

A Jewish –American Experience

Rabbi Sternburg's Story



By: Domonique

A
Jewish -American
Experience



A Brave New World

Introduction

Immigrants come to the United States for many reasons. Three of those reasons are to escape persecution, to find a job, or to prevent themselves from starvation.

This is a story of a Jewish family who fled their Polish homeland to escape religious persecution. During the period of the Sternburg's immigration Adolf Hitler was in control of Germany and slowly swept across Europe attempting to eliminate the Jewish race.

The family of Rabbi Sternburg escaped the horror of this time period and settled in Chicago, before coming to Massachusetts. I hope that through the retelling of this story, its readers will feel the heroic bravery that this family experienced as they left the only life they knew to face the challenges of being different in a new world.

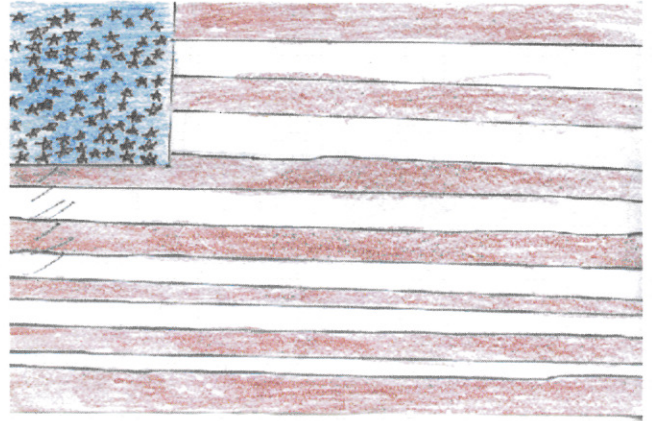
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Early Life

Rabbi Sternburg was born on December 14, 1949 in Denver Colorado. The neighborhood that he grew up in was called Colfacts. Rabbi lived in a neighborhood where most people were either Jewish or Mexican- American. He lived near the Platte River.

Growing up Rabbi Sternburg loved school. He went to public schools from kindergarten through third grade. When he grew older he moved to Chicago. Rabbi loved to read and write stories .When he became an adult he published some books. He collected stamps and he loved to cook. He played the accordion. He learned to speak Yiddish at an early age.



**The flag of the
United States of America**

Immigrating to America

Although Rabbi Sternburg grew up in the United States, his family immigrated from Poland in 1924. His mother, grandparents, and uncle all came together. Unfortunately, they needed to leave many relatives behind because they were poor and just could not afford to bring all of them over.

America was the land that his family longed for. So they set sail across the Atlantic Ocean. The trip was rough. Food was limited, but they managed to pack up most of what they considered important. They brought their bibles, prayer books, candlesticks, and suitcases filled with clothes. They were excited, but sad to leave so many people that they loved behind.



**Map of the
United States of America**

Life In America

Once in America the Sternburg's settled in Denver with some uncles that had already immigrated to America.

His family stayed in a small three room house. The house contained five people, his grandparents, 3 children, and two more were later born. That totaled seven people in the small house. When Rabbi's grandmother first arrived in America, she was surprised at some of the food that suddenly became available to her. She had never seen bananas or oranges in her life and did not know if they could be eaten. But after asking her Rabbi, he assured her that the fruit could be eaten.

Although his family, were happy to be in the United States, they experienced some prejudice when they first arrived. They were discriminated against because of their Jewish names and the fact that they did not speak English. Once they learned the language, life became much easier for them.

A Reflection

The Sternburg family had high hopes when moving to the United States. They found everything and more once they moved here. Every hope and dream that they had was realized and they could not be more happy. They had the chance to build a new life. The Sternburgs would have made the same decision if they had to do it all over again. The only thing that could have been better for them is if they could have brought the entire family here to America. The Sternburg's never went back to their homeland, and they never wanted to because it was a bad place. It was a time when Jewish people were murdered there.

