

It's going to be like this.

Before, you were talking about the fact that you had essentially experienced five different killings.

Yeah.

And the last one involved your mother.

Yes. And this was the-- maybe they killed about 2,000 people that time. They just surrounded us. And they said they're going to give them bread. We should stay in line.

And again, to the left, and to the right, the same thing from the first one. And they took away my mother, and mine aunt. Mine uncle was alive.

And mine uncle start to scream and cry. So they took him out, outside. And he told a Jew to hit him with a stick.

And mine uncle lost the two kids. They took away already, then with the dogs, when they hide the small kids. His wife, they took away. He couldn't take it anymore.

He became-- my father's brother, he went crazy. So they took him out. And they told two Jews to take a stick. And one should hit him, and the other one, if one should rest.

And they were not the Jewish policemen, were they?

No.

They were just two--

No. The two Jews, they found. And the two Germans were standing from both side. And they hitted him. For God forbid, if they wanted hit him, you need to be strong. A Jew should hit a Jew. But this was every day almost.

If somebody was punished, they took out all the way in the courtyard. And everybody was standing there looking. And you should witness that. If you didn't behave, you get it, the same thing. That's why they put on a lot of punishment for us.

The same if somebody tried to go out from the ghetto. My sister in law, she lives now in Australia, my husband's sister. She went to the gate to go out in the woods. She went with her husband.

In the middle of the night, they got dressed. And came a Polish guy. And he said, it's time to go out. My sister in law went out. But they caught the brother-in-law.

Did they have children?

They have now two children in Australia. One, their son, is a dentist, very successful. He has two offices. They have four grandchildren-- five grandchildren.

At the time, their children weren't born.

Oh, no. There were just a young couple that time.

Yeah.

You see, with the panic, it was like this. If they caught somebody, they were so punishable that a human being couldn't

understand. How can people do this to people? Or they shoot them in the front of all the people. Or they hang them on a tree in front of all the people.

And mostly, when someone went out-- I know a lot of friends of our try to went out in the daytime when they worked and the gentile came in. They went out. And so they caught them. They came and took all the family. And they cleaned out the family.

You were punished for you daughter when she went out. So the panic, to go out, it was not easy. And they scared us.

Your responsibility.

The responsibility for the other Jews. Well, if they got you, they can come tomorrow and kill everybody. So we were locked in. But we were left, maybe about 350 people, 70 young boys.

So you were with your father. You were with--

My sister--

--your sister.

--and my brother.

--and your brother.

And around the whole-- from the 30,000 Jews, 1,000 Jews maybe ran away between all the years in the woods, from our time, or they were hide by a Polish guy. I know one guy maybe hide 10 Jews for money, who had the money. So he came. He took out sometimes from the ghetto. But he didn't want to take any anymore. They just send Jews.

In our neighborhood, not too many Polacks took in, had some of us. But if they knew you, and you could get to them-- maybe, from [? PD, ?] a woman used to do you a favor to keep you for a day or a night. I'll come to this story.

Then we were left 350 Jews from 30,000. And 1,000 run away in the woods. And we heard that, in the woods, they don't starve. They live. And they're getting along.

We couldn't imagine. How can you live, winter, and snow, and cold, and in wet weather? But everything was better life to stay and to wait for the bullet. So we tried.

We organized the 350 Jews. And we start to think to do something, to go out from this ghetto. And we tried to build a tunnel a mile and a half underground. And the tunnel was just-- you stand on your knees. And just you bend down the head. And then, like this, you're crawling out.

We had 70 young boys. And the rest were young girls, like I. And we had a couple elderly, maybe three or four elderly. My father, at that time, was already a elderly. At that time--

And he was only about--

He was maybe about 50 or 55. He just died last year, two years going to be. And 70 boys start to dig the tunnel. And we couldn't put away the dirt no place. We couldn't get a move with one shovel of dirt outside.

So what we did? We piled up between walls and under the beds. And we dig this tunnel for three months. And we decided one evening that we must go out from here.

All the digging was done during the night?

During the night. In the daytime, we used to work. The Polish-- the Germans used to bring to sew the fur, to make shoes, to make clothing. It was factories around.

