

Good afternoon. My name is Francis Farber. And I'm a member of the Kean College Oral Testimonies Project of the Holocaust Resource Center. We are affiliated with the Video Archives for Holocaust Testimonies at the Sterling Library of Yale University. And sharing the interview with me is Phyllis Ziman Tobin, clinical coordinator of the Yale Project in the New York area and associate clinical coordinator at Kean.

And we're privileged to welcome today Pepa Gold, a survivor who is presently living in Hillside, New Jersey and who has generously volunteered to give testimony about her experiences before, during, and after the Holocaust. Welcome, Mrs. Gold. Can you tell us something about your background?

Well, I was born in Buczac. This is Eastern part of Poland. I had my parents. I had four brothers. I was only girl.

And I went to school, the public school, the Hebrew school. And in 1939, when the war started, we were occupied by the Russians till 1941 in June and then with the Germans. When they declared war on Russia, we were occupied by the Germans. And From June '41 until March '44, I was under German occupation.

Were you the youngest child?

No. I had a younger brother.

You were the third?

I was the fourth. Had four brothers. They had five children. I was the fourth.

So you were a schoolgirl when this broke out.

Yes. I was a schoolgirl. I was going to school.

How did you first know that there was trouble, there was danger? What were your first experiences, your first memories?

You saw [INAUDIBLE] on the street. I will tell you a st-- the first day that the Germans came into Auschwitz was summer of '41. We had the house on the second floor. My father was staying-- my father was a man with a beard, you know, a religious man.

And a plane flew by. This was the first day they moved into our town, the Germans came in. And he looked out the window, said, look at the plane.

And a German soldier was walking down the street. And he saw my father, he was running after him. I didn't see-- I-- my father saw the German run, he ran down to the basement.

The German man came into the house-- the German soldier-- and said to my mother in German, Wo ist der Jude? Wir waren die beard fangen because my father had the beard, they wanted to cut the beard.

And my mother and says, very calm, and said, he was here, but I don't know where he went, in German, she said. And he looked around, and he left. This was our first experience. This is just the minute they walked in. But like this, the first they were walking freely on the streets.

How had it been under the Russian occupation?

Normal. Was a paradise compared to what was later under the Germans because we went to school. I mean, maybe we had to stay in line for sugar, for things, for bread, for stuff like that. But like this we're normal. We could go out whenever we wanted. We came to the house whenever we wanted. We went to the movies, we went everything, whatever we wanted, we could do.

And your father was able to carry on his normal--

No, no. This-- no. No. This just when the war broke out, everything stopped. Everything stopped. This was compared to later, this was a good life compared what we had in '41.

And earlier, were your friends--

Yeah.

--the fact that you were Jewish, did that make a difference?

Mostly I had Jewish friends because we were living between Jewish people. And we're going to Hebrew school. We had Jewish friends.

In public school, I had friends non-Jewish. But just at school. Like, privately, [INAUDIBLE] only.

Did you have any experiences in school that made you uncomfortable?

Well, before the war?

Yes.

No. No, I did not.

Were you in school when you began feeling uncomfortable?

No. When the Germans came in, the Jewish kids didn't go to school no more. All, we didn't go no more.

But under the Russians, you did?

Oh, yes. Under Russians, everybody was equal. Any religion was equal. They just didn't practice religion. They didn't-- but everybody was equal.

Did you hear about the story of your father running? Or did you see that?

I saw it myself.

Do you remember how you felt then?

We were all scared. We were all scared. Sure we was.

And then what happened?

After he left, we were all shocked. We were all shocked.

And then what happened?

And then there was a few-- they came-- I don't remember it was in June or July they came in to us. And I lost a brother right in September.

How?

They sent everybody from 18 to 50, all the men had to come to register. First of all, when the Germans came in,

everybody had to go to work. All the boys, the men, had to go to work.

My father was already-- looking back now, he was to also go to work. They didn't call him. But my brother, they did. And one day, he was going-- I don't know what kind of work. They was digging something. I don't know what kind of work. It was without money. You know, they just put them to work.

One day, my brother came home. He ate supper. And they said that-- registered like, two, three days before they announce, they have people from 18 till-- I don't remember it was 45 or 55, I just don't remember now-- to come and register. And my brother came home and ate supper.

And he said, I know they dug holes under certain part out of the city. But I know if I wouldn't go, they're going to come and take you. And he went. And that's it.

Then we heard the shooting later. There was-- they shot them all very early in the morning outside of our town. This was-- I know it, 300 or 400 people.

