

Interview with Linda Ashley

Conducted by

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for the

Chene Street History project

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MK: This is Marian Krzyzowski and I'm at the home of Linda Ashley in Huntington Woods, Michigan. Today is April 16th and we are here to speak with Ms. Ashley about her memories of her aunt, Jennie Levenson. Let's just begin by just tracing your relationship and the family relationships. So could you tell me about your mom, Ms. Levenson, and how all that connected?

LA: Okay, my mother is Goldie Levin but she was born Goldie Levenson. And she's the youngest sister to Jennie Levenson.

MK: And how many sisters were there in that family?

LA: There were five sisters.

MK: Okay. And were there any brothers?

LA: No brothers.

MK: Okay, so what about your grandparents? What were their names?

LA: Their names were Louis and Sarah Levenson. We used to call them Buba and Aysha. (Laughs)

MK: Buba and who?

LA: Buba and Aysha

MK: Aysha?

LA: That's what we called Louis. Some people called him Louie I guess. But we called him Aysha

MK: And when were you born? What were--

LA: I was born in 1949 so I am actually the youngest of their grandchildren.

MK: Okay, and how many other grandchildren are there? A lot.

LA: Quite a few. Not a lot. But like, I'm having, I have to sit here and think but I have a sister, so there's two of us

MK: And what's your sister's name?

LA: Her name is Cindy Gates.

MK: And how much older is she?

LA: She's twelve years older than me. So that's. We're the youngest, let's see. Goldie is my mom, she had two daughters: Cindy and myself. The next youngest was Marian Levenson. She got married and her name became Zamek. And she had two daughters: Mira and Eileen, and Eileen was just a little older than me. And then there was. I think Jennie was the next one. Although I'm not totally sure who was older – Sylvia or Jennie. You may know?

MK: From my records I don't know all of them, but I do have the, I do have the--

LA: I think Sylvia is older. And Jennie did not have any children. She was, and she chose to (incoherent). um. Then. Then there was Sylvia and she had two children, Barry and Debbie. So how many grandchildren do we have now? (Laughs). Then the oldest sister was Molly and she had two sons, Alvin and Donald.

MK: What, what do you, first recall of your aunt? Your aunt Jennie? And tell us about her.

LA: I always remember my aunt Jennie. I mean, I couldn't tell you when I don't, I mean, you know? She was always part of life.

MK: Well just begin by talking a bit about her. What she looked like physically.

LA: She had red hair and freckles (laughs) and she was very pretty. And warm. I always thought of her as my favorite aunt. She was more interesting. (laughs) It seemed like she was more interesting than any of my other aunts. And more acceptable. And more willing, although I wish I had talked to her more about her past, more willing to talk and be available.

MK: Did she speak with an accent?

LA: She did speak with an accent I think. Although, now as you mention it it doesn't seem primary in my mind which is interesting. She lived, I lived on Ohio in northwest Detroit. And my grandparents lived, when I knew her my grandparents lived on Wisconsin which was like across the street and around the block and she lived in the house with them. So she was always there but she was a working woman. She was at the store.

MK: Tell me what you know about her store. And have you ever visited the store?

LA: I believe I did. You know, I have this sort of image in my mind of going to the store, that it seemed really big, probably because I was really little. And that it was wallpaper and paint which seemed kind of exotic almost. Because there was like a big table where you would I think roll out the wallpaper and stuff

like that. And I, when I first grew up I think I got paint and what have you from her. When I first got married, I think. She must have still been in business, so, which was in the late '60s early '70s.

MK: Yeah. She was in business until the '80s.

LA: Right. And, so I got a big kick out of it. And I remember how old fashioned it was. It was like with the wood floors, and tin ceilings and it seemed really big. And there was, there was, you know, a certain--my feeling about Jennie was that she was, you know, she was a women who was going off to work. No one else in my family did that. My mother was very traditional. And "a stay at home," and then my other aunt did work because they had gotten divorced and what have you. But Jennie was, she was a little mysterious in that way. You know, she went off to Chene Street (laughs) to run the business. It's just, it was all a little bit of a mystery. But, every now and then, we, I remember hearing about the woman who had the store next door, I think. And sometimes people would come home with her, from Chene Street, that she made friends with. She made a lot of friends [END TRACK 2] that would come, visitors to the family.

MK: So was the women over at the store next store, was that a hat shop?

LA: I think so. What was her name?

