

Continue please.

Yes, so from Lodz, they got me some documents. I went as a Greek. Me and my brother brother went as Greeks.

Oh, really?

You know that was the time to stop. The organization put me like it was business as I went out of the Army. I'd given away my guns and all that, whatever I had. And they sent me away as a Greek just over the border.

And somehow, I come into Bratislava. And from Bratislava, they sent me in, after a few days, into Vienna. Then I was in Vienna for a while, and I was sent in from Vienna into Wels. That's on the Donau, a small little town. It goes like Vienna, Linz, Wels, tot Salzburg. Then I went in tot Salzburg.

And then I somehow made my way into another area that's a very famous place where skiing Badgastein.

Oh, Badgastein, yes.

And you ever hear of it?

Yes. I went

in towards Badgastein. And from Badgastein, I went back to Salzburg. For the reason is I was waiting for my papers to go back to-- to go to the United States. I had my family send me the papers. And I had to be in a major city to get on the boat.

Yeah. You were there under the occupation, though?

Yes, the American occupation, yes. And then from there, '47, '48, 49, February the 27th of 1949, I arrived in the United States. And so arrived in the United States, I have a cousin of mine, and she took me in for a while. Very few-- very little time I was with her. But she had a family on her own, and I understood that. Being around, going around all over Europe, and what I went through, I saw that she likes to have me there.

Where did you live? Where was this?

In Newark--

In Newark. on Bergen Street. I think it was 932 Bergen Street. [LAUGHS] She lived on the second floor, my cousin. And she took me in. She picked me up from the boat. It was very nice of her. I still remain with her very good contact. Whatever I can do for her, I still would help her.

She called me two days ago. She called me up. But we call each other to-- her husband passed away, but she has a family. And I always try to remain-- I don't forget things when somebody does for me something. My trademark would be today or in a year or in 20 years, I remain loyal to that person.

And I've been down there. Then she couldn't hold me, and I went away on my own. I remember, I went over in Newark. It was on Chancellor Avenue and Leslie Street-- not Leslie Street, Schley Street, yes, Schley Street. And I lived-- and I rented room by a woman, a Mrs. [? Lesser, ?] very find people. And she gave me one room. I paid that time \$6, and she used to give me some linen-- for the \$6 a week-- linen, and she was very nice and clean.

I had a window, nice coming out. And at nighttime, she used to offer me I should come in and watch television. Them years, she had a television. Then she used to offer me tea, but I didn't mean to intrude on her to eat. Well I know that \$6 [CHUCKLES] didn't cover my food and things like this. But she tried to be nice to me. She offered me a tea. It was in the wintertime. Sometimes she used to offer me a tea.

And then I used to go out with friends, people who came to the United States. And I tried to meet some guys. Then one guy, it so happened, the trade what my father was in-- I'm not saying it's anything wrong-- I never liked it.

But when I come here to the United States, I didn't have nobody here. My cousins were distant cousins, and they seem they couldn't help me. Not that-- they could help me, but somehow, they kind of-- I didn't-- I was too proud of myself. I was too proud of myself to go around to anybody.

Even when I used to come in to a cousin of mine, and I was hungry, for instance, and they used to try to give me a meal, I used to say then, I can't eat. I'm full. But actually, I was hungry. I'd rather go out and have myself a cup of coffee or tea or something. And I wouldn't want to intrude.

And first of all, I didn't set a date of coming over for dinner. I just happened-- them years, you just come in and say hello. And if it come dinnertime. I didn't know if there's dinnertime or lunchtime.

Were you part of a landsmanshaft, people from your own town or from your own--

Where?

Here in America.

Here? I had a few-- yes, I was not-- they had a landsman in New York. But I was so busy. I never went to it. But I used to belong-- I used to pay my dues to them. And I must have went once or twice. I went down there. And I had very nice relations with them.

And then, after I met my wife-- and I met my wife at a dance-- like them years when we had the Essex House in Newark. It was beautiful there at that time, very, very prestigious place, Newark Essex House with them elevators. I was gorgeous, with them halls, beautiful.