That was your oldest brother?

This was my next to my oldest. I have my older brother.

And when did things begin to happen to you, personally?

Well, we were living this during-- under the German occupation, we were home. And we were limited. I was the only one that I used to go out to take care of it because we wore armbands.

Yes.

Yeah. And I was blonde. And I was the only one that I was more secure to go out to take care of things like, we used to-- we had to pay the electric bill not in the Jewish section, outside, or I and my mother, mostly, because the men was more dangerous to go out. Then we used to go whatever we had to do. Mostly my mother used to do it. Used to go and take care of everything that we know of.

You came to the post office. I remember I came to the post office, I say, five or six days later, I don't know what I went for the post office for. And there was a sign for Jews and dogs in German not to come in. And this line here was all empty, the windows. And we had to stay in one line.

Things like that, this was the beginning. This is how they started. Or you couldn't walk on the sidewalk. You had to walk in the street.

I'll tell you another nice ending. My father did smoke a lot. And you couldn't get cigarettes, you know. You got the leaves from the farmer, and you were rolling it. And that's how they were smoking.

One day they decided to have cigarettes in the stores. And I went to the store. And the store had not-- [INAUDIBLE] the Jewish people. There was a woman who had the store. And I come into the store, and I said to her, I want to buy cigarettes.

And she knew me. And she knew I'm Jewish. She said, we don't sell to you.

Meanwhile, walks out her daughter from the back of the store. And she looked at me, she went away. Because she was my girlfriend at school.

We were sitting on the bench together. And she walked away. And her mother said, we don't sell to you. And I went out without the cigarettes.

That must've been very painful for you.

You know, you're young, you don't realize. But looking back, it was. Sure it was. Because at 5:00 you had to be indoors. You couldn't go out. You had to have all the window closed, summer 5:00. You had to sit there.

Which compared with later, this was like, nothing wrong. But because later, they had to-- like, my brother was killed for like, I told you, in September '41. And then in '42 in February, we had the expression Aktion.

Aktion.

Yeah. Aktion. Right. Two days lasted [INAUDIBLE]. It was winter. And we had a little hiding place in our house built. And we were there maybe 15, 20 people in the hiding place.

And there was a woman with a little baby. And the baby at that time I would say was maybe 20 months old, maybe two years. And you know, we hear the Germans walking on top of us. And the baby starts crying. And the baby was born to a mother that 10 years she couldn't have children.

And everybody starts saying, we all have children. And the baby was going to, you know-- they're going to hear the babies cry. The uncle of the baby took the baby, put it on the floor under pillows. Whatever happens, happens.

And two days we were under hiding there. After two days, we knew we can go out. He picked up the pillow and picked up the pillow and hit the baby on the chin. And the baby said, uncle in Polish. Everybody start crying and laughing because we thought the baby will be dead. This was in February of 42.

We had five Aktion in our town. We had in February. We had in June. You know, I don't remember. I know we had five.

One time they came in, and the main thing they took people a lot, whoever they caught. And the main thing, they went into homes and threw something in the-- you should get typhus, people got typhus from it. And a lot of people from the typhus didn't survive. They died from the typhus a lot.

This was one time was an accident. The main thing that they took people, maybe 1,000 people. But the main thing was that they put the germ all over in the homes.

How did they do that?

I don't know how they did. The water-- was in the water. They must have-- in the air? I don't know. I don't know. But a lot of people got after that typhus.

My parents were killed already. After all the-- when it was Judenrein. You know what Judenrein is, right?

Mm-hmm.

When we already going into hiding. But we were already out of our town. In our town, they-- every time they made to a different town. And they took us to another town. And that town we came a Thursday. And Sunday they had an Aktion. And my father got killed.

Then I was left with my mother and my brother. And after that we went back to our hometown because there were new people. We moved back to our hometown, and we tried to hide.

Then we went to a little town, we were hiding. And then that had a very bad-- we didn't realize how bad this-- my mother went to find another place for us. And she never came back.

And then from that place I went to a different place closer to home. And there was--

By yourself or with your brother?

By myself. I left my brother. He was supposed to come, he never came.

And I went to a little town. It's not a town, it's a little village that the houses were-- it wasn't clustered. But from one house to the other, it was far. And in that village I survived between the Polish people. I used to sit and knit.

And I survived. They were-- mostly they were on the spinning wheel. They were spinning. But I just couldn't learn it. I tried, and I couldn't. And I was crocheting, knitting till March '44 I was with them.

