You know the Germans are coming now," up from the south of Italy --we were up from the north -- where they go arresting Jews. And we saw we had no idea, we saw ... and this wonderful, wonderful lady took us to a hiding place.

The hiding place was in the north of Italy high up in the mountains. Now there was this place and we called it our Guardian Angel, he prepared a barn for us; it was a poor village they didn't have a room or something for us, but somebody gave us their barn and we slept on straw, some people gave us some blankets we slept there and we stayed their for six months. My father and mother found work in the village. The village was so poor; nobody had a sewing machine, the whole

village. So each one ... lets say one day he went to one house to do alterations and maybe he stayed the week in the next house and did everything by hand. After half a year the police came one morning and said "You know, do not leave the barn, because Italian soldiers are coming and looking at all the mountain villages, looking for freedom fighters. Not the Jewish, the freedom fighters.

JR: Were they the people that helped the Jewish?

Thea: No, the freedom fighters fought in the mountains against their country. No, it had nothing... nobody nowhere near Jewish people. The police said to us when he came, please don't tell anybody that you're Jewish because I can guarantee that my people wouldn't denounce you.... but you know one tells a friend and the rest goes around that there's Jews hiding there. So we didn't. He knew, the secretary knew, but the people didn't [that Thea and her family were Jewish]. And so we just said just don't leave stay in the barn. Harry, this boy that we took along, he was about maybe 18 or 19, he said it was just a small place, but never listened so he went out to the church, to the town square to look what time it was, just to look what time it was; it was stupid. Any case the soldiers saw him and he saw the soldiers and he quickly ran away. They said "Yeah, he must be one of the freedom fighters, young boy who runs away", and they ran after him. And stupid guy went back to the barn were we were staying and they told the Italians solders that we were Jewish people. They didn't want to take us, but since they had found us, and their job was to find people, and they took us to a prison in Turino a large city in Italy. We come to the prison it was run by the nuns, so when we were admitted, they said the men and women are to be divided. I was always the spokesman because I spoke much better Italian than my mother and the nun said to us "so what did you do?" I said "nothing, its fine." It was such a strange question. She said they don't put you in prison if you haven't done anything. So I told her that we were Jews... "Oh," she said, "you're the first Jews in our prison and I'm sorry to tell you now that you're under the hospices of the German." So the Germans took over, we remained in prison for two months and we were in a small cell and it was not a good place, but it was ... we were safe. After two months the nuns came and said, "You know they're going to send you to a labor camp." We were overjoyed, labor camp, good -- means that we were going to be together with my father and my brother. We were delighted and then ... after two days we were let out and there was my father and brother -- it was wonderful. And we were sent to a transit camp; I forgot the name and we stayed there overnight. We were together with my brother and father, but again the men were in different barracks. In the morning, they took us to the railroad station, and the Germans were there. And we were put into cattle cars... you know what are cattle cars? The big ones were they transport animals. I'll show you a picture, it had just a little window, I have a picture upstairs... why you don't drink your tea, while I bring it downstairs.

It was very scary; it was terrible after they started moving; because people... you know for facilities they had parents in the side and it was very embarrassing. So, we were in one of those cattle cars five days, and one thing we didn't know what the camps where in the east; like Auschwitz and those camps. We had no idea we hadn't even heard the name Auschwitz; and after five days; I'll make it short this is a long story; after five days the train stopped and it said Auschwitz. There was a sign in Auschwitz "Work makes Free," "Arbeit Macht Frei," by which one assumes it's a working camp. But it wasn't. When we were marched into Auschwitz, there was this infamous Dr. Mengele, maybe you have heard of him, he did the experiments on people

