

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:17,610

2

00:00:17,610 --> 00:00:21,690

We left off, Jeanette, when
you were coming to Hungary.

3

00:00:21,690 --> 00:00:24,030

Can you tell us about your
experiences there, please?

4

00:00:24,030 --> 00:00:26,520

Yes.

5

00:00:26,520 --> 00:00:29,970

Every week, we had
to go to the police.

6

00:00:29,970 --> 00:00:32,590

First of all, I was
married in Hungary.

7

00:00:32,590 --> 00:00:38,640

I was married in Budapest on
the Király Utca by a rabbi,

8

00:00:38,640 --> 00:00:43,080

and then friends started to
talk that it's better and safer

9

00:00:43,080 --> 00:00:45,060

to be in Baja.

10

00:00:45,060 --> 00:00:47,890

This is near the Serbian border.

11

00:00:47,890 --> 00:00:51,240

And from there, we might go
to the underground in Serbia

12

00:00:51,240 --> 00:00:53,490

if they let us in.

13

00:00:53,490 --> 00:00:54,690

They rejected Jews.

14

00:00:54,690 --> 00:00:55,860

They didn't want Jews.

15

00:00:55,860 --> 00:00:57,480

And they didn't want
foreigners they.

16

00:00:57,480 --> 00:01:05,640

Were afraid of, maybe, people
that the Germans sent, spies.

17

00:01:05,640 --> 00:01:09,250

So it wasn't easy to get there.

18

00:01:09,250 --> 00:01:12,120

In the meantime, we formed
a community there in Baja.

19

00:01:12,120 --> 00:01:17,970

And there were a lot of
people that came with us.

20

00:01:17,970 --> 00:01:22,320

I don't remember exactly how
many families, but quite a few.

21

00:01:22,320 --> 00:01:28,770

And every week, we had to go, on
Sunday, to register and verify

22

00:01:28,770 --> 00:01:32,790

that we are here so they
would know where we are.

23

00:01:32,790 --> 00:01:38,130

And one day, in
1944, the Germans

24

00:01:38,130 --> 00:01:41,640

walked in, and took
over the government,

25

00:01:41,640 --> 00:01:45,810

and sent all those papers that--

26

00:01:45,810 --> 00:01:49,800

people from Poland, that
they escaped, the Christians.

27

00:01:49,800 --> 00:01:53,520

We have to check out and see
if they're original papers.

28

00:01:53,520 --> 00:01:55,890

So in the meantime,
they said to the men

29

00:01:55,890 --> 00:01:58,860

they have to let their
pants down to see,

30

00:01:58,860 --> 00:02:03,180

and they will check
which one is Jewish.

31

00:02:03,180 --> 00:02:07,820

And when they said that
my husband is Jewish,

32

00:02:07,820 --> 00:02:11,820

automatically they
said I'm Jewish.

33

00:02:11,820 --> 00:02:14,510

So I said, no, my
papers are real.

34

00:02:14,510 --> 00:02:15,290

They could check.

35

00:02:15,290 --> 00:02:18,770
They could send them to
Poland and check my papers.

36
00:02:18,770 --> 00:02:22,880
And I said I didn't know that he
was Jewish-- he never told me--

37
00:02:22,880 --> 00:02:28,340
and I was too young and
naive to know any different.

38
00:02:28,340 --> 00:02:34,220
And they hold me
back there in jail

39
00:02:34,220 --> 00:02:37,700
while they sent away my husband.

40
00:02:37,700 --> 00:02:41,810
And four weeks or maybe
a few weeks later,

41
00:02:41,810 --> 00:02:47,660
I received a postcard with
a little box of ashes,

42
00:02:47,660 --> 00:02:51,560
that he's dead, that he had
a heart attack, and he died.

43
00:02:51,560 --> 00:02:53,060
And I knew one thing--

44
00:02:53,060 --> 00:02:55,790
I have to escape from there.

45
00:02:55,790 --> 00:02:59,940
After they were holding me
there for a period of time,

46
00:02:59,940 --> 00:03:06,740
they sent me to Budapest,

to a jail, a very big jail.