Where did you sit to do this knitting? Were you part of a family? Were you in hiding?

Sometimes I was upstairs. And sometimes I was in the barn. It depends. They were scared, too. You know that.

Yes. How did you come to this particular family?

We had a maid. And she-- and I was with her one day. And she was afraid to hold me. And she said, over there it's not so many houses. They wouldn't see. Go there.

And she took me there that night. And she took me there, and I was in that village till [INAUDIBLE] also between Polish people.

Did you live mostly with one family? Or were there--

No.

--several families?

I was all different place. By the end I was with one family. But I was mostly with all different people that-- they were afraid to keep you. They gave you food to eat, but they were afraid because they were scared for their own life.

And I will tell you something nice that I had there. I was sitting in a woman's house. And I was knitting.

And they came in, the Germans are coming. Because they heard there's a few Jewish people, they came to find them. This was like, March or January. But it wasn't cold. It was a little snow, but it wasn't that cold.

And my neighbor from the woman, she came in, and she said, the Germans are coming. And she said, go. And I ran out.

And in that village was one house-- a Jewish house-- the people were no more there. But the house was staying. I run, run.

And then when the snow is on the ground, each step you make, there's a sign where you are. And I was running. And I came to this house, and I went in.

There was a basement, but the basement was locked. I couldn't go into the basement. Then there was like, a little wall. And I stood there by the wall. I stood. I stood and stood and stood.

All of a sudden, I hear somebody going. And this was not all of a sudden. As I was sitting there maybe five, six hours later I realized it.

Somebody's going. I forget. Oh, it's February. I remember the date. That's my end. Came in two Polish people said to me, you can come out. The Germans left.

And I came out. And after that, maybe a month or a month and a half, I was liberated.

Can you tell us about the liberation?

I was liberated, I told you before, March 24, 1944. That was a Friday. A few days before, the Ukrainians came, and they were burning the Polish people out the homes, for the Polish people. There was no Jews no more. Then they came after the Polish people.

They were burning their homes. And they were very bad and killing them. You know, I even mentioned to one Polish woman, I said, you know, they didn't kill me as a Jewish girl, they're going to kill me now as a Polish girl.

And was very bad times. And this-- not far. I was saying there, they burnt out a few families, and there they burned out [INAUDIBLE]. Because they didn't like the Polish people too.

And they said, they're coming, the Russians, they coming. They're coming. They're coming. All of a sudden you see walking a whole row of soldiers. But they was very far.

And you couldn't know if it's German or it's Russian. They were the Russians. They came into our-- to the woman that I was-- that she was holding me. And she said to him, look, I saved a Jewish girl.

He said, fine. He wasn't too enthusiastic about it. This was Friday the 24th.

And then over the weekend, I went the next day, Sunday-- I think Saturday or Sunday. The next day I went to-- I told you we had the maid. And I went to her. It was a different place. I went to her because with her I washed myself, you know, after a lot of time.

And I think she gave me something to wear. I don't remember now. Anyway, she gave me good-- I ate. And I slept by her.

And next day I went to Buczacz, to my hometown. I came to Buczacz. And actually, was a lot of few people that came out from the hiding.

And we had a neighbor. You know, the whole place that we were living was only Jewish people. But the one neighbor was a Ukrainian family, but very nice. We were very friendly, my parents were with those people. And later I found out that he even helped a lot of people.

And I came after the war, I came without a pair of shoes and without-- I had a coat that I wore nine months and a dress that I wore maybe 12 months, who knows. I came to their farm, and she gave me to eat. And she asked me, what do you want. What do you need. Not what do you want, what do you need.

I said, look at me. I said, the first thing I need a pair of shoes. She gave me a pair of shoes. She gave me coat. She gave me a big, big bread, which today it's-- you'd look at it differently at that time.

OK. And there was empty Jewish homes. And I stayed with one family that survived, the whole family. And I stayed with them because they knew my parents. And I stayed with them. I don't know.

Once they gave us some meat. And that's about it. Later, you had to do it on your own.

I don't know how I got to eat. I don't remember. But we all ate. It was-- we [INAUDIBLE]. And we all have to eat.

And we were maybe 10 days or eight days liberated. And you know, the front moved, and the Germans came back. The Germans came back. They came back to almost to our town. And we heard the shooting outside the town.

And there was a lot of people [INAUDIBLE] survived. And they said, they weren't strong enough to walk. You know,

people came out from the hiding and swollen legs and different conditions. And they stayed. They figured [INAUDIBLE] too, they're going to stay in that hiding, then they come out.

