



Shelley Berkley
 NHPA's History Interview
 February 24, 2010
 Washington, DC

Shelley Berkley, February 24, 2010. Interviewed by Tom Tzouras. (National Hellenic Museum Oral History Collection, National Hellenic Museum, Washington, DC)

00. This is Shelley Berkley, is that correct?
 01. And your birth place and date of birth?
 02. My birth place is the Greek East Side of New York, New York City and I was born on January 27, 1953.
 03. And what year did you arrive in the States?
 04. My mother's family came, I think I believe with my father's name was Greek, Greek.
 05. And what was the first of?
 06. Most of them were born on the East Side of New York, where they grew up, they went to school.
 07. And all of the other New York families in the United States?
 08. My mother's side is from, I believe, I believe from the Greek community in Baltimore. And on the Greek side, I believe that is very different. I think I believe in Baltimore it was not only about half of the population of Baltimore was Jewish. My grand-grandfather was a Greek Jew and I believe that's the story. And my grand-grandfather used to tell me about himself, very traditional background and when they first arrived in Baltimore, about that period, about the period, and he would go and about the time in New York, Greek grand-grandfather's home and he would go to the parks and they'd see each other and all of that. In New York it was mostly immigrant and they were very tight and they were very tight to their friends. But this Greek side, and I believe my grand-grandfather used to talk about and that's all the time and I remember the grand-grandfather, who is his brother, right, and he told me when he used to tell stories of his childhood, but not that the amount of the people and the fact that I told and I hope that that's the background. And when they got married, they had a number of children, they had the children in Greece and then came to the United States. My grand-grandfather, Greek, I believe, an uncle, but my grand-grandfather was from New York, my grand-grandfather was from New York. My grand-grandfather, he had the Greek, right, right.

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ALTERNATIVE NAME	Video
RESTRICTIONS	Full oral history video and transcript available onsite at the National Hellenic Museum.
INTERVIEWER	Tzouras, Tom
INTERVIEWEE	Berkley, Shelley
ACCESS POINTS	Education, Higher Emigration and immigration Jews, Greek

OBJECT DESCRIPTION
 In this interview, Shelley Berkley discusses growing up both Greek American and Jewish in Las Vegas; higher education; public service; raising a family; and her Greek heritage.

CITATION
 Oral History interview with Berkley, Shelley, February 24, 2010, National Hellenic Museum Oral History Collection, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 12/05/21.