47

00:03:06,740 --> 00:03:10,500

And it was very hard
to get out from there,

48

00:03:10,500 --> 00:03:14,330

and I knew one thing, that
I have to get out from there

49

00:03:14,330 --> 00:03:16,490

or I will die there.

50

00:03:16,490 --> 00:03:23,390

And every afternoon, I
saw in women come in,

51

00:03:23,390 --> 00:03:30,710

and they walk around
on the outside--

52

00:03:30,710 --> 00:03:37,520

no, they had a little forum
where they walked around.

53

00:03:37,520 --> 00:03:42,230

And they opened the doors,
and they let them out.

54

00:03:42,230 --> 00:03:45,020

So I talked to the
people that I was with,

55

00:03:45,020 --> 00:03:48,470

and they told me this is
prostitutes that they round up.

56

00:03:48,470 --> 00:03:52,040

And they give them black books,
and after they check them,

57

00:03:52,040 --> 00:03:54,650

they let them out.

58
00:03:54,650 --> 00:03:55,670
I knew one thing--

59
00:03:55,670 --> 00:03:57,380
I have to get out
with this group

60
00:03:57,380 --> 00:03:59,600
because there's no
other way, and that's

61
00:03:59,600 --> 00:04:03,200
how I escaped from
there, with the group.

62
00:04:03,200 --> 00:04:06,740
One day, I walked out with
them without even anybody

63
00:04:06,740 --> 00:04:08,030
noticing it.

64
00:04:08,030 --> 00:04:10,520
And when I escaped from
there, I started to run.

65
00:04:10,520 --> 00:04:11,540
I had no money with me.

66
00:04:11,540 --> 00:04:16,160
I had nothing to go with the
cable car, so I just ran.

67
00:04:16,160 --> 00:04:19,820
And this was about three
kilometers from the town,

68
00:04:19,820 --> 00:04:22,460
and I ran as fast as I could.

69
00:04:22,460 --> 00:04:24,740

You ran out of the outskirts
of Baja, in other words?

70
00:04:24,740 --> 00:04:30,190
No, this was in Budapest
because they had sent me

71
00:04:30,190 --> 00:04:34,300
from Baja, from the jail, to
Budapest, to a jail, a bigger

72
00:04:34,300 --> 00:04:35,080
one.

73
00:04:35,080 --> 00:04:44,980
And when I came to
a place in a park,

74
00:04:44,980 --> 00:04:51,640
I saw a little boy, maybe nine
years old, and he was there.

75
00:04:51,640 --> 00:04:54,200
He was my husband's
friend's son.

76
00:04:54,200 --> 00:04:58,180
His name was Mayer
[? Verleger. ?]

77
00:04:58,180 --> 00:05:00,160
I remembered his
name because he had

78
00:05:00,160 --> 00:05:02,530
the same name as
my husband, Mayer,

79
00:05:02,530 --> 00:05:04,300
and I asked him, what
are you doing here?

80
00:05:04,300 --> 00:05:07,010

And he told me that--

81

00:05:07,010 --> 00:05:12,290

and he told me all about the
movement with Hanoar Hatzioni,

82

00:05:12,290 --> 00:05:16,030

where they are,
and through him I

83

00:05:16,030 --> 00:05:21,640

got in touch with the same
people I was in touch before.

84

00:05:21,640 --> 00:05:23,950

But I didn't know
anything about them.

85

00:05:23,950 --> 00:05:27,400

I knew they exist, but
I didn't know where.

86

00:05:27,400 --> 00:05:33,040

And we went there, and I met for
the first time [PERSONAL NAME]

87

00:05:33,040 --> 00:05:34,780

Gutmann.

88

00:05:34,780 --> 00:05:41,590

And I met other
girls, Leon Blatt.

89

00:05:41,590 --> 00:05:43,750

And they told me
that they're going

90

00:05:43,750 --> 00:05:47,410

to send a youth
aliyah to Israel,

91

00:05:47,410 --> 00:05:51,610

and I'd be with them

because I'm pregnant,

92

00:05:51,610 --> 00:05:54,310

and also because I'm
young, and because they

93

00:05:54,310 --> 00:05:58,540

want me to take care
of Mayer [? Verleger ?]