As I told you, I stayed with a family that survived. The whole family, even with the mother. By the way, the mother died, she was 100 years in Israel, maybe over 100.

And they said, the men of the family said, one more hour with the Germans I don't want to be. And he said, I am going with the Russians. And I stayed with them, and I went with them.

I went with them. And we were walking. We were walking about-- we started to walk was, like, in the evening. And we came to a different town, was like daybreak. And we came there.

And there we went also another empty Jewish home-- house. And we stayed there in the house. We had maybe 50 people. We slept on one floor.

And then the basement, before I lived not Jewish people, they had potatoes. We took those potatoes, we were cooking, and we were eating. We were three days.

After the third day, the Germans are coming. And they were bombing already that town, like, outskirts of the town they were bombing. And we again, we start walking.

We walked again. Oh, like, it was Saturday, I remember. We walked all night. And next day we came to a diff-- like, the border town from before the war was Poland and Russia. We came to the border town.

And there we stayed three months took us. Three months, they were fighting. They stopped there, the Germans with the Russians, they were fighting there.

And there we stayed three months till again, they pushed back the German soldiers. And then we went back to our hometown. And this was like, from March, let's say I came back in July.

And when we came back, our town was a completely different town because when the front was in our town, they went all over. And each house they took out the floors because they needed the boards, the wooden boards. And the city was overgrown with weeds because the front was there, and there was fighting only.

I still have the picture in front of me. I came into our house, and no floors. And it looked like just the walls like, terrible and ruined. And that's how I left it. I never went back later after that.

And then we-- they were liberated in July the second time in July '44.

Did you feel liberated when it was the second time?

Sure. Sure.

Any different from the first? You were liberated twice.

Yes. No. I went away. I didn't stay with them for the Germans the second time. When the Germans came-- were supposed to come back, I ran away with the--

Russians.

--with the Russians. The Russian, the soldiers, yeah. I didn't stay.

And when they came back, back to my hometown, it looked different. It looked ruined. Our house looked much ruined because they took everything out. They needed the boards. In all the houses, they did the same thing.

And I stayed since '44 till July '45 I came to the-- I lived there, and I came to the rest of Poland. I was in Breslau. I was Breslau till--

Who did you travel with to Breslau? The same family? Or--

No, no, no, no. Not the same family. You know, after we were there like, from March '44 till-- there were a few girls that remained by themselves, single girls.

From your town.

Yes. Then we all lived together in one apartment. We stayed all together one apartment. And then we went west.

Why to Breslau?

Why to B-- we went to Krakow. But I found out my brother's in Breslau, then I went to Breslau. And there I met my brother. And then I stayed with my brother.

And my brother had already at that time met a girl, and he soon got married. And I was with them.

What were your experiences like in Breslau?

In Breslau, it was normal life, you know. It was normal. I learned English a little. I went to-- I had an English teacher. And what else is there? There was nothing special. We had to make a living.

What was your mood like then after--

You know--

You had lost so many.

I will tell you, now when you think back, that time you lived like, in a daze because here you're hiding. You can't talk. You can't come out. You can't this.

And here you are open and free, and you can do whatever you want. You can go wherever you want. You think and talk, and you can do like normal people. Right?

It's hard. It's hard to understand because even today when I think back on those times, and I said, I didn't-- I didn't go through this horrible thing. It's not me. It's just like I read it in history. But it is. But it is.

Do you remember being frightened? Do you remember being relieved afterwards? Or do you just--

Oh, sure. As I told you before, when we were hiding, and the Germans were walking on top of us, we had it a few times, not only once. Once this-- once was like this before a Nazi, we go to sleep in bed, right? Normal. But we had-- each house had two people on the lookout.

[INAUDIBLE] daybreak, they said, it's a Nazi. And we have-- they ran down from bed into the hiding place. And maybe 10 minutes later or 15 minutes, the Germans came. And they say it's a warm bed, and they couldn't find the people.

They looked through the house. And they-- we were just lucky. They couldn't find us. They could not find us. That's all.

How were you hiding? How was it such a good hiding place?



It's so stupid. We had-- my parents had the house. And downstairs, like I told you, we had a candy factory. The floor was cement, all cement, the floor.

Two boards from-- and this side was wood, not cement. They picked up one board, and they dug out the hole. And that hole-- and down below was a cellar. But the cellar had the opening from the street.

And we built up this opening. In the front of that opening, we built up, we made a wall. And the front we put on wood, all different kinds of wood there, because there we used wood to heat the house and to cook.