Yiddish—American Dictionary

English word	Yiddish Translation
<i>Hello</i>	<i>Shalom</i>
<i>Good—Bye</i>	<i>Shalom</i>
<i>Thank you</i>	<i>Ah Dank</i>
<i>Please</i>	<i>Biiteh shayn</i>
<i>Help me</i>	<i>Helf mir</i>
<i>Doctor</i>	<i>Doktor</i>
<i>Police</i>	<i>Politzay</i>
<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Shpital</i>
<i>School</i>	<i>Schuleh</i>
<i>Food</i>	<i>Essenj Shpeize</i>
<i>Water</i>	<i>Vasser</i>
<i>Grocery Store</i>	<i>Krommj Kremel</i>

We would like to thank the countless number of people who helped to make this book possible. Among them are those that gave of their time to be interviewed. It was through their stories that helped us to learn about what being an American truly is. We would also like to thank our speakers who shared their experiences of their homeland. Finally, we would like to say thank you to our principal, Ms. Williams who has supported our work throughout the year and who believes that we can achieve anything that we set our minds to.

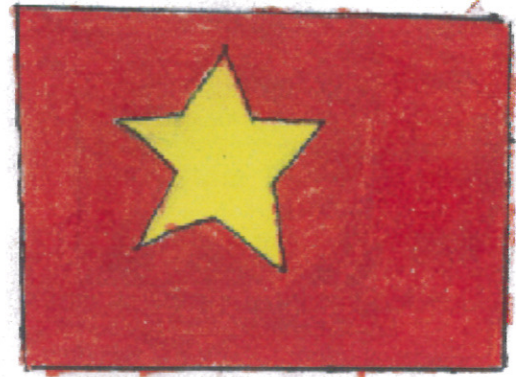
**A
Vietnamese—American
Experience**

Kristina Pho's Story



By: Famara

*A
Vietnamese—American
Experience*



A New Life In America

About The Author



Famara is a ten year old boy at Mary O. Pottenger School. He is in fourth grade. His favorite thing about school is recess. This is his time to rest, play and relax. His favorite subject in school is Math because he thinks working with numbers is easy. He enjoys playing Connect Four, Marbles, and Sorry because they are exciting games. When Famara grows up he would like to become a famous football player.

Introduction

Immigrants come to the United States for many reasons. Three reasons for coming are to find a better job, joining family that are already here, and to escape persecution. Mrs. Pho came to America because there was a war in her country of Vietnam. She and her family did not want to be persecuted, so she boarded a boat and made the long journey to America. This is her story. I hope that I have been able to capture how her life changed from a little girl, in a poor war torn country to a successful teacher in America, The land of opportunity.

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Map of Vietnam

Early Life

Kristina Pho was born in 1971 in the city of Saigon in the country of Vietnam. She grew up in a house with her brothers and sisters. The house was small, and they all needed to share the same bedroom. Each of them needed to take turns sleeping in the only bunk bed that the family owned. Most nights there were four in the bunk bed and two on the floor. It was difficult, but it was all that she knew. Her childhood was difficult from those in the United States. The streets in her neighborhood were not paved. They were dirt roads that often flooded and became muddy during the rainy season. Automobiles were nonexistent in Vietnam in the 1970's. She needed to walk or ride a bike wherever she went. Supermarkets also did not exist. Instead, food was purchased in open markets each day. Kristina's mother would do to the market early each morning to buy the food that would be eaten that day.

School was also a challenge for Kristina. Classes were held in a one room school house. Supplies were limited because of a lack of money. Students were expected to copy work from the chalkboard or write them on very thin paper. Inside the classroom were large desks, students usually sat five or six to a desk. Students were not graded like students in the United States. Instead, students were given a rank in the class. Out of a class of twenty students Kristina ranked ninth. After school Kristina had few free time choices. Her favorite activity was jumping rope with her friends or a game that was played with chop sticks and a ball.

Life in Vietnam was dangerous when Kristina was a child, and the government was in complete control its people. The people of Vietnam were told what to think and what to do. The government even controlled the type of music that was listened to. This brought a war to the country. Kristina and her family had to flee the country by sneaking out at night. Other people had to pay ships to take them when they set sail. Often times the ship owners were dishonest and stole the money, and then set sail, leaving the people behind.

Immigrating to America

Kristina's father immigrated to America first. Later in 1981 she came to America with her mother, brothers and sisters. Because her father was in the army, and was already in America, she was allowed to leave. As she flew over the ocean, she was excited about starting a new life and seeing her father again. She first landed in Hong Kong, and then went on to California. Once she landed, she was disappointed. She did not meet her father like she expected. Instead she was brought to a camp where she stayed for over a week. Instead of the wonderful life she had expected, she had to sleep in a tent and eat awful tasting food. During these days she thought often of her friends and family she left behind. She missed them very much.



