



**Wie wild  
waren die  
wilden 60er?**



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# Wie wild waren die wilden 60er Jahre?

Im Sinne von Berthold Brechts Fragen eines lesenden Schülers (Arbeiters) soll diese Broschüre die „Historie des Alltags“ widerspiegeln. Sie soll also von jenen Menschen handeln, die nicht als König\*innen, Herrscher\*innen oder Politiker\*innen in die Geschichtsbücher eingegangen sind. Sie soll ihre persönliche Geschichte basierend auf den bahnbrechenden Ereignissen der 1960er Jahre erzählen.

Mongolei, Brasilien, USA, Kroatien, Türkei, Iran, Spanien, ... Die Graz International School wird von Schüler\*innen aus mehr als 40 verschiedenen Ländern besucht, deren Familien in den 1960er Jahren auf der ganzen Welt zu Hause waren.

Das UNESCO Projekt Memory of the worlds „DOK.MOMENTS“

soll den Dialog zwischen den Generationen anregen und die Enkel\*innen dazu ermutigen, in den Familienalben der Groß- und Urgroßmütter und -väter zu stöbern. Es soll dazu anregen, ins Gespräch zu kommen, um herauszufinden, wie „wild“ die „Wilden 60er“ Jahre von Zeitzeug\*innen empfunden wurden. Hielt der Zeitgeist des Widerspruchs Eingang ins Familienleben? Sprach man über politische Aktionen (Stichwort Vietnamkrieg, Sit-ins, Proteste an den Universitäten) am Küchentisch? Gab es einen kritischen Diskurs über politische Entscheidungen? Oder aber dominierte der arbeitsreiche Alltag?

Wir konnten Univ.-Prof. Helmut Konrad für ein Impulsreferat gewinnen und seine Ausführungen und Antworten auf Schüler\*innenfragen zu den wich-



tigsten historischen Ereignissen der 1960er Jahre bildeten die Basis für die Interviewfragen. Dabei waren



Foto: Privat

seine persönlichen Antworten auf scheinbar banale Fragen sehr spannend. Bei der Frage

nach dem Unterschied in der Ernährung erfuhren wir, dass er als Schüler im Kärntner Internat noch Lebensmittel aus CARE-Paketen bekam, rote Marmelade etwa, deren Erinnerung bei ihm noch heute einen Würgereflex auslöst. Er berichtete auch von seiner aktiven Teilnahme an der Demonstration gegen den Schah von Persien in Wien, bei der er verletzt wurde. Eine Schülerin interviewte ihren in Teheran geborenen Großvater und auch er berichtete von der Stimmung gegen den Schah und von den enormen Unterschieden vor und nach der Iranischen Revolution.

Professor Konrad stellte auch einen Bezug zur Gründung der GIBS und den 1960er Jahren her, indem er die Aufbruchsstimmung im Bildungsbereich beschrieb. Ein neuer Geist sei durch Schulen und Universitäten geweht und eine Demokratisierung habe in den vormals sehr autoritär geführten Institutionen Einzug gehalten. Die Umsetzung der Idee, eine bilinguale Schule in Graz zu gründen, dauerte zwar noch bis 1991, wurde aber als Zeichen für Weltoffenheit und moderne Lehr- und Lernmethoden gewertet. Prof. Konrads Sohn war Schüler in der Pionierklasse der GIBS und wir danken ihm für seine Verbundenheit zu unserer Schule.

Wir freuen uns über viele Leser\*innen der Broschüre, die in der Bibliothek der GIBS aufliegt und den Geschichtsunterricht der nächsten Jahre bereichern wird. Das wunderbare Layout haben wir Frau Mag. Ulrike Saringer-Maier zu verdanken.

Dr. Martina Pfistermüller-Czar



# Sarah Bauer

Sarah Bauer's  
Grandma



Foto: Privat

„IN BRAZIL THERE WAS  
NO HIPPIE MOVEMENT.  
SO PEOPLE DRESSED  
MORE CONSERVATIVELY.“

I'm sitting on a table, laptop opened in front of me and talking to my grandmother in Great Britain with my mobile phone. We are talking about the 1960's while I'm typing like a mad person.

SARAH BAUER: *How old were you and where did you live in the 60's?*

GRANDMA: About 22 and I lived in Sao Paulo in Brazil up to 1966.

SARAH BAUER: *In which ways did you experience the Hippie movement?*

GRANDMA: The Hippie movement...? I missed out on

it completely because in Sao Paulo there wasn't one, I only heard of it later. Even if there was one, I wouldn't have joined it, it's not my cup of tea..

SARAH BAUER: *What did you wear and what did you look like?*

GRANDMA: In Brazil there was no Hippie Movement. So people dressed more conservatively. I used to wear a summer dress and sandals. It was very hot in Brazil and we used to wear jeans. They were very important in those years, they were a status symbol. But they were rolled up and not as tight as nowadays. It's difficult to describe



what one looked like 50-60 years ago. I think I had short curly hair.

SARAH BAUER: *Which time do you prefer and why? The 60's or now?*

GRANDMA: I think the 60's. It was a more peaceful time and of course there was no globalization. People weren't always listening to the news and such and lived their life fully. It was a nice time, good jobs, nice weather, nice people.

SARAH BAUER: *What would you say is the biggest difference between the 60's and today?*

GRANDMA: I think I told you already in the previous question. There was no internet, no mobile phones in fact, no technology as you know it. Life was slower. It was a long time ago and is really difficult to compare.

Saying goodbye and hanging up the phone, I thought to myself, "So that's what life was really like for many people living in the 60's". Actually not much different than from today.



Foto: Carlee M / Pixabay



# Natalija Certic

Natalija Certic's  
Grandma Slavica/  
Serbia

... REMEMBERS THAT HER  
FATHER USED TO SAY THAT  
EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T  
LIVE LIKE AMERICANS,  
THEIR LIFE IS WAY BETTER  
THAN IT USED TO BE.

Today I interviewed Slavica my 67-year-old grandmother on my mother's side. She doesn't remember a lot of things, but did her best to give me an idea of what her life was like. For the most part she lived in a village in Serbia with her parents, until 1967, when she moved to Belgrade the capital, to go to a high school.

When I asked her what her life was like compared to now, she said that at that age for her everything was nice and fun and pretty. She was only starting to learn new things in school, so everything was very interesting for her.

In her free time with her

friends she went out on the streets, played ball games or hide and seek. They also cleaned the streets or their gardens and also made their own swings.

She mostly listened to traditional music, but when the radio arrived, she started listening to different music which she described as a lot of fun. She liked to go to cinema with her friend, which was also a popular place to hang out. A movie she remembers having seen was Alice in Wonderland, and otherwise mostly movies that were produced in the 50s.

She says that since Serbia was still affected by WW2,



the wild 60s weren't as far developed as in other countries. She remembers that her father used to say that even though they don't live like Americans, their life is way better than it used to be. They had way more freedom and there wasn't much crime going on in her neighbourhood. Also, since media wasn't a huge deal yet, people didn't have a lot of awareness, so it was pretty peaceful.

I asked her if she thinks that the 60s were as wild as they are known for being today. Her answer was that in some sense yes because this was a time where people had more freedom. In her family hippies weren't really accepted. While she more or less didn't care about it, her parents thought that they were complaining too much about too many things.

Foto: "Yugoslavia 1966" by foundin\_a\_atit is licensed under CC BY 2.0 / Flickr



NATALIJA CERTIC'S  
GRANDMA SLAVICA

THIS WAS A TIME  
WHERE PEOPLE HAD  
MORE FREEDOM.

When asked about the political situation, my grandma couldn't say much because a) she doesn't remember and b) politics wasn't a topic that was discussed much around her.

The most memorable historical events for her were the student demonstrations, that were happening all over the world in 1968. She said she also joined in some student protests but explained that she didn't really understand what they were about. And, as her grandmother was Czechoslovakian, they were all worried when the Russians invaded Prague. She also remembers hearing about the moonlanding over the radio.

I am very grateful that my grandmother took time to answer my questions.



# Lloyd Cho

Lloyd Cho's  
grandmother/  
South Korea

I REMEMBER IT QUITE  
VIVIDLY. I REMEMBER  
GOING TO THE MOVIES  
QUITE OFTEN AND DOING  
A LOT OF STUFF.

I interviewed my grandmother and asked her how life in the 60s was.

LLOYD: *How was life back in the 60s? Do you recall any memories?*

GRANDMOTHER: Ah yes the 60s, I remember it quite vividly. I remember going to the movies quite often and doing a lot of stuff.

LLOYD: *What was your favorite thing to do back in the 60s?*

GRANDMOTHER: I really loved to go to the library and read some novels.

LLOYD: *Did you have a favorite movie?*

GRANDMOTHER: My favorite movie back then was "The Sound of Music", I loved the movie and I even sung some of the songs.

LLOYD: *What did you like to eat back then?*

GRANDMOTHER: I liked to eat a lot of Bungeo-ppang (a fish shaped bun with red bean) and roasted sweet potatoes.

LLOYD: *Have you heard something about the hippies?*

GRANDMOTHER: I haven't heard of them until years later, there weren't many of them here in Korea

LLOYD: *Do you remember anything about the Korean War*

Grandmother: Yes, I do remember the war, I remember having to leave my village and being evacuated to Busan and Seoul. It was a horrifying time for me. I remember people hating and accusing people of being communists. Your grandfather's brother fought in the war but he sadly passed away.



# James Cox

James Cox's father

WELL, THERE WERE  
CARS BUT I CAN ALSO  
REMEMBER THERE STILL  
BEING HORSES AND CARTS.

JAMES COX: *What were the 1960s like back in the day in Wolverhampton? How was the air and was there any pollution?*

FATHER: I can vaguely remember the air being very bad and polluted, due to all the cheap coal being burnt for the heating, because all houses were heated using cheap coal back in the day. It also stank horribly, because the coal contained sulphur.

JAMES COX: *Do you remember the late President Kennedy being assassinated?*

FATHER: Yes, I can remember it, because I had just started going to primary school one year prior to the assassination.

JAMES COX: *What was transportation like back then?*

FATHER: Well, there were cars but I can also remember there still being horses and carts. These horses and carts were mainly driven by rag and bone men, who went to all the households to collect rags and bones, to recycle.



Foto: Privat

JAMES COX: *Did you have a TV? And if so, what was it like?*

FATHER: Yes, but only until the late 60s. It was a fat, rounded screened, black and white TV with only 401 lines, instead of the usual 1080 lines we get nowadays.



JAMES COX: *Was there anything that wasn't so usual back then but that we take for granted today?*

FATHER: Yes, most people didn't even have a fridge. What they would usually do, is buy the food fresh and then eat it. If they were lucky they could store it next to some ice, to keep it fresh. Also, there weren't many cars so the main measure of transport were motorbikes. Families often had the motorbikes with the sidecar.

JAMES COX: *What was the radio like in England?*

FATHER: There were three

radio stations you could listen to. The Light Program,



Foto: Privat

The Third Program and The Home Service.

The Light Program was just pop music, but for old people.

The Third Program was classical music.

The Home Service was just talk radio.



Foto: Privat

THESE ARE ALL ANSWERS MY 59-YEAR-OLD FATHER GAVE ME. HE VAGUELY REMEMBERS THE 60s. HOWEVER, HE WAS ABLE TO GIVE ME SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION, DESPITE HIS YOUNG AGE AT THE TIME.



# Dorottya Demus

Dorottya Demus'  
grandmother/  
Hungary



Foto: Privat

THERE WERE RUSSIAN  
SOLDIERS EVERYWHERE.  
...THEY KILLED MANY  
PEOPLE THAT PLAYED  
A LEAD ROLE IN THE  
HUNGARIAN UPRISING,  
SUCH AS NAGY IMRE,  
BUT MANY MANAGED  
TO FLEE TO AMERICA.

The 60's were the time of the Hippies and flower-power. At least in America. There was a different situation in Hungary, which wasn't exactly as nice. If you don't know where Hungary is, it is a small country next to Austria, which has it's own language and currency. As you may or may not know, the USSR controlled the whole country and everyone had to learn Russian and they were not allowed to learn any other languages. My grandmother lived in a small town called Pápakovácsi (which is one and a half hours away from the Austrian border), where most people earned their living from farming and selling home-made things. My grandmother lived in a small

farmhouse with a big garden and many animals.

*DOROTTYA DEMUS: What was the political situation like?*

GRANDMOTHER: There were Russian soldiers everywhere. Kádár János (the ex-leader of the MSZMP in Hungary) sent them here to fight against the people, that took part in the Hungarian Uprising. In every city, there were regions separated, where the soldiers lived with their families. They killed many people that played a lead role in the Hungarian Uprising, such as Nagy Imre, but many managed to flee to America. The soldiers stayed for 20-25 years to control the whole country and to make sure, that



nothing like this ever happens again.

*DOROTTYA DEMUS: And what were you allowed to do as a kid? What games did you play?*

GRANDMOTHER: We loved playing ball games! I also really liked the game, that we called "Shopping". Basically we filled empty sugar bags with sand and put mud in boxes. We took turns and one child was the shop owner and the other bought stuff from him. We used stones to 'pay' for the sand and the mud. We also liked to roll empty bikewheels and run after them. In the winter we threw snowballs. In the summer we couldn't do anything, because we had to help our parents spud, cook and clean.

*DOROTTYA DEMUS: What was the typical dress that you would wear?*

GRANDMOTHER: Yellow with white stripes. It kinda looked like a 'Dirndl' but it had different colours and it was knee-length.

*DOROTTYA DEMUS: What did the classrooms look like? Were the teachers stricter than today?*

GRANDMOTHER: There were wooden benches and chairs in 2 to 4 rows. 3 people sat in a row and we were separated into two groups A and B. In the breaks we sang the multiplication tables and as the teacher entered the room we sat there with our backs straight and we had our hands behind our back. We also got hit with a cane if we talked or didn't have our hands behind our back. We had to decorate our classrooms on our own. For this we used empty tubes from our chemistry class, put water in them and then someone brought a little flower, which we planted in there.

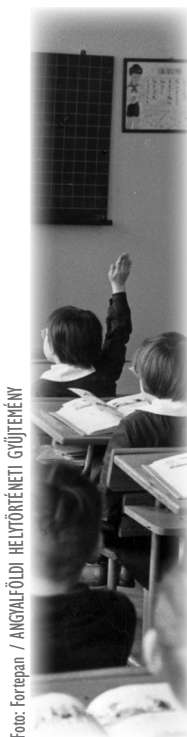


Foto: Fortepan / ANGVALFÖLDI HELYTÖRTÉNETI GYŰJTEMÉNY



*DOROTTYA DEMUS: When was a boy attractive? Or what was the ideal boy?*

GRANDMOTHER: That's a tricky question, because everyone had their own taste but me and my friends mostly liked boys that could play football, were good at school, were smart, understood everything in the lessons, but most of the boys didn't really care about us at that time. We were only 10!

*DOROTTYA DEMUS: And last but not least what music did you listen to?*

GRANDMOTHER: We had a small radio, where we mostly listened to a group called Illés. They were very popular at that time. We also liked many other 'stars' like Koncz Zsuzsa and Kovács Kati, but these names have faded and were only popular in Hungary.

*DOROTTYA DEMUS: What did you get for christmas?*

GRANDMOTHER: We were happy if we had a Christmas tree, but mostly we got gloves or new boots, which my mother made. We had little cho-

colates, apple and nut pieces on the tree. Sometimes we also decorated the tree with little cotton pieces. Altogether the Christmas presents and the tree were worth 100 Forint (which are about 35 Cent).

*DOROTTYA DEMUS: What did you normally eat as a dessert?*

GRANDMOTHER: We sometimes ate wet bread with sugar or my mother sometimes made nut or poppy-seed cake. In the summer we also ate strawberry ice cream (which we made from our own strawberries) and we also liked chocolate ice cream, but it was a really rare thing. There was also this drink called 'Bambi' which we drank. It was funny, because one ice cream cost 50 forint (around 20 Cent) and in every shop, the price had to be the same. For example, an ice-cream cost 50 forint in my home village and 50 forint in every other ice cream shop.



# Siméon Dolinschek

Siméon Dolinscheks  
Großeltern/  
Österreich

... ALLES IST LOCKERER  
GEWORDEN. AM  
ANFANG KONNTE MAN  
ZUM BEISPIEL NUR  
LEUTE AUS DEM DORF  
HEIRATEN. MIT DER ZEIT  
WAR DAS DANN ANDERS.  
AUCH DER ZWANG IN DIE  
KIRCHE ZU GEHEN, WAR  
LANGSAM NICHT MEHR DA

Ich habe meine Großeltern interviewt. Beide sind knapp über 70 Jahre alt und kommen aus der Umgebung von Villach.