MK: Stella Dobiesz

LA: I think so. I remember it was a woman she used to hang out with. Or know about or something.

MK: Yeah, I think she had the store. She was a milliner, a women's hat shop. And the other side of her was Bloch's shoe store.

LA: I don't know anything about that.

MK: But that was before, that was before you were born.

LA: Right.

MK: The Blochs went out of business in the '40s.

LA: I just remember the woman that she was friends with next door.

MK: They were actually on the street together up through the '80s.

LA: Really?

MK: Both of them were.

LA: Then there was some guy, but I don't know (Laughs) who was from the neighborhood but I don't know what--

MK: There was a Jewish store across the street, I think, Premier Dairy.

LA: mh-hmm.

MK: Jack Epstein

LA: Mh-hmm

MK: And I suspect that she probably knew him.

LA: Was that, were they in business for a long time?

MK: Yeah.

LA: Also like through the '80s?

MK: Right. A lot of folks leave but they were in there for quite a while.

LA: Mh-hmm. Pretty amazing.

MK: So you said that she seemed a little more exotic and interesting. Besides the fact that she worked at the, you know, she had her business and it made her stand out in that way. What else about her, you know? How would you characterize her? What was she like as a person?

LA: She was very, she actually pretty low-key and warm. She seemed, you know a lot of my family were (laughs) more bombastic. And she seemed sort of a voice of reason. And I think she was really a bit of a, kind of a rock for the family actually. A sounding board. And kind of there to solve problems for the family.

MK: When she lived with your grandparents, did she did she take care of them? Were they--

LA: She did. So it was--well I was ten I think when my grandfather died. But you know we would go there for like regular family gatherings, festival meals, type of things. And Jennie was a big part of that. She was also very close to my cousin Alvin who was the oldest grandchild. And actually, he lived with them. And he lived in California. But they had a very special relationship.

MK: Did you know why?

LA: No. (incoherent) So. You know, I associated her with him as well. And she would always be, you know, I mean like in my photo albums there's pictures of her at all my kids' at birthday parties and stuff. You know. She was just a part of our lives always.

MK: What was--did she talk very much about her business and her presence on Chene Street? I mean she was there for many many years, just decades, probably over 50 years.

LA: Right

MK: So did she talk much about it?

LA: Well, not to me! You know, I was the little one. It was Chene Street. I mean, Chene Street was like part of our lexicon. You know Chene Street, it was like that. You knew it. You know? On Chene or whatever, we always know what she was talking about. You know? It was sort of like an entity in our lives. But I don't remember her--I think this fellow right here, my uncle. Morris. Was a painter actually. And he was like a really good painter. A fine painter. And I remember, you know, she knew all about that stuff. If I ever, when I was young and getting married and if I had to get information about decorating the house it would always be through her. I think I even have some tools in my house that she gave me for wallpaper. And, but I don't remember a lot of discussion about work-- except that, except for the people that she would be friends with and people that would come home from Chene Street that were acquaintances of hers and then they would become, kind of, you know, around for a while.

MK: Do you remember any of them? Or anything about any of them?

LA: Not so much, I would have to ask some of my relatives.

MK: I'd be curious who she considered friends from the street, I mean she spent so many years on that street. You know, who she was close to. And I also wondered, you know, if there was any sense of animosity, her Jewishness, whether that played out in any way in the neighborhood or among other store owners among cultures. Obviously her being there 50 years, overall she must have been fairly satisfied with the situation.

LA: Right. She never talked, you know a lot of people who--my aunt was very open minded and liberal. One of the most liberal people I knew, so--

MK: liberal in what sense?

LA: In terms of rights you know, and being open-minded about different people. I mean, she would never say anything negative about--she would never say anything negative about anyone: Polish, Black, or whatever. And I don't think that was necessarily true for a lot of business people who were in changing neighborhoods for years and years and years. She was very distinctly different in that way. I never heard her say a bad word about anyone in my life (laughing) actually. She would go with the flow you know? So, I never heard--no I never did hear any animosity, or even [END TRACK 3] any discussion about, you know, trouble in the neighborhood or whatever. I don't know. I mean, did my mom say this to you?

MK: No, no, no. Let's go now--

LA: She had this sort of positive attitude towards the Polish community, I thought. A little less-- I mean my father actually had a store in the Polish community too and he was also very positive but Jennie even more so, I feel. For me, you know, it was just Jennie.