So I went-- the UJA made a dance for a Saturday night. They made a dance for people like girls. They're not just for newcomers, fore everybody. But the newcomers somehow saw an opportunity to get-- I wasn't married. I didn't have no girlfriend. So-- them guys, I had a couple of friends the same way. We said, oh, let's go down there. We'll see.

As I walked in, one of the girls sitting there, we had to pay \$1 at that time. Then they took my name. And they used to question me, are you married? I said, no I'm not. But I spoke very little English at that time. I said, no, I'm not married.

Well, she says to me, the interpreter, would you want to be introduced to someone? And I usually-- for me, it was always, no, no, I went through Europe, and I always did things on my own. No one-- I didn't let-- not that I didn't want anyone to do something for me. But that's a minor thing. I can-- I was pretty outgoing. I could find my own girlfriend, if I choose, I saw.

And I saw my wife there with a group of girls, and I met her. It somehow happened that she spoke German, and I spoke fluently German too. But that's us. She spoke German from her home. Her parents were from Germany.

She spoke German from her-- learned with her parents. And somehow, it was very easy for me to communicate with her. Not that it made us set up. I didn't know that she-- but I liked her for a reason is the way she-- she was cute and a very attractive young lady.

And I met her at that time. I remember. And we went out on a date. And from there on, we were together, going out. Then after, it was a short time after I got married. I didn't wait. For the reason is, my whole thinking was I lost my parents. My whole thinking was, why get married in Europe? I haven't got no home. I haven't got no means to support. I got no means to stay in a home.

Why get myself married to someone or be with somebody that I can't take care the proper way as a gentleman? I was a

young man, but I was very, so to say, what can I say, very proud of myself, and--

You had self-esteem.

Yes, self-esteem. I didn't let minor things-- I would-- even today, if there's certain things I can't help myself, I let somebody help me or direct me or something. I'm not that kind of a person not to-- but in a minor way of doing things, like meeting my wife or going to find a job or finding business or doing certain things or finding a home for my family, I always was strong in that perspective of being that way.

And today, we are married. It's going to be almost 39 years. We have nice three children, Rita, Lorraine, and Debbie. They're all successful in their own rights. Two are music teachers. One teaches music in West Orange. One teaches music in Cranford school system. One is a nurse.

Rita is married to a attorney. The middle daughter is married to a executive. He is the general manager of the Star Ledger, of the advertisement. And Debbie is married to a doctor. He's in these last years, in cardiology, intern in cardiology. And I think I done a pretty good-- directed myself and my kids in the proper direction.

Got grandchildren?

I have four grandchildren, yes. I have four grandchildren from-- Lorraine has three. One is Jessica [? Lynne, ?] and one is Alison. I don't know her middle name. I don't remember her middle name. And one is Jeremy, Jeremiah. His name is Jeremiah. Yeah, and Alison's name is, I think, Alison [? Howard. ?] That's for her grandfather's middle name, they got, and Jeremy.

And the one who's married to the doctor, his name is Dr. Weinstock. He's in Philadelphia. She has a little boy, too, a nice little boy. And now my oldest daughter, she's 37. She's now having a little baby too.

She was-- it's a medical field, but she's finally getting a little baby, and I'm very happy for her, in particular, and for the rest of them too, very nice three grandchildren. And that's four grandchildren. Now I'm going to have the fifth one. Yeah. And I'm proud of them all three girls.

A lot of people asking me, Joe, Doris-- my wife's name is Doris-- how did you get them three girls to play music? I said, listen, I tried to do the things the proper way. I was a participant. I was the audience. If you give a instrument to a child, and you tell them play, they're not going to play it right. They're not going to do right.

You have to participate with them, and I did participate. I sat when they played. I took them to their lessons. And if they come back with some pages of music, I used to sit, put out the television. I had some nice program. I liked to watch it, but my daughter was more important with her music than the programs. I didn't want to miss her, and I was taking it all over.

And now they say to me, oh, that's the way it is? I says, that's the way you got to do. If you want to just take-- to give a-- my daughter is playing the piano, playing the violin, viola, playing the accordion. She's playing-- both of them play the accordion, multiple instruments.