*SIMÉON DOLINSCHKEK: Wie haben sich die „Wilden 60er“ angefühlt? Seid ihr ein Teil davon gewesen?*

GROSSELTERN: Wir haben nur wenig davon mitbekommen, aber alles ist lockerer geworden. Am Anfang konnte man zum Beispiel nur Leute aus dem Dorf heiraten. Mit der Zeit war das dann anders. Auch der Zwang in die Kirche zu gehen, war langsam nicht mehr da.

*SIMÉON DOLINSCHKEK: Welche Musik habt ihr damals gehört? Welches Medium benutzte man?*

GROSSELTERN: Es gab das Radio. Damals war dies sehr modern. Sonst kamen wir nicht zu oft zu Musik, aber auch im Radio wurden immer 10 gleiche Lieder gespielt, die uns mit der Zeit am Nerv gegangen sind. Die Musik im Radio war immer Schlager und fortgehen, um Gruppen spielen zu hören, durften wir nicht.

*SIMÉON DOLINSCHKEK: Wie habt ihr die Politiker damals gesehen? Was haben andere von den Politikern gehalten?*

GROSSELTERN: Die Politiker damals mussten nach dem Krieg etwas aufbauen, daher gab es in den großen Parteien nur wenig Streit. Zudem haben wir ihnen damals geglaubt. Die Eltern-



generation handhabte das damals nicht mehr so ganz aber trotzdem. Die Politiker waren ehrlicher, nicht so wie heute.

*SIMÉON DOLINSCHKE: Wie waren eure Häuser und das Dorf damals?*

GROSSELTERN: Die Häuser waren alle sehr ärmlich. Die Hauswände waren beschädigt und die Dächer nicht in Ordnung. Wenn überhaupt gab es in jedem Raum einen Ofen, außer im Schlafzimmer, dort war es im Winter eiskalt und auf den Fenstern waren Eiszapfen.

*SIMÉON DOLINSCHKE: Welche Kleidung habt ihr damals getragen und wie ist man damit umgegangen?*

GROSSELTERN: Unter der Woche war die Kleidung sehr einfach. Zudem schämte ich mich immer für meine Schuhe, die drei Größen zu groß waren. Wichtig war es, dass das Gewand lange hielt. Oft wurden Sachen auch nachgetragen, oder wir machten es selber. Dann gab es auch noch das Sonntagsgewand. Darauf achteten wir sehr. Wir mussten es immer achtsam bügeln und schön zusammenlegen.

*SIMÉON DOLINSCHKE: Was war damals cool? Seid ihr mit der Mode konfrontiert gewesen?*

COOL GAB ES DAMALS  
BEI UNS SO NICHT,  
AUSSER SCHAUSPIELER  
UND SÄNGER, DIE WAREN  
SCHON COOL. ... COOL  
BEDEUTETE EHER GENUG  
GELD ZU HABEN UND EIN  
SCHÖNES AUTO ZU FAHREN.



Foto: Emsfichter / Pixabay



GROSSELTERN: Cool gab es damals bei uns so nicht, außer Schauspieler und Sänger, die waren schon cool. Aber so wie heute war das nicht. Das war nicht so wichtig, es ging mehr darum, genug zu essen zu haben.

Bei den Reichen war das ein bisschen anders, aber cool bedeutete eher, genug Geld zu haben und ein schönes Auto zu fahren. Natürlich waren sie auch viel schöner gekleidet.

*SIMÉON DOLINSCHKE: Seid ihr damals eher mit der Arbeit beschäftigt gewesen, oder habt ihr einen anderen Weg gewählt?*

GROSSELTERN: Schule gehen und dann arbeiten, das war es eigentlich. In meiner Freizeit hab ich in jeder freien Minute gelesen.

*SIMÉON DOLINSCHKE: Wie war damals der Umgang mit Alkohol und Drogen?*

GROSSELTERN: Drogen nahm keiner, denn sie waren einfach zu teuer. Aber Alkohol war ein großes Thema. Außerhalb der Arbeit sind die Männer im Gasthaus beim Kartenspielen und Trinken gewesen. Das einer sein Haus verspielte, war gar nicht unüblich. Wir sagten dazu „Haus und Hof verspielt“, was allerdings hieß, dass man wirklich alles verspielt hatte. Viele waren wirklich reich. Einer hatte sogar viel Grund am Ossiacher See, aber jetzt hat diese Familie nichts mehr.

Trotzdem war es unmöglich für uns fortzugehen. In Restaurants gab es nie einen Jugendlichen ohne erwachsene Begleitung. Und zu Weihnachten blieb

man immer zuhause, weil kein einziges Restaurant offen hatte. Bei Wahlen war es auch so. Zwei Tage davor gab es im Wahllokal keinen Alkohol mehr zu kaufen.

*SIMÉON DOLINSCHKE: Wusstet ihr von den Vorfällen im Vietnam?*

GROSSELTERN: Ja schon, aber es wurde in den Medien nur wenig berichtet. Es war alles so weit weg, sozusagen in den Sternen, vor allem am Land. Hinterher haben wir dann schon viel gelesen, aber erst viel später.



# Temuulen Gantumur

Temuulen  
Gantumur's uncle  
Puje/Monglia

...CARS WERE STILL  
NEW AND MYSTERIOUS.  
THEY WERE LIKE ALIEN  
SPACESHIPS ... IF WE  
WOULD SEE A CAR,  
EVERYBODY WOULD RUN  
TO IT AND TOUCH IT ...

My uncle Puje was born in Tarjin, Monglia in 1958. He was born in the countryside in a small village in northern Mongolia.

*TEMUULEN GANTUMUR:*  
*What are the biggest differences  
between the 1960s and today?*

UNCLE PUJE: Lots of stuff. Back then cars were still new and mysterious. They were like alien spaceships that we could only see every now and then in the countryside. If we would see a car, everybody would run to it and touch it and plead with the driver to let us sit in it, but now everybody has a car. Of course the telephone was very expensive and rare back then, I think

every village had at least one telephone, now everybody owns a smartphone. Back in the day, Mongolia was peaceful, beautiful and untouched and most people lived in the vast countryside, now everybody wants to live in Ulaan Baator (capital city of Mongolia).

*TEMUULEN GANTUMUR:*  
*What were the cities like in the 1960s?*

UNCLE PUJE: I visited Ulaan Baator when I was 6 years old. But the 1964 Ulaan Baator was much smaller than its size today, but despite that Ulaan Baator was very big to me. Back then Mongolia had just started industrializing, so seeing factories was a new experience for



Foto: Privat



me. The cities were actually a lot greener than today, so Ulaan Baator used to look much better back then.

*TEMUULEN GANTUMUR: Back then Mongolia was a socialist country, was it scary?*

UNCLE PUJE: No, not at all. It used to be more peaceful and stable back then because we had the support of the mighty Soviet Union. Now that it's a newly developed democracy, things are a bit shaky.

*TEMUULEN GANTUMUR: What do you miss from the 1960s?*

Back then I was a child so I miss the times where me and my brothers and sisters would come back from school and play games outside.

*TEMUULEN GANTUMUR: Where there any hippies in Mongolia?*

Not that I know of. I never saw a hippie. Despite being a socialist country with a rural population back then, I think the 1960s Mongolia is more fascinating than present day Mongolia. Back then times were stable and traditions were held high.



Foto: Privat



# Nathaniel Gaugy

Nathaniel Gaugy's  
grandmother  
Margret / USA  
and France

MEN GENERALLY WORE  
SUITS EVEN IF THEY  
DIDN'T WORK AT A  
COMPANY AND WOMEN  
DRESSED RATHER CONSER-  
VATIVELY. AMONG YOUTH  
THERE WAS A STRONG  
DEFIANCE OF AUTHORITY.

AT THAT TIME IN PARIS  
ALMOST EVERY YOUNG  
PERSON HATED THE  
GOVERNMENT SO THERE  
WAS A LOT OF UNREST.  
... IT ALMOST FELT LIKE  
THERE WAS GOING TO  
BE A REVOLUTION.

For this project I inter-  
viewed my grandmother  
Margret who lives in Stras-  
bourg. She lived in Detroit,  
Michigan and later studied  
abroad in Paris.

*NATHANIEL GAUGY: What  
were the events most representa-  
tive of the decade as a whole?*

GRANDMOTHER: I think the  
events that really show what  
the decade was like were  
Woodstock, the Kenne-  
dy Assassination, the Civil  
Rights Movement and all the  
Riots especially in France.

*NATHANIEL GAUGY: Where  
did you live and how have those  
places changed since?*

GRANDMOTHER: I lived in  
Detroit, Michigan and the  
later in Paris. I haven't been

back to Michigan since but  
Paris seems to have a lot  
more people, seems a bit  
dirtier, and has many more  
migrants than it did in the  
60s.

*NATHANIEL GAUGY: What  
were the cultural norms of the  
60s that are taboo today?*

GRANDMOTHER: There were  
movements like Free Love  
which would probably seem  
extreme by today's stan-  
dards. Of course, smoking  
and drinking of hard liquor  
like whiskey was far more  
accepted as well. Men gen-  
erally wore suits even if they  
didn't work at a company  
and women dressed rather  
conservatively. Among the  
youth there was a strong de-  
fiance of authority.



NATHANIEL GAUGY: *What was the average attire of the 60s?*

GRANDMOTHER: Well the hippies all wore tie-dye along with flowers in their hair and beads. But people mostly wore what was the fashion of the 50s.

NATHANIEL GAUGY: *How did you feel about the Vietnam War?*

GRANDMOTHER: Oh I thought it was terrible! And in Paris people were watching the Americans make the same mistakes they had made which was quite sad. In the Paris Underground there were people that went to military surplus stores looking for uniforms with the blood of American soldiers on it to wear. Soldiers unlike in WW2 came home to people shouting and calling them baby killers.

NATHANIEL GAUGY: *What were people listening to at the time?*

GRANDMOTHER: People listened to a lot of Bob Dylan and of course there was the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. I liked Bob Dylan more

than most of the other Rock and Roll everyone was listening to.

NATHANIEL GAUGY: *What were the riots like in Paris?*

GRANDMOTHER: At that time in Paris almost every young person hated the government so there was a lot of unrest. The big leader of the riots was Danny the Red who later joined the French government. It almost felt like there was going to be a revolution.

NATHANIEL GAUGY: *Did people use products from foreign countries like they do today?*

GRANDMOTHER: Not to the extent they do today. In America people only had American cars (with the exception of Volkswagen) and in France people drove French cars. It was also quite rare for people to travel to the extent they do today. For a European to go to New York for vacation was almost unheard of. Globalism really didn't exist to the same degree.



# Sophie Haberl

Sophie Haberls  
Großmutter/  
Schneiderin aus  
Österreich



Foto: Privat

ABER WENN MAN SICH  
MAL WIRKLICH SCHICK  
MACHEN WOLLTE, KAM MAN  
MIT EINEM HOSENANZUG  
IMMER GUT AN.

Für das Projekt habe ich meine 79 Jahre alte Oma interviewt. Sie wuchs in Wald am Schoberpaß auf (Gemeinde in der Steiermark) und lebt seit den 60er Jahren in Kalwang (Nachbargemeinde von Wald am Schoberpaß). Mit 18 Jahren heiratete sie und mit 19 Jahren bekam sie ihr erstes Kind.

*SOPHIE HABERL: Was ist dein erster Gedanke, wenn du die 60er Jahre hörst?*

GROSSMUTTER: Mein erster Gedanke ist, dass ich Anfang der 60er sehr glücklich war. Ich war gerade frisch verheiratet und noch voll verliebt. Außerdem bekam ich da meinen ersten Sohn. Ich hatte es endlich geschafft, von meinem alten, schwierigen Leben zu

fliehen. Leider hielt dieses Glück nicht so lange an, da mein Mann ein paar Jahre darauf verstarb.

*SOPHIE HABERL: Was hast du vom Vietnamkrieg mitbekommen?*

GROSSMUTTER: Eigentlich habe ich gar nichts mitbekommen. Natürlich wusste ich, dass es gerade Krieg gab. Doch über die Geschehnisse oder warum er überhaupt stattfand, wusste ich nichts. Es gab keine Fernseher und wir bekamen auch keine Zeitung.

*SOPHIE HABERL: Gab es Hippies in Kalwang?*

GROSSMUTTER: Nein. Ich habe generell nichts von der Hippiephase mitbekommen. Ich muss auch geste-



hen, dass mir der Name die „wilden 60er Jahre“ nicht so bekannt war.

*SOPHIE HABERL: Hattest du einen Job?*

Ja. Anfang der 60er hatte ich gerade ausgelernt und bekam einen Job als Schneiderin.

*SOPHIE HABERL: Was hast du gern in deiner Freizeit gemacht?*

Im Winter ging ich oft Skifahren oder Schlittenfahren und im Sommer ging ich gern wandern. Außerdem vertrieb ich mir meine Zeit gerne mit Singen oder Backen.



Foto: Privat

*SOPHIE HABERL: Welche Musik hast du gehört?*

Eigentlich hörte ich jede Art von Musik. Vor allem Musik die gerade in war wie zum Beispiel „The Beatles“. In Kalwang gab es damals eine

Bar mit einer Musikbox und jedes Mal, nachdem ich mit Freunden im Kino gewesen war, gingen wir gemeinsam dorthin und tanzten zu jedem Lied das gerade spielte.

*SOPHIE HABERL: Gab es eine bestimmte Mode?*

Nein nicht wirklich. Ich habe eigentlich alles getragen: Kleider, Hosen, Röcke,... . Aber wenn man sich mal wirklich schick machen wollte, kam man mit einem Hosenanzug immer gut an. Zu diesem Thema habe ich auch eine kurze Geschichte: Ich arbeitete als Schneiderin in Mautern, lebte jedoch in Kalwang. Also musste ich jeden Tag ein Stückchen gehen. Die Temperaturen waren in Kalwang und in Mautern ziemlich unterschiedlich. Ende März war es in Mautern schon warm genug, um Kleider und Röcke zu tragen, doch in Kalwang gab es zu dieser Zeit oft noch Neuschnee. Ich musste also morgens immer durch den Schnee stapfen und da konnte ich kein Kleid anziehen, sondern musste meine Schneehose tragen. Das war mir dann immer etwas unangenehm, da alle anderen schon in schönen Kleidern arbeiteten.



# Antonia Hill

Antonia Hills  
Großmutter  
Gertrud Steurer /  
Österreich

ES WAR FÜR VIELE  
MENSCHEN BEFREIEND,  
WEIL DAS DAS ZEITALTER  
WAR, WO ES BEGONNEN  
HAT, FÜR MÄDCHEN  
KEINEN DRUCK ZU GEBEN.  
MANCHE MÄDCHEN SIND  
DA VOLL MITGEGANGEN.

Gertud Steurer, meine Oma mütterlicherseits, ist in Krottendorf bei Liegitz in der Steiermark geboren und mit ihren Schwestern dort aufgewachsen. Sie war immer schon sehr modebegeistert und wusste immer von den neusten Trends.

*ANTONIA HILL: Wie war die Mode in den 1960er Jahren?*

GROSSMUTTER: In 1965/66 waren die Röcke knielang und sind dann immer kürzer geworden. Die „Minimode“ war voll im Gange. Modern waren spitze Schuhe, Glockenhosen und Blusen mit langen auffälligen Krägen. Damals war die Pariser „Haute Couture“ ziemlich tonangebend. Wenn die Pariserinnen kurze Röcke ge-

tragen haben, dann hat es so sein müssen, weil sonst war man out. Jedes Jahr gab es eine Modefarbe des Jahres. Entweder war vanille modern oder blau oder grün und wenn man modern sein wollte, war es nötig, etwas in der Farbe zu besitzen.

*ANTONIA HILL: Was war deine Meinung zum neuen „Hippie Lifestyle“?*

GROSSMUTTER: Es war für viele Menschen befreiend, weil das das Zeitalter war, wo es begonnen hat, für Mädchen keinen Druck zu geben. Manche Mädchen sind da voll mitgegangen. Ich aber habe nicht viel mitbekommen, weil ich am Land gewohnt habe, und ich habe in der Hinsicht nicht



so mitgemacht, schon am Rande, aber besonders auffällig gekleidet war ich nicht. Aber für uns war das schon was Neues.

*ANTONIA HILL: Vermisst du etwas von den 60ern?*

A: Nein nicht wirklich; heutzutage ist alles viel praktischer.

