

Hello, my name is Silke Schumacher-Lange,

It all started with a story from my grandmother. At the age of 16, she emigrated to the United States because she and her siblings were suddenly impoverished as orphans. She took a job as a domestic help with a lawyer in Cincinnati and made sure that 3 of her brothers could come to America and find a good job as craftsmen there. In addition, she regularly sent money to Germany so that another brother could study. During a stay at home, she met my grandfather and stayed in Germany. My grandmother only had a primary school education. However, since she was the only person in the small town who could speak English fluently, she was employed as a translator at the courts-martial within the denazification processes after the 2nd World War in the British zone. As a result, she not only had an important position in society, but also a number of perks that my family took good care of.

This story has always fascinated me. It has not yet been written down anywhere, even in a family chronicle about my family, although it is only one example of how women in the background have helped shape society.

I would like to invite you to support me in a special project: I would like to make visible the stories of women who have so far remained hidden. I am looking for women who, through their personal commitment to education and knowledge, through their visions and their commitment, have had and still have considerable influence on social processes without being in the public eye.

Maybe you know such a woman from your family or environment? Or have you heard of a woman whose story should be told? I think it's important that there is a place for these women in society. That's why I want to collect these stories to make them available to theatre and filmmakers, authors and other artists.

If you are interested in participating in this project or to be kept informed about the latest news, register for the newsletter.