So they brought us in. And we used to work. And they used to come and pick up. And the Germans were standing around us, even around the 350.

To go out from this tunnel, we decided the elderly, a couple elderly should go in the back. If they're going to get a heart attack inside, in the tunnel, everybody's going to get stuck. I, as a young girl, my brother, maybe 70 guys, they build the tunnel, and we organized.

We find out that that Jewish boy from my husband's town-- my husband comes from 20 miles-- that he didn't like the idea from running away. And he start to dig in. Why are we doing this? And it's going to be worse. If we're going to run away, they're going to kill us anyway.

How old was this boy?

The boy was a young boy from my husband's town. So these Jewish boys got him and choked him. But we were afraid that the German promised him, that he is going to tell what's going on inside. He's going to be alive.

They would kill him anyway. That was the mentality from the people. Just to live, they're going to do everything. And they took him down to the tunnel. And they choked him.

How old did you say he was?

He was a young boy, maybe 18, 19, maybe 17. They talked in some Jewish people to find out everything what's going on. We couldn't risk whatever it is. They were suspicious. that here is something digging in.

To go out from such a tunnel, you need to be very careful, while every move, they hear. So we were waiting for a evening with thundering, raining. And one boy went on the roof. And he tore off a little bit the roof, it shouldn't make noise.

And one evening, we decided-- they asked me and my sister, we were young-- that we should go out with first the 70 boys, later then go out the young girls, and the elderly should be in the back. But I and my sister decided that we're not going to leave our father in the back. We're going to go with him. And what's going to happen to him is going to happen to us.

It is very risky. If they would find out the first one, they're out, and we in the back would be killed. But we were prepared for this.

It came one evening. It was thundering. It was pouring. You couldn't see in front of you of nothing. And we lined up all. And we organized that they're going to have a long rope.

A long rope?

A rope. And this rope, to hold all together. And in front of us will be a man what he knew where to run, like the farms, like the forest. And we were quietly all right thinking that we're going to keep all together. But the willpower to leave is so high.

Was there one particular person who was the leader of this--

We were all organized. The girls helped. The boys helped. 70 guys, we had, handsome guys, very talented guys. And we're supposed to go out. And we went all out. But what would happen to us?

It was so dark. And it was so thundering. It was so pouring that, in front of you, you couldn't see another person,

nobody.

And the guys that went out in the front-- everybody ran in different directions. And we lost track. Nobody knew where they are. I, and my father, and my sister-- in front of us went out a boy.

The original plan was for everybody to hold on to the rope.

To the rope.

And when you [INAUDIBLE].

But till you went outside, everybody lost control from the rope. Nobody was thinking what's going to be next. Everybody wanted to run.

And a cousin of mine-- he is 54. He just had a heart attack and died last year. He went out with my brother and the 70 guys. And on tomorrow, they came. They heard that the ghetto-- nobody came to work.

No--

Nobody came to work. It was empty. To it came an army, to the ghetto. And they were afraid to go into the tunnel. But they did throw two bombs in the tunnel. And they broke everything up, the whole building.

Do you remember the month?

This-- I'll tell you when. In 1945, I was in the woods just a year. So it was in 1944.

1944.

In 1945, we were liberated.

It was the end of '44.

This was in the fall, the fall when we came to the woods. And--

How did you know what happened in the town when the Germans came to the town?

The Poles told us.

Later on.

The Poles are-- this is nothing. But what happened from the 350 people? The 70 boys were wandering around the town, and wandering. And they didn't know where to go.

And tomorrow, they caught them all. And they killed them on the square of the town. They never were rescued.

So the only people who actually got out of the tunnel were the 70 boys?

No. We went out--

Everybody got--

--350.

Everybody got out of the tunnel.

Everybody got out. And the main important guys what made the tunnel, maybe two or three were alive. The rest, they killed.

But on tomorrow was such a panic from the Germany. They couldn't take it that the Jewish people outsmart them. So they were very mad. They mobilized all the Germans. Came a army to this--

The woods?

No. Came a army to the ghetto, where we was there, where we went out. And they were afraid to go inside. They bombed everything.

But they mobilized. And tomorrow, the Jews that ran away-- a whole army to catch the Jews. I, with my father and sister-- I would not be alive. One boy was a farmer's son.