*ANTONIA HILL: Hast du Ereignisse von anderen Ländern mitbekommen?*

A: Jaja die Berliner Mauer. Das war ja ein Jahrhundertereignis. Das war voll im Gange. Vom Krieg in Vietnam haben wir schon etwas mitbekommen, aber nicht in der vollen Stärke, wie es heute übertragen wird. Wir waren damals ziemlich jung und ich glaube, das hat uns nicht so interessiert. Aber es gab immer ein paar Jugendliche, die sich dafür besonders engagierten. Am meisten habe ich bei der amerikanischen Mondlandung gestaunt. Ich hätte das für niemals möglich gehalten. Ich kann mich erinnern, wie wir als Familie fasziniert vor dem Fernseher gesessen sind.

*ANTONIA HILL: Wie sah dein Alltag damals aus?*

A: Ich bin damals noch in die Schule gegangen. Wir hatten immer sechs Mal pro Woche Schule und hatten nur einmal die Woche frei. Das hat mich immer sehr gestört.

Mit dem Schilling hatten wir nicht so viel Geld. Wir haben schon Taschengeld gehabt, aber das war minimal. Aber wir haben nicht wirklich viel gebraucht. Wir mussten um halb acht in der Schule sein und sind dann erst sehr spät nach Hause gekommen. Am Land hat es nicht wirklich viel Abwechslung gegeben, in der Stadt wahrscheinlich schon. Wir sind auch immer eine halbe Stunde in die Schule gegangen, aber der Heimweg hat jedes Mal viel länger gedauert. Aber in meiner Klasse gab es Kinder, die einen viel weitem Weg hatten.

*ANTONIA HILL: Was hast du von neuen Erfindungen wie zum Beispiel dem Fernseher gehalten?*

A: Ich habe mich sehr gefreut, als



der Fernseher gekommen ist. Ich kann mich gut an die Sportnachrichten erinnern, als der Toni Seiler gefahren ist. Mein Vater hat immer die Zeiten mitgeschrieben, wenn der Moderator die Zeiten der Sportler angesagt hat. Das waren wirklich Zeiten, als die ganze Familie vor dem Fernseher gesessen ist. Früher, als wir noch keinen Fernseher hatten, sind wir immer zum Gasthaus gegangen, um Kindersendungen anzuschauen. Ich kann mich noch gut an den Kasperl erinnern. Das war immer das Highlight der Woche für mich.

*ANTONIA HILL: Was habt ihr in eurer Freizeit gemacht?*

Ich weiß nicht, wie es in anderen Familien war, aber bei uns war es sehr streng. Wir durften nie zu jemandem gehen, aber es durften immer alle Kinder zu uns kommen. Oft ist eine riesengroße Schar Kinder zu uns gekommen, um Tischtennis zu spielen. Besonders lustig war es mit den Hula-Hoop-Reifen. Wir haben auch viel Völkerball gespielt. Das war immer sehr lustig.

*ANTONIA HILL: Welche Filme und Lieder haben dir damals besonders gut gefallen?*

A: Ich kann mich sehr gut an die Beatles erinnern. Ich war zwar ein Fan, aber ich wäre nie bei einem Konzert von ihnen in Ohnmacht gefallen. Das passierte wie ein paar andere Mädchen zu meiner Zeit. Zu meinen Lieblingsliedern gehörten „Yellow Submarine“ und „Hey Jude“. Mein Lieblingsfilm war ebenfalls von den Beatles. Der hieß „Help“ und wurde sogar in Obertauern gedreht. Aber noch besser hat es mir gefallen, in die Schauspielhäuser und Oper zu gehen. Mein Favorit war und ist noch immer „Cats“.



Foto: sleeze / Pixabay



Antonia Hills'  
grandmother  
Isabelle Hill /  
Switzerland, Spain,  
France and England

PARIS ... I LOVED IT!  
... PARIS IS A CITY  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. I  
REMEMBER THERE WERE  
A LOT OF STUDENT  
STRIKES AND A LOT  
OF TRAFFIC GOING ON.  
WHAT I ENJOYED MOST  
ABOUT PARIS WAS THE  
PARKS AND THE CAFÉS.



Isabelle Hill, my grandmother on my Dad's side, was born in Switzerland but then moved to Spain at the end of the Spanish Civil War. Later on, she went back to Switzerland. Then, in the early 1960s she lived in Paris. A few years later, she moved with her husband to the English countryside before returning back to Paris again in the mid-1980s.

*ANTONIA HILL: What was it like to live in Paris in the 1960s?*

GRANDMOTHER: I loved it! I probably wouldn't enjoy it now though because it is very busy and hectic. Paris is a city for young people. I remember there were a lot of student strikes and a lot of traffic going on. What I enjoyed most about Paris was the parks and the cafés. I did a lot of walking and I probably knew it better than

any other city I ever lived in throughout the years. Overall, I lived there for 14 years and I had the time of my life.

*ANTONIA HILL: What was life like in Spain after the Spanish war?*

GRANDMOTHER: When I was 8 my parents moved from Switzerland to Spain. They left me and my older sister in Switzerland with my grandmother. Four years later, my parents sent me to Spain to live with them again. At that time, I only spoke Swiss and German and I didn't understand a word of Spanish, but I learned it pretty quickly. In the beginning I hated life in Spain and I desperately wanted to go back to Switzerland. But with time, I grew to love Spain.

*ANTONIA HILL: Can you describe the contrast between*



*moving from the richness of Switzerland to the poverty of post-civil war Spain?*

GRANDMOTHER: Enormous! For me, as a young Swiss school girl, it was very shocking. Never before have I seen such things. In Barcelona, most houses were in ruins and a lot of people, especially young men, were wounded and missing limbs. There was total chaos on the streets. The total opposite of my calm life in Switzerland. There also was a lot of food shortages and a lot of hunger. Although my family wasn't too badly off, we still struggled. It was a very miserable time of total chaos and it took a long time to get back into the state it once was.



Foto: Fortepan / A.R.



# Felix Huerta Pérez

Felix Huerta Pérez  
Großeltern/  
Österreich

ES GAB VIELE NEUE  
SACHEN AM MARKT,  
WIE ZUM BEISPIEL DAS  
"STUZZI". DAS WAR  
EIN TONBANDGERÄT UND  
ES WAR DAS NEUESTE  
VOM NEUEN. WER DAS  
DAMALS HATTE, BEI DEM/  
DER WUSSTE MAN,  
DASS ER/SIE "GSCHIEIT  
GSTOPFT" WAREN.

Großmutter/Spanien

ES HAT IN DEN 60ERN  
IN SPANIEN WEDER  
HIPPIES NOCH AUSLÄN-  
DISCHE MUSIK, WIE ZB.  
DIE BEATLES, GEGEBEN.  
DAS ALLES GESCHAH  
WEGEN DEM DIKTATOR  
FRANCO, DER DAMALS  
AN DER MACHT WAR.

Ich habe meine Groß-  
eltern Egbert Sprenger  
(18.12.1946 geboren) und  
Margit Sprenger (1.10.1949  
geboren) über die 1960er  
Jahre interviewt.

Beide sagten, dass es damals  
in Österreich Hippies gab,  
doch nicht so viele wie man  
vielleicht gedacht hat. Und  
die Lieder, die diese soge-  
nannten "Hippies" damals  
hörten, waren von Legen-  
den wie Bob Dylan, Johnny  
Cash, den Rolling Stones  
und auch von den Beatles.

Damals am Ende der 1960er  
Jahre, zwischen 1966 und  
1970, gab es in Österrei-  
ch eine Alleinregierung der  
ÖVP unter dem Bundes-  
kanzler Josef Klaus. 1970  
ging es dann plötzlich von  
der alleinigen ÖVP-Regie-

rung ruckartig zur alleinigen  
SPÖ-Regierung und Bruno  
Kreisky wurde Bundeskanz-  
ler.

Der Wirtschaft schien es  
langsam besser zu gehen.  
Es gab Arbeit und die Leu-  
te hatten das erste Mal seit  
dem Krieg wieder ein biss-  
chen Geld. Den Leuten ging  
es langsam wieder besser.

Es gab viele neue Sachen am  
Markt, wie zum Beispiel das  
"Stuzzi". Das war ein Ton-  
bandgerät und es war das  
Neueste vom Neuen. Wer  
das damals hatte, bei dem/  
der wusste man, dass er/sie  
"gschieit gstopft" waren, wie  
mein Opa sagte.

Das war die Meinung mei-  
ner Großeltern in Österrei-  
ch, doch ich habe auch mei-



ne Oma (María Esperanza Pérez Carillo, am 10.3.1944 geboren) in Spanien gefragt und die hatte etwas ganz anderes zu berichten.

Es hat in den 60ern in Spanien weder Hippies noch ausländische Musik, wie zB. die Beatles, gegeben. Das alles geschah wegen des Diktator Franco, der damals an der Macht war. Für einige Leute war er ein Tyrann und ein Massenmörder, doch für andere war er ein Volksheld, der Spanien groß machte. Doch egal wie objektiv man ist und ob man gut oder schlecht zu ihm steht, es ist sich jeder/jede einig, dass er ein Diktator war.

Spanien ist bis jetzt noch tief gespalten und es gibt immer noch Leute, die ihn als Helden verehren, obwohl er und seine Soldaten im spanischen Bürgerkrieg ("Guer-ra Civil") über eine halbe Million Menschen ermordeten.

Vor Kurzem gab es in Spanien einen großen Streit, denn man wollte Francos Leichnam aus seinem von Kriegsgefangenen erbauten Grab, dem sogenannten "Valle de

los Caídos", exhumieren und in ein privates Grab umlegen, damit sein Grab keine Pilgerstätte für "Franco-Fanatiker" werden würde. Damit würde auch ein bisschen die aufgeheizte Stimmung beruhigt werden, denn für viele SpanierInnen ist es natürlich falsch, wenn ein Massenmörder in einem Grab seine letzte Ruhestätte finden würde, das von den Soldaten und Gefangenen gebaut wurde, die Franco unterlegen waren. Dieser Meinung ist auch meine Großmutter, die sich für die Exhumierung ausspricht.

In Spanien herrschte ein sehr kirchliches und ausländerfeindliches Regime, das keine oder nur sehr wenige Einflüsse aus dem Ausland nach Spanien zuließ.

Alles, was im Rest der Welt in den 60ern geschah, geschah in Spanien erst in den 80er- und 90er-Jahren. Hippies, Drogen und moderne Sichtweisen kamen in Spanien erst viel später als in Österreich zum Zug.

Ich bedanke mich sehr bei meinen Großeltern für die Interviews.



# Valentin Janisch

Valentin Janischs  
Großvater  
Johann Janisch/  
Österreich

... WEIL MAN GESEHEN  
HAT, DASS DIE USA  
NICHT UNBESIEGBAR WAR  
UND DASS KRIEG NICHT  
IMMER DIE LÖSUNG SEI.

Ich habe für das Projekt „die wilden 60er“ meinen Opa interviewt. Sein Name ist Johann Janisch und er ist 1942 geboren und lebt in Mettersdorf am Saßbach in der Süd-Oststeiermark. Ich habe ihn ein paar Fragen bezüglich den 60er Jahren gestellt.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Erinnerst du dich gut an die 60er?*

OPA: Sicher, in den 60er Jahren wurde ich Gendarm was früher die Polizei am Land war, und lernte deine Oma kennen. Außerdem hab ich die Polizeistation gewechselt und bin aus diesem Grund von Eibiswald nach Mettersdorf gezogen. Ich habe zwei Töchter bekommen unter anderem deine Mutter.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Hast du irgendwas vom Vietnamkrieg mitbekommen?*

OPA: Ja, wenn auch nicht so viel wie man heute mitbekommen würde, weil wir erst in den 70ern einen Fernseher gekauft haben. Dafür haben wir aber mehr Zeitung gelesen und auch im Radio die Nachrichten darüber gehört.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Was war deine Meinung zum Krieg damals?*

OPA: Ich finde Krieg immer unnötig.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Wie war das Schulsystem im Vergleich zum heutigen?*

OPA: Ich glaub das war gleich. Aber als ich zur



Schule ging, konnte ich zum Beispiel nur 8 Jahre gehen. Das hat sich zum Glück geändert.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Man spricht ja immer von den „wilden 60ern“. War es in Österreich „wild“?*

OPA: Nein, im Vergleich zur USA überhaupt nicht.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Und warum glaubst du war es so?*

OPA: Einerseits, weil Österreich in keinen Krieg verwickelt war und dadurch auch niemand protestiert hatte, der nicht dorthin wollte, und andererseits sind, glaube ich, die Menschen in Österreich ruhiger als in den USA.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Also gab es keine „Hippies“ in Österreich?*

OPA: Also ich hab nichts davon mitbekommen und wenn es welche gegeben hätte, hätten wir sie wahrscheinlich anders genannt.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Findest du, dass die 60er geschichtlich betrachtet ein wichtiges Jahrzehnt waren?*

OPA: Ja, weil man gesehen hat, dass die USA nicht unbesiegbar war und dass Krieg nicht immer die Lösung sei.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Und persönlich?*

OPA: Auf jeden Fall. Ich hab einen Job bekommen, bin sesshaft geworden und habe eine Familie gegründet. Also war es sicher einer der wichtigsten Jahrzehnte für mich, obwohl natürlich jedes wichtig ist.

*VALENTIN JANISCH: Okay, vielen Dank für deine Zeit.*

OPA: Kein Problem.



„Go protesters“ by Dekauf is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 / flickr



# Victoria Jost

Victoria Jost's  
mother/Austria

WE HAD AN EASIER AND  
LESS STRESSFUL LIFE THAN  
THE KIDS HAVE NOWADAYS.  
WE SPENT MORE TIME  
OUTSIDE WITH FRIENDS  
OR READING BOOKS  
INSTEAD OF BEING ON  
THE PHONE ALL DAY.

My mum was born in Schl-  
adming in 1967.

*VICTORIA JOST: What was  
technology like when you were a  
kid?*

MUM: When I was 5 years  
old, I was allowed to watch  
some TV, but only at certain  
times. But I didn't mind be-  
cause I'd rather spent time  
outside with my friends pla-  
ying ball or hide and seek.

There were already coloured  
TV's . When I was 15 I got  
my first technological de-  
vice which was an old radio  
from my parents. Back then  
we didn't have cell phones  
or lap-tops. We had record  
players, radios, cameras with  
film cassettes and cassette  
tape recorders.

*VICTORIA JOST: How did you  
dress? Was there like a no-go  
with dressing or with the way you  
looked?*

MUM: I wasn't allowed to  
wear trousers in the church  
because trousers weren't  
„schick“ and jeans not at all  
because they were only for  
workers.

Some things that were really  
forbidden were tattoos, be-  
cause only the people who  
have been to jail had tattoos.  
The skirts where way longer  
than they are today, crop  
tops didn't even exist and  
a lot of makeup on young-  
er girls was also something  
people didn't like.

*VICTORIA JOST: Was there a  
special event that you remember?*



MUM: Yes, when Elvis Presley died... I heard it on the radio and I made a sign for my door which said "here lives an Elvis Presley fan" so everyone who came to our house could see it. After that I watched nearly every single Elvis Presley movie and I am still a big fan of his music.



Foto: Wikimedia / Pixabay

It wasn't like a really special thing but the musical *Cats* in Vienna thrilled me so much that I watched

it 3 times and bought the CD. So I can listen to the music at home.

*VICTORIA JOST: Was there something extraordinary in your childhood?*

MUM: Yes, in 1973 I and my family went to Cyprus for 2 years, because my father had to work there and he got more money. He worked for the UNO. I was six by the time we got there. I had to go to primary school there, which I didn't mind because I loved the school uniform and my teacher, Miss Ann. We lived in a simply house with big lemon and orange trees. Thankfully it was quite easy for me to learn their language (Greek).

*VICTORIA JOST: Are you happy that some things changed?*

MUM: No, actually I'm unhappy that most things changed. I think that because we didn't have so much technology we had an easier and less stressful life than the kids have nowadays. We spent more time outside with friends or reading books instead of being on the phone all day.



# Katharina Katter

Katharina Katters  
Großvater  
Fritz (69) /  
Österreich



Foto: Privat

„JA, ICH HABE VIEL ZEITUNG GELESEN UND WUSSTE ÜBER ALLES BESCHIED, WIE ZUM BEISPIEL ÜBER DIE KENNEDY ERMORDUNG, ÜBER DEN VIETNAMKRIEG, ÜBER APOLLO 11, WAS WIR INTERESSIERT IM FERNSEHEN VERFOLGT HABEN. FRÜHER SIND WIR OFT ALLE ZUSAMMENGESSESSEN UND HABEN DIE NACHRICHTEN IM FERNSEHER GESCHAUT.“

*KATHARINA KATTER: Was sind deine schönsten Erinnerungen?*

OPA: Das Fußball spielen und als ich mit meinen Freunden mit dem Motorrad den Großglockner hinauf gefahren bin.