***The map of the
United States of America***

Life In America

Finally after months of waiting Kristina was finally allowed to leave the camp and be reunited with her father. It was a special day, not only because she was going to meet her dad again, but it was also her birthday. To celebrate the occasion her father bought her a birthday cake. This was an enormous event for her because up until that time she had never had one. She remembers that it was so sweet and she did not like it. For her birthday gift she was given M&M candy. She did not like them either. The sweetness was not something that she was used to.

For some time Kristina lived with her uncle until her father could afford to buy their own house. Then she moved into a two room apartment. One room was for her parents and the other room was for her and her brothers and sisters.

In America Kristina experienced some prejudice at first, but then she was slowly accepted. One of the biggest changes for her was seeing open affection. In Vietnam it is against the law to show signs of affection, but in America she saw it all the time.

One day Kristina was walking down the street and she was greeted by a stranger. She did not know what to make of the stranger. She was very suspicious of his greeting. She was still living in her old country in her head and this type of greeting by strangers was not accepted.

Life slowly changed for the Pho family in the United States. Unlike other immigrants, her parents had valuable skills and therefore were able to get better jobs than most immigrants. Her mother cooked in a restaurant and her father worked in a bank.

A Reflection

Kristina loves her life in the United States. When she thinks back on her life in Vietnam she values her education the most. She appreciates the discipline that was part of her culture and up bringing.

Kristina loves the United States and describes the country in a few words. She says that the United States is a place of freedom, liberty, and a place to find the American dream.

Vietnamese—American Dictionary

English word	Vietnamese Translation
<i>Hello</i>	<i>Xin chao</i>
<i>Good—Bye</i>	<i>Tam chao</i>
<i>Thank you</i>	<i>Cam on ban</i>
<i>Please</i>	<i>Xin vui long</i>
<i>Help me</i>	<i>Giup do</i>
<i>Doctor</i>	<i>Bac si</i>
<i>Police</i>	<i>Canh sat</i>
<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Benh vien</i>
<i>School</i>	<i>Truong hoc</i>
<i>Food</i>	<i>Thuc pham</i>
<i>Water</i>	<i>Nuoc</i>
<i>Grocery Store</i>	<i>cho</i>

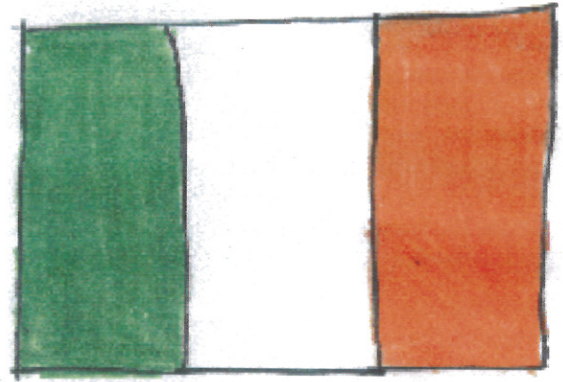
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**An
Irish—American
Experience
Margaret Cunningham's
Story**



**By:
Jovanny**

***Margaret Cunningham's
Story***



A Journey from Ireland

About The Author



Jovanny is a ten year old boy at Mary O. Pottenger School in Springfield, Mass. At school he enjoys Gym class. He likes to run and exercise. In his free time he likes to play two-squares. When he grows up he dreams of becoming a famous singer. He would like to earn a lot of money so that he can donate it to charity so that he can help others that have less than he does.

Introduction

Immigrants come to the United States for many reasons. Three reasons are to find a better life, find a job, and because they were afraid of persecution.

This is a story about a courageous women who traveled to America to find a better life. In Ireland Margaret Cunningham lived a poor life. Her house had no running water. The English owned most of the land in Ireland, and a terrible war was being fought. This left very few opportunities for her. She was ready for a better life.

This is Margaret's story. A story of a person trading a country she knew and loved, for one that was uncertain and unfamiliar. I hope that my retelling of this story teaches you about what bravery and determination can accomplish if ones heart and mind is set on a better life.