The only thing that I'm missing somewhere is that everybody ran out of the tunnel, all 350 people.

All 350.

But nobody could see. It was dark. Nobody could see where they were going.

Nobody could see, nobody, in front of you. We picked such a night that they couldn't see. It was pouring and thundering. And you couldn't see in front of you. It was like buckets of water on you.

And that night, you spent outside in the woods?

And that night, we run out. And everybody ran in different directions.

Right.

They get out all over the town, around the town. Not, they run not to the town, but two miles out of town. This one ran in this direction. This one--

Everybody thought that we're going to be one direction. One knows the way how to go to the woods. And we're going to go after him. But after you're going out on freedom, you are so panicky, you cannot wait till the 350 will go out. So everyone who came out ran.

And so tomorrow, they brought a whole army. They surrounded the whole town. And they caught most of the young guys. They didn't know where to run. We were lucky just. If you ran away five miles away, and you hide by woman over the night, they killed the woman, too.

What happened-- I, and my father, and my sister-- in front of me went a guy, a farmer's son. He knew the way how to go. And he said-- and I kept him for the pants. And I said, you're not going no place. Or we're going to die all together. Or we're going to live all together.

He says-- he start to cry for me. What do you want for me? I have a gentile. She wants to take me in, in the house. And she'll see us all four. She's going to-- she'll call the Germans. I said, she'll call the Germans. We'll die altogether.

And on account of this guy, I am today here. I don't know where he is. I would help him, anything today. He was scared by himself. But he knew a gentile.

His father was a farmer. He was not an intelligent boy. He knew just every corner where he goes. And I was hanging on him.

And meanwhile, my father says, I cannot go. I cannot breathe. I need some water. So I took some water from the puddle, and I give him to drink.

And I was holding the guy in front of me. And I was holding my father under the arm, my sister under the other arm. And like this, we schlepped.

And we came into a gentile's house. And she was very-- she recognized us. And she said, oh, Kushner, you had the stores, the fur stores. I'll give you bread. I'll give you water. I'll give you onions. But you cannot stay here. Please go. She was scared.

How far was this from the camp?

And this was maybe five miles from the town. In that night, we made five miles. And we were running, dragging my father while he was fainting. But I kept just to the boy. And I said, listen, we're going to be all alive, or we're going to die all together.

And we took some water. And we took some-- she give us an onion. And we moved. And then this woman, this family-- on tomorrow, they find a couple Jews by this woman.

And they killed her. And they killed her husband. And they killed the Jews. She kept seven Jews hide. Maybe she had more [? priority ?] what she was thinking.

And then we start to walk slowly. And we were sitting in the bushes for 10 days from New Year's, from Rosh Hashanah, to Yom Kippur. This is a holiday, the high holidays.

10 days, we were sitting under bushes. And the rain was pouring like God was crying for us. We were soaked. We were wet. Eat, we couldn't. We didn't have any food.

And we saw all the little boys going around with the cows to feed them. We saw people working when we were sitting in big bushes, like this. My younger sister was then a girl, maybe 15 years old. And she said, what kind of life is this? Let them kill us already. How long can we sit like this?

There, I see a light in a house. Let's go. We're going to go, both I and my sister, and with this guy. And my father should sit under the bushes. And we're going to go ask for a piece of bread or let us, Give us something.

The guy, we came in and knocked on the door in the middle of the night. He came out with a big stick and let out two dogs on us. And he was hitting mine-- I ran away. And the boy ran away.

But my sister was a young girl. He knocked her over the head. He knocked her over the shoulders. And we ran away, back to under the bushes.

But we cannot live like this for 10 days. We had a bad experience with this guy. What shall we do for it? To go back to our little farm.

And there, we went in the house. He knew her, the boy. And she said, listen, I'm afraid to keep you. But I'll try to give you to eat. And I'll try to keep you one night where the cows are staying in the barn.

So she brought us potatoes. And she brought us a buttermilk. And we went to the barn. And we were sitting there for two nights. But the people in the woods, the Bielski-- you heard about Tuvia Bielski?

Sure.