and he selected the people that entered Auschwitz and who would live and who would die. So we entered, my father, my brother, my mother and I, with no idea what was going to happen. So he was there with his son he point to the left, to the right and the middle; three groups. [Each person that entered Auschwitz was to be put in one of these groups]. The young men, the young women and the old people. By old people I mean... my mother was 40 and my father maybe eight years older. They were put with old people and all children were put with old people in the circle. And he pointed me to the young people, my brother to the young men, and my mother and father to the old people. Now I had no idea; none of us had any idea, but I grabbed my mother and put her back to my side, while Mengele the doctor had turned his back for a minute and she said, "Oh no I want to stay with Papa," my father, because they were a wonderful couple, each one was the sun and the moon to each other. In any case he... and I whispered to him, "no no no they're going to separate you maybe anyhow." In this minute this Mengele turned around and said to my mother, "I have put you with the other group" and I said, and God forbid you don't speak to a German in any of those camps, I said "no no I have seen you put her there." Now I don't know why he let me get away with it, maybe because I spoke German, and most people didn't, he let my mother stay with me and this saved her life. Now we were marched to the showers, our heads was shaven.... [Doorbell rings]... that's maybe the lady....

So we were sent to take a shower and all the German men were there making comments it was very humiliating. And our heads shaven, it's a terrible feeling for a woman. Then we were sent to the barracks and the barracks were bunk beds we had 11 or 12 women in each bunk three tiers high and it was really bad because you have to sleep with those women right next to you. We thought for sure they didn't have room for us but they just made room; pushed others to the right. And then I said to one of the women, I said that I knew there had been an Auschwitz before, I wonder to what camp they sent my father. So she said "come out, come out of the barrack, I will show you." So I thought she was showing me another camp, and there was a big building and smoking chimney; she said "he went up in smoke already; and the whole group that came with you and your dad, they went up in smoke. The whole... the kids." I said you know I was so angry about it, she would tell me a thing like this and I ... it just but... I made sure I came to the barracks, and I said look what she told me...that's what I did. Old people and children and the mothers that didn't want to let go of their children were all kill within the hour they came into Auschwitz.

And the hunger was terrible there. We had one piece of bread in the morning some brown liquid that they served for coffee and uh and uh some watery soup in noontime. The bread had to last until the next morning and some people ate it right away and most of us hid it on our body; we didn't have a hiding place, we didn't have a place we could call our own. Then my mother got very sick and every week or two there was a selection of Germans who came to the barracks, made us all undress. Selected the people were not healthy anymore, that didn't look healthy, to be That was always terrible to me. The hunger was terrible and so we were there maybe 10 months. From there we were sent to a labor camp, the labor camp was better, definitely better. They were no criminals and we each had a bunk of our own. And then after... if you later... I'll make it a little shorter because it's so long.... Later if you need fillings you just call me when you write your paper.

And then one morning the Russian soldiers... the Germans had disappeared and soldiers were marching to the camp, we found out it was the Russians. It was May 15, 1945, or May 8, (19)45 and they said the war was over; the Germans had surrendered unconditionally in Europe. Not all the way but in Europe and you are free. Now we are free we didn't know where we were and they said "you can go to the nearby village, into the houses and look for food." But the Germans had left the houses and had taken all the food along and there was hardly anything left; found a little ground sugar and half and jar of jam... So we went there and didn't find food. We didn't know where we were... they brought us to a place we had no idea where it was located, we looked in the German houses and we didn't find a map. So we knew... we had no idea, to ask the Russians was really bad because they raped women indiscriminately. It could be Germans, it could be people that just came out of camp, they were a violent bunch. After the war, the occupational forces, the Americans, the English and the Russians, made relocation camps for the people who were in the camps. There they could wait until they found housing and... so until their relatives were alive or whatever. But the Russians couldn't go... no girl was safe and terrible things were going on. My mother and I left the second day to walk back to Italy. Now we were in upper Germany. Why Italy? Well because it was the last time we were together with my father and my brother. And, so no we were on the road for four months, we hitchhiked, that was the mode of transportation. We hitchhiked, but we had to make sure not to get a Russian vehicle. We had some money; I don't know where we got it, maybe from a relief organization and I put it in my shoes, I didn't have a bag or anything I put it in my shoes for safe keeping. And then with the money we rode some trains, but the trains were very dangerous because the Russians came in and took some of the girls to their compartment, made them drunk and forced them to drink and raped them; It was awful the screaming that was going on. I had my mother, but it wasn't protection, what the only protection was if you had a husband. So each time I went on a train, I found a husband. It means the young men that were going this way; knew... say "I'm her husband." Were granted safe passage, so each time I had gone on a train I had a husband. And now we didn't have a place to sleep, we were four months on the road, we slept in front of house entrances, or if I had a husband we slept in benches in train stations, because I was then protected.