94

00:05:58,540 --> 00:06:00,800

to take him to Israel.

95

00:06:00,800 --> 00:06:04,120

And they explained everything
to me, how it's going to work.

96

00:06:04,120 --> 00:06:06,880

97

00:06:06,880 --> 00:06:10,960

And it wasn't very
easy, and it wasn't--

98

00:06:10,960 --> 00:06:19,510

I had all different
things that interfered

99

00:06:19,510 --> 00:06:23,200

with seeing them and
going to them because I

100

00:06:23,200 --> 00:06:26,020

was afraid of the Gestapo.

101

00:06:26,020 --> 00:06:30,430

And one day, I came
to them, to the place

102

00:06:30,430 --> 00:06:35,180

near the border between
Romania and Hungary,

103

00:06:35,180 --> 00:06:42,370

and they told me where
I could find the people.

104

00:06:42,370 --> 00:06:43,780

But I had to look for them.

105

00:06:43,780 --> 00:06:47,200

It wasn't very easy to
find them because I had not

106

00:06:47,200 --> 00:06:51,460

known the language, and I
didn't know how the people look

107

00:06:51,460 --> 00:06:53,510

and where it is located.

108

00:06:53,510 --> 00:06:56,380

And here I had
false papers, and I

109

00:06:56,380 --> 00:06:58,270

couldn't ask people
where it this

110

00:06:58,270 --> 00:07:01,720

because I couldn't
speak the language.

111

00:07:01,720 --> 00:07:05,680

But after big difficulties,
I found the place,

112

00:07:05,680 --> 00:07:10,270

and we went through
the border in Romania.

113

00:07:10,270 --> 00:07:12,612

And we were caught.

114

00:07:12,612 --> 00:07:13,820

We were caught on the border.

115

00:07:13,820 --> 00:07:16,120

The Romanian soldiers caught us.

116

00:07:16,120 --> 00:07:18,970

How many of you were there?

117

00:07:18,970 --> 00:07:21,430

I never know how many we were.

118

00:07:21,430 --> 00:07:25,840

We were a small group because

I was six months pregnant

119

00:07:25,840 --> 00:07:26,575

almost then.

120

00:07:26,575 --> 00:07:29,925

121

00:07:29,925 --> 00:07:31,270

I didn't pay attention.

122

00:07:31,270 --> 00:07:35,140

I always thought, how do I

get out here, and from here,

123

00:07:35,140 --> 00:07:36,770

and how to survive.

124

00:07:36,770 --> 00:07:39,500

I was always thinking

how to survive.

125

00:07:39,500 --> 00:07:41,020

I didn't pay

attention to anything

126

00:07:41,020 --> 00:07:42,680

that went on in that group.

127

00:07:42,680 --> 00:07:43,390

Externally, yeah.

128

00:07:43,390 --> 00:07:48,250

On the outside, what
happens outside.

129

00:07:48,250 --> 00:07:55,450

Finally, we came to
Arad, a town in Romania,

130

00:07:55,450 --> 00:07:58,720

and I kept saying
that I'm not Jewish.

131

00:07:58,720 --> 00:08:02,410

And I said, I have my
papers, and they are real.

132

00:08:02,410 --> 00:08:04,780

And I'm not Jewish.

133

00:08:04,780 --> 00:08:09,460

And they took us to a
family, a Jewish family,

134

00:08:09,460 --> 00:08:11,920

and for the first
time, we washed,

135

00:08:11,920 --> 00:08:15,430

and we slept in a beautiful bed.

136

00:08:15,430 --> 00:08:18,160

And the people were so
kind to us, and they said,

137

00:08:18,160 --> 00:08:21,760

you can tell us
because we are Jewish.

138

00:08:21,760 --> 00:08:24,410

And you can tell us everything.

139

00:08:24,410 --> 00:08:26,290

So of course, my
friends right away

140

00:08:26,290 --> 00:08:28,090

started to say, yes, we Jewish.

