

My name is Charles Mayer, and my great grandmother was Louise Mayer. Up until recently, my family and I have not known much about my great grandmother. What we believed to be true was only a partial truth of a fascinating story. A story of courage and bravery. Of standing up for what one believes to be right. The kind of story that many times is told in movies. I cannot possibly imagine what it must have been like to live here in Austria during that time, and I pray to God that we will never have to see it again. But I am beyond grateful for those people like my great grandmother who decided to take a stand and resist what they knew to be wrong. Those people are an inspiration to all who hear about their stand. As I was telling my friends in the United States about why I was coming to Austria today, there was not one person who was not awestruck and fascinated by the folks in this group and saddened by the eventual fate of Louise. And while of course I wish that she would have survived the war and that my father and his siblings would have had a chance to get to meet their grandmother and hear firsthand about her experiences, I choose instead to be grateful for the stand that she and the others took regardless of the consequences. I choose to be inspired by their stand and to try my best to live up to their examples and stand for what I believe to be right regardless of what the public perceives as a popular. And I am beyond grateful for you all for coming to honor Louise. Without the hard work of people like you who I trust feel the same way as I do, this ceremony would never have happened. And also thank you to Elisabeth Pozzi-Thanner for reaching out to my father to tell him about the true history of Louise and to tell him of this ceremony so that I could come be with you all today.