He had a gathering from the Jewish people in the woods. They heard that we ran away from the ghetto. So they sent out some guys, the most qualified guys where they had the guns, where they had the ammunition with the wagons. And they

start to collect the people of all over the farms where the Jews came in there.

You had mentioned before that the Germans had caught most of the boys who had gone out--

Yes.

--through the tunnel.

They were caught.

Did you get that information then, at the time? Or you found this out later on?

No. We were looking for them. And we are looking for them. We couldn't find them. Everybody was running in this.

Later we find out that the Polish guys-- the Polish told us that they caught all, surrounded from all over. The guys-- in the 70 guys, three were left, two are in Israel. One was killed in the war in Israel in 1956.

One died-- my cousin died last year from a heart attack, 54 years old. And he was with the 70 boys. And he lost my brother. They should go up together.

But you couldn't get together. You didn't know what's going on. That night was just a stormy night. We needed a night like this. And we were by this woman for two days.

And we went further in a different little town, a little-- not a town. This was farmers. One house from the other was two, three miles. And we went there to a gentile. And he recognized us. He says, listen, I'll do everything, but you cannot stay with me.

And later, Bielski sent wagons, sent his top qualified boys. He picked us up on the wagons, all the couple Jews, where we were staying. And they took us to the woods.

And in the woods, we came to the woods. We were living 20 people in the one grave. We made graves. We cooked outside.

And some young boys, they send out every night to bring a little food. They went with ammunition. They went with a gun when nobody want to give.

But if you went into a gentile farmer with five boys, six boys, and you showed him the guns, he was scared. He gave everything to the boys-- some meat. They brought some bread. We had food enough to live.

How many people were living together in the woods?

He brought out from the woods about 1,100 people.

Were there-- were you-- OK.

And we settled down. And some were working. They made a hat. It was cold. Some-- mostly, they were watching the grounds, the young boys who could go on a horse.

And they were sitting and watching with the guns. Nobody should come and kill us. But we settled down. We lived there for a year. I was there for a year. Some people were for four years.

Your sister was with you.

My sister, my father. My brother was lost from the tunnel. They couldn't find him. They never find us. After the war,

everybody ran to their home town to find out who is alive. But nobody could find him. In 1945--

This year. Do you remember the dates of the year that you were in the woods together with these [INAUDIBLE]?

We went in in 1944. This was in April or in May. And we came home in May. But the woods was-- you lived with fear.

They find out, the Germans, that Jewish people are in the woods. So they sent airplanes over the woods. And they used to-- before I came, they had a couple airplanes running, over them and throwing the bombs. But they moved around. The woods were not just a couple trees. It was miles, and miles, and miles of trees.

And in the middle of the night, the boys used to risk their life to go to ask for food. Nobody wanted. We need to give our order. Until we give our order, you must go today. But who want to go? Why I should risk my life to bring bread for everybody?

So it was tough, and tough to be organized later at that time. Everybody wants to outsmart somebody. But they were afraid. And they went. And they brought.

In 1945, in May, he brought us out from the woods. The war was over. And we heard that Russia took over.

When you say, he brought you out from the woods--

Tuvia. Tuvia brought out 1,100 Jews, young. Some were old already, lived about four or five years in the woods. Old, how old could they be? 50 was already old. 45 was already old.

We had a very risky time in the woods when the Germans were losing the war. As they start to back, the Russian came. As they start to back on the-- they ride, too, in the woods, from the army.

The last minute in the woods, they killed 11 Jews by surrounding And these were already soldiers what they ran away from the borders, no others, no SS. But even the soldier was [INAUDIBLE]. He killed 11 Jews the last moment they were liberated.

But what. The boys caught three Germans. They killed them, too. They beat them to death. You know, they needed to let out. I couldn't look at it. But they surrounded, all 1,100. They needed something to unload their anger and their madness.

Well, and later, when we find out that the Russia come back to us, they occupied us, they put all the elderly and the sick one on wagons. They had wagons. And we came like this in the city, in our little town, in our town where we lived.

And what happened to us? When we met a Polack, Polish guy or a gentile, he said, are you still alive? They were surprised. So they stretched out to us their hand. They said, thank god you are alive.