*KATHARINA KATTER: Wie war es früher in der Schule?*

OPA: Manchmal bin ich lieber zum Fußballplatz gegangen und meine Lehrerinnen haben mich immer geliebt, weil ich so fesch war. Einmal, als ich geschwänzt hatte, habe ich meine Mutter getroffen und das war sehr peinlich, da ich sagen musste, dass der Lehrer krank war und sie es mir natürlich nicht glaubte.

In der Hauptschule sind wir schon mit den Mädchen in die Schule gegangen.

*KATHARINA KATTER: Wie war das Verhältnis zwischen Eltern und Kind?*

OPA: Nicht so gut, da man sich fast nie gesehen hatte, da beide Eltern sehr lange gearbeitet haben.

*KATHARINA KATTER: Hat sich die Mode in den 60er Jahren sehr verändert?*

OPA: Die Mode früher war super. Die Mädchen waren früher schon sehr fesch mit Miniröcken oder Kleidern.

Die Mode ist offener geworden und man hat mehr Haut gezeigt.

*KATHARINA KATTER: Mochtest du die neue Musik?*

OPA: Früher gab es viel Jazz Musik und ich bin oft in Discos gegangen. Mit 16 bin ich sogar in eine Tanzschule gegangen.



*KATHARINA KATTER: Kannst du die Beatles oder die Rolling Stones und wer war dein Lieblingssänger bzw. deine Lieblingsband?*

OPA: Ja, die Beatles und die Rolling Stones kannte ich und meine Lieblingsband waren die Early Birds.

*KATHARINA KATTER: Hast du früher viel Zeitung gelesen und wusstest du Bescheid über den Krieg?*

OPA: Ja, ich habe viel Zeitung gelesen und wusste über alles Bescheid, wie zum Beispiel über die Kennedy Ermordung, über den Vietnamkrieg, über Apollo11, was wir interessiert im Fernsehen verfolgt hatten. Früher sind wir oft alle zusammengesessen und haben

die Nachrichten im Fernseher geschaut.

*KATHARINA KATTER: Hattest du Sorgen wegen dem Krieg?*

OPA: Ja sicher. Meine Eltern haben immer gesagt, wie schlimm der Krieg gewesen sei, denn sie hatten schon selbst Kriegserfahrungen gemacht.

*KATHARINA KATTER: Gab es Hippies in Österreich?*

OPA: Ja sicher, aber ich war keiner.

*KATHARINA KATTER: Hat sich etwas gesellschaftlich verändert und was genau?*

OPA: Früher gab es keine Handys oder Internet und man ist zu Fuß manchmal bis zu 4 km in die Schule gegangen.

*KATHARINA KATTER: Hat sich die Stellung der Frau verbessert?*

OPA: Ja sehr. Früher hat die Frau nur gekocht und die Hausarbeit erledigt. Da durfte man nur machen, was einem gesagt wurde.



Foto: Wikimedia / Pixabay



# Wolfsans Koele

Wolfgang Koele's  
grandfather/Belgium

MANY OLDER PEOPLE  
THOUGHT THAT THINGS  
WERE GOING THE WRONG  
WAY, WHILE WE BELIEVED  
THAT EVERYTHING WAS  
GOING TO BE BETTER  
AND MORE BEAUTIFUL,  
THERE WILL COME OTHER  
TIMES. BOB DYLAN  
SANG „THE TIMES THEY  
ARE A-CHANGIN“

I interviewed my grandpa  
from Belgium who is 72 ye-  
ars old

*WOLFGANG KOELE: Why do  
you think The Wild 60's were  
called the Wild 60's?*

GRANDPA: The 60's were noi-  
sy, there were protests from  
Japan to the U.S., from Ger-  
many to Czechoslovakia.  
For many reasons, some-  
times local reasons, such as  
the civil rights movement in  
the U.S., the Prague Spring  
for a socialism with a more  
human face in Czechoslova-  
kia. But there were also in-  
ternational reasons, such as  
the resistance against Ame-  
rican imperialism, against  
the Vietnam War, and so  
on. These protest move-  
ments, in the beginning

were mainly students and la-  
ter also workers. They were  
sometimes attacked violent-  
ly. For example, during the  
revolt that arose when the  
Shah visited Berlin in 1967,  
a student was shot dead by  
a policeman. A few months  
later the student leader Rudi  
Dutschke was shot in West  
Berlin. Also in the U.S. and  
in other countries the pro-  
tests were opposed violently.  
In my opinion, these student  
protests and youth culture  
came for a number of rea-  
sons. After World War 2 the  
welfare state was developed  
in many industrial countries,  
and between 1945 and 1973  
there was a very large eco-  
nomic growth (Les Trente  
Glorieuses, in French).  
From 1960 workers could



buy a car, the T.V. arrived, workers' children could continue their studies. But the power structures remained unchanged, e.g. Afro-Americans and the poorest did not sufficiently enjoy the increased prosperity. In many countries there was still censorship (on books, film, media) by the government. And in the U.S. young people had to fight in Vietnam and a growing number of them came back in body bags. So it was a revolt against the continued existence of inequality both within the countries themselves and internationally, against the authoritarian governance of states and university administrations and against the old and oppressive morality. It was an anti-authoritarian protest.

*WOLFGANG KOELE: What was the food like?*

GRANDPA: What we ate was not so different from now, except for breakfast, cereals were exceptional, bread was the main ingredient. There were less exotic dishes, but what was the big difference between now and then was that the

women prepared the food completely by themselves using fresh products. Because in the 60's most women stayed at home to raise the children and run the household, they had more time to prepare the food. Few preservatives were used, people made their own jams, seasonal vegetables were sterilized themselves and so were usable for a year, milk was bought every day and was fresh. Prepared dishes were rare. But the sixties were also a time of great change in this respect, the first years were still close to pre-war food habits, but then because of the increased purchasing power with more expensive foods such as meat, at the end of the sixties more and more supermarkets were added and the young generations of women also started to work outside the home and so the food habits already started to resemble those of today.

*WOLFGANG KOELE: Did you listen to music a lot?*

GRANDPA: Yes, because of the increased purchasing power, for the first



time there were young people with money. A youth culture arose, with film (*Easy Rider* a.o.), books (*I*, Jan Cremer a.o.) and especially music, pop music that was not broadcast by the official radio stations for years. At sea there were pirate stations that broadcast this pop music, there were also a small number of commercial stations that also broadcast pop music. And in the cities there were more and more record stores for LPs and singles. There was a lot of interest in French popmusic (a.o. Jacques Dutronc, Johnny Hallyday, Françoise Hardy, etc.) but British music was dominant. In the beginning of the 60's there was the British Blues Boom in England, inspired by the Afro-American blues musicians musical groups like The Animals, The Yardbirds (with Eric Clapton), The Rolling Stones, Fleetwood Mac (with Peter Green), Them (with Van Morrison) and others. I found this beautiful music then, and I still do. Later in the 60's I also got to know and enjoy soul music, with a.o. Aretha Franklin.

*WOLFGANG KOELE: Were there many hippies in Belgium?*

GRANDPA: No, as far as I remember I did not know any hippies in Kortrijk, but I did know a number of young people who were dressed as hippies but did not live as hippies.

*WOLFGANG KOELE: Did you have a luxury item?*

GRANDPA: Yeah, like I said, the



Foto: Fortepan / BAUER SÁNDOR



60s were years of great economic growth. There were more and more cars, T.V., record players, etc. the workers got more leave and they went on trips. For most people it was a time of growing prosperity and luxury. Not like now, the cars were not SUVs, but the difference between a beetle and an SUV is smaller than between a small car and no car as it was for most people in the fifties.

*WOLFGANG KOELE: Did school somehow change during the 60?*

GRANDPA: Schools underwent a major change in the 1960s. In the fifties corporal punishment (hitting, sitting on your knees for a long time) was not exceptional. At the catholic schools (the majority in Flanders) there was no contact between girls' schools and boys' schools. They had to go to Mass twice a week. It only changed in 1968, but when it did, it changed quickly. Just like how the official radio stations quickly started to broadcast pop music, it was no longer forbidden to have

contact between girls and boys. Corporal punishment also disappeared and was eventually banned. Now the schools in Flanders are mixed as well.

*WOLFGANG KOELE: Do you have a funny story about the 60?*

GRANDPA: Personally, I was very active with the scouts, and I had a wonderful time there with a lot of experiences. In the 60's the priests were still dressed in cassock, this was abolished in the late 60's. We had a city game, and one of the leaders was dressed as a priest with a cassock and drove a Citroën 2CV. He had a slight collision with another car, the man of the other gets out of his car very angry while ran-



Foto: Fortepan / FORTEPAN



ting and raving. Frans also got out of his 2CV. Immediately the man starts to apologize, Excuse me, Reverend, I hadn't noticed you're a priest.

*WOLFGANG KOELE: Did you know about the Vietnam War and if so, how did it affect you?*

GRANDPA: Because of the arrival of the T.V. we saw images of the Vietnam War daily. And so there was a growing aversion of many young people to this war. I myself, together with friends from the scouts, went several times to demonstrate against the war in Vietnam. Of course, as a Belgian, I did not have to fight, but I had to do my one year military service, of which I spent 8 months in Kassel Germany and there were also American soldiers stationed who we sometimes met.

*WOLFGANG KOELE: How did the politicians effect Belgium?*

GRANDPA: Politicians have resisted the changes for a long time. But within the political parties there was growing resistance from the youth wings. In the largest party At the largest party, the Christian Democratic Party, the youth wing was

very active and insistent on new policies. The leadership of this youth movement was called the 'miracle bureau'. Of this miracle bureau some continued to be against the establishment, others later became ministers and even prime ministers. Also in the Netherlands, the youth wing of the Social Democratic party took over the party as the "new left" movement.

*WOLFGANG KOELE: Did you have a good relationship with the older generation e.g. your parents?*

GRANDPA: Yeah, my parents were pretty broad-minded, especially my mom. But in general there was a big cultural gap with the older generation, the generation gap. Pop music was described by many parents as 'negro music', and this was not meant to be laudatory. The generation gap was not only about the music, but also about the movies, politics, and so on. Many older people thought that things were going the wrong way, while we believed that everything was going to be better and more beautiful, that better times were coming. Bob Dylan sang „The Times They Are a-Changin“.



# Felix König

Felix König's  
grandparents/  
Österreich

ON THE HIPPIES: WE  
GOT INSPIRED BY THEIR  
CLOTHING AND HAIR  
STYLE BUT NOT SO MUCH  
BY THEIR LIFE STYLE.

*FELIX KÖNIG: Did the Hippie movement affect the life in Austria? How?*

We got inspired by their clothing and hair style but not so much by their life style.

*FELIX KÖNIG: What was different in the daily routine?*

For women it was different, because most women didn't go to work. We also had much less technology so we sat down and read a book sometimes.

*FELIX KÖNIG: How was the Cold War present in Austria?*

Not really present but weird, because basically no one was allowed to travel into our country and there was also always a certain amount of

fear, that the whole situation would escalate and that the war could come to us.

*FELIX KÖNIG: How was the music in the 1960s?*

With the Beatles, one of the first world famous boy-band group appeared and shaped music in a new way.

*FELIX KÖNIG: What is the first political event that comes into your mind if you think of the 1960s?*

John F. Kennedy came to Germany with his famous words 'Ich bin ein Berliner' and was assassinated a few months later.



# Carina Krenn

Carina Krenn's  
grandmother/Austria

YOU COULD BARELY SEE A  
HIPPIE WALKING AROUND  
IN AUSTRIA, NORMALLY  
YOU JUST HEARD ABOUT  
THEM IN THE NEWS.

During the 1960s my grandmother lived in Leoben, Austria, and made her very own experiences within this time period. At the age of 18 (1960) she already gave birth to my father, married my grandfather and moved away from her three older brothers.

So I thought why not interview her on her impressions of the 60s?

*CARINA KRENN: How did you experience the Cold War and were there any restrictions for you?*

GRANDMA: Austria was fortunately a rather neutral and safe country and we weren't confronted with the war. But we followed the events;

noticed the build-up of arms and nuclear weapons. America and Russia both wanting to be bigger and stronger than the other one. We lived in fear of a country starting a war.

For us, there weren't really any restrictions, but we always had an extra storage of food just in case.

*CARINA KRENN: How was the refugee situation in the 60s different than ours today?*

GRANDMA: The Hungarians came to Austria because they wanted to be free, to be separated from Russia and we welcomed them with open arms. Everybody donated, the Austrians wanted to help and took in more



than 100 000 refugees. It was different from current situation, because the Hungarians were mostly Christians, had a similar culture and lived basically next door. Our refugees today are Muslims and Syrians. In my opinion there was a change of mentality.

*CARINA KRENN: What was the Hippie situation in Austria like in comparison to San Francisco?*

GRANDMA: After the big hippie rush in San Francisco, this „trend“ slightly took over in Austria, but there weren't huge open air concerts or meetings. You could barely see a hippie walking around in Austria, normally you just heard about them in the news.

*CARINA KRENN: And how did you dress back then?*

GRANDMA: I did a lot of sewing for

myself, the fabric was often very colorful with all kinds of flowers, but since I already had a son I was more conservative.

*CARINA KRENN: Did your know about the Beatles and Elvis Presley?*

GRANDMA: Yes, but mostly tyoung people really liked to listen to this kind of music. I just remember our old record player, which we should still have somewhere in the house.

Net so Schnellebig owa trotzdem shen



HUNGARIAN REFUGEES AT THE AUSTRIAN BORDER

Foto: Fortepan / KLEYER ÉVA



# Paul Kreutler

Paul Kreutlers  
Großvater/Österreich

... VOR ALLEM HAT MAN  
GESEHEN, DASS KRIEG  
NICHT DIE LÖSUNG FÜR  
ALLES SEI. AUSSER-  
DEM WURDEN VIELE  
RECHTE ERKÄMPFT.

Für das Projekt „die wilden 60er“ habe ich meinem Opa einige Fragen gestellt. Er heißt Franz Hofer und wohnt in Stadl an der Mur in der Obersteiermark.

*PAUL KREUTLER: Kannst du dich gut an die 60er erinnern?*

OPA: Ich kann mich relativ gut an die 60er erinnern, denn Mitte der 60er schloss ich schon die Schule ab und begann bereits zu arbeiten. Außerdem habe ich schon meine Frau kennengelernt, also deine Oma.

*PAUL KREUTLER: Waren die „wilden 60er“ wirklich so wild wie man immer sagt, vor allem in Österreich?*

OPA: Also wie das in den größeren Städten von Österreich damals war, kann

ich dir leider nicht sagen. Bei mir im Dorf waren sie auf alle Fälle nicht so wild. Was ich damals so hörte, war aber, dass dies besonders in Amerika der Fall war.

*PAUL KREUTLER: Wieso war das, glaubst du, so?*

OPA: Ich glaube, weil Österreich in keinen Krieg verwickelt war und sich auch so aus allen größeren Konflikten rausgehalten hat.

*PAUL KREUTLER: Hast du damals etwas vom Vietnamkrieg oder generell von den Spannungen zwischen den USA und der Sowjet Union mitbekommen?*

OPA: Natürlich. In der Arbeit haben wir oft darüber geredet. Die Berichterstattung hatten wir eigentlich nur



über die Zeitung oder über das Radio bekommen, da ich damals noch keinen Fernseher hatte.

*PAUL KREUTLER: War der Konflikt für dich begründet?*

OPA: Nein, und außerdem finde ich Krieg immer schlecht, da er oft einfach unnötig ist.

*PAUL KREUTLER: Und wie war es damals in der Schule? War das Schulsystem anders?*

OPA: Der Unterschied zu damals ist eindeutig. Damals, vor allem in der Volksschule, habe ich oft noch einen Klopfer auf die Finger von meinem Lehrer bekommen. Vom Schulsystem her ist, glaube ich, alles gleichgeblieben.

*PAUL KREUTLER: Waren die 60er deiner Meinung nach ein wichtiges Jahrzehnt?*

OPA: Ja, ich denke schon. Vor allem hat man gesehen, dass Krieg nicht die Lösung für alles sei. Außerdem wurden viele Rechte erkämpft.

*PAUL KREUTLER: Gab es in deiner Umgebung viele Hippies?*

OPA: Also bei mir im Bezirk gab es keine Hippies. Ob das in größeren Städten anders war, weiß ich nicht.

*PAUL KREUTLER: Wie war das Jahrzehnt für dich persönlich?*

OPA: Für mich war es ein sehr erfolgreiches Jahrzehnt, vor allem da ich deine Oma kennengelernt habe. Außerdem hatte ich auch eine feste Anstellung gefunden und war auch mit meinem Blasmusikorchester erfolgreich.

*PAUL KREUTLER: Danke, dass du dir die Zeit für die Fragen genommen hast.*

OPA: Kein Problem.