141

00:08:28,090 --> 00:08:28,642

We escaped.

142

00:08:28,642 --> 00:08:30,100

And they told them
the whole story.

143

00:08:30,100 --> 00:08:31,720

We came from Poland.

144

00:08:31,720 --> 00:08:39,280

And at about 12:00,
the police came.

145

00:08:39,280 --> 00:08:43,539

They told the police that we
are Jews escaped from Poland,

146

00:08:43,539 --> 00:08:45,380

and they came to pick us up.

147

00:08:45,380 --> 00:08:47,140

And even then, I
kept saying, I'm

148

00:08:47,140 --> 00:08:50,290

not Jewish, because I didn't
tell them that I'm Jewish.

149

00:08:50,290 --> 00:08:56,130

And the family said so, that,
except for me and another girl

150

00:08:56,130 --> 00:08:59,020
there, Shoshana--

151
00:08:59,020 --> 00:09:04,180
she had, also, a Polish name,
Wanzia Except for those two,

152
00:09:04,180 --> 00:09:09,310
she said, they confess
that they Jewish.

153
00:09:09,310 --> 00:09:11,560
So they sent us to Tirgu Jiu.

154
00:09:11,560 --> 00:09:15,520
This is a political camp.

155
00:09:15,520 --> 00:09:20,020
And they ask us, if
we want to eat well,

156
00:09:20,020 --> 00:09:24,880
we have to pay 14,000
lei, let's say, a month.

157
00:09:24,880 --> 00:09:29,170
At the time, it was
very little dollars,

158
00:09:29,170 --> 00:09:33,010
but it worth a lot
of money in Romania.

159
00:09:33,010 --> 00:09:35,950
But for us, it wasn't much.

160
00:09:35,950 --> 00:09:41,980
And while we were eating in that
dining room area where we paid,

161
00:09:41,980 --> 00:09:43,390
we made contact
with the outside.

162
00:09:43,390 --> 00:09:46,120

163
00:09:46,120 --> 00:09:55,270
And a friend of ours, who
lives now in Tel Aviv--

164
00:09:55,270 --> 00:09:57,910
her name is Selena Shatil.

165
00:09:57,910 --> 00:10:01,840
She arranged an
escape for us, and she

166
00:10:01,840 --> 00:10:09,610
was waiting with the
car to escape from there

167
00:10:09,610 --> 00:10:11,920
to come to Bucharest.

168
00:10:11,920 --> 00:10:13,660
But it wasn't very easy.

169
00:10:13,660 --> 00:10:15,730
And I don't remember
all the details

170
00:10:15,730 --> 00:10:18,490
because it was my
last month already,

171
00:10:18,490 --> 00:10:21,590
and I felt that I have
to have the baby any day.

172
00:10:21,590 --> 00:10:26,140
And I was thinking now
about myself again, instead

173
00:10:26,140 --> 00:10:28,060

of what's going on around me.

174

00:10:28,060 --> 00:10:31,210

But I remember that she
waited with the car.

175

00:10:31,210 --> 00:10:35,150

I remember that we escaped,
quite a few people,

176

00:10:35,150 --> 00:10:38,770

and the trains were awful.

177

00:10:38,770 --> 00:10:42,340

We hanged outside on the
trains, and somebody pushed me

178

00:10:42,340 --> 00:10:44,290

through a window inside.

179

00:10:44,290 --> 00:10:48,210

And finally, we
came to Bucharest.

180

00:10:48,210 --> 00:10:50,850

And when we came
to Bucharest, they

181

00:10:50,850 --> 00:10:52,770

told us that there
is a movement,

182

00:10:52,770 --> 00:10:56,700

that there is Moshe
Sharett with one movement.

183

00:10:56,700 --> 00:10:59,970

There is another movement that--

184

00:10:59,970 --> 00:11:04,800

Dr. Klarmann is in
Turkey, in Istanbul,

185

00:11:04,800 --> 00:11:08,610
and he has a movement from the
Revisionist organization there.