MK: Let's talk a bit about what you know of the story of she and her husband Joseph. When did you find out about it? What do you know about it? Maybe, kind of chronologically--

LA: Yeah. I didn't really, when Jennie passed away and we sat shiva for her. Sometime during that time my sister went into her closet. And they may have been cleaning out her stuff and found this Winkelman's box that said "Letters from Joseph Perla." And I think we knew who Joseph Perla was, although I probably barely knew who he was. But someone did. And we were astounded to see this, open it and there was a box of what seemed like hundreds of letters, all in Yiddish, some Polish, some German but mostly Yiddish. And it was fascinating because I didn't know, you know the story was that she was married at one time to someone in Poland and that he was killed in the war and that was it. And it was like a mythology. For me it was like a mythology of the family. And there were some things for my mother, there were some things, you know how you get these messages--these unstated messages from your family that you're not supposed to talk about it. From what I remember basically is there were two pictures on her bureau in her room all of my life which were of her as a young woman, she looked very beautiful, and a handsome man. And, looking back on it (laughing) I can't believe I didn't ever go "tell me about this" BUT I didn't. It was like oh that's the, I'm ashamed to say, "so-called husband." And I think that I translated the secrecy about the whole thing and the fact that she used the name Levenson and all, that to be some, something that my family had made up-- that she was married or something because nobody was single then, nobody was ever unmarried. I translated it that way. So for me personally when we found the letters, it was a pretty defining moment for me. That this is, this, this truly was a person, and not just made up. I mean, I was so far as to think it was made up. So it's been really a lot of soul searching for me too!

MK: So since you unearthed the box, what's happened in terms of--

LA: So then we decided, when my daughter had her Bat Mitzvah--

MK: Your daughter's name?

LA: Samantha Ashley, Samantha Levin Ashley. And then. And she, we belong to the Workman's Circle, and when she had her Bat Mitzvah back in 1995--she's twenty four now--the idea of having a Bat-Mitzvah there is that you have kind of a research project where you, that has a Jewish theme and you go through a lot of research and when you tell the story and make the presentation for your Bat Mitzvah you also talk about the whole process you went through and the people you met and so forth. And so we thought to find out--and Yiddish is a big part of Workman's Circle, so we thought to try to get the letters translated would be a wonderful thing. You know, it just was meant to be. It's one of those things where there's a reason these letters showed up and your Bat Mitzvah is coming up, you know? So we proceeded, you know, it was Samantha's project and she did it but I helped her. To try to find a way to translate the letters and what I ended up doing was calling some universities and when I called up the University of Michigan's Jewish Studies department, I think the first person who actually was the main graduate student in Yiddish answered the phone. And his name was **Holger Nath** and he was actually from Germany, he had come to study in America, study Yiddish in America and he was at U of M at that point. And I told him the story and he got very excited and said that *he* would be glad to do what he could to translate the letters. And I offered to pay him, because he was a graduate student (laughs). And so then, we set out. Of course we had a limited time and budget, you know. We had to get the project done in a certain amount of time and here we were with hundreds of letters! So we drove--we made an

appointment and drove to Ann Arbor and [END TRACK 4] another thing, that Samantha has mentioned when she gave her presentation is that it was like an amazingly foggy day when we drove. I actually missed the exit. It became like an incredible journey to just get there! And we persevered and turned around and got there and sat down and he did a wonderful job of kind of-- I think I might have gone through the letters and looked for years and organized them by years and then he kind of perused them so he could tell the story without translating every single letter because that was, he couldn't do that, and put together this story of what had happened to her. And it was, it was an amazing day. It was a momentous day for both of us because it was a whole day and it was like coming out of the fog and sitting there and becoming transported into this life that she had led and that whole experience of going to Poland and what happened afterwards. It was absolutely like being transported in time. And then we came back and I actually, I should back up and say what, so many people became involved in this story because originally when we were looking for a Yiddish translator we went to a woman named Rochelle Sable who who was a friend of Samantha's Yiddish teacher at Workman's Circle and she had survived the Holocaust by being in Siberia with her family so it's like everyone we met had a story. And we sat with her and she became so emotional reading the letters she couldn't go on. So--

MK: Does she have a daughter by any chance? Vera?

LA: She has a daughter who doesn't live around here though. She is a doctor, a medical doctor.

MK: Oh, because there is somebody at the Judaic Studies Department called, I think her name is Vera Sable, who's a Yiddish speaker.

