



YORAN, Varda

Born in China in 1929, Varda Yoran grew up in the Chinese port city of Tientsin, where she witnessed the Japanese occupation. In 1948 she prepared to leave Tientsin via Hong Kong for Israel. In Israel she worked for the Jerusalem Post, as a Hebrew teacher and for the Israeli Air Force as a social worker. She met her husband Shalom Yoran in Israel, and together they moved to New York where she lives today.

Interview date: 2017/03/12

Keyword: Jews, White Russians, WWII

Recounts her parents' early lives in Russia and their move to China. Reminisces her own childhood and 'amah', her multi-lingual education and the diverse ethnic mix in school in Tientsin. Discusses anti-Semitism from White Russians, Japanese occupation and how the arrival of the U.S. Marines in post-war Tientsin changed their lives. Explains her decision to leave China for Israel in 1948 and father's decision to return to Russia. Shares memories of settling-in in the new nation of Israel, her experiencing the new sense of identity, her various jobs and work of her husband.

Interviewer: Amelia Allsop

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