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Map of Ireland

Early Life

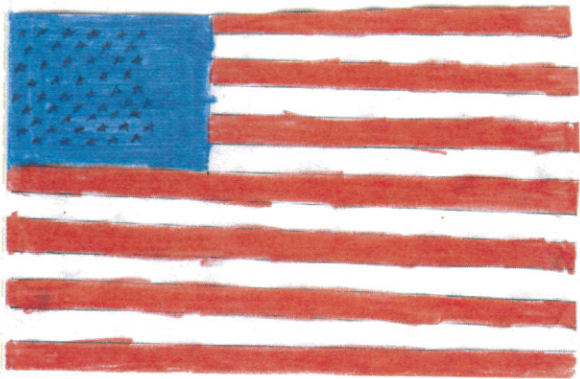
November 21, 1933 was the year that a courageous women was born. Her name was Margaret Cunningham. The place of her birth was Dingle County Ireland. Margaret's early life was lonely. She lived in a small town on a farm that was owned by her parents. Margaret's day started out early. She would eat a hot breakfast of oatmeal, and then walk a mile and a half to school. She even had to go to school for a half a day on Saturdays. In school Margaret found it difficult. She attended a Catholic school that was run by a group of sisters known as the Presentation of Mary Sisters. After a long day at school, Margaret would have to walk that mile and half back home. Once she returned home form school, she would eat dinner. Her meal consisted of meat, potatoes, and vegetables.

Immigrating To America

Growing up Margaret's hobbies were limited. When she grew bored she would go outside and jump rope with her sisters.

During her early years, Margaret grew up knowing war. At that time England and Ireland were fighting over land. Ireland was divided between the north and south. England wanted to remain in control of all of the country. Ireland wanted to be like the United States and wanted their independence from England. Because of this disagreement, a horrible war went on throughout Margaret's life.

Margaret immigrated to America in 1956 at the age of 23. Leaving her sisters, brothers, and mother she made a difficult decision to move from the place that she called home for so long. She longed for a better life than she had in Ireland, and listening to her aunt's stories of America she knew that this was the place she needed to go to start her new life. She wished that her family would join her, but they insisted upon staying in Ireland where they continued to live their own lives. Alone, she boarded the ship with her suitcase containing some clothes and a few souvenirs and headed for the United States. The trip was rough, and she became seasick as the ship rocked back and forth across the ocean. She couldn't wait to begin her new life. It was thinking about her "American family" that helped to pass the time on the long journey.



**The flag of the
United States of America**

Life In America

A seasick Margaret walk off the boat and headed for her brother's house in Springfield where she lived with him and his wife. She remembers that his house was big and beautiful. For the first time in her life she had the comfort of running water and electricity. It was a pleasant change for her to turn on the faucet for water rather than having to get it from the outside well that she was used to.

Margaret had to adjust to life in a big city. She was not used to seeing cars or having to deal with traffic. Many immigrants from other countries experienced harsh prejudice when coming to America. A grateful Margaret was welcomed right away and escaped any real prejudice. Once settled into her new country Margaret went to work. Like so many other immigrants with few skills, she found work in the Buxton factory making wallets



*A map of the
United States of America*

A Reflection

Looking back on her life both in Ireland and in the United States she feels that she made a good decision and would do it all over again. Margaret came to the United States to find work. She found what she was looking for and a whole lot more. If she were still in the old country she would most likely still be on the family farm tending to the animals and gathering eggs from the chickens. Here in America she is happy and content. She describes the United States as a great place to live, full of wealth and opportunity. Not just for herself and her family but for all that wanted better life.

IRISH—AMERICAN DICTIONARY

ENGLISH WORD TION

HELLO
GOOD—BYE
THANK YOU
PLEASE
HELP ME
DOCTOR
POLICE
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL
FOOD
WATER
GROCERY STORE

IRISH TRANSLA-

DIA DAOIBH

A BHUI LE
LE DO THOIL
CUIDIU
DOCHTUIR
POILINI
OSPIDEAL
SCOIL
BLA
UISCE

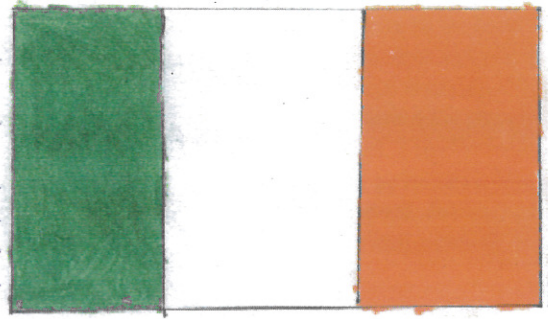
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**An
Irish - American
Experience
Michael Karney's
Story**



By: Matthew

*An
Irish - American
Experience*



A Journey To A New Land

About The Author



Matthew is a ten year old boy at Mary O. Pottenger School. He is in fourth grade. What he likes best about school is his teacher Mr. Cieboter. His favorite subject in school is Math because he likes numbers. In his spare time he plays checkers. He will beat anyone that accepts the challenge to play. When he grows up Matthew hopes to become a famous football player.