Oh, they comment, some people, they're just-- I said, I put a lot of effort into my children. I was busy with my business, but my mind was centered to go-- to send my daughter Rita to Hebrew school. She went to Temple B'Nai Abraham. I was-- I remember my wife was taking her down to the school, and I used to go home from business and take a nap, waiting for her, and things like this that I-- [INAUDIBLE] of things.

And today, they're successful on their own. But still, I'm the center of them when there's anything-- my son-in-law wants-- maybe he'll hear on the tape-- he can hear. My son-in-law, the attorney, he said to my other son-in-laws, he says, you better listen to the [INAUDIBLE]. Otherwise, you have something coming. He kind of made-- it's in a jokey way. He said, if you're not going to listen to him, you're out of context, you know what I mean?

But that isn't that way. He didn't mean it in a bad way. I know I'm not a on the edge person, but I understand things witty. I understand things. Well, he said it in a comment, while he had once a tape made on a wedding. So he said on the tape that kind of remark. He said to my other two son-in-laws, you better watch out.

[LAUGHTER]

But even they know today that I am not a nasty person. My all three son-in-laws know me for being helpful if they come down, if I can. They know me for that, that I'm OK.

Were you able to talk about your experiences before?

Where?

To your family.

The reason is, I tried to talk, but I being disrupted, and I walk away. Instead of saying to them, to my kids, like some parents would say, sit down and listen to my story. Let's sit down and I got to tell you something. You sit down. You want to walk away? Fine, I'm walking away too. I have no interest of telling you this story if you're not interested and sit.

There was not occasion they didn't want to listen. There were some disruptions in the family, the kids and this and that. So I usually was disrupted. And another thing is, some of the things-- it's too horrible for them to sit and listen to a length of time. Maybe to the tape, they'll sit and listen to. But to me, to sit down and telling episodes from my life, how I survived and things, I couldn't make them sit. That's the reason.

But they're successful in their own things, the nice three children I have, excellent, excellent. I love them all three the same. I left them a legacy. Even they're nice to each other. There's very few-- some children, I never put in jealousy in my kids. That kid wanted something, I done it. If I couldn't, I said, you're going to get it tomorrow.

Like my oldest daughter Rita, I'm very proud of her. When you take up the older child, and she carries on with the flag, that's the way I see it, life. She could relate to my middle daughter, to my younger daughter. And she does it in a beautiful way.

Like someone comes a birthday, before anything I do, she already has the presents, and she already has everything for each one of them, not asking me or asking her-- she already does it from her own will. She comes down and gives for this one a little something, for this one a little dress, for this one a little some-- blouse, for this one a little jewelry, for this one that. She carries down like I liked it, like if I would have been in her shoes in a home bought up like mine, or being comfortable like this right now. She has nothing special to wear, but she's not-- she's well off. She-- he makes a nice living, nice.

But she's nice with-- good-natured within herself, that money can't replace it. You can't replace this with money. You have to-- it's built-in within you. Well, you can see some-- I could see some people get nasty or kind of bad for no other spark, no reason at all.

But if I ever get to a point sometimes where I do-- I don't say I'm not a-- after all, you're human. You have some nerves. And if I get something in, I usually settle with a-- I usually have a saying, I make a knot and a bow on top. You know what I'm talking about?

Yes. Yes, I think I do.

[CHUCKLES]

I make a knot with a bow on top. I don't let it-- show that I'm

Bothered.

--bothered, and I'm so angry to a point where there's no return.

Part of your optimism, right?

Yeah. Yeah. There's no return to me. So the thing is, my older daughter-- and all three of them are that way. They're all three of them very good children. I'm on the-- if I were to show your cards, the way my kids send me for my birthday, it's unbelievable. I mean, there's a birthday card and a birthday card. And whatever they can express it on the card, they write it in too.

Why? I'm sometimes thinking that they're going a little bit out of the way. Why are you doing that? Not that they shouldn't do it. Why? For the reasons I had some episodes I used to be-- reprimand them too. I was a very strict father. Well I mean strict, not strict, that I-- my kids come down to me. I always played with them fair. You want me to do this for you? Fine, but first thing is, can you do this for me?