Foto: Fortepan / HANORI GIULA



# Paula Mayr

Paula Mayr's  
grandmother  
Josephine Mayr/  
Österreich

IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL  
DAY, A HISTORICAL DAY.  
WE ALL SAT AROUND THE  
TV AND WATCHED THE  
MOONLANDING, EVEN OUR  
BOSS. HE ALLOWED US  
TO WATCH IT TOGETHER  
AT OUR WORKPLACE!



Foto: Privat

My grandmother, Josephine Mayr, was born on the 19th March 1935. I asked her a few questions about her life in the sixties.

PAULA MAYR: *Are there any differences between the sixties and now?*

GRANDMOTHER: Yes, many! We only had two TV chan-

nels, only the rich people could afford to fly with a plane. Another difference is that young people had many strict rules: they had to be at home, no matter if you're 14 or 18, at 11 o'clock and under 18 you weren't allowed to watch many films. I once watched a film, which was only for people over 18, and I got caught. It was a few days before my 18th birthday and the only thing that happened in this film was two people kissing. You were an adult at the age of 21, and then you were allowed to get married or go to other countries.

PAULA MAYR: *And are there any differences between life as a woman now versus back then?*

GRANDMOTHER: Only a few



women worked, the majority took care of their children, because we had no kindergarten etc. Women were also not allowed to show their knees, when they wore a dress.

*PAULA MAYR: Is there any event that you still remember?*

GRANDMOTHER: Yes, of course. The moonlanding was a very special event. And Toni Sailer won all disciplines! I don't think that has happened again since!

*PAULA MAYR: Did you see the Moon-Landing?*

GRANDMOTHER: Yes! It was a very special day, a historical day. We all sat around the TV and watched the moonlanding, even our boss. He allowed us to watch it together at our workplace!

*PAULA MAYR: Do you miss anything from the sixties?*

GRANDMOTHER: Hm... I don't know. I'm happy that many things changed. Oh, the electronic devices were much cheaper back then.

*PAULA MAYR: You mentioned that you are happy about many things that have changed. For example?*

GRANDMOTHER: Things are not so strict now. Life changed a lot for young people and women, good changes of course. For example women can now go alone anywhere they want, without having to have a men with you.

I would like to thank my grandmother for answering my question. I have translated everything the way she said it.

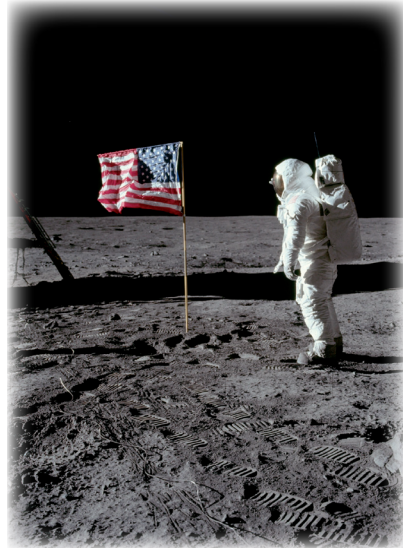


Foto: Wikimedia / Pixabay



# Emily Meixner

## The 1960s in **two** Interviews

Emily Meixner's  
grandmother, June  
Barley/England

... LIKED LISTENING TO  
POP MUSIC, ESPECIALLY  
THE BEATLES, WHICH  
SHE NEVER SAW LIVE,  
BUT SHE SAVED UP  
HER POCKET MONEY TO  
BUY THEIR SINGLES FOR  
HER RECORD PLAYER.

For this interview, I interviewed two people from two different countries, to see how differently they experienced the 1960s. My grandmother, June Barley from Radcliffe England, was born in 1951, so she was a teenager at the time. My great aunt, Gertrud Meixner born in Deutschlandsberg Austria, was already in her twenties, as she was born in 1942.

What was extremely interesting to me, was that both of them knew exactly where they were when something important happened. For Mrs Barley, it was the moon landing, which she watched together with her family. She stayed up a bit to watch, but went to bed before the actual landing and watched it the next day on television. She told me that it was shown all day

Foto: Privat



on TV. As for Ms Meixner, she can especially remember the assassination of John F Kennedy, which she found out about on the radio, and the death of Jochen Rindt. She was hiking with some friends on the Speik, a mountain near Deutschlandsberg, and was having something to eat in the hut at the summit, when she heard about the death on the radio.

What was also interesting to me was to see what their personal lives were like. Mrs Barley still went to school at the time, but started working aged sixteen. In her free time, she liked going to youth club, where she would play table tennis and meet other young people. She liked listening to pop music, especially The Beatles, which she never saw live, but she saved up her pocket money to buy their singles for her record pla-

yer. Ms Meixner was a completely different case. As she was often very homesick, she started working in a butcher's shop aged 15, as there was no upper school in Deutschlandsberg and she didn't want to stay in Graz and be separated from her family for too long. In our conversation she told me, that the 60s were some of the worst years in her life, as work at the shop was extremely hard and she did not enjoy it at all. She never told her parents this, as her family had six children and she noticed that it was a relief for her father to know that he had a daughter who earned her own money - one child less to pay for. She also got the meat cheaper, which was good for the family, as meat was quite expensive. In her free time, she would go to the KAJ, Katholische Arbeiter Jugend, where she would meet other young people with jobs. She also

Emily Meixner's  
great aunt, Gertrud  
Meixner/Austria

... PEOPLE NOWADAYS ARE  
A LOT MORE STRESSED  
AND... [HOPFULLY] ...  
PEOPLE WILL LEARN TO  
HAVE MORE TIME FOR  
EACH OTHER AGAIN.



enjoyed skiing and doing gymnastics. As for music, Ms Meixner used to listen to Elvis Presley, her first single was one of his, but she also enjoyed classical music like Mozart and idolized the conductor Herbert von Karajan.

Asking them what has changed between then and now, both replied that technology was a major change, Ms Meixner also added, that people nowadays are a lot more stressed and that she hopes that people will learn to have more time for each other again.

My last question was “If you could travel back in time to the 1960s what would you do and where would you go?”, this question seemed to be quite difficult, as both women needed some time to think about an answer. After a while Ms Meixner told me, that she would go to a ski race to watch Tony Sailer and went on to tell me about how she had once secretly read a book about him, that was already wrapped and was supposed to be a Christmas present, front to back

and then secretly wrapped it again without telling her parents. Mrs Barley thought for a short while as well before saying “I think I would go back home and have Sunday dinner with my mum, dad, brothers and sister! It would be nice to sit together again, as three of them aren’t here anymore.”

Interviewing these two women, not only gave me a glimpse of what the 1960s were like, but also gave me the opportunity to learn more about their personal lives and a bit of my family’s history as well. I would like to give a special thanks to Mrs June Barley and Ms Gertrud Meixner for sharing their time with me and answering all of my questions so patiently. Thanks to their honest and detailed answers, this project turned from a school assignment into an interesting exploration of my family’s lives.



# Zoe Morris

Zoe Morris'  
grandmother Sarah  
K. Morris/England

HIPPIES? ... I DID THINK  
THAT THEIR IDEAS WERE  
GOOD AND I LIKED TO  
THINK THAT WAY AS WELL,  
BUT IT DIDN'T INFLUENCE  
MY ACTIONS AND I  
DIDN'T GO TO FESTIVALS  
AND I WASN'T PART OF  
ANY HIPPIE COMMUNITY.

I chose to interview my Granny for this assignment. My Granny, Sarah Kathleen Morris, was born in 1946 and grew up in Yorkshire (North England). During the 1960's she was at school in Lancashire and then stayed in the north of England to work and go to college. Here are my questions and her answers.

*ZOE MORRIS: How did the music change in the 60's and what are some of the popular bands/artists from the 60's?*

GRANNY: Elvis Presley and Cliff Richard were very famous pop singers in the late 50's and 60's, I think the biggest change was that there were so many good groups

that became popular, some of which still play today (The Rolling Stones for example). Other popular bands were The Who, The Kinks and The Beatles.

*ZOE MORRIS: Did the Hippie ideology influence you?*

GRANNY: I did think that their ideas were good and I liked to think that way as well, but it didn't influence my actions and I didn't go to festivals and I wasn't part of any hippie community. (the hippie community wasn't very strong in the north of England...)

*ZOE MORRIS: If you could bring back something from the 60's what would it be?*





GRANNY: The idea of peace, happiness, no war and less aggressiveness. I think that nowadays many people think that war\force is the solution.

ZOE MORRIS: *Did the 60's influence the way you raised your children?*

GRANNY: Yes, I think I gave them a bit more freedom and wasn't as strict. What was nice is that they enjoyed the music of the 60's like I did, so we could listen to that together.

ZOE MORRIS: *How did your parents react to the 1960's?*

GRANNY: Disapprovingly. The war was still very recent and they thought it was the right thing. They couldn't understand the 60's. But they did let me listen to the music although they didn't like it.

I really enjoyed interviewing my Granny and thought it was very interesting to hear all the things she told me. She also told me a funny quote about the 60's. "If you can remember the 60's, you weren't really there."



# Leonie Moser

Leonie Moser's  
grandmother  
Tamara /Russia



Foto: Privat

YES, I LOOKED UP TO  
VALENTINA TERESHKOVA  
AND JURIJ GAGARIN,  
HE WAS THE FIRST  
MAN IN SPACE AND SHE  
THE FIRST WOMEN.

For my interview I asked my grandmother Tamara some questions. She lives in Russia, in St.Petersburg and is 80 years old.

*LEONIE MOSER: What is the first thing you remember about the 60s?*

GRANDMOTHER: I remember a lot because the 60's were a really great time for me. I finished university, became a teacher, traveled a lot within Russia and met my husband.

*LEONIE MOSER: Where exactly did you live at this time?*

GRANDMOTHER: During these years I lived in Leningrad (now called St.Petersburg), but then I moved to Poland for a couple of years.

*LEONIE MOSER: What was your job in the 60s?*

GRANDMOTHER: I worked as a biology and geography teacher at a high school in Leningrad. Then we moved to Poland where I taught the children of Russian soldiers stationed in Poland.

*LEONIE MOSER: What did you do in your free time?*

GRANDMOTHER: In my free time I loved to visit museums and exhibitions. I also liked to dance and meet up with friends.

*LEONIE MOSER: What was the fashion like in the 60s?*

GRANDMOTHER: The boys wore trousers with shirts, like today but we didn't have any jeans. The girls wore short skirts or dresses



with high heels. We only put a little make up on and always discretely but we dyed our hair.

*LEONIE MOSER: Do you remember the cold war and if so what are your memories?*

GRANDMOTHER: It was a complicated period between USA and Soviet Union. In the Soviet Union new weapons were constantly being made and people thought that the

USA wanted to attack them. Still everybody wanted peace so there was one song about peace that was played and sung everywhere, in schools, the radio, at work or in churches.

*LEONIE MOSER: Was there a "Hippie movement" in the city?*

GRANDMOTHER: No there wasn't a so called hippie movement, only a few loners who wore their hair long

Foto: Privat



and dressed a little bit like hippies.

*LEONIE MOSER: What was your favorite music at this time?*

GRANDMOTHER: I listened to classical music, jazz and to Soviet pop music. I didn't listen to the Beatles, even though I knew they were very famous.

*LEONIE MOSER: What was the situation/position of women in the Soviet society? Was there a segregation at school or at work?*

GRANDMOTHER: Girls and women were treated very well and we had many rights. For example women

also flew into space, not just men. At school or at work we were not segregated. I had many friends who were boys and it didn't bother anyone.

*LEONIE MOSER: Did you have a role model/ idol in the 60s?*

GRANDMOTHER: Yes, I looked up to Valentina Tereshkova and Jurij Gagarin, he was the first man in space and she the first women.

*LEONIE MOSER: My last question is, was there anything you didn't like about the 60s?*

GRANDMOTHER: No, the 60s were great! I had many friends and a lot of fun. I just loved them!



# Carolina Müller

Foto: Privat



Carolina Müller's  
grandmother Rita  
Müller / Austria

... YOU WERE BASICALLY  
CONSIDERED AN ADULT  
AS SOON AS YOU  
WERE FOURTEEN

For this Interview I interviewed Rita Müller, born 1946 Vorarlberg. I asked her questions about the 60s in Austria and more specifically Vorarlberg.

One of the first things I asked was whether she thought the 60s were different in Vorarlberg than in the rest of Austria. According to her, it wasn't very different. Back then she already knew someone from Styria who told her about life in Styria. She did mention though, that she had the feeling that in Vorarlberg they didn't really know much about what was going on in the world at that time. It surprised me

that she never mentioned anything about for example John F. Kennedy or generally anything not local. The only international thing she mentioned was the constant fear of a nuclear war. Rita said that it was a big topic and the people talked a lot about it. What frightened them the most was that the presidents just had to press a button and thousands of people would die and there would be huge destruction. Another thing causing fear was an avalanche accident in the 1950s which killed many people and was a very important topic in Vorarlberg. When I asked her about what first comes to her mind when she hears 'the 60s' she quickly answered 'work'. At the beginning of



the 60s she was fourteen and just started working as something like a nanny for a family. She said that at that time you were basically considered an adult as soon as you were fourteen. You actually didn't have a choice and children often didn't get the parental support or attention they would have needed. Back then families were bigger, it was the time directly after the war and parents had to work hard to survive. They were happy when a child could start working, leave the house and provide some money. It just made everything a lot easier. Rita knows how much work that was for her parents and she repeated several times how lucky she was with her family and how much she loves them. As already mentioned she started working at fourteen. Before that she went to school.

What was also interesting to learn about was that school was much longer. They even had school on Saturdays, but she still said that she thinks students have way to much stress nowadays, a lot more than in the past. She mentioned

that there was a lot less pressure on the students. What I think was really interesting is that schools had students of both genders but in the classes they were split. Most women dropped out after Middle School and then started working. They didn't continue studying because they needed to provide their families with money.

A funny thing I found out about Rita was that she was always very creative with her hair. It was always important to her to have clean, but also unique hair. 'Mit meinen Frisuren hatte ich immer einen Vogel' Quote by Rita Müller. For clothing women usually wore dresses or skirts. It was very important to have a clean and nice appearance. Generally Rita wore what her mom made for her. In schools they would sometimes also wear aprons to keep their dresses clean.

During Rita's free time she would play a traditional card game from Vorarlberg with her whole family and she would do track and field athletics. She even took part in two





Foto: Privat

tournaments and got a pretty good score on both of them. Rita and her sisters would've loved to go ice skating or skiing, but only their brothers were allowed to do so. I couldn't find out why, but I assume it had something to do with the family's financial situation and maybe also the society of that time. But Rita, her sisters and her friends played ball games instead. They mainly listened to Schlager from Austria and whatever came on the radio.

When I asked about changes since then she quickly replied that people have more freedom nowadays. We have so many possibilities and options. But Rita also said that people had less fears back then and people treated each other with more respect and were thankful for what they had. There were positive and negative changes.

A topic that I found very interesting was politics. In the 60s you usually voted for whoever your parents voted for. You basically kept voting for the same party every time without actually questioning it. Another interesting thing she said was about the political parties back then "Mein Nachbar war ja FPÖ Wähler. Die FPÖ war damals nicht so wie jetzt, sie war einfach irgendwie... humaner" – The FPÖ was different back then from nowadays, it was just somehow... more humane.

Tradition and culture was more important in the 60s and people regularly went to church and also



participated. They joined clubs like the choir and really invested in the church. It was an important part of their life and that we have lost that nowadays. Also people were a lot more open. They talked to each other, people of a local community just knew each other.

Another difference from the 60s is that people take their life for granted. We want more and more and lose this thankfulness and awareness for everything we already have.

The last question was what Rita Müller would do if she could travel back in time to the 60s. Her answer was that she would graduate.

She regrets that she didn't continue education after school and that she never got something like a certificate. Back then it didn't bother her but now she would like to have some kind of further education.

Interviewing Rita Müller gave me a little insight into life in the 60s and I found out a lot about my grandmother, that I didn't know before. What I found really shocking is that people started working at such a young age. At this point I want to thank my grandmother Rita Müller for agreeing to do this interview and sharing such personal information.



Foto: Fortepan / A R



# Nadia Pitzer

Nadia Pitzer's  
grandmother

BACK THEN IT WASN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO WEAR MAKE UP. EVERY TIME I WOULD TAKE THE MAKE UP OF MY MOTHER, MY SISTER WOULD SQUEAL ON ME. I KNOW THAT THE 60IES WERE THE HIPPIE TIMES, BUT I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE HIPPIE TIME CAME IN 1970.

NADIA PITZER: *Hi grandma. How are you?*

GRANDMA: Oh I'm fine thank you. How are you?