Introduction

Immigrants come to the United States for several reasons. These reasons are to find jobs, join family, or to escape persecution. This is a story about Michael Kelly. A man who came to America to find a better job. In Ireland, he was a farmer. Because of a war between Northern and Southern Ireland, the country was experiencing poverty. This poverty left few jobs. Michael heard about a better life in America from his family that immigrated to America sometime earlier.

Michael's story has been repeated millions of times since his arrival. Each immigrant comes to the shores of America to find a life better than they had in the country from which they came. Although Michael's story is not unique, I hope that it captures the specialness of this man's journey to a better, brighter life in America.

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Map of Ireland

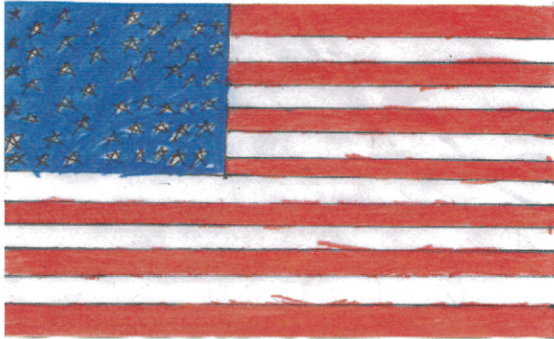
Early Life

Michael was born in the Blaskic Islands on September 22, 1920. He lived in a small village of about 50 houses. All of his neighbors were talkative and friendly. His house, made of stone with a felt roof was particularly small. It had only two rooms and a kitchen. There was no running water or bathrooms. As a youngster Michael did well in school and he liked it very much. Although he did find it very challenging at times. His classroom was large. He was one of thirty students, with two teachers in the room. Michael was taught the history of Ireland, America, and the world. He was also taught algebra, Galic, (the language of the Irish people) and English.

Michael's hobbies were like any other child growing up during the 1920's. He enjoyed playing soccer, running on the beach, doing high jumps, and singing and dancing. He was very musical and even made his own violin.

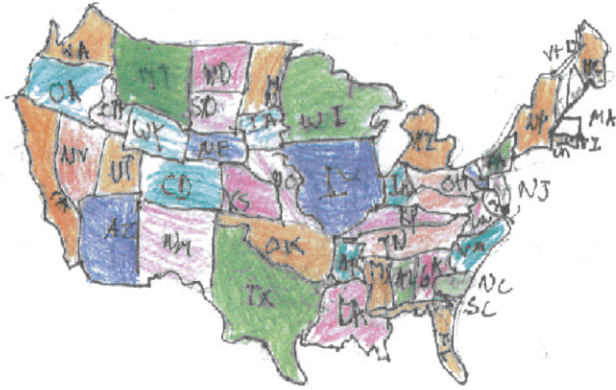
In Ireland when Michael was growing up there was a terrible war going on. Ireland was fighting to gain their independence from England. The war dragged on for years and affected life for everyone in Ireland. English rule brought much sadness and poverty for everyone in Ireland.

Immigrating to America



Michael heard stories about a place called America from his aunt and uncle who immigrated to the United States many years earlier. He longed for a better life, so he decided to join them. He saved a long time for his passage to America, and when he had finally saved enough money he packed a bag of clothes, what little money he had left, and his passport. He said good-bye to his parents, five brothers and sisters, and on May 5, 1948 left for the docks to board the Queen Mary that was waiting to take him to his new life.

The journey was long and lonely. There were many people on the ship but none that would talk to him. He became so lonely, he spent hours talking to no one but himself. After five difficult days at sea the Queen Mary docked in New York City and he disembarked, and found his aunt and uncle who were waiting to take him to Springfield.



**The map of the
United States of America**

Life In America

As Michael's ship passed the Statute of Liberty, he knew that his life could only get better. But very quickly Michael became confused about his life in America. He was not welcomed as warmly as he thought he would have. People were mean and called him names and made fun of him because he talked differently from those that he met. This went on for several months until he adjusted. He was also confused when he saw people in public hugging and kissing. Back in his old country, people only hugged when they were leaving each other and never kissed.

