Lucia Heilman has spent the past decade visiting schools and speaking with students throughout Austria about what she went through during the Holocaust. Dr. Heilman receives monthly payments from the Claims Conference Article 2 Fund in recognition of the persecution and suffering she endured.

Lucia Treister was born in 1929 in Vienna as the illegitimate daughter of chemist Regina Treister and Siemens engineer Rudolf Kraus (not Jewish). Her father emigrated to Iran in the hopes of getting Lucia and her mother out of Austria, but he was too late. When the war broke out, he was considered a hostile enemy and was deported to Australia. Reinhold Duschka, Lucia’s father’s best friend, who owned a metal workshop, hid Lucia and her mother in his workshop for four and a half years. With barely enough to eat, the two women lived in fear day in and day out.

After the war, Lucia spent a year in Australia with her father but returned to Vienna. She became a physician, married Alfred Heilman, a Jew from Lviv, and had two daughters.