LA: So, but we became really good friends with Rochelle and Samantha became really good friends with Rochelle. She, Samantha went on to start the Holocaust education program at her high school and she would bring Rochelle in every year to give talks to the kids and she would introduce her as her friend so I thought that was kind of cool that she had like a seventy year-old friend (laughs). But anyway, so then we ended up going to Holger and somehow Rochelle got to know Holger too and kept up relations with him for a while. And then--

MK: How is Holger Nath spelled?

LA: I think it's, I think it, Holger is H-O-L-G-E-R. and I think it's N-A-T-H. And he ended up going back though, to Germany, and we haven't kept up contact with him. But anyway, so then she had to do the story so there we were with this story and Samantha ended up putting together a wonderful story which she called "Giving Voice to Silence" which she presented orally, picking out the letters and what it meant to her and I think for her and for me it was really—You know, we are educated as Jews who know about the Holocaust as some sort of terrible thing that happened, which it was of course, it was terrible images but not a lot of thought about the community that existed before the Holocaust and the people and how very real they were. And Joseph Perla seems almost as real to me as Jennie, through the letters and and I know my daughter was the one who felt that most strongly because she would talk about Joseph all the time and I would be startled by it (laughs), this Joseph she keeps talking about, and she refers to him as my uncle and I was just, it's so weird! It's almost like it skipped a generation or something but then I came to kind of feel that way too and I think it did a huge job in terms of giving some light to the

realities of people, that these were real people with very vibrant lives. A lot of that came out in the letters the way they talked and his personality came out in the letters and the personality of his family and you get so much personality out of the letters! That was the thing that struck me as much as anything else. And of course then there was this incredible saga of trying to get him out and all the love, there was a love story, no question about it, in the way the letters were written.

MK: And I'm curious, she never married right?

LA: She never married again.

MK: And I'm wondering, you know, whether your mom talked about any of this? Or even after, did she say anything about her take on why her sister you know, experienced things the way she did. Why she didn't marry-- was that tied to the fact that she felt some ties to Joseph Perla or what? What was that about?

LA: One of my great regrets is that I didn't talk to anyone about it. My mother has a hard time talking about it. Even, you know, we had to go to my aunt Sylvia who was alive then, and my mother, to let them know what we were going to do for the Bat Mitzvah so that it didn't just hit them all of a sudden. And my mother had that same sense of that there is something wrong here, that she shouldn't, she used to say that she shouldn't have done that. Maybe her life would have been better if she hadn't done all that to make herself unhappy. And--

MK: When you say she shouldn't have done that, she shouldn't have married Joseph Perla? Or she shouldn't have--

LA: She shouldn't have gone to Poland.

MK: Gone to Poland.

LA: She shouldn't have done all of that. It was too-- I think she still suffers from her sense of the [END TRACK 5] danger of it, and the sadness of it. And that's her way, so there is no way to talk to her about it because she never gets beyond that, you know? That's where the conversation begins and ends. And when we were having a conversation, she was somewhat uncomfortable about it, Sylvia was not at all uncomfortable about it, she was really thrilled about the whole thing, and suddenly for the first time in my life she was talking about "Oh, yeah Jennie did this, and Cleveland," and the whole story about going to Cleveland and meeting him and I had never heard her talk about it before but she was very comfortable with it.

MK: So, what was her story about?

LA: She said that Jennie went to Cleveland to visit some people and met Joseph Perla there who had come to teach for a short time and they met and then that he went back to Poland and then she went to see him. And they got married there. And to this day I'm sitting here going, I wonder if it's really true. (Laughs) Because my mother had got that in my brain, forever! But that's why I really want to have the letters translated.

MK: Well it's also clear in the letters, he's writing to her as Jennie Perla.

LA: Absolutely. Right. And also the whole, they are such profound love letters, I mean, it's really amazing. I mean even when Holger was reading them sometimes he would just have to stop. Because I mean, there's a part of it, I think my mother is like oh it's too personal but you know I mean why not tell the story, for god's sake. you know? And give them, give them, give them that dignity and her, but him especially, of being a real person and not just a statistic. So it's been quite an experience through the whole thing. And I think it's been, and there is a sadness to it too because it's like if she was only here you could ask her a million question and I know she'd give the answers.

MK: What about your grandmother, did she live longer than your grandfather? How old were you when she passed away?