After settling in at his aunt and uncle's house he began to look for work. Michael soon found work at the local grocery store. He stayed there and worked hard for twenty-seven years. His hard worked paid off because after many years he was promoted to store manager. Soon after that he applied for and received a better job as a court officer. He stayed and worked there for twenty years before he retired. Michael's life was complete. He was happy and his life was great.

A Reflection

Looking back on his life, Michael is very happy with his decision to move to the United States. He says that America is a wonderful place to live and bring up a family if you are willing to work hard and believe in yourself.

Michael has gone back to visit Ireland many times over the years. He is excited to see that his old country is a lot better now than it was when he lived there. One thing is for sure. If he were still living in Ireland he would still be a bartender in the village where he lived.

Irish—American Dictionary

English word	Irish Translation
<i>Hello</i>	<i>Dia daoibh</i>
<i>Good—Bye</i>	
<i>Thank you</i>	<i>A bhui le</i>
<i>Please</i>	<i>Le do thoil</i>
<i>Help me</i>	<i>Cuidiu</i>
<i>Doctor</i>	<i>Dochtuir</i>
<i>Police</i>	<i>Poilini</i>
<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Ospideal</i>
<i>School</i>	<i>Scoil</i>
<i>Food</i>	<i>Bia</i>
<i>Water</i>	<i>Uisce</i>
<i>Grocery Store</i>	

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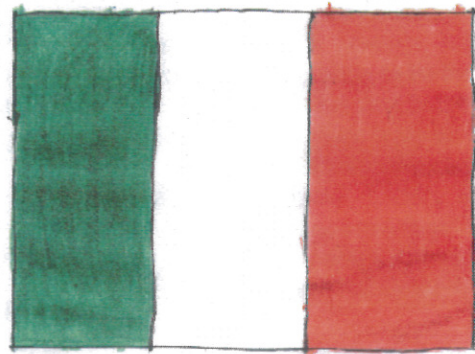
**An
Italian—American
Experience**

Eda Johnson's Story



By: Nathan

*An
Italian—American
Experience*



A Journey To A New Land

About The Author



Nathan is a ten year old boy at Mary O. Pottenger School. He is in fourth grade. His favorite thing about school is doing well and getting rewarded for working hard. His favorite subject in school is Math. His favorite thing to do in his free time is to play four squares with his friends. When he grows up he hopes to become a famous baseball player.

Introduction

Immigrants come to the United States for many reasons. Three reasons are to find jobs, to join families who had immigrated before them, and to escape persecution.

This is Eda Johnson's story. A woman who left her homeland in Italy as a young girl to travel to America to find a better life. As a girl, Eda and her family experienced great poverty in the beautiful but poor country of Italy. Listening to her story I learned about poverty that I never thought existed in our world, or in different places in history until now. By retelling this story I learned, and I hope you too will learn what it means to be poor and how some people would be brave enough to leave everything that they know in order to make life better for themselves. In a way, Eda Johnson is an American hero, and an example of the "American Dream" that awaits all of us who believe in themselves and hard work.

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Map of Italy

Early Life

Eda Johnson was born in Naples, Italy on March 10, 1962. She grew up in a neighborhood that was much different than those in the United States. Her town consisted of dirt roads. She lived in a small house on a farm, and she and her family grew their own food. Growing up she was poor and experienced great poverty.

School for Eda was very difficult. She went to a Catholic school taught by nuns. She had to learn without books, and had to wear a uniform.

Eda's hobbies growing up were very exciting. They did not have television, and so she needed to entertain herself in different ways. One of the things she did was play jump rope with her sister. Eda also had the responsibility to help out on her family's farm as much as she could.