I used to bargain with them. Not bargaining for the impossible things. But if my daughter is supposed to do certain things, like school or lessons or going here, going there, I used to-- I undertook a bargaining chip with them.
[CHUCKLES]

There used to be a few dollars. I always-- when my daughters went out on a date, for instance-- I'll give you a little episode-- my daughter never went out of the house. My question was, before she left my door I was at home. Most of the time, I was-- I said, sweetheart, you have any money in your pocket? I'm putting it on tape. They're probably going to see it.

You have any money in the pocket? If she said, oh, I got a few dollars, I always used to tuck in a few dollars, a \$10, \$20 in their pocket. But I didn't want-- when you have boys, it's different. I understood that.

When you have girls, I used to say, pay your way. Don't let anybody own you. You can go out with nice boys. Go out on dates. That wasn't my thing. I never told them that. But I used to see that they never left my home without any money in their wallet or in their pocket. Or sometimes they used to say, oh, I got enough. I got enough. But I said, maybe you'll need it for gas, or maybe for something. You take it with you. If you have enough, when you'll come back, you'll give me back the money. I never seen it.

[LAUGHTER]

But they know that I'm always in back of them. And then now I feel there's no-- I think when I should say to my daughter, to any of my kids, something in reference of doing for me something, or going for me someplace, or making for me something. There's one should say to me that I got no time today. I'll do it for to you tomorrow. It's done, here, there, or she'll say a little later. Or she'll say to me, give me, let's say, the project or the thing, and I'll do it for you, and things like this. There's no-- and that's the way they carry on with their own families.

Lorraine got three beautiful kids. The one in Philadelphia is five months old. He's not yet. But the other, she-- they're into music. The other two girls, one is 9. The other one is 6. They're already playing in music, piano, violin. Yes.

And the little one, the six-year-old one, is too playing the piano, teaching my daughter is take-- you leave a--

Was your own family musical?

Yes, I like music. My whole family was musical, and my wife's too. And we like-- I like music. I can put away a lot of-- put out the television. And my home never went in any violent pictures too. My kids knew it-- no shooting, no-- they have their own homes, fine with me now. But my home never come in any violence, like horror pictures, or to go, I should send them to a horror movie, or bad movies or something, never. Always used to direct them.

You want to watch television? There's plenty of things to watch. But they know that I wasn't in favor of things like this. Even today, I'm at home with my wife. I'll watch LIW. I'll watch-- there's educational fields, channel 13, music. I'll watch, let's say, like concerts. I'll watch-- I'd rather watch animal life, the way-- survival of animal life in the wild than watch any horror picture, or any episodes of some kind of killings.

You find that more interesting and more valuable,

Yes, more valuable to me, yes, much more valuable. The reason is, at least, I don't see no violence. That's one thing. It's fascinated, how animal life, they have their own survival built in, their own survival things. And that's what I practice in my home. Yes.

Joe, we have very little time left, but can you just-- is there anything you want to say in conclusion?

Yeah, In concluding, is I think very much my daughter Lorraine, she is a really unique child in her own right. And that was cute of her to set up this appointment with you, Dr. Weinstock.

And I really appreciate this from her side, that she undertook the things where she is-- know my insides. She know my insides. I have a lot of storage within me, in my inside. And she wanted to bring it out for her and for her kids, for the future. Naturally, I'm not invincible. I'm going to be-- so you live till 80, 90, but that's going to be left for her to-- something priceless things. And I have to thank her.

My older daughter tried to make a tape, but somehow she was a little busy. But I think that was the best thing is Lorraine did it. All three wanted me to do the thing, but that was her initiative, to do things. And I appreciate very much.

So I can-- she's a grown lady, and sometimes I give her a hug and kiss her too. I'm not a-- I think I understand when a child is older, she needs somebody to come home and take care [INAUDIBLE]. But she deserves a lot of hugs for that.

Joe, thank you very much.