NADIA PITZER: *I'm fine too, thanks for asking. So our teacher asked us to interview someone who can tell us something about 1960. Is it okay if I ask you some questions?*

GRANDMA: Yes of course. I hope I can remember enough.

NADIA PITZER: *I'm sure you can. So.... my first question is: How did your parents raise you? Were you allowed to do the same things as we can?*

GRANDMA: Oh no, no, no. Usually all parents were really strict. They were also very conservative. Nowadays for example it's okay

to get pregnant by someone who is not your husband. Of course it's not the best thing to do, but it is not a big deal if it happens. But back then it was unimaginable to have a child with someone who was not your husband. This would be a big scandal because it was very important what other people thought about your family. We couldn't even go to parties with boys or go out with them, as it is common nowadays among young people. Actually this reminds me of a story: one day me and my friends went swimming with some boys. Of course we fooled around and one boy took me over his shoulder and threw me in the water. But I hit my chin so hard that I had to



show it to my parents. Instead of having sympathy for me, I got slapped in the face for swimming with the boys.

*NADIA PITZER: Oh I'm sorry...*

GRANDMA: Don't be. This was normal. Back then it wasn't even allowed to wear make up. Every time I would take my mother's make-up, my sister would squeal on me. I know that the 60ies were the hippie times, but I have the feeling that the hippie time came in 1970.

*NADIA PITZER: Okay I can imagine how it was. Was the whole society so conservative? Was it a problem to have another sexuality or another skin colour? Or was the society as accepting as today?*

GRANDMA: To be honest, homosexual people would always keep it secret. No one really outed themselves in public. And of course there was racism, but not more than now.

*NADIA PITZER: Very interesting. How did you spend your holidays? I know that you travelled a lot in the past few years,*

*but did you always travel that much?*

GRANDMA: No, we didn't have the money. No one could afford to travel anywhere. And it was not only a problem during the holidays, but most people could not afford a car or a television or a microwave. These were all luxury goods. We even had to save money while buying clothes.

*NADIA PITZER: Oh really? I didn't know that. And what did you do in your free time? You said you had no TV and of course you had no cell phone. How*



Foto: forrepan / ERNY-NAGY TIBOR



*did you spend your time?*

GRANDMA: You have to imagine that we had to write letters to communicate with each other. During the week I often read a book or I listened to the radio. I can still remember that when I was in boarding school, me and my roommates would always stay up until 10 p.m. and listen to the dancing music that played on the radio. But we had to be very quiet, as it was forbidden to stay up that late. However, it did not stop us from dancing silently in our room. And on the week ends we always went to our little disco. We loved to party.

NADIA PITZER: *Okay. And what about crime? I mean now it's a little bit dangerous to go out at night. Were you afraid to go out when it was dark?*

GRANDMA: No we didn't even think about it. This was never a problem. Of course it was not allowed for little kids to go into the woods but

we never had problems with criminals that could be outside. The only thing that could happen was that maybe there were drunk people, going home from a party but not more...

NADIA PITZER: *Would you say that it was better back then or do you think it's better now?*

GRANDMA: I can't really tell you which decade was better. Some things were better then and some things are better now.

NADIA PITZER: *Okay thank you grandma. This was very interesting. Thank you for your time.*

GRANDMA: Of course. I hope I could help you.

NADIA PITZER: *You sure could. Bye.*

GRANDMA: Have a nice evening, darling.



# Iva Puljić

Iva Puljić's  
grandmother  
Darinka Puljić /  
Croatia



Foto: Privat

WHEN I WAS AT THE SATURDAY PARTY, WHICH WAS AT THE TOP OF A SKYSCRAPER, THE PRESIDENT OF YUGOSLAVIA "JOSIP BROZ TITO" HAS UNEXPECTEDLY JOINED THE PARTY IN COMPANY OF VLADIMIR BAKARIĆ. ... TITO AND BAKARIĆ WERE THERE FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. ... LUCKILY, I WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ALREADY IN THERE, SO I GOT TO SEE THEM!

Darinka Puljić, my grandmother, was born in 1941 in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, nowadays, it is the capital city of Croatia. She grew up in an apartment, in the center of Zagreb with her parents and her older sister. At 17 years old, she started working in a company, where she continued to work for the next 25 years. At the age of 21 she met my grandfather at a dance party. They immediately fell in love and got married 18 months later. In 1965 they had their first child (my uncle) and then seven years later, they welcomed my father.

*IVA PULJIĆ: What is the first thing that comes up to your mind when you think of the 60s? Would you say that life was*

*better back then?*

GRANDMOTHER: What comes to my mind are first loves, having fun with friends and spending the summer on an island of Hvar with my cousin. We used to spend all day at the beach, practicing our diving skills, looking for the nicest shells in the sea and competing who could hold their breath underwater the longest. Back then I wasn't into politics. The only thing that interested me was having fun after work.

Regarding the lifestyle, I wouldn't say it was any better than nowadays. I feel like the only reason why older people think life back then was better is because they were young, had plenty of things to do and only looked on the bright side of



life. When you become old, it tends to get pretty boring if you don't stay fit and find stuff to do that are appropriate for your age.

*IVA PULJIC: What is the biggest difference between the 60s and today?*

GRANDMOTHER: People lived a much slower lifestyle, were for the most part very relaxed and ate healthier food. We younger ones used to show much more respect to the older generation than people nowadays. And yes, there were hardly any divorces. Obviously, we married people had our ups and downs, but we knew how to get through them and wouldn't quit so easily. It makes me really sad to see how, nowadays people give up pretty easily.

*IVA PULJIC: What kind of music did you listen to?*

GRANDMOTHER: My friends and I listened to "The Rolling Stones", "Bonnie M", "The Beatles", Elvis Presley, Ivo Robić and Arsen Dedić. I still keep some phonograph records in my living room. My parents didn't really approve of the music I liked. In their company

I only listened to local music. When they would leave, I would listen to foreign songs.

At dance parties (so called "plesnjak") we mostly listened to Yu music, and it was so much fun. Every party ended at 22 o'clock with the song "laku noć želim ti draga" (I wish you goodnight, my dear). After the song ended the lights would turn off and everyone would slowly go home. It was magical!

*IVA PULJIC: What was the most exciting thing that has happened to you in the 60s?*

GRANDMOTHER: When I was at the Saturday party, which was at the top of a skyscraper, the president of Yugoslavia "Josip Broz Tito" unexpectedly joined the party in company of Vladimir Bakarić. Everyone was so excited and surprised! Tito and Bakarić were



Foto: Privat

My grandparents on their honeymoon in Slovenia



there for about an hour. No one was allowed to enter. Luckily, I was one of the people who was already in there, so I got to see them! I was so excited! I came home an hour and a half too late, and was really scared of what my parents would say. At first, when I told them what happened they didn't believe me and were mad that I didn't come home on time, but when I finally convinced them, they wanted to hear everything about it and were not mad at all.

*IVA PULJIĆ: How was Tito perceived by people?*

GRANDMOTHER: Everyone really loved and admired him. You could never hear anyone say anything bad about Tito.

*IVA PULJIĆ: Were you aware of the war in Vietnam?*

GRANDMOTHER: Yes. Everyone read about it in the newspaper or heard about it on the radio. Many athletes refused to go to war. I remember that, when it just happened, everyone was talking about it.

*IVA PULJIĆ: Have you heard of Wood-*

*stock and how developed was hippyculture in Yugoslavia?*

GRANDMOTHER: No, I haven't. No one really did. I found out about Woodstock maybe two or three years ago when I was reading an article in the newspaper. Concerning the hippies, there were not actually that many of them in Zagreb. Maybe just a few, and everybody knew those people because they stood out as different from everybody else. They were mostly considered dirty and misbehaved people. Some people would even call them names like homeless or long haired freaks.

*IVA PULJIĆ: If you could bring back one thing from the 60s, materialistic or nonmaterialistic, what would it be?*

GRANDMOTHER: I would bring back my parents and my sister. We were all really close and we always got along so well. I would also really want to bring back the appreciation of the family. And I would want the people to be aware of the fact that family is the only thing that matters in life, the most important thing in life, and that it should always come first.



# Nandor Reininshaus

Nandor Reininghaus'  
grandparents  
Helmut and Grete  
Meisl /Österreich

AUSTRIA WAS FREE  
SINCE 1955. YOU  
COULD TRAVEL WITH  
OUT ANY IDENTIFICATION  
WITHIN AUSTRIA. PEOPLE  
HAD JOBS AND COULD  
LIVE IN WEALTH.

Today I'm sitting here with my grandparents Helmut and Grete Meisl who volunteered to help me with my questions about the 1960's. We have recently talked about the 1960's in our English classes but I still have some questions and thus I wanted to ask someone who lived during that particular time period.

NANDOR: *So my first question would be: Was this whole Hippie movement also going on in Austria?*

HELMUT & GRETE: No, we think that the Hippie movement in Austria wasn't as widely spread as in the USA.

Nandor: *Ok that's interesting. Was the Vietnam War a daily topic you were faced with or was it just now and then in the news?*

HELMUT & GRETE: No we weren't informed daily about the war in Vietnam but one reason for that is that you can't compare today's spread of news to how it was back then. But when you were at the cinema there was a little News Show before every film started and often there was a little report about the war in Vietnam.

NANDOR: *And how did you feel about technology developing so quickly?*

HELMUT & GRETE: Its true that technology developed very quickly but at a rate we could still keep up with. In the last 10-15 years, technology, in our eyes, has developed even quicker and too fast for us to understand everything.



NANDOR: *Who was your favorite singer back then and why?*

HELMUT & GRETE: There wasn't one specific singer we liked the most but we enjoyed listening to: The Beatles, Bill Haley, Elvis Presley, Pat Boone, The Nilsen Brothers and to Peter Alaxander. We liked them simply because of their texts and melodies.

NANDOR: *For my final question I would*

*like to ask you to summarize the 1960's in 2-3 sentences.*

HELMUT & GRETE: Austria was free since 1955. You could travel without any identification within Austria. People had jobs and were wealthier.

This interview helped me a lot to understand life in the 1960's but especially what life was like in Austria and not just in the USA.



Foto: Peter Kraayvanger / Pixabay



# Alma Rosenmann

Alma Rosenmann's  
grandmother/ Israel

I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN JULY 1961 AND IN OCTOBER I WAS DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY.

WHEN THE WAR BROKE OUT, I LIVED IN EILAT, WHICH IS THE SOUTHERN-MOST CITY IN ISRAEL. EILAT WAS IN DANGER THAT THE EGYPTIANS, JORDANIANS AND IRAQIS WOULD CUT IT OFF FROM ISRAEL AND CONQUER IT.

I WAS ENLISTED TO JOIN THE EMERGENCY CIVIL FORCES. IN ORDER TO PERFORM OUR DUTIES AND SO THAT WE DO NOT JEOPARDIZE THE SMALL CHILDREN IN THE CITY — THEY WERE EVACUATED. I SENT YOUR MOTHER, WHO WAS ONE AND A HALF YEARS OLD, TO MY MOTHER WHO LIVED IN TEL AVIV.

Israel in the 60s. An interview with my grandma

My grandma was born in 1944 in Israel, or as it was known at the time, Palestine. She was born 4 years before Israel was founded. Her father was originally from the Soviet Union and her mother from Poland. Both suffered under great anti-Semitism before coming to Israel. Her father came to Israel as a pioneer, with the dream of building a new land for the Jews, and her mother managed to escape to Israel right before the war broke out, although many of her relatives were assassinated.

*ALMA ROSENMAN: How old were you in the 1960s?*

GRANDMA: I was born in 1944. In the 1960s I was in my twenties.

*ALMA ROSENMAN: Have you been to the IDF?*

GRANDMA: When I was born, the State of Israel was still under the British Mandate.

However, on November 29, 1947 a vote was taken at the United Nations General Assembly on motion #181 that the British Mandate be repealed and its territory would be set up as two states: one Jewish and the other Arab. The proposal was approved.

Following the approval of the proposal, on May 14,



1948, David Ben-Gurion, who became the first Prime Minister, announced the establishment of the State of Israel.

Israel's neighboring Arab states did not approve of the UN decision and attacked the State of Israel, from all fronts, the day after the declaration. This first war was called the War of Independence (the War of Liberation).

The history of the State of Israel is intertwined with the struggle with its neighboring Arab countries that do not accept its existence. Therefore, Israel has a mandatory military service. Each 18-year-old is recruited into the Army for a two-year period – for girls and three years – for boys. I explain this to you so that you understand why I started the 1960s as a soldier.

I graduated from high school in July 1961 and in October I was drafted into the army. I served two years in the Intelligence Corps.

(Though I was not a general) I can give you an example of a comparison that can illustrate the difference

between the army in the sixties to what it is today.

When we had to send a message to another unit, prior to being dispatched it underwent a process of encryption. Then it was sent on punctured films using a machine called a teleprinter (distance printing). The person who received the punctured film would pass it on to the encryption machine which decrypted the material. Obviously, today everything is being done via elaborate computers in much more sophisticated methods.

Going back to the question: how was the army in the 1960s compared to today, the answer is – it



Foto: Fortepan / BAUER SÁNDOR



is completely different, same as everything else in the world. Today wars are being waged using computers, more sophisticated fighter jets and UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) – being navigated from a “cockpit” on the ground, and state of the art weapons. In the 1960s there were tanks, battleships and submarines, but today everything is more elaborate.

*ALMA ROSENMAN: How do you think everyday life in Israel was different from life in America or Europe?*

GRANDMA: By the 1960s, Europe and America had already recovered from World War II and showed momentum in construction and development. The State of Israel started everything from scratch. In 1948, there were approximately 800,00 residents in the country whereas in the 1960s the number of residents increased three-fold, reaching more than 2,400,000 at the end of 1966. Of these, 1,100,000 were Jewish immigrants from all over the world; Jews who saw the country as their homeland. There was still a pioneering spirit stemming from

the desire to establish a homeland for the Jewish people.

There were also many kibbutzim, mainly engaged in agriculture – some that were established before 1948 and those that were established afterwards.

Building a state (government offices, sick funds, hospitals, schools, universities), establishing factories (Dead Sea factories for salt production in the lowest place in the world), taking care of infrastructure (the National Water Carrier), creating new development cities (instead of temporary dwellings) for the newcomers – all while absorbing so many immigrants with different backgrounds, was not easy. People lived rather modestly.

In the 1960s, and especially after the Six-Day War, there was serious development and modernization in the Israeli economy, and since then life in the country has become very similar to life in Europe and the United States.

*ALMA ROSENMAN: How was the politics then in comparison to today?*



GRANDMA: Like all over the world - politics is a very complex issue. Israeli politics is greatly influenced by the political-security situation whereas in European countries, the political division is mainly according to positions on economic-social issues.

In the 1960s, there was still a socialist based atmosphere underlying the concept of the "State". Over the years divisions in the local society split the population and emphasized its complex diversity along the lines of different distinguished tendencies.

Politics today is mainly influenced by the attitude toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (right-wing parties that advocate for settlements, control over Judea and Samaria and greater Israel; they oppose the Oslo Accords that sought to find a peaceful solution to the political situation in the region), while leftist parties advocate for peace with the Palestinians at all cost.

*ALMA ROSENMANN: What important wars happened during the 60s?*

GRANDMA: In the years I served in the army - there was no war. But, in June 1967, after Egypt attacked Israel, a war broke out. It was the Six Day War. (Israel's third war with its surrounding Arab states) Within six days, Israeli forces managed to conquer Sinai and reach the Suez Canal.

When the war broke out, I was living in Eilat, which is the southernmost city in Israel. Eilat was in danger that the Egyptians, Jordanians and Iraqis would cut it off from Israel and conquer it.

I was enlisted to join the emergency civil forces. In order to perform our duties and so as not to jeopardize the small children in the city - they were evacuated. I sent your mother, who was one and a half years old, to my mother (your great grandmother) who lived in Tel Aviv.

My brother who was a fighter pilot participated in the war. On the second day, the Egyptians shot down his plane over a Sinai desert. He used the ejection seat to escape the explosion of the plane and parachuted down. He was captured by



the Egyptians and was a prisoner of war for eight and a half months. He never said anything about that period.

*ALMA ROSENMANN: What do you think is the most important thing to remember about the 1960s in Israel?*

GRANDMA: I personally loved the development of Israeli theater, the local film and entertainment industry. It still preserves the joyous atmosphere of pioneering with the military bands. But they no longer put the heroes of the War of Independence on a pedestal and focus rather on everyday life with a pinch of the Israeli sarcastic humor. The most popular song after the Six

Day War was „Jerusalem of Gold“.

From the point of view of culture, politics, supply of army equipment, juridical laws and regulations, as well as the media and the music - the state has shifted from a Russian-French affiliation to an American one.