They were surprised we are alive. They said, oh, Mrs. Kushner, you're still alive. Is your mother alive? Is your father alive? They were surprised. They think we were washed off.

When we came back to our town, we were very broken. Every store was crying. Every house was crying. And first of all, how many were left? From 30,000, from all the cities and all the towns, maybe we came 1,000 people, 1,100 people. And we start to organize ourself.

Did you actually feel that you were liberated, and that the war was over--

Yes. There war was--

--that you would now be secure?

The war went on. The war went on.

But Russia--

Russia took away our town. Then tomorrow, she mobilized all the rest of the Jewish people and sent them to the army. Nobody came back. Went through the concentration camp, went through the Holocaust, went through everything, came already our freedom, Russia gave right away papers to mobilize all the newcomers.

And what happened? Some went to become a rabbi so they don't hurt you, so they don't touched you. Some became firemen. And some worked in the jails. So these were protected.

But some boys didn't want to be protected. They said, no, I would want to go to the war. I want to pay for my mother's and for my father's price. I'm going to go out against Germany.

And like this, maybe about 200 boys, 250-- Tuvia's brother went like this. But he went. He was one from the organizers in the woods. And he went to the borders, to the front from the army. And they were all killed. They were not prepared with the ammunition to work. Nobody came back.

So we were left about 750 people in our town. We start to organize the women, the men, to see the graves, to go on and pay attention to the graves. You cannot imagine. I fainted twice just to go over to the grave where my mother was lying, and the other grave where the kids were lying, and the other grave where he put away 6,000 people to sleep with kids, with women, with men. It's not a person's-- could hold on.

So we all wanted to run away from our town. We wanted to run anyplace. But Russia took us in. We were afraid to move. We couldn't. You needed a passport. And you need already papers. It's not so easy.

Anyway, we organized. We made passports. And we run away. Where shall we run? Nobody wants to take us in. The Jews were organized then, I think from Palestine. The leftovers, they want to put together.

So they sent a organizer. And they sent us to Czechoslovakia. How we went on the trains from our town to Czechoslovakia. this is a full story.

We told the Russian soldiers, we told the-- you know, they went to fight. And we run on their trains. And everyone heard you ran away from the town.

Today, there may be two Jewish people. We just sent a couple packages. One lawyer and a wife, she is left. The other-- about 20 people were left. They all died out.

These two people who came were from an agency, you said, from--

From a organization.

Do you know which one?

I think that was from Israel, or from-- I think it was organized from the Jewish top leaders. I don't know if it's from a organization. But it was organized.

And they said to you, if you're going to go, don't say you are Jewish. You are Greeks. Or you're Italian. And they took us to Czechoslovakia.

So you were in the town for approximately a year?

In the town. This took a year.

This took a year.

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. We had different troubles. A Jew wants to-- you couldn't live with what you had. They start to buy and sell. And the Russian arrested them yet. And they put them in jail.

They give them seven years. Later, they arrested them, the couple Jews what was left. You're not allowed to buy sugar and buy salt. A Jew wants to-- cannot live with what you got from the little [? life. ?] And they were very broken, broken down, until we settled in Italy. And that was our settling place.

And How. Did you come to Italy?

We came just to Italy. It was a DP camp. They organized there. And we were sitting there, waiting three and a half years.

You were still with your sister and your father.

With my sister, my father. I got married on the way. Moving through the borders, I find my husband. My husband was from a little town. I knew him.

You knew him before.

Yeah. And he knew me. And we got married in Hungary, in Budapest. The rabbi gave 20 weddings. What's left of us-- single boys, single girls-- got married.

We were lost. We didn't know where we're going, what we're doing. At least it-- and the boy was lost, too, what was left. It's just single people left.

It was not like-- one family was left from our town. But they killed one daughter when they went out-- a mother, and father, and three children. That's one family from our town.

And we got married in Hungary. And on tomorrow, we went on honeymoon over the border, walking over the border, hill up, hill down, in the middle of the night. Somebody came and took us till we came to Italy. And there was the DP camps.

We went in again, like in a ghetto. All the Jewish people were in Italy. A lot of them were left in Germany. A lot of them were left from France. They made DP camps.