And on top of that opening, there's just a person could go in. If you're too fat, you couldn't go in. It just-- and nobody was fat at that time-- just to go like, you went in.

During the German occupation by us, they gave work, everybody. You know, they look for work. But us, we had a tremendous big room where we had the factory, tremendous big. Then they made like, a sewing place. And they were making hats for the soldiers, or something, something hats they were making, but caps, not hats.

And like, remnants of the-- was laying all around. Then we took a box, and we put those remnants on top. Like a casual box. And under that casual box, we were down. It was very stupid, but you had luck. Mazel. We survived.

It was clever.

It was clever.

It was clever.

And you know, we had our house and we had a wall-- in Europe the houses were built brick. But not like here, covered with brick inside wood. But there was brick, no wood in between.

We had a neighbor next door to us. They had the bunker on the other side. But one person didn't tell the other one where my bunker is, just those people that came to us.

But we heard them talking there. We heard them talking. They heard-- I imagine they heard us [INAUDIBLE]. This was at night when we were a little calmed down. But because of the day time, you were sitting and shivering.

Was there any light? Any ventilation? Any--

Well, there was no light. No light. Ventilation, I really don't know. It much have been something because how could you--

How could you?

It wasn't professional installation. Maybe there was a few holes.

A window, a hole, a chink somewhere.

No. Because, you see, it's not like a hiding place that you stayed two months or three months, or whatever. This was just the duration of the Aktion when there was--

Emergency.

Mostly there was a day and a night. Once we had two days. Like, this was only a day. Like, at nighttime you went in, and the next morning-- not next morning-- the day of, you went out.

So you remember this as though it were a story that you'd read in some way, that's the feeling that you have?

You know, I met here a man. At that time he was a boy. They pushed away from one town to the other, the people, from other towns they sent to our town the people. And that time, they move together. Like, you had two rooms. They could have four families in those two rooms.

And for us, they sent a woman with two children. One girl was seven, the boy was 12 or 11. And they came to us. And they stayed with us. And my mother was very friendly with that woman, both them in one kitchen.

And you know, we're together, we were hiding and everything. And that boy, they survived. The woman with the two children survived.

And I met them. After 40 years, I met them. I saw once right after liberation, but all those years I didn't see them.

And I went to see them here about two, three years ago. And I went with my husband. And that boy, now he's a grandfather, he says to my husband, he still remembers a child 12 years old when the-- the baby, the baby they almost got killed. As I told you, they put it under the pillow. And that remained in his memory.

And his sister, the same thing. She was a 7-year-old girl. And she tells me she remembers our house, the way it looked, where she was sleeping. And the place they were hiding, how it looked. Because this stays in your memory. This stays in your memory.

So the images are there.

Sure. This is there.

And I think with us it will always remain.

Yes. So in Breslau, how long did you stay with your brother?

We stayed in Breslau from July '44 or '45 till May '46, in May '46. Breslau belonged to Poland now after the war. But when they separated this, this part they gave to Poland.

Then we went to Germany. We were in Berlin. We came in '46 in Berlin. We were from '46 to '48 in Berlin.

Why?

Because in displaced camp, the [INAUDIBLE] was supporting us. And then in Berlin, when I imagine you heard about the-- they have to-- when the Russians all surrounded Berlin, and they took us out because we were in displaced [INAUDIBLE]. Then the American government took us out of the best part, out of Berlin. Then we were in the West. And I was in Munich.

How long were you there?

I was in Munich till '51 when I came here.

So from about '45 to--

No. From '48.

'48--

Yes.

--to '51.

Till '51. In March I came here.

And what was it like for you in Munich?

I was working in an office. I was working the Jewish agency.

How did it feel living in Germany?

Well, it was it was a normal life. It was completely-- everything was normal. The German language wasn't hard for us. We didn't come like, without the language.

And you lived with your brother at this time?

No. I lived with a girlfriend. I lived with a girlfriend.

Two brothers survived?

Yes.

And the younger one is the one with whom you reunited in Breslau?

Yeah. One in Breslau and one-- both of them in Breslau. But one came a few months later. One came in December.

Had you all been hiding? Or did you have very different experiences as a family?

My one brother was in Russia. And when the '41, when they came to us, they mobilized him. And he was lucky. The other one was in hiding.

When you came to the United States, did you have family here?

Yes, I had an uncle. He brought me over. I had an uncle.

Can you tell us something about how those years have affected your life today? Let's say, are there any-- other than the actual story.