One can notice strong political ties with the US instead of Russia and France; military supplies are received from America instead of Russia, the Czech Republic and France; instead of French the tendency is to adopt American-English as a leading language; instead of European-English law, there has been a shift towards American law. Despite the European and English influence, at present there is a strong influence of American culture on style, fashion, developments in music etc.

*ALMA ROSENMANN: Which appliances came into use for the first time in Israel during this period (not necessarily an Israeli make); What devices did you use?*

GRANDMA: First - the telephone. In the early 1960s, most of us had no telephone at home. Applying for a telephone line could take a very



Foto: Fortepan / BAUER SÁNDOR

HABIMA THEATER - NATIONAL THEATRE OF ISRAEL IN TEL AVIV.



long time (even years). When we wanted to call a number in another city – we had to register with the telephone exchange and wait. My parents didn't have a home phone in the 1960s.

Washing machines were a refreshing innovation and I remember sitting in front of the machine and watching the laundry drum circling. Television broadcasting began in 1958 celebrating ten years since the establishment of the State of Israel. There was one channel that operated a few hours a day and transmitted in black and white. Only few people could afford a TV. My parents had no television during those years.

Transistor Radio - I didn't have one.

There were only a very few cars and people used to use public transport - my parents didn't own a car. The „Sabra“ car was introduced - the first one to be made in Israel.

Most of the people lived very modestly and did not care too much to pursue glittering status symbols.

*ALMA ROSENMAN: Which languages were spoken in Israel? Did everyone know Hebrew?*

GRANDMA: We (the „Sabras“ - those born in Israel) spoke Hebrew.

In my time we started learning English as a foreign language in the sixth grade. My parents spoke the languages of their country of origin (Russian and Polish) as well, Yiddish (which is the language spoken by Ashkenazi Jews). However, both of them knew Hebrew when they came to Israel and made sure to use it for speaking, reading and writing in order to become real Israelis. Newcomers' children learned Hebrew very quickly and became their parents' translators.

We heard many languages being spoken around us, according to the country of origin of the new immigrants: German, Russian, Polish, Romanian, French, Arabic, Hungarian, Czech, Spanish, English and certainly other languages as well. Being exposed to so many languages many of us developed an ear for languages and could distinguish between them.



# Elena Schaffer

Elena Schaffers  
Großmutter  
Elisabeth Schaffer/  
Österreich

... DAMALS IST ES HALT  
RECHT BUNT ZUGEGANGEN  
UND NAJA DIE HIPPIES,  
DIE BLUMENKINDER SIE  
GENANNT WORDEN SIND.  
VOR ALLEM DIE AUFFÄL-  
LIGE KLEIDUNG, DIE SIE  
DAMALS GETRAGEN HABEN,  
WAR DAS MARKENZEICHEN  
... UND VIEL RAUCHEN  
WAR HALT AUCH DABEI...

Ich habe meine Großmutter interviewt. Sie heißt Elisabeth Schaffer und ist 70 Jahre alt. Während der 60ziger Jahre war sie 11-21 Jahre alt und hat wie heutzutage immer noch in einem Dorf in der Nähe von Judenburg gelebt.

*ELENA SCHAFFER: Was ist der größte Unterschied zwischen damals und heute?*

GROSSMUTTER: Früher war alles leichter als heute. Das Zusammenleben mit den Nachbarn war viel lustiger und Zusammenhalt war sehr viel vorhanden. Es war wirklich sehr schön. Ich habe in dem Sinn eine sehr schöne Kindheit gehabt, weil damals eigentlich alle Kinder gleich waren, da

man nicht so durchs Alter getrennt war.

*ELENA SCHAFFER: Man bringt ja mit den sechziger Jahren sehr oft die Hippies in Verbindung. Hast du oder ein Familienmitglied den Hippies angehört?*

GROSSMUTTER: Nein, also in meiner Familie nicht. Damals ist es halt recht bunt zugegangen und, naja, die Hippies, die Blumenkinder sie genannt worden sind. Vor allem die auffällige Kleidung, die sie damals getragen haben, war das Markenzeichen der Hippies und das eigentlich alles kunterbunt war. Und viel Rauchen war halt auch dabei und das hat damals in dieser Zeit erst so richtig angefangen.



*Glaubst du, war es eine gute Zeit für Jugendliche oder jüngere Leute erwachsen zu werden?*

GROSSMUTTER: Sehr - Also es war eine sehr, sehr schöne Zeit. Also mir hat nichts gefehlt ... das war wunderschön. Für die damalige Zeit hast du alles gehabt. Eigentlich kannst du es mit heute nicht, vergleichen, aber für mich war es damals eine sehr schöne Jugend und eine schöne Zeit.

*ELENA SCHAFFER: Wie viel hast du generell von irgendwelchen Kriegen mitbekommen?*

GROSSMUTTER: Nicht viel. Der Krieg war vorbei, wie ich auf die Welt gekommen bin und in der Nachkriegszeit ist es Österreich schon gut gegangen und dann hat man hier nicht viel mitbekommen.

*ELENA SCHAFFER: Was für Musik hast du so gehört? Gefiel dir irgendein bestimmten Sänger oder eine Band?*

GROSSMUTTER: Die Beatles haben mir nicht so gefallen. Ich mochte eigentlich eher so Schlagermusik und ich habe auch gerne steirische

Musik gehört und vor allem habe ich auch gern getanzt.

*ELENA SCHAFFER: Was würdest du gern aus den Sechzigern in diese Zeit bringen?*

GROSSMUTTER: Das ganze Rundherum, also das ganze Umfeld, das damals war, hätte ich jetzt gern. Das ist meine Meinung und das sag ich auch immer wieder: Das war die schönste Zeit für mich und ich würde viel, was heute ist, umtauschen und das was vorher war, jetzt herbringen.



Foto: Fortepan / MONA\_PHOTO BY RUBINSTEIN SÁNDOR



# Maria Solhdju

Marias Solhdjus  
Großvater/Berlin,  
Deutschland

1967 WURDE ICH ZUM  
EMPFAANG VOM SCHAH,  
NACH BONN EINGELADEN,  
DA ICH SELBST PERSER  
BIN. KURZ DANACH GAB  
ES VIELE PROTESTE VON  
STUDENTEN GEGEN IHN.

UND 1969 GAB ES DIE  
ERSTE HERZTRANSPLAN-  
TATION IN DEUTSCHLAND,  
WO ICH BETEILIGT WAR.

ES WAR EINE SEHR  
UNRUHIGE STIMMUNG  
UND ICH WOLLTE  
NICHTS MIT DEM OSTEN  
ZU TUN HABEN.

Für dieses Interview über die sechziger Jahre habe ich meinen Opa interviewt, der 85 Jahre alt ist. Mein Opa ist im Iran geboren, ist dann aber fürs Studium nach Deutschland gezogen und ist bis heute dortgeblieben.

Ich bedanke mich bei meinem Opa (und meiner Oma) für das Interview und dass sie sich die Zeit genommen haben.

*MARIA SOLHDJU: Was sind die größten Unterschiede zwischen den Sechziger Jahren und heute?*

OPA: Als erstes fällt mir ein, dass früher überall Grenzen waren und viel strenger kontrolliert wurde. (Einmal wollte ich mit einer Freundin von Deutschland nach Salzburg zu einem Konzert fahren, da aber meine

Freundin den Pass vergessen hatte, konnten wir leider nicht zum Konzert fahren).

Und es gab noch keine großen Supermärkte wie Spar oder Hofer, sondern kleine Kaufläden.

Dann das, was offensichtlich ist, dass es noch keine Handys und soziale Medien gab.

*MARIA SOLHDJU: Vermisst du etwas von den sechziger Jahren?*

OPA: Ich vermisse nichts außer meinen jungen Jahren, ich wäre gern in den Achtziger Jahren stehengeblieben.

*MARIA SOLHDJU: Gibt es ein großes Ereignis, welches in den Sechziger Jahren passiert ist?*

OPA: Als erstes fällt mir etwas über die Politik ein:



1968 hat eine Journalistin namens Beate Klarsfeld den Bundeskanzler Kurt Georg Kiesinger, wegen seiner NSDAP Mitgliedschaft geohrfeigt, und dass es viele Proteste von Studenten über den Weltkrieg und alles, was nicht erlaubt war, gab.

Am 21. Juli 1969 war die erste Mondlandung eines Menschen. Zu diesem Anlass habe ich mir meinen ersten schwarz-weiß Fernseher gekauft, so wie viele andere.

1967 wurde ich zum Empfang vom Schah nach Bonn eingeladen, da ich selbst Perser bin. Kurz danach gab es viele Proteste von Studenten gegen ihn.

1967 gab es die erste Herztransplantation auf der Welt in Afrika. Und 1969 gab es die erste Herztransplantation in Deutschland, wo ich beteiligt war. (Die Herztransplantation hat 27 Stunden gedauert)

Außerdem habe ich in den Sechziger Jahren meine eigene Familie gegründet.

*MARIA SOLHDJU: Welche Musik/Band hast du gehört?*

OPA: Wie heute noch immer habe ich in meiner Jugend viel Opernmusik und klassische Musik gehört. In der Zeit waren aber Elvis Presley und die Beatles beliebt.

*MARIA SOLHDJU: Was war dein Lieblingsfach in der Schule?*

OPA: Meine Lieblingsfächer waren Mathematik und Biologie.

*MARIA SOLHDJU: Was haben du bzw. deine Freunde angezogen? Was waren die Trends?*

OPA: Früher habe ich hauptsächlich Stoffhosen, Hemde, Jacken und Anzüge mit Westen getragen. Die Schuhe wurden genäht. Jeans gab es noch nicht und kurze Hosen wurden auch nicht getragen außer ab und zu zum Sport. (Die Frauen mussten immer kurze Röcke tragen außer wenn es zu kalt war, dann durften sie Hosen tragen.)



MARIA SOLHDJU: *Wie hast du das mit der Berliner Mauer mitbekommen?*

OPA: Es war eine sehr unruhige Stimmung und ich wollte nichts mit

OPA: Ich habe 5 Jahre bei einer Familie in einem 18 m<sup>2</sup> großen Zimmer gewohnt. Ich hatte ein eigenes Bett, einen Schrank, Kachelofen

und einen Tauchsieder. Das Badezimmer musste ich mit der Familie teilen. Früher waren eigene Wohnungen und Studentenwohnungen nicht üblich.

Foto: Fortepan / NAGY GYULA



dem Osten zu tun haben. Ich und mein Bruder sind einmal in den Osten gefahren, um Essen zu gehen. Zuerst mussten wir uns lange dafür anstellen und dann wurden wir nach unserem Pass gefragt, und da wir aus dem Westen kamen, haben wir kein Essen bekommen.

MARIA SOLHDJU: *Wo und wann hast du in den Sechziger Jahren als Student gewohnt.*

*Sechziger Jahren mitbekommen?*

OPA: Es gab die Gleichberechtigung zwischen Frauen und Männer und Frauen mussten noch keine Kopftücher tragen. Und es gab weniger Konflikte mit Juden und Christen. Es war sehr friedlich und es gab keinen Krieg.



# Luisa Steiner

Luisa Steiner's  
grandparents/  
Germany

THE GIRLS ALSO STARTED  
TO WEAR MINI-SKIRTS  
AND CUT THEIR HAIR  
AS SHORT AS THE BOYS  
NORMALLY DID WHILE  
THE BOYS BEGAN TO  
GROW THEIR HAIR LONG.

I interviewed my grandpa-  
rents about the 60s and I  
hope that you will find it as  
interesting as I do.

A = Ama (My grandmother)

O = Opi (My grandfather)

*LUISA STEINER: How old  
were you when the 60s started?*

Ama/Opi: In 1965 we were  
about 17 years old

*LUISA STEINER: Great, that  
is the perfect age ;) I'm sure you  
have a lot of interesting and  
exciting memories to share. The  
second question is: What was  
modern at that time? What was  
new and what did change?*

A/O: Especially young girls  
started wearing trousers and  
jeans more and more. That  
was uncommon before that

time and young people started  
to wear them as a kind of  
revolution to protest against  
their parents. They used this  
because the trousers were  
considered male and as wor-  
king clothes and girls usually  
never wore them. Girls also  
started to wear mini-skirts  
and cut their hair as short as  
the boys normally did while  
the boys began to grow  
their hair long. Another  
thing that changed com-  
pletely was opinions on sex.  
People started to have one  
night stands and they saw a  
kind of freedom in not ha-  
ving to have a relationship  
and be married to be able  
to sleep with one another.  
This was called "Free Love"  
even though people often  
took it to far. They behaved  
like animals and ran around



naked. We must tell you that there were fewer sexual diseases. The music changed too and drugs were more widespread and much more people started to buy and consume them. One improvement was that women got more rights.

*LUISA STEINER: Where did you live and how did the cold war affect you?*

A/O: We lived in the western part of Germany, luckily. When the Berlin Wall was built some friends and parts of our families couldn't visit us for Christmas.

A: Sometimes we made packages in school that were brought to the Eastern side of Germany because the people there were poorer than we were.

*LUISA STEINER: That was one of the more serious topics at that time. I have another question: Were you a part of the Hippie movement?*

O: Yes, I went with the flow, even though I never stepped over the line. I didn't have sex before I was married, this was important for me

because I was raised in a Christian family. When I was 19 years old Jesus came into my life and wasn't just an unimportant element of my education. Still the hippie movement made it possible for me to express my rebellious soul. I was completely against the Vietnam war and I remember taking part in many demonstrations.

A: I wasn't a good girl. and lived a rather "normal" teenager's life. Of course I sometimes met friends and drank alcohol, but I guess that is just a part of the usual teenage phase ☺

*LUISA STEINER: What do you think of this time of your life?*

O/A: We have only positive memories mostly and are thankful for having these experiences.



# Deniz Topcu

Deniz Topcu's  
grandmother/Turkey

... WE GREW EVERYTHING  
WE ATE IN THE GARDEN

... WE CAUGHT  
FRESH TROUT FROM  
A RIVER NEAR OUR  
HOUSE AND IT TASTED  
ABSOLUTELY AMAZING.

I interviewed my grandma (born 1948 December) who lives in Turkey over the phone:

*DENİZ TOPCU: What in your opinions were the events most representative of the 1960s that you experienced or heard about?*

GRANDMA: I heard in the beginning of the decade that there was a military coup in Turkey (1961) and later I read in the newspaper that Americans landed on the moon.

I was going to school in the 60s and became a teacher towards the end of the decade in a town near Erzurum, we learned about the news in newspapers and on radio but I didn't personally experience any major events.

*DENİZ TOPCU: How much did the town you lived in change since the 60s and how did you like the government?*

GRANDMA: The town I lived in got a little bigger in size and population but it was safer and there was more freedom in the country. Now there are more religious people and more women cover their heads. Also people grew their own food and they still do but also buy a lot from markets.

*DENİZ TOPCU: What were common things to do in 60s that aren't done anymore?*

GRANDMA: We grew everything we ate in the garden and there were more celebrations (such as Turkish Independence Day, which isn't celebrated that much



now because of the religious conservative president).

*DENİZ TOPCU: What was your favorite food to eat in the 60s?*



Foto: Privat

MANTI, DOUGH FILLED WITH LAMB OR BEEF

GRANDMA: I loved lahana dolma and mantı my mom cooked, made from ingredients grown in our garden, I also liked kabak tatlısı for dessert. We caught fresh trout from a river near our house and it tasted



Foto: Privat

LAHANA DOLMASI, CABBAGE FILLED WITH LAMB, BULGUR OR RICE

absolutely amazing.

*DENİZ TOPCU: What music did you listen to?*

GRANDMA: My dad played Saz at home and we listened to folk music and other music on the radio but I don't remember any names of the musicians.



Foto: Privat

SAZ, A STRINGED INSTRUMENT

*DENİZ TOPCU: Grandma, did anyone you know go to war?*

GRANDMA: My grandpa and his brothers went to WWI (we don't know where).

*DENİZ TOPCU: Grandpa, did anyone you know go to war?*

GRANDPA: My uncles went to WWI but they never returned"



# Isabel Walcher

Isabel Walcher's  
grandmother Christine  
Vallant/Österreich

I WOULD WEAR MINISKIRTS  
ALL YEAR ROUND AND IN  
THE WINTER MY POOR  
KNEES WERE ALWAYS RED  
BECAUSE THEY WERE SO  
COLD. IN MY LATE TEENS  
I BEGAN WEARING TIGHTS,  
BUT I WOULD TAKE  
THEM OFF AS SOON AS I  
HAD MADE IT INDOORS.

While I've spent a substantial amount of time with my grandma throughout my early childhood as well as within these past few years, this brief interview, or rather an eight and a half minute phone call revealed that I knew significantly less about her past than I thought I did. Consequently I've learned that there's so much I still need to ask.