LA: So I was about, but she only lived like a year or two--

MK: Oh! So you don't remember her very well.

LA: I don't remember her either except that she was there all the time and Jennie lived there and she was really old world. They seemed to have a clearer picture in their minds of her than I did. You know, I remember I used to bike ride over there and she'd always worry that I'd fall off the bike around the block. And probably gave me coffee to drink for the first time in my life when I was like ten years old! (Laughs) So I don't really--

MK: Do you remember if your grandfather and grandmother spoke Yiddish to one another, or did they speak English?

LA: They spoke some English. I know my grandfather, they both spoke English but mostly they spoke Yiddish. And it was very broken English. And they would, it was the typical, they talked Yiddish a lot especially if they didn't want you to know what they were saying. And there was some Polish, I remember Jennie speaking Polish around. And whether she did at home or if it would be at the store--

MK: I'm sure she must have, because I've talked to Erwin and to other people and she spoke Polish to them, especially when they're Polish, so she did speak Polish.

LA: Right. Well my dad spoke Polish

MK: Did your grandfather, do you remember if he subscribed to The Forward? Did he have any Yiddish publications in the house?

LA: I'm sure they had The Forward. I remember The Forward in the house.

MK: And how observant were they? I mean, did they belong to a Temple or Synagogue?

LA: They were very observant. But I don't know if they actually belonged to a Synagogue now that I think about it (Laughs).

MK: On holidays? You know, go to Temple?

LA: No, although I think, I think they must have gone to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur somewhere. I don't even know where. But it was very, it was very Jewish and very observant, you know with the traditions. They weren't really involved in any particular synagogue.

MK: How about your mom or for that matter Jennie. Do you know if they, you know, if they belonged to any congregation?

LA: No, but my--Jennie was pretty left-wing, radical, actually, I don't know if people on Chene Street realized that.

MK: How, how? What do you mean by that?

LA: I think she and Sylvia were very involved you know, in the thirties and forties when left-wing politics were very, a big part of the anti-Depression sort of thing that was going on. And she was very much, she was very political. Not so much as she was an older woman --you know like all of us she was making a living. But I began to realize that when I learned more about them in the past. She really believed in, I remember she said, I remember her coming, I used to have Thanksgiving here all the time and she was here every year and I remember her talking sometimes about how they believed that the Soviet Union was the answer but they were wrong, you know. And so that whole sort of a mentality was a big part of her life. Another thing I wish I had talked to her more about. But it was very easy to talk politics with her, and she was always interested in that. And they were always interested in music and stuff like that: going to concerts and the theater, that was a huge part of their lives.

MK: Your grandparents?

LA: My grandparents.

MK: How about Jennie?

LA: And Jennie. Very much so.

MK: Was she into music?

LA: Oh yeah, I mean, they would go to the opera every year when the Met came. You know the Met used to come to Detroit?

MK: Yeah, I used to go to the opera. At the Masonic.

LA: Yeah, yeah that was like it. That was the yearly thing. You know, they would go to the opera like every night to see a different one and all of the symphonies and all the, you know the Bolshoi and all that used to come on a regular basis, various different ethnic dance groups from Russia and what have you. So she was always, you know, theater, they were all into that. I mean, I think that Jennie and my dad were friends before my mom married my dad. Actually--

MK: How would they have known--was that through the business? Was that a business thing?

LA: From what I understand, they used to live on Lawrence, my grandparents, and the house was always open. It seemed to have been a center of activity for young people, Jewish kids. And, I mean, one of the things for example that they did: There was a guy named Arthur Fishbein who had survived the Holocaust. And I think maybe Jennie, Jennie and Rose Poskul who was a friend of theirs--

MK: Rose who?

LA: Rose Poskul. P-O-S-K-U-L. Anyway, there was this Arthur needed, he had survived the Holocaust as a little boy and came here by himself and he needed a family to adopt him. So my grandparents adopted him. And he, I guess he lived in the house, I mean I remember him, I don't see him much anymore but when I was younger he'd be at the dinners and stuff like that. So that's how they were, was like [END TRACK 6] and my dad came from Europe, you know, when he was about seventeen and they were all kind of political and—

MK: Did he come from Poland?

LA: He came from Poland. And they were, I think they would hang out at my grandparents' house. There was a group called Boni Amiki which my mother won't own up to, and I think they were slightly Communist. (Laughs)

MK: What was the group named?