One time mother and I found a ... it was a bad rainy night ... a lodging house and it was... we went in and we said to the men we don't have any money, can we sleep there, so this was a very delapidated place; used to be nice one time and the facilities didn't work but he was nice enough and we could sleep there. None of the doors had a key and in the middle of the night two Russians came and he intended to rape me, one came right to my bed and my mother had the presence of... because if you scream with the Russians, nobody could help you, nobody did, nobody was able. So my mother said to them like talking, like afternoon tea, "Would you go leave us for five minutes, I want to go dress and I want to find another room. I don't want to be here and see what you young people are doing." And they said sure go right ahead; they walked away with the intention of coming back inside, naturally I ... we run out and we are gone within five minutes. My mother was at the brains of mind not to panic. And then... so this was the situation and how it was and after we went to ... I don't know the sequence now... we came to Austria and Austria was occupied by the English. They were gentlemen they treated us like ladies, and we certainly didn't look like ladies but they were so nice. We came back to Milano, and in Milano we were uh... by coincide an army from Palestine... before it was Israel it was called Palestine, fought with the English brigade and they heard that two Jewish women had

come home from Auschwitz, so they took us under their wings. They found a room for us and they found a job for me to work in their service club in Milano. We stayed a few months and we heard that none... nobody of our parents had stayed they were... all had been killed; not parents, my relatives. And my father, we always had hoped that maybe he did escape but he didn't come back. My brother he was younger he was tall he was beautiful, a healthy boy did not come back either. So it was just my mother and I and ... afterwards there was no other country that, now still like before the war we didn't know what to do. So the Jewish brigade found a ship that transported people to Palestine; to Israel. But it was illegal because it was occupied by the English and the English did not permit us to enter in. Finally we got to the ship, the ship was discovered and we were forbidden to leave the border of Italy. Then we started the hunger strike... if you want to turn off, I'll show you our hunger strike, I have the pictures.

And then finally after we had the hunger strike for so long, the whole world... I was told in the United States it was a big deal all over the world, because we declared we were not going to eat; we were going to die on the shore because we had no place to go, and finally they permitted us to go. We stayed in Israel for seven to eight years. I had a daughter there. It was really wonderful. In 1954, we came to the United States.

JR: What part of the U.S. did you go?

Thea: To New York, where all the new immigrants came; to New York Brooklyn. And from Brooklyn my father... my father (laughs) my husband found a job in Clinton, Massachusetts. I said Clinton is too small for me... (Laughs).... So we moved to Worcester.

JR: So you met your husband in Israel...

Thea: I met my husband in Israel and in Israel we stayed in a hotel because the apartments were too expensive and not only the rent, in order to get an apartment you have to pay... they called it key money, money for the key and it was a lot of money to pay to get an apartment. So finally, we stayed in a hotel and we got married in Israel and right after a three-day honeymoon, he had to go to the army and he was in the army for a whole year. When he came home he was on leave, we found out that somebody, an old professor a doctor... professor wanted to share his apartment. So we shared an apartment with the professor, and my daughter was born and ... he was still in the army. After awhile we ended up coming to the United States. I was very unhappy in the beginning, because I spoke very little English and my accent was terrible and at this time people looked down at people that didn't speak the language correctly. It wasn't like Italy where they accepted you with open arms, and we had a really hard time. Maybe I was just too sensitive about my English, if I couldn't make myself understood and if I didn't understand the people shouted... see now if people come they don't come just few or two people. Like I didn't have a community that spoke my language. Most people now have a community that speak their language, they go home and they say to heck with them you don't like me, don't like me, but we were dependent on the people that did not speak our language... you understand the difference?