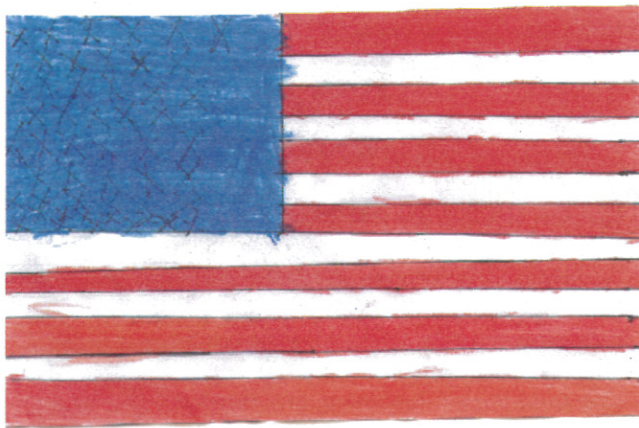
She and her sister were very busy during the day. After eating a breakfast of a cup of milk and an Italian cookie, they walked to school and studied until lunch time. After eating a lunch which consisted of bread and cheese, she was able to go outside to play. Later, she enjoyed a dinner of pasta, meat, salad, and fruit.

Immigrating To America

Naples Italy is a beautiful country with tall mountains and water surrounding the country. During the 1960's it was very poor. There were no cars or telephones. Her parents did not have a job, but instead worked on the family farm. Eda recalled fondly of her father making wine from the grapes that grew on the farm to earn extra money to support his family. He would crush the grapes by stepping on them with his feet. Jam was also another product that was made from the grapes and sold to earn some money to buy what they needed that wasn't grown on the farm. In addition to produce, the family also raised animals.

Life was difficult for the Johnson family in Italy. Because work was limited, and hearing stories from other family members who immigrated to America earlier, they too chose to move to the United States. Money was limited so not everyone in the family could leave at the same time. So her father asked the government for permission for her parents, her twin sister, and herself to leave for America. They packed a few items of clothing, food for the trip, and left on the Queen Elizabeth on June 18, 1968.

During the trip that lasted more than a week, Eda was scared. The ship was crowded, and she thought of America, and the fact that she would not know anyone there. She missed her aunt and uncle, and she was hungry. Her sister became seasick and Eda was left alone for most of the trip. Finally, after what seemed forever, the ship landed in New York and Eda was ready to begin her new life in America.



**The Flag of the
United States of America**

Life In America

When the Johnson family first came to America they stayed with her grandparents. The house was small. The children all had to share a room.

She was surprised at the many things that she saw when she first arrived. One of the things that she saw that she wasn't used to was the busy traffic. It took her awhile to adjust to the busses and cars moving up and down the streets. In her tiny village in Italy, traffic did not exist. Another shocking experience for her was the many different types of people that made up her neighborhood. They all had different hair color, they were all different sizes, and wore different types of clothing. She did not understand why they were all so different. In her Italian village, all of her neighbors and friends were much like her.

Eda was also not comfortable with the showing of affection in her new neighborhood. In Italy, members of a family would show others love by making them food, but here, she saw a lot of hugging, kissing and holding hands.

Eda's early life in America, wasn't the dream that she had learned about, or had hoped for. Prejudice was all around her. Her parents were not educated and did not speak English. No one seemed to care or was willing to help. They did find jobs however. Her father worked for Hasbro toy company, and her mother worked in a bakery. Because she did not speak English, it took her a long time to fit in and make friends.

Years later, her life improved and she found what her family came to America searching for so many years ago. She found a wonderful husband, and had a son and daughter who are receiving a great education. She has a great job helping others find jobs, and has her own home. She is happy living the American dream.

A Reflection

The one thing that Eda values most about Italy is her name. Musilini was a ruler in Italy. He named his daughter Eda. She was named after her.

The Johnson family immigrated to America for many reasons. They were searching for better opportunities. They wanted to find better jobs, better education, and earn more money. In Italy they were told that in the United States the streets were made of gold. All of those things came true for her, but she needed to work hard to get them.

Eda thinks that the United states is the best place to live and raise a family. She would describe this country in just a few words. Those words are freedom, opportunity, and a better life.

Italian—American Dictionary

English word	Italian Translation
<i>Hello</i>	<i>Ciao</i>
<i>Good—Bye</i>	<i>Arrivederci</i>
<i>Thank you</i>	<i>Grazie</i>
<i>Please</i>	<i>Per favore</i>
<i>Help me</i>	<i>Aiuto</i>
<i>Doctor</i>	<i>Medico</i>
<i>Police</i>	<i>Polizia</i>
<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Ospedale</i>
<i>School</i>	<i>Scuola</i>
<i>Food</i>	<i>Cibo</i>
<i>Water</i>	<i>Acqua</i>
<i>Grocery Store</i>	<i>Negozi</i>

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