

Name: Johanna (Hanna) Liebmann  
Date of Birth: November 28, 1924  
Place of Birth: Karlsruhe, Germany

Hanna was born to a Jewish family in the German city of Karlsruhe. Her father was a photographer and, though he died in 1925, Hanna's mother, along with her family, maintained his studio until 1938. In 1933, after Hitler's rise to power, Jews were severely persecuted in Germany. Hanna's family, carried on as best they could.

1933-1939: *I hate school and am often punished for talking. Our fourth grade teacher is a Nazi. In April 1933 there is a boycott of Jewish businesses; our store window is plastered with signs reading "Jew" and "Don't go to the Jews." One of my classmates taunts me and I become so angry that I tear her sweater. By 1938 our shop is swarming with people needing photos for Nazi I.D.'s.*

1940-1944: *In October 1940 we're deported to Gurs, a French internment camp for foreigners on the Spanish border. I learn that a pastor in Le Chambon village is helping youths leave the camp. A social worker from the Children's Aid Society gets us out and when we reach the village it's like heaven; we are free. But by 1942 round-ups of Jews increase and I'm sent to hide at various farms. The owners are glad to help me; one says "even if we have less to eat we would want more of you people." In early 1943 I'm smuggled into Switzerland.*

After the war Hanna lived in Geneva, Switzerland. On March 3, 1948 she emigrated to the U.S.