186

00:11:08,610 --> 00:11:14,880
And there is a lot
of Zionist movements,

187

00:11:14,880 --> 00:11:18,130
that we go to Israel.

188

00:11:18,130 --> 00:11:21,300
And we had to make contact
again to go with them.

189

00:11:21,300 --> 00:11:24,430

190

00:11:24,430 --> 00:11:27,670
One day-- I don't know how--

191

00:11:27,670 --> 00:11:35,220
I was assigned to a ship called
Salahuddin with my group,

192

00:11:35,220 --> 00:11:39,090
and we supposed to be in
Constanza at so and so

193

00:11:39,090 --> 00:11:41,430
time to go with that ship.

194

00:11:41,430 --> 00:11:43,020
Is this a Turkish ship?

195

00:11:43,020 --> 00:11:46,350
I think it was a
Greek ship but going

196

00:11:46,350 --> 00:11:50,820
to Turkey and, from there,
to Israel, to Haifa.

197
00:11:50,820 --> 00:11:56,250
But I had pain, and it
was time to deliver.

198
00:11:56,250 --> 00:12:03,930
And they wired SOS, and
they took me down in Turkey

199
00:12:03,930 --> 00:12:05,580
to deliver my baby.

200
00:12:05,580 --> 00:12:09,050
I had to sign, first,
papers that I won't be a--

201
00:12:09,050 --> 00:12:10,320
my son won't be a citizen.

202
00:12:10,320 --> 00:12:15,420
He won't claim citizenship
of Turkish government.

203
00:12:15,420 --> 00:12:17,190
And I was taken down.

204
00:12:17,190 --> 00:12:20,160
By on the ship,
it wasn't so easy.

205
00:12:20,160 --> 00:12:21,960
We were packed like herrings.

206
00:12:21,960 --> 00:12:24,280
When we went too much
to the left side,

207
00:12:24,280 --> 00:12:25,860
they were saying,
go to the right

208
00:12:25,860 --> 00:12:29,890

because you will
turn us overboard.

209
00:12:29,890 --> 00:12:33,240
We had to make sure that
we stay in the middle.

210
00:12:33,240 --> 00:12:36,540

211
00:12:36,540 --> 00:12:42,300
But until I came, until that
time, we went through so much,

212
00:12:42,300 --> 00:12:47,700
really, and I make it sound
so easy to go here and there.

213
00:12:47,700 --> 00:12:54,635
But it took days and weeks
and very intense living.

214
00:12:54,635 --> 00:12:58,350

215
00:12:58,350 --> 00:13:00,510
Yeah.

216
00:13:00,510 --> 00:13:07,080
And what happened when you
departed from the ship?

217
00:13:07,080 --> 00:13:11,100
I delivered my son, my
oldest son, Charles Ehrlich.

218
00:13:11,100 --> 00:13:12,633
Was he born on the ship?

219
00:13:12,633 --> 00:13:15,980
No, he was born in Istanbul.

220

00:13:15,980 --> 00:13:21,700

As soon as I arrived in
Istanbul, I had my son.

221

00:13:21,700 --> 00:13:25,550

And there was a Dr.
[PERSONAL NAME] and Dr. Gross.

222

00:13:25,550 --> 00:13:30,330

She was a woman doctor, and
they both delivered my baby.

223

00:13:30,330 --> 00:13:35,010

And after a month, I was taken
from there by the Zionist

224

00:13:35,010 --> 00:13:39,270

movement through Syria
and brought to Haifa

225

00:13:39,270 --> 00:13:43,390

with a few other people,
with a group of other people.

226

00:13:43,390 --> 00:13:49,490

And this was in December 1944.

227

00:13:49,490 --> 00:13:53,690

My son was one month old.

228

00:13:53,690 --> 00:14:00,230

And then was a question,
what to do and where to go?

229

00:14:00,230 --> 00:14:10,490

I was left with almost no money
to live on, and what to do?

230

00:14:10,490 --> 00:14:14,320

But in Haifa, I met people
from my hometown that

231

00:14:14,320 --> 00:14:19,390

were very, very helpful,
and I stayed in their house

232
00:14:19,390 --> 00:14:20,470
for a while.