And I had there my daughter, my oldest daughter. She's now 36. And she's married. She has four children. And we were in Italy for three and a half years.

We wanted to go all over-- to Africa, to Australia, to Israel. Nobody opened the door for us. Nobody wanted to take us in.

Three and a half years, we were waiting to get a visa. We had family in the United States. My husband had a sister. He had cousins, very fine people. And later--

How many people were in this DP camp?

In the DP camp, it was spread out in a couple cities. We were all about 600 people in one DP camp. And in this other city in Italy-- we were in [Place name] In Ladispoli, it was a different DP camp.

But we had a kitchen, one kitchen. Four people lived in a room, three families in a room. And we lived like this for three and a half years.

Once you got married, were you separated from your father and from your sister?

No. We went all together, never separated. But we never find our brother, never. I was looking already in the papers. And maybe he got caught from the Russian.

And later, they told us not one guy from this tunnel, just two or three, were left. And the rest were killed on tomorrow. They were marching around, walking around in the darkness. See, they were thinking that they are two miles, they are three miles away. And they were a mile from the city.

And these were the smart ones. And the stupid one, the last one, were alive. And on tomorrow, they killed the lot of these. And we came to the United States.

How did your family come to the United States? You were in the DP camp until what year? You were there for three and a half years.

In 1949, we came to the United States. And we came-- cousins send us paper. And the HIAS helped us a lot in the DP camps.

How did they help you in the DP camp?

In the camps, they brought in food. And they fed us. We couldn't work there. We were not already citizens. You could sell something or buy something. But we were not allowed to do nothing.

And in 1949, we got papers. The visa came, the [? photo, ?] to go to the United States. And the HIAS organization asked us if we want to go through the HIAS or if we want to go private. We didn't need any help from them. We had cousins.

And we didn't have help from cousins, either. We were young. My husband was 26. And I was 24. My father was 55. My sister was a young girl yet. She married in the United States. Well, we went all to work. In 19--

You came to New York?

New York.

And you settled in New York?

I had a furnished room, a furnished room. We all lived there. I cooked. I watched the child. Later on, we got an apartment in New York, in Brooklyn, Eastern parkway. The cousins, mine, helped us. And we got a --

We didn't took too much help from the family, too. Well, we were young. Who needed help? My husband went to work. My sister went to work. My father went to work.

How much-- it was a [INAUDIBLE] and you [INAUDIBLE]. And we took a apartment. I cooked. And I ran the whole family home. And they all were working till my second son was born. I had-- we have four children, all educated, finished college, finished law school. And my husband started a business 30 years ago, and thank god we are very successful.

And we love America. We love the freedom from the United States. Maybe it's already too much freedom. To some Europeans, it's too much freedom. You know, they said-- I spoke last week to somebody. He says, I'm afraid for the too much freedom.

How did you happen to come to New Jersey?

Well, my husband worked in New Jersey first. His job, he used to travel from New York to New Jersey. His boss had a

job here. And later, we settled in New Jersey. And we brought up our kids.

We give our soul and life to our kids, like the European parents. We shared all the sorrow with them. We shared all the happiness with them. Maybe we are raising them-- we raised them not too normal, too overprotective.

Did you talk to your children while they were growing up about what had happened to you, and to your family, and your home town?

Yes. Yes. They know everything. And they tell their kids, too. They know. And all the books what's given out, they-- I have a granddaughter in college in NYU. And she reads all the books. And our kids are very supportive in all the organizations.

And I just want to say maybe, if we would have Israel at that time as a country, like we have now, maybe so many people wouldn't have been killed. Maybe they would rescue the 3 million. Maybe they would rescued a million. Maybe they would rescued kids. But we grew up to be like a human being, like people.

The whole madness from us was that, for everybody, there was a place. For the Ukrainian was a place. For the Polack was a place. How many Polacks what killed the Jews are now in the all these countries-- in Brazil, in the United States, in Australia, in Africa? But for the Jews, the doors were closed. We never can understand this.

Even our good president, Roosevelt-- how come he kept the door so closed for us for such a long time? How come a boat went for exodus on the border, and returned back to be killed? This question, I'll never know. Nobody will give me the answer. And in this mind, we live a very hard life.