JR: Yes, but later on wasn't there a community of Jewish people in Brooklyn?

Thea: We didn't meet any, but then we meet people, of course we meet people that spoke our language in Israel, in Tel Aviv; we lived in Tel Aviv, everyone spoke German because most of them were immigrants that came from Germany to Tel Aviv, the children spoke Hebrew, did not they spoke German and Yiddish.

JR: So how many languages do you speak?

Thea: Uh... now you see I used to speak Italian just better than I speak Hebrew; just what my daughter needed. She went to kindergarten [in Israel], I spoke little. I could make myself understood in German and Yiddish.

Johanie: Did you receive an education when you came here?

Thea: Nope. Nope. When I came here I stayed home... I had a son here and you know... European men don't want their wives to work. And my husband said no, no, no. It was like an embarrassment for them at this time when the wife had to go to work. So I worked in the beginning in the A&MP shop but when I came to Worcester I did a lot of work here. I worked for ten years for the association for the blind and learned how to Braille... and uh we went shopping, to trips, we went bowling together 10 years ago... and then I... when my son went to college I said I want to go to work. I started working at UMASS Medical Center; I worked there for 15 years as an aide in therapy and then I was downsized they like downsized 150,000 people at the same time. Then I said now I am going to school.

Now I was so afraid I was terrified to go to school, but registration was with Maureen Power [Worcester State College] and she was so nice to me and I couldn't believe it. She sat down with me and she took time for me and she made me feel welcomed. And I was there now... after 10 years I graduated and I still go to school.

JR: So you started going to Worcester State in 1997?

Thea: No, no I went for 10 years... wait a moment no I went for 15 years at UMASS Medical Center, but I stayed at home; a home mom until my son went to college, then I started going back to school. I don't know what year it was... [She pulls out her children's tassels]. One is my son's and one is my daughter's...

JR: What schools did they go to?

Thea: Maybe... I went to school in '94, '95.... My son went to MIT and to Harvard.

JR: Wow

Thea: And my daughter went to Northeastern and to the University of Wisconsin.

JR: So how do you feel about the Commonwealth Corps, the program that you are in right now?

Thea: I feel good; I just wanted to do something and not be paid for it. I said to Maureen when she started applying and writing, I said Maureen I would like that, and we did a lot of things before. We worked with teen mothers for years I was a mentor of a teen mom for four years and we did a lot of things, that was the best to mentor the teen moms, because let's say once a month we had a pizza party at the Y and we had someone to take care of the kids, so the mothers, they were so young, so they could be by themselves and didn't have to worry about the kids and they could have some fun. You know the life that some of them had, in the morning they had to quickly get their babies ready to nursery or whatever school, then run to work and run back home and at night be a mom, it was really difficult for them. We did not tell them do this or do this, but they had a person when they need somebody that was their for them. My young mom she was anorexic, and when she ate she would throw it up... so we made a pact when she had the feeling anytime at night she could call me and we could talk it over, so it was a wonderful situation.

JR: So you developed a friendship with the teen mom?

Thea: Yes but... you know now I don't know what is the matter she had a third child and she asked me if I would be a coach when I gave birth, but before she gave birth her father took her cell phone away and they... her boyfriend took the car away because she crashed the car so there was no contact anymore. She used to call me up... it always came from her I didn't intrude in her life at all. We talked and we went to different places, but he took it away and the contact stopped. So I don't know, I hope that she's okay. But this was maybe 6 years ago, but she had a hard life.

JR: I also know you do stuff for Universal breakfast, how is that like?

