

Yellow Bench

Contributed by [caroline](#)

Source: Jonathan Freund

“For Jews Only”

“As you know, by the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, no non-Jew [under 45] But when my mother’s elderly Catholic governess was still with the fam out to Oliverplatz, which was a park near us in Berlin. She had me sit c the park together with her and there was another bench that had been p only. And, of course, they painted it every night so that no one could e remember sitting with my Catholic governess on a bench where a Jew v When people around, or maybe it was only one person, said, ‘Isn’t that allowed to sit on that bench!’ my governess argued and insisted that I w sit on that bench. And I did sit on that bench that day.”



Gerhard (Gerald) Freund & Ernst Georg Freund, with their governess Berlin, 1938



My father’s story about the yellow bench in Germany that was “For Jews Only,” and the non-Jewish nanny who let him sit with her on the non-Jewish bench. We use this as an example of “When we were slaves,” and to compare that to the Jim Crow laws of the Civil Rights era. We also compare my father’s nanny who protected him to Shifra and Puah.