What's happening now to us in the normal life-- thank God we build families. And thank God I know all our friends have done very successful. And they have very-- but this thinking how will never go away.

We get people in a party of 1,000 people, all American. The couple European, they stay in one side. And what are they going to talk? Where were you, where you lived, how you got out, how many parties we don't have? We play cards once in a week. And then we come to the concentration camp. We come to the ghetto.

And I don't know really if our kids are with the same mind. They are most serious kids, our kids. From the European parents are more serious kids. They are more-- that's how I feel. They live a little bit with our lives, with our past, and how much we don't hide.

It's very difficult to live a normal life. I don't know where we got the strength, where we got the power-- to go out from such fires, from such nightmares, from such a risky-- nobody believed. Nobody were thinking that I'll get married someday, I'm going to have a child someday.

That's why when the European making a party, a wedding, they try to put in their everything, to give much more, like we had. You know why? I never had this. Our youth went away. Our junior years went away. And the middle years went away.

To build a new life in a new country without a language, without nothing, and start from the beginning, that's not easy. And we came broken people. We came not normal people. So our whole life was just strength in us.

What were your feelings when you came to the United States? All of a sudden, you're in the United States. How long was the trip to the United States?

Oh, we went on a boat. Polish boats, they put us in for three or four weeks. And my husband was dead almost. He couldn't take it. He was [INAUDIBLE].

Did you feel secure at the time? Did you feel that, in fact, your life was not in danger anymore?

No. When we came, when we were on the boat already to go to the United States, we felt a relief on us that we are not closed already for years. We got depressed in the DP camps, too-- a year, six months, seven, for three and a half years, came from such things, came to a camp where we saw just crying stones and blood, and coming back, until we got to Italy, six weeks over the borders.

And with all our lives, and with all our souls, what we can do for Israel, we are trying to do. We're involved in a lot of organizations. We're supporting all the organizations, anything.

Well, we must have a country. Well, you must be protected. At least our fear is. If something will happen, we will have where to run. We know that if the United States will not exist for us, Israel will not exist. But you never know. At least we have a homeland.

And you know what? These boys from in 1948, in '56, in '63, in '67, these are children from the refugees. They can put their heads on the pillow to relax. They gave away their lives. We give money. We support them. But they gave their lives.

I know a couple, what they had a son. And they took their life when they lost their son, both, poisoned themselves. And I feel sorry for them when I come to Israel, and I see my friends, and when the kids are called to war every time. It's not a easy life.

Have you ever gone back to Poland?

I would never go there. A friend of mine went, a friend from [Place name] She went to the town. And she brought pictures from the graves. They brought there the cemetery. They're making now

In Israel, they made a museum from our town. They made graves from our town, and all the surrounding towns. Now we put in a big project in Yad Vashem. We [INAUDIBLE] the ground. But we're making a big [? valley. ?] You heard?

It's going to cost \$6 million, a big [? valley ?] for every town. Every little town should have a stand-- a stone. We just, this Sunday, decided that we brought down the arch to the cemetery, what used to be in our town. So they're building the same arch, with the same thing in Israel, near our grave from our town.

I don't have the desire to go. I would never go there. I don't think I would hold out. She went. First of all, when she went now, there is Russia. So they gave her a couple guys to go with her.

She was very scared. They took away her passport. And for three weeks, she couldn't get the passport back. And she says the town is crying. Why are you going to go there? You have two Jews.

Let me ask you a question. Now-- and we were talking about this a little bit before-- many of the survivors are beginning to tell the stories, to recount their experiences. 15 years ago, 10 years ago, people were not talking about the experiences. Can you explain why there's more of a desire now to relate the experiences that the people went through during the Holocaust?

First of all, we couldn't talk. We were shocked. Our head was-- we couldn't think about this. We tried not to think about this. We came to a new country.

We start to have small kids. The husband start to make a living. The women were busy. We didn't had the babysitters. We didn't have the money. We didn't have, just [? had the ?] diapers at that time. We couldn't afford it.

Everything had a-- the woman baked alone. She cooked alone. She was busy with her kids. And she was overprotective with her kids.

