



Bettina Jenkins

I grew up in Nazi Germany. We lived not far from the Baltic Sea and only 40 miles from Poland. When the Russian Army was advancing toward us in 1945, we fled with friends in their covered wagon heading west. My mother and my two sisters and I joined our friend with her three children. Our father stayed behind and died a few days after we left.

For six weeks we lived in a cowbarn with many other refugees. I celebrated my 8th birthday there. But the Russians then were coming there, too, and we fled again.

We went to friends in southern Bavaria. Unfortunately, this friend was killed one night right in front of our eyes by a former POW from Poland. After that, my mother and I lived on another farm in Bavaria in just one room. There were other refugees there also.

My sisters were 7 and 9 years older than I was, and they were able to get jobs. Both of them Eventually married American soldiers and came to the US as war brides. My Mom had Lupus and died in 1949. I was only 11. After my Mom's death, I lived with friends until my oldest sister was able to sponsor me and bring me to the US. I was 15 when I came here and went to High school in Columbus, Ga., and there I met my future husband in a Methodist Church. He was a journalist.

We had three children and moved to Montgomery AL during the civil rights struggle. It was. Great place to be at that time. We loved it. I went to college there and then taught art In a private school. In 1979 Ray went to work for Jimmy Carter in the White House Press Office, and then we came to Baltimore in 1981.

I have written a memoir called BETTINA's TREK about my life in Germany available on Amazon,

And I am an artist and paint mostly Portraits.