My grandma, Christine Vallant nee Sajovitz was born and raised on a small farm in the rural Carinthian town of Wolfsberg. She married my grandfather, and moved to his family's farm just a few miles down the road in 1971, where they raised my mom and her two sisters. She was 14 to 24 years old during the 60s.

I began by asking her about the fashion of that decade. Her response was short and concise "Mini", she said with a chuckle. She continued saying that everything any girl ever wore was short and thin, regardless of whether or not this was weather appropriate. "I would wear miniskirts all year round and in the winter my poor knees



Foto: Privat



were always red because they were so cold. In my late teens I began wearing tights, but I would take them off as soon as I had made it indoors.” This genuinely surprised me, because today I know her as a very practical person that deprioritizes fashion.

I then asked her about her school. She attended an all-girl boarding school that specialized in agriculture and the household, the characteristics of which bore many resemblances to those of today. I only noted a few differences in terms of strictness and the amount of free time she was given. She also said that she had very few English classes that were very leniently graded.

It wasn't until I asked her what kind of music she listened to at the time that I first noticed any sign of American influences. Along with Austrian Schlager and folk songs, Elvis Presley's music was very popular. Upon hearing Elvis' name, I was curious to know if American pop culture had any influence on her life

at all. “Not really”, she said. “I do, however, remember the day John F. Kennedy was murdered. The entire school crowded our only television. It was quite dramatic”.

Finally, I asked if there was anything that she missed, to which she replied that while things are very different today from how they were way back then, life has always been good. She didn't grow up surrounded by technology - she received her first radio as a birthday present when she turned 21 - but she enjoyed her youth nonetheless. “Es woa net so schnellebig ova es woa trotzdem schen.”

In conclusion, America's influences didn't reach rural Austria, despite its power and thriving economy. While people didn't have much back then compared to the resources available to us now, they were content all the same. We should all take the time to sit down with our dear ones and learn about their stories. There's a myriad of stories and experiences to be heard so grasp the opportunities before they pass.



# Lucas Walcher

Lucas Walchers  
Großmutter  
Christine Vallant/  
Österreich

ALSO AM ANFANG HAT  
MAN SICH EIN BISSCHEN  
GEWUNDERT, DASS  
DIE MÄNNER AUCH  
LANGE HAARE HATTEN,  
ABER DANN HAT MAN  
GESAGT, WENN SIE SCHÖN  
GEPFLEGT SIND, SCHAUT  
ES AUCH GUT AUS.



Foto: Privat

*LUCAS WALCHER: Gab es besondere weltpolitische Ereignisse, die dich beeinflusst haben?*

Eigentlich nicht, nein. Ich kann mich gar nicht erinnern, dass irgendwas Besonderes gewesen wäre, es ist wohl auch schon so lang her.

*LUCAS WALCHER: Gab es in Wolfsberg eine große Hippie-Szene?*

In Wolfsberg eigentlich nicht, es ist ja eine eher kleine und auch eine ländliche Stadt und dadurch, da ich nicht viel daheim war, habe ich auch nicht so viel davon mitbekommen. Aber Klagenfurt da „auf“, da hat es das schon gegeben, aber bei uns selber gab es das nicht.

*LUCAS WALCHER: Was war die Einstellung zu Männern mit langen Haaren?*

Also am Anfang hat man sich ein bisschen gewundert, dass die Männer auch lange Haare hatten, aber dann hat man gesagt, wenn sie schön gepflegt sind, schaut es auch gut aus. Also man hat sich nicht „weiß ich wie darüber“ aufgeregt.

*LUCAS WALCHER: Haben der Eiserne Vorhang bzw. die Abschottung vom Ostblock dich oder deine Bekannten irgendwie beeinflusst?*

Also wie soll ich es sagen, in der Schule war das Politische gar nicht so im Vordergrund. Man hat davon gehört und dann direkt wieder weggeschoben, weil es dich persönlich nicht betroffen hat und es damals im Verhältnis alles weiter weg war.



*LUCAS WALCHER: Wusstest du damals viel von den großen Ereignissen wie dem Vietnam-Krieg oder die Kuba Krise?*

Eigentlich nicht, man hat damals nur ein bisschen davon gehört.

*LUCAS WALCHER: Und wie hast du damals davon gehört?*

Ich habe mich durchs Radio informiert. Fernsehen haben wir auch gehabt, aber dadurch, dass so viele Schülerinnen waren und es nur ein Fernseher in einem kleinen Raum gab, sind dann auch nur die zum Fernseher gegangen, die es echt interessiert hat. Und so steckte man es weg und vergass dann auch drauf, weil es einen halt nicht betroffen hat.

*LUCAS WALCHER: Waren Rockbands, wie die Beatles oder die Rolling Stones, in deinem Umkreis beliebt?*

Sehr beliebt!

*LUCAS WALCHER: Echt?*

Ja. Auch die Songs, früher hat man Lieder gesagt, haben einem gut gefallen und die hört man auch heute ja noch immer. Natürlich haben wir

damals auch die Schlager gehört, die damals „in“ waren. Rex Gildo, Udo Jürgens, Peter Alexander, so wie Peter Krauss und Conny waren bekannt. Heute kann man diese Lieder noch immer gerne hören, aber manche Lieder hört man nicht mehr so gerne. Beatles waren schon sehr bekannt.

*LUCAS WALCHER: Wie war das Internatsleben in den Sechzigern?*

Das kann mit dem heutigen Internatsleben nicht verglichen werden. Also mit 16 Jahren bin ich ins Internat gekommen. Wie hat sei geheißen? Landwirtschaftliche... schau jetzt fällt es mir selber gar nicht ein. Wird mir schon wieder einfallen, wie sie geheißen hat. Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für hauswirtschaftliche Frauenberufe, so ähnlich hat sie geheißen. Aber ganz genau kann ich es dann nachher sagen, wie sie geheißen hat. Jetzt heißt sie ja ein bisschen anders, aber Pitzelstätten heißt sie noch immer.

Ich war also vier Jahre in Pitzelstätten und ein Jahr in Wien in der pädagogischen Anstalt und habe



dort eine pädagogische Ausbildung bekommen.

Im 1. und 2. Jahrgang waren fünf Mädchen in einem Zimmer und im 3. Jahrgang mussten sich drei Mädchen ein Zimmer teilen. Es war sehr streng, denn wir hatten nur einmal in Monat nach Hause fahren dürfen und einmal in der Woche, Donnerstag nachmittags, durften wir in die Stadt (Klagenfurt) gehen. Wenn du außer Haus gegangen bist, musstest du dich ins Ausgangsbuch eintragen und dich abmelden, immer zu zweit, alleine hat man nie hinaus gehen dürfen. Wenn man dann wieder zurück gekommen ist, musste man sich wieder bei der diensthabenden Lehrkraft anmelden. Wir haben auch selbst die Zimmer putzen müssen und es hat abends immer eine Lernstunde gegeben. Da haben wir alle bei Tisch sitzen müssen. Das war von 8:00 Uhr bis 9:00 Uhr und hat Studierstunde geheißen. Für mich persönlich hat das nichts gebracht, weil, wenn so viele Personen bei Tisch saßen, ich mich nicht konzentrieren konnte. Stattdessen sind wir in die Betten

geflüchtet, jeder in sein Bett und haben so gelernt. Wenn die Lehrer nachgeschaut haben, sind wir wieder zum Tisch geflüchtet und haben so getan, als ob wir immer bei Tisch gesessen waren. Natürlich war man nicht immer zufrieden damit, aber im Nachhinein war das eine schöne Zeit. Man hat lebenslange Freundschaften geschlossen. Man war ja praktisch Tag und Nacht jahrelang zusammen. Natürlich haben die Eltern für das Internat aufkommen müssen. Man hat auch eine Heimbeihilfe bekommen können. Das Essen war auch nicht immer, was jedem schmeckt. Aber es ist uns eigentlich nichts abgegangen.

*LUCAS WALCHER: Was hat man damals gelernt?*

Deutsch, Mathe, Englisch, Geschichte, Geographie und dann die hauswirtschaftlichen Fächer – Nähen, Kochen, Gartenbau, Landwirtschaft und Viehzucht, Hühnerhaltung – alles was mit Landwirtschaft zu tun hat. Das dauerte vier Jahre lang und das 5. Jahr war die pädagogische Ausbildung. Mit diesem



Abschluss hat man als Lehrer in die landwirtschaftliche Fachschule gehen können. Man konnte damit auch als Hauswirtschaftsberaterin in die Landwirtschaftskammer Bäuerinnen beraten.

Vor allem unser Deutschprofessor hat geschaut, dass wir auch in der Literatur und Musik ausgebildet wurden. Er hat uns immer klassische Musik vorgespielt und uns erklärt, was das sei und hat uns auch ermöglicht, dass wir in das Stadttheater gehen konnten. Da sind wir abends mit dem Bus nach Klagenfurt gefahren, haben die Vorstellung besucht und sind dann mit dem Bus wieder nach Hause gefahren. Also das musste man den Deutschprofessor sehr anerkennen, dass er das alles organisiert hat, denn das hat er zusätzlich gemacht. Maschinschreiben und Steno haben wir auch gelernt. Es war eigentlich sehr umfassend.

Wir hatten auch samstags Unterricht. Vormittags hatten wir meist theoretischen Unterricht und nachmittags praktischen Unterricht.

Und dann haben wir auch in den Ferien im 2. Jahrgang ein Monat ein Praktikum in der Schule machen müssen.

Im Winter sind wir Eislaufen gegangen, denn Schuhe konnten ausgeben werden. Ein Schwimmbad hat es dort auch gegeben. Da habe ich mit 17 Jahren Schwimmen gelernt. Aber ins tiefe Wasser habe ich mich schon damals nicht getraut. Es hat keine Schwimmlehrer gegeben, wir haben uns das selbst beigebracht.



Foto: Privat

*LUCAS WALCHER: Hast du die Mondlandung live miterlebt?*

Ja, im Fernsehen haben wir das ge-



sehen. Meine Eltern haben 1961 den Fernseher gekauft. Wir waren damals ziemlich eine der ersten Privathaushalte, die einen Fernseher hatten.

Und natürlich haben wir sehr interessiert zugeschaut, wie der da am Mond herumhüpft. War interessant!

*LUCAS WALCHER: Wie wurde die Ermordung von Präsident Kennedy in deinem Bekanntenkreis aufgenommen? Wurde darüber gesprochen?*

Da war ich noch im Internat. Ja wir waren ganz entsetzt. Das war ein junger, fescher Präsident. Da waren wir alle sehr geschockt. Diese Präsidentenfamilie hat man gekannt. Vor allem, weil sie fesch waren und auch die Frau Jackie, war genauso bekannt wie er. Also das hat uns damals schon sehr mitgenommen.

*LUCAS WALCHER: Wie war die Freizeitgestaltung in den Sechziger-Jahren?*

Im Internat haben wir nicht so viel Freizeit gehabt. In der Schule habe ich sehr viel gelesen vor allem Romane. Wir haben auch Kartenge-

spielt. Zu Hause haben wir in den Ferien nicht viel Freizeit gehabt, da wir den Eltern in der Landwirtschaft geholfen haben. Im Internat konnten wir Tanzen lernen und wir haben auch einige Zeit damit verbracht unsere Führerscheine zu machen. Ins Kino sind wir gegangen und bevor der Film angefangen hat, hat es die „FOX tönende Wochenschau“ gegeben. Das war immer sehr interessant. Brettspiele haben wir auch viele gespielt. Es hat nicht so viele Möglichkeiten wie heute gegeben.

*LUCAS WALCHER: Wenn du etwas von den Sechzigern mitnehmen könntest, was wäre es?*

Eigentlich nichts Materielles. Meine Eltern waren bestrebt, uns Kindern eine Ausbildung zu ermöglichen. Obwohl es finanziell auch nicht immer leicht war. Aber ihre Einstellung war, die Ausbildung sei die beste Mitgift, die man den Kindern geben könne. Und das haben auch wir unseren Kindern ermöglicht.



# Nina Winter

Nina Winter's  
grandmother  
Rudolfine Kutschka/  
Austria

... THE FASHION WAS  
SO GREAT, ALL THOSE  
FANTASTIC SKIRTS, WITH  
MATCHING SHOES, PETTI-  
COATS AND BELTS. SHE  
LAUGHED AND SAID THAT  
SHE THINKS THAT PART  
OF IT IS COMING BACK,  
BECAUSE OF THE SMALL  
WAISTS AND THE BELTS.

I interviewed my grandmother Rudolfine Kutschka about her life in the 60s. She was born in Styria and had to move to Güssing after her marriage in 1960. When my grandmother got married she was only 23 years old. Everything happened really fast for her. She had to leave her home and move to another part of Austria. Her first child, my aunt Claudia, was born one year after the wedding in 1961 and my father followed one and a half years later in 1962.

She told me it was a big difference for her to move from Styria to Güssing, it nearly felt like she had moved to another country. Burgenland didn't have much, It was still recovering from the war and the aftermath.

My grandmother wasn't happy in her new home. She always hoped one day she would move back to Styria, but she stayed in Güssing.

I asked her if there were any political differences between now and then. She had to think about this question for a little bit. She told me that the border to Hungary that existed back then, disturbed her, because she lived right next to it and before it was built she also sometimes visited Hungary with her family, but she said there weren't any conflicts about it or riots. She was ok with the government that was ruling Austria at that time.

One of my questions was about the fashion of the day and the differences between then and now. My



grandmother was very enthusiastic to talk about this. The fashion was so great, all those fantastic skirts, with matching shoes, petticoats and belts. She laughed and said that she thinks that part of it is coming back, because of the small waists and the belts. She continued to talk about the things they used to do when they were younger. She told me that every Wednesday, she and her friends drove to Graz and danced at a Cafe, she called it "5 Uhr Teezeit". It was really popular for her generation. They used to throw a Schilling into a Jukebox and chose a vinyl record and then started dancing to it.

My next question was if there were any cultural differences. She explained that there were many Croatians and Hungarians living in Güssing. She also mentioned that, in Güssing many horse-drawn vehicles were still being used and that most of the people walked instead of taking the car.

When I asked her if she thinks the 60s were a special decade she

repeatedly said that year after year everything started to get better, most of the people were better off, more schools were built, new shops opened and there was a big social recovery. More and more people moved to Burgenland which meant more workmen and the economy started growing. The only thing that hasn't improved and is still an issue in Güssing, is public transport. In the 60s all the trains were shut down, because of the border to Hungary. There were three buses a day to Fürstenfeld and Oberwart. It wasn't easy to get to a bigger city fast.

I asked her if she owned a radio or a TV back then. She immediately confirmed it. It was important to hear the news and to be up to date. They also watched the first moon-landing.

My last question was if she would say that the 60s were better than now. My grandmother replied she wouldn't say it was better, but that people were more relaxed and open.



# Amelie Wolf

Amelie Wolf's  
grandparents/Austria

THEY SAID THAT THEY  
IMMEDIATELY THINK ABOUT  
HOW YOUNG THEY WERE  
AND THAT THEY WERE SO  
MOTIVATED AND DIDN'T  
NEED THAT MUCH SLEEP.

I had learned generally about the 60s in my History and English class but not about what it was like in Austria, especially in Graz. That's why I asked my grandparents some questions. My grandma was born in 1943 and my grandpa in 1940. It was a typical Wednesday and as always I was at my grandparents' house, I asked them some questions after lunch. We sat down in the living room and I started interviewing them about their lives in the 60's.

At first, I wanted to know what was the first thing that came to their mind when thinking about the 60's. They said that they immediately think about how

young they were and that they were so motivated and didn't need that much sleep. I wanted to know if they had changed during the 60's and if yes what was the reason for it? They told me with a bright smile on their face that they married in the 60's to be exact in 1965 and that changed their lives. They also had their three kids. But this wasn't all. They had a different life style, ate less meat and more vegetables and last but not least they told me that after the 60's they started to travel more. Furthermore, I was interested in their every day life and what kind of equipment they had. They told me that in 1968 they built their own house but before that they



lived in a flat. There my grandparents already had a washing mashine, a dish-washer, a black and white TV and a telephone. Then I asked them how they would describe the 60's. They didn't see any hippies in Austria but they knew that they existed. They claimed that it was a great time. It wasn't so different from the other decades.

At last, I wanted to know how they were dressed during the 60's. They told me that the men wore wide trousers. The girls wore hot-pants, mini skirts and generally clothes which had chekered patterns. It was very funny and awe-inspiring to talk with my grandparents

about their past. Finally my grandma said, "it's always a fun time when you are young." I think that time flies by and that we really should focus on the present and do what we really like to do.