Thea: (Laughs... points to a poster the South High kids made for her) that's what they made; I did for Lisa my research paper was on childhood hunger and specifically universal free breakfast. And I just talked about it at South High School and now they put something like this at every table... if you want to go over and have a look.... But it means that every lunch time they... whatever is left over they put in the middle and in the afternoon the kids have a snack.

JR: So they won't waste the food.

Thea: And they sometimes go home and don't have any. Some people go home hungry... but you know, I don't have to tell you... they don't have... if the school were the parents don't have much extra. And then I speak to others when they call me at different schools. That's my story and then I mediate and I do a lot of yoga

JR: Do you still take classes (yoga)?

Thea: I go and mediate I don't do yoga anymore because it's now hard to go down for me onto the floor. My bones tell me now it's enough

JR: I do yoga too...

Thea: You do yoga...

JR: Yes because I have scoliosis

Thea: That's wonderful, I instructed handicap people that I worked with (at UMASS) and uh we had a year to practice with handicap people and stuff like that... it was only with people I connected with.

JR: I have one question...

Thea: Any question

JR: Growing up did you watch any movies, was there any actress/actor that you liked?

Thea; You know we didn't have television but once in a while a movie, and this was Shirley Temple. Then after this...a little more tea? (Thea pours Tea for me) After this movies were forbidden for us. We couldn't go to the movies; we couldn't go to the theaters... Jews were not permitted....

JR: Did you know or hear about the actress Audrey Hepburn

Thea: Oh yea, but afterwards when I came here...

JR: My friend really loves Audrey

Thea: Yes she was delightful, have you watched any of her movies?

JR: Oh yea I've watched Roman Holiday, Breakfast at Tiffany's...

Thea: But don't forget this was way behind my time; my time was you know 1930s... so Shirley Temple, I think that was the only thing I had seen. [in the past] But you know Shirley Temple?

JR: Oh yes I have heard of her

Thea: So now look what you need for me? [She points at the interview guide]

JR: Okay, so based on your life experience what advice would you give to women today and the future generation?

Thea: What advice I would give... I would... when kids at school ask me this I would say everybody has some type of disagreement with their family, and oh "I hate my brother, I hate my sister..." even if you dislike just be close to the family because it's a terrible thing if you lose the whole family... if you live without them. No matter what family is your strongest ally, In the future, maybe not at the moment and our generation, my generation... it's going to take several generations until we have an extended family. My kids... everybody has cousins, my kids didn't have anybody... so stay close to the family and the main thing don't judge other people because they have a different language or they have a different opinion or they have a different color, don't judge them. They wanted me to come back to Germany to talk, to talk to the German young people, but since my husband was sick I couldn't... I wanted to tell them just be tolerant,

be tolerant because it's just inconceivable, because somebody is Jewish or somebody speaks a different language that they should be your enemy.... that's what I feel is the most important. Unfortunately, it takes a long time for people to accept that.

JR: I like all these pictures you have, do you travel a lot?

Thea: [Pointing towards her pictures] Yeah, that's my favorite, that's Venice, Italy

JR: I like that one

Thea: That's Stockholm, [points as she mentions the names of the countries], that's Norway; you know where the Olympics were this summer?

JR: Yeah in China...

Thea: That's it right there. That's Chappaquiddick Island

JR: Where's that?

Thea: You know it's from Cape Cod...the infamous place with Kennedy...

JR: Is that where he grew up, Kennedy?

Thea: No, no, no, Kennedy had this sort of misshap with his girlfriend

JR: Oh you mean Ted Kennedy, yeah I heard of that...

Thea: Yeah way before your time

JR: He was in a car and she drowned.

Thea: Long time before, that's part of my memories.

JR: So thank you Thea

Thea: You are welcome and if you need anything, just call. I think we covered a lot.

Word List

- Villanova D'asti
- Prague
- Czechoslovakia
- Arbeit Macht Frei
- Mengele
- Chappaquiddick