233
00:14:20,470 --> 00:14:23,350
And they made arrangements
for me to go to a kibbutz.

234
00:14:23,350 --> 00:14:25,910

235
00:14:25,910 --> 00:14:27,170
I was not long there.

236
00:14:27,170 --> 00:14:28,925
After six months,
I left the kibbutz.

237
00:14:28,925 --> 00:14:32,640

238
00:14:32,640 --> 00:14:37,020
What was life like for
you in the kibbutz?

239
00:14:37,020 --> 00:14:40,290
It wasn't easy, though
it was a very nice life.

240
00:14:40,290 --> 00:14:48,870
But I wasn't used to that
life, and I wasn't so liberal.

241
00:14:48,870 --> 00:14:53,550
This kibbutz was a
very liberal kibbutz,

242
00:14:53,550 --> 00:14:58,200
and I was raised different,
with religious background

243

00:14:58,200 --> 00:15:00,880
and different values.

244

00:15:00,880 --> 00:15:03,240
So of course, it wasn't for me.

245

00:15:03,240 --> 00:15:06,610
That's why I left it .

246

00:15:06,610 --> 00:15:12,550
And I made a life for me, and
the war was over at the time.

247

00:15:12,550 --> 00:15:15,130
I started to look for family.

248

00:15:15,130 --> 00:15:20,230
And I wrote to different people
that I heard that survived,

249

00:15:20,230 --> 00:15:23,830
and somebody who came
after the war to Israel

250

00:15:23,830 --> 00:15:28,000
told me-- this was a friend
of my husband, and he told me,

251

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:29,380
I saw your husband.

252

00:15:29,380 --> 00:15:31,600
He's alive, and he's in Germany.

253

00:15:31,600 --> 00:15:33,530
He's in Munich.

254

00:15:33,530 --> 00:15:36,700
And it was very hard to
get in contact with him

255

00:15:36,700 --> 00:15:42,160
because only families of
soldiers could get in touch,

256
00:15:42,160 --> 00:15:48,730
and write to them, and go there,
American soldiers, and not

257
00:15:48,730 --> 00:15:50,510
civilian people.

258
00:15:50,510 --> 00:15:53,860
So by the time we got in
touch with each other,

259
00:15:53,860 --> 00:15:56,860
it was almost September of '46.

260
00:15:56,860 --> 00:16:02,710
But I heard about him in 1946,
in the beginning of 1946,

261
00:16:02,710 --> 00:16:04,270
that he is alive.

262
00:16:04,270 --> 00:16:07,660
And many people told
him that I'm dead,

263
00:16:07,660 --> 00:16:09,970
and some people
told him that I live

264
00:16:09,970 --> 00:16:12,560
and that I have a baby boy.

265
00:16:12,560 --> 00:16:20,290
And somehow we got together, and
I came back to Munich, to him.

266
00:16:20,290 --> 00:16:23,960

267

00:16:23,960 --> 00:16:26,900
Were you able to recognize him?

268

00:16:26,900 --> 00:16:29,990
Did he seem very changed?

269

00:16:29,990 --> 00:16:33,930
After two years-- we were
only married very shortly,

270

00:16:33,930 --> 00:16:39,920
and I knew we were
married just a few months,

271

00:16:39,920 --> 00:16:46,520
about five months before
they deported him, really,

272

00:16:46,520 --> 00:16:49,751
four months when
they took him away--

273

00:16:49,751 --> 00:16:52,270
no, five months.

274

00:16:52,270 --> 00:16:54,050
And then I didn't see
him for two years.

275

00:16:54,050 --> 00:16:57,470
It was very difficult.

276

00:16:57,470 --> 00:16:59,540
But I always told--

277

00:16:59,540 --> 00:17:02,940
I showed my son his picture
that I always carried with me,

278

00:17:02,940 --> 00:17:05,810
and I showed him,
this is his father.

279
00:17:05,810 --> 00:17:09,410
And when it came time
to go to see him,

280
00:17:09,410 --> 00:17:13,730
my son recognized
him from the picture.