LA: Boni Amici

MK: How is that spelled?

LA: I have no idea what it--I mean I don't even know what language it is! Like B-O-N-I A-M-I-K-I [Boni Amici – MK] and they, they would, you know, they seemed to get together and they would hang out at my—and I think my mom was little and he would be hanging out at my house and he met her that way. And eventually they got married but it was like they all knew each other. It was like Jennie, and Jennie seemed to be in the center of everything like everybody knew Jennie she was sort of like the conduit between everyone.

MK: Do you know if, did she ever go out with anyone else?

LA: Oh yeah, they used to say that Jennie could have gotten married many times. She seemed to have a lot of men passionately in love with her. I mean I have to laugh when I think about it now, because it's like what was going on there? (Laughs) And there was a guy, Goodman I think his name was, they talked about Goodman wanted to marry her, I don't know who Goodman was exactly. But that was something she would--You know, he was desperate to marry her. And, and then I had a couple of--my mother would die if she knew I was telling you this but what the hell it's a good story! They had, Morris, Morris Finklestein was a very good friend of my, of Jennie--

MK: Finklestein?

LA: Yeah, and he was a very good friend, he was married to Nellie and they were best friends with my parents, Israel and Goldie. My dad's name was Israel. And Jennie of course knew them long before they got married, she knew everybody! And a couple things happened when. I think when Jennie died we drove Morris to the funeral and he was distraught beyond belief in the backseat. And, and he started going on and on and one of the people he talked about was a guy named Kaplan who killed himself because Jennie wouldn't marry him. Which was like, "What??" (laughs) You know!? So I have to check up on that story. There was some guy named Kaplan who now lives in Washington. And then, and then Morris, when he was dying, and we were, he was, my kids thought he was an uncle, he really wasn't. So I took my kids to see him when he's on his death bed and suddenly he's talking about how the woman he really loved was Jennie. We were like, "What??" And he was like, "Umm--of course I loved Nellie, Nellie was my wife, but I really loved Jennie and she wouldn't have me." And it was like-- So I'm getting this whole picture, it's like I'm really curious about Jennie now. What's going on. I mean, You know, I was, I was raised to believe that she was a spinster-ette. then I get all this other information afterwards which has sort of completely colored my whole picture and I don't know quite what to do with all of it.

MK: I do know from Erwin Bloch that, you can tell from his description of her and everything, he was very much if not in love with, infatuated with her. And he was younger

LA: I know, well you had said that, and I didn't know if you meant it like that. And I said to my daughter here we go, it's like every man in the whole (laughing)--we know this sweet little lady and she was not, I'm sure he didn't described her as being--

MK: No!

LA: --Bombastic in any way.

MK: No, no not at all. No.

LA: But, I don't know, now I'm wondering if there was maybe just something very genuine about her that men were falling in love with her! I mean, that was it. When Morris said that I just thought "oh my God, this is not to be believed." Although I think I might have had a vague, but, but, the only thing that anyone ever attributed was like she could have gotten married so many times. There were always these suitors, these men who were infatuated with her. Isn't it interesting?

MK: Very. Anything else you remember about, about Jennie Levenson that we haven't touched on. That I haven't raised, that you might want to get down for the record?

LA: I don't know, I just-- I'm like everyone, I adored her. My kids adored her. And I wish I had more time with her, you know. But I respected how smart she was and how political she was and I think it did make a good influence. You know, it was a way to see the world in a different way, in a more independent way. So that was definitely an impression of her, that she was her own person, so that was a possibility.

MK: Do you know if she ever tried to get in touch with, beyond the letter where we saw the card [END TRACK 7], the request that somebody was writing to Siedlce? Do you know if she ever tried to contact anybody else in Poland from either her family or from Perla's family?

LA: Well all that I know about is, other, is that I know in the letters. From the like--

MK: She never talked about it, or--?

LA: She never talked about it. I mean, I don't know if other, you know if Debbie knows more or older relatives of mine. I mean I should probably really ask them more and more or press them because I certainly didn't know that much about it. And I do know that, you know you can tell in the letters and Debbie might know this that she enlisted the help like of Sylvia's husband to try to you know get him over, she was going through all kinds of ways of getting him over, through all the channels, official channels.

MK: Okay! Well thank you very much, this was great.

LA: You're welcome.

END OF TAPE. [ends at 1:09 of the last segment – MK]