And the women helped to make a living, too. Some women helped the man to make a living. The men were busy to make money, to make a living, to establish yourself, to have a home, to educate your kids. They couldn't talk.

I could talk 10 years ago more better, like today. I became so emotional, the last couple years, that I'm choking. I used to come to Kean College three years ago, five years ago, to tell the story. They called me. I [INAUDIBLE] talk to them. I'm coming out. later, I'm sick for a week.

But when we woke up, now that we established something-- we have our kids growing up. We want to transfer them. But we're going to be too long.

When I come once a year to this society, and I see every year is less and less people, less-- a friend of mine died. Three years ago, this one died. The leftovers are dying out. And we don't have any more time to wait.

And we said, god, mine god, we were left over for a purpose, for something. We were lucky. We were left over to tell somebody what happened. He still should tell in 10, and 20, and in 50 maybe in 100 years ago, like our Bible tells us about the Passover, like our Bible tells us about different holidays before, broader holidays.

People should know what happened to us. If we're not going to tell now, in 20 years, I don't know who is going to be to tell. And now we have still the strength, and we have the power to do this, and to warn the rest of the world to be careful.

Who is coming up on top of your government? Should it come up, a crazy guy like, like Hitler, a racist, to kill just people for nothing? Were you born a partisan, or you're born on a Polack, or you're born on a Jew, or you're born [INAUDIBLE]?

Just to take a nation for nothing-- this was mentally something. I wish a guy would kill one him and risk his life. And believe me, if Jewish people would know, they would do this. But who knew it? We need to be very careful.

I want just to ask-- and I'm telling all this to my kids. Let's hope it's not going to happen again. But it can happen if you don't watch who comes up.

Why is it-- it's too Democratic. But certain things should not be like in this country, like the Ku Klux Klan, what kind of killings we have. When I came to Washington, the Nazis are going with the swastikas in front of the White House. And they're going around free. And this scares us. This is very painful.

He spoke very nice yesterday, the speaker. He said this should be looked up after them. I should be not such a freedom should exist such organizations.

Listen, it's difficult to live with such a person, very difficult. And it's difficult to understand, where was the whole world? Where was the whole world?

Do you every think about where the Jewish community was in the United States, whether the Jewish community could have done more?

We feel that they did, but they didn't did enough. Maybe they couldn't do it. I know it was [? running ?] delegations to our president. I know they were gathering. And they wanted to rescue.

But the America could just bomb the gas chambers. It would be better. You know why? Maybe from the bombs 5,000 would be killed, but 2,000 maybe were rescued.

You know how the people went out, when we saw them in the forest. Not a long time, we went to a Jewish show in New York. And my husband, the back of my husband, somebody's stopping him.

He says, are you a Jew? He says, yes. Do you remember me? He said, no, I cannot recognize you. Remember when I went out from the concentration camp, and I was weighing 60 pounds, and I was shivering? And you had the first zloty in Poland.

And you saw me. You had felt so pitied at me. He said, here is a zloty, my husband. Go take a shave and buy a piece of bread.

This man lives today in Long Island. They didn't know that he's alive. Has a son, he's a lawyer, married. Has two grandchildren. And he's in business, in hotel business, in New York.

But my husband didn't recognize him. He says, you remember you gave me-- I'll never forget you for this zloty. How much was a zloty? Maybe to buy a piece of bread and a shave, that was. But my husband and I-- I was then single when I saw these people, how they came out.

It's a miracle. And it's something unusual to be in the woods without doctors, without nurses, to lie in February and January, when the big snow by us is more snow like here. Nobody got pneumonia. Nobody got a heart attack-- maybe while they were young.

But the typhus-- we got typhus from the lice, from the-- you couldn't shower. The lice used to attack us. I'm surprised today the kids have lice in schools.

Yes.

And the people got sick on typhus. So my father got sick on typhus, no doctor. And I was sitting in a special place where young guys had temperature 105.

Typhus runs with a lot of temperature. And they were talking and running around. They didn't know what they were talking.

After my father got well, I got sick on typhus. They cut off the whole hair. The first thing, they cut off your hair. Just miracles that we are alive.

And we're normal people. And we brought up normal kids. And we're going on with our normal life. But when it comes to read a book from the Holocaust--