281
00:17:13,730 --> 00:17:16,550
He woke up in the middle of the
night, and my husband came in.

282
00:17:16,550 --> 00:17:17,680
This was in Munich.

283
00:17:17,680 --> 00:17:18,770
He came into the house.

284
00:17:18,770 --> 00:17:19,730
I was in his house.

285
00:17:19,730 --> 00:17:23,810
He went to France to
look for me because I

286
00:17:23,810 --> 00:17:26,645
went to France first and then
tried to get into Germany.

287
00:17:26,645 --> 00:17:29,540

288
00:17:29,540 --> 00:17:31,970
And he couldn't wait
until I get there,

289
00:17:31,970 --> 00:17:35,100
so he went to Paris
to look for me.

290
00:17:35,100 --> 00:17:41,720

And when he came back,
my son said, in Hebrew,

291
00:17:41,720 --> 00:17:43,970
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

292
00:17:43,970 --> 00:17:48,160
This means, Mom,
that's my father here.

293
00:17:48,160 --> 00:17:49,280
He came back.

294
00:17:49,280 --> 00:17:52,700
My father came back, not
just anybody's father,

295
00:17:52,700 --> 00:17:53,730
but my father.

296
00:17:53,730 --> 00:17:57,380
It was so touching
that I had to cry

297
00:17:57,380 --> 00:18:03,330
because he used to ask me
questions, where is my father?

298
00:18:03,330 --> 00:18:05,960
He was a little genius walking.

299
00:18:05,960 --> 00:18:08,600
He started to talk
very early, and he

300
00:18:08,600 --> 00:18:10,730
started to walk very early.

301
00:18:10,730 --> 00:18:13,040
And he asked all
kinds of questions

302

00:18:13,040 --> 00:18:15,640
that children his age are
not supposed to know, even,

303
00:18:15,640 --> 00:18:16,760
or to talk--

304
00:18:16,760 --> 00:18:17,410
even talk well.

305
00:18:17,410 --> 00:18:19,430
He was precocious.

306
00:18:19,430 --> 00:18:22,250
And he knew everything
like he would

307
00:18:22,250 --> 00:18:25,280
be a old person walking
in a little body,

308
00:18:25,280 --> 00:18:27,890
in the little baby's body.

309
00:18:27,890 --> 00:18:31,790
I guess the circumstances
made him more aware

310
00:18:31,790 --> 00:18:36,170
of what's going on, and
he recognized his father

311
00:18:36,170 --> 00:18:37,610
from the picture.

312
00:18:37,610 --> 00:18:41,630
And he was taken
that I had to cry

313
00:18:41,630 --> 00:18:47,510
to see with such compassion he
cried out, my father's here.

314

00:18:47,510 --> 00:18:48,440

He came back.

315

00:18:48,440 --> 00:18:52,550

316

00:18:52,550 --> 00:18:54,690

It's almost as though
his instincts told him

317

00:18:54,690 --> 00:18:57,468

that this was his father.

318

00:18:57,468 --> 00:18:58,010

That's right.

319

00:18:58,010 --> 00:18:58,690

That's right.

320

00:18:58,690 --> 00:19:01,910

321

00:19:01,910 --> 00:19:04,500

So you were together
now as a family.

322

00:19:04,500 --> 00:19:08,850

Yes, and we have three children.

323

00:19:08,850 --> 00:19:14,000

My son, the oldest one that
is named after Jabotinsky

324

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:16,710

because my husband
is Revisionist.

325

00:19:16,710 --> 00:19:20,060

And so I named him Zeev.

326

00:19:20,060 --> 00:19:22,040

That's Wolf.

327

00:19:22,040 --> 00:19:23,690

He lives in St. Petersburg.

328

00:19:23,690 --> 00:19:28,280

He is very active
in the community,

329

00:19:28,280 --> 00:19:31,640

and he's a very
successful lawyer.

330

00:19:31,640 --> 00:19:36,660

My daughter lives in Margate,
New Jersey, not far from me,

331

00:19:36,660 --> 00:19:40,530

and she taught for 10 years.