Well, my kids tell me that I'm an overprotective mother. Then I think this has a somehow a reflection from those years.

Was your mother overprotective?

I will tell you. I was the only girl between four boys. And maybe I was overprotected. But I don't know how it was someplace else. I was [INAUDIBLE] for my brothers.

Yes.

But that's what my kids tell me.

So do you agree with your kids?

Maybe it's true. But I hear other children of the survivors say the same thing. I'm not the only one.

Is your husband a survivor as well?

No, my husband was during the war in Russia.

And did you meet him--

After. I met him in Breslau.

In Breslau.

Yeah.

I see.

Is there any other way, other than your children's allegation that you're overprotective, that you feel that these memories of your earlier life have haunted you in some way or stayed with you in some way?

Well, all the years, I didn't feel that way. Maybe now when I have more calm, because, you know, you came, first you have to make your living. And then you came here, you had to learn a language, and you make your living. You get married, and children to raise. We didn't have nobody to help. I didn't have a mother or a sister or somebody to help, you know.

So you didn't have time to think about it.

And I never told my kids all the-- I don't remember if they ever asked me even why they don't have grandparents. I don't even recall that.

But I had the older uncle lived here. And my daughter by herself started to call him grandma. I didn't ever tell her. But she by herself, she saw other kids had a grandma. And that was her grandma.

Mm-hmm. And that was OK?

Why not?

While you were-- may I ask one question? While you were in hiding, and before you came to Breslau, did you think it would ever end? Yes. I was always the optimist. Even worse before we were hiding. When we were still in-- during the war, in the-- what do you call it-- in the house, and every time was a different Aktion, I always said, I will survive.

You knew.

I don't know why, but I always said to myself, I'm going to survive. And I always said to myself, they'll never kill me. If they kill me, I will always run. They'll have to kill me in the back.

But they never killed me because, you know, all the stories you heard how they-- I said, they'll never kill me in the front. I will always run. And they will have to kill me in the back.

You had said earlier that you went out because you felt more secure during that first occupation.

Yes, right.

Do you feel that that's your way?

That's my way. My kids thought I'm a rock.

A fighter.

A fighter. I don't know. I go wherever, I speak to anybody. I'm not afraid, and I'm not ashamed.

So that helped.

I don't think the surviving-- I don't know what helped. It helped--

[INAUDIBLE]

Luck. Luck. Just only luck, because not that you're smart, not you're intelligent, not that you're rich help you. It's just luck. Because you think of places that you were and these people were with you, and they are not here, and you are here. And you don't know why. It's just your luck.

I had a lot of girlfriends. I had a lot of neighbors. And nobody is here.

Then it's your faith. That's what it is, I would say.

Faith. Luck.

Luck, faith. That's all. Because you didn't realize that what you're doing is to good or to bad. You don't know what this is.

If my brother hadn't come that time and they called him to go to the station, if he hadn't gone, nothing would have happened. Nothing would have happened. I don't know if he would have survived till today. But that time he would have survived.

But he was afraid for his parents, then he went. And that was the end of him. But if you don't go, nothing happened. A lot of people didn't go. They were smart.

But I know they were smart, it's just I'll say, luck. Because [INAUDIBLE] there were a lot of smart people. There were a lot of professionals and big businessmen. And nobody survived. And a little girl, I survived. It's luck.

Did that luck make you more or less religious?

You know, I was brought up in an orthodox home. And I went to a-- [INAUDIBLE] a public school. And then I went to a Hebrew school. And then I went to a different school, which is more religious.

And I think, I like it. [INAUDIBLE] today I'm religious still.

Observant.

Yes.

But the sense of luck that you had, was it a sense of [NON-ENGLISH]?

You think of a religion? Well, [NON-ENGLISH] is right, a [NON-ENGLISH] is faith. It's [NON-ENGLISH]. Sure.

There was a lot more religious people than we were. And they didn't survive. I don't think if religious made you survive or not, it's hard to tell. I don't know. There are some people that study that and found out the people that survive, the reason why they survive.

And have you been able to share these experiences with your children? Or not until recently?

Not until-- not recently. I don't know if I've ever told-- but little by little, one there and here. I tell-- my daughter likes to hear. My son, not that much. But she likes more to know.

I see. Well, Mrs. Gold, we certainly thank you very much for sharing these experiences with us. We need this material. And we really are very grateful that you were generous of your time.

And we feel privileged that you've come here today to share your experiences with us.

Thank you.

You're welcome.

Thank you very much.

[MUSIC PLAYING]