332

00:19:40,530 --> 00:19:46,790

Then she quit school
after she got her tenure.

333

00:19:46,790 --> 00:19:51,240

Because her husband needed
her in his business.

334

00:19:51,240 --> 00:19:53,450

And so she helped
them out very much.

335

00:19:53,450 --> 00:19:57,140

And my youngest son, who happens
to be a lawyer, too, in San

336

00:19:57,140 --> 00:20:01,970

Francisco, is also very
successful, and both of my sons

337

00:20:01,970 --> 00:20:03,800

have one little girl.

338

00:20:03,800 --> 00:20:06,230

My oldest son has a little
girl, and my youngest son

339

00:20:06,230 --> 00:20:07,040

has a little girl.

340

00:20:07,040 --> 00:20:08,510

My daughter has two girls.

341

00:20:08,510 --> 00:20:11,690

342

00:20:11,690 --> 00:20:16,850

During the five years
that you spent in Germany,

343

00:20:16,850 --> 00:20:18,950

how did you live?

344

00:20:18,950 --> 00:20:22,310

Did your husband
have employment?

345

00:20:22,310 --> 00:20:28,970

My husband had his own
business because he was

346

00:20:28,970 --> 00:20:31,460

a businessman before the war.

347

00:20:31,460 --> 00:20:36,320

He had a little factory
with leather, pocketbooks,

348

00:20:36,320 --> 00:20:39,110

and luggage, and things.

349

00:20:39,110 --> 00:20:40,653

But they employed a few people.

350

00:20:40,653 --> 00:20:41,570

I don't know how many.

351

00:20:41,570 --> 00:20:45,030

We never talked
about his business.

352

00:20:45,030 --> 00:20:48,750

We never talk about what it was.

353

00:20:48,750 --> 00:20:52,520

We try to avoid all the
talking about the war.

354

00:20:52,520 --> 00:20:56,460

What was it like for you to
live in Germany at this time?

355

00:20:56,460 --> 00:21:01,530

I was surrounded with my
friends and with friends

356

00:21:01,530 --> 00:21:05,970

that I made after the
war that survived.

357

00:21:05,970 --> 00:21:08,800

We moved in again,
like in a ghetto.

358

00:21:08,800 --> 00:21:12,760

We tried to be
close to each other.

359

00:21:12,760 --> 00:21:14,940

I lived in Borstei.

360

00:21:14,940 --> 00:21:18,610

This is outskirts of Munich.

361

00:21:18,610 --> 00:21:20,310

They had beautiful apartments.

362

00:21:20,310 --> 00:21:23,610
We had to finish our apartment
because it was destroyed

363

00:21:23,610 --> 00:21:27,240
during the war, so we had
to finish it off in order

364

00:21:27,240 --> 00:21:29,520
to get this apartment.

365

00:21:29,520 --> 00:21:32,790
And a lot of my friends
lived there that survived.

366

00:21:32,790 --> 00:21:36,690
They were not far
from my home town,

367

00:21:36,690 --> 00:21:39,810
and we tried to be all together.

368

00:21:39,810 --> 00:21:42,090
My husband was in business.

369

00:21:42,090 --> 00:21:47,220
And we lived only with the
day that we will leave Germany

370

00:21:47,220 --> 00:21:49,950
and go away from there.

371

00:21:49,950 --> 00:21:51,742
Did you want to come
to America, or did you

372

00:21:51,742 --> 00:21:53,033
want to go in different places.

373

00:21:53,033 --> 00:21:55,020
I wanted to go to
America and my husband

374
00:21:55,020 --> 00:22:00,540
wanted to go to Israel because
he was a very hard Zionist.

375
00:22:00,540 --> 00:22:03,870
But I had two cousins
that survived,

376
00:22:03,870 --> 00:22:05,940
and they were both physicians.

377
00:22:05,940 --> 00:22:08,380
And they said they're
going to America,

378
00:22:08,380 --> 00:22:12,720
and since we didn't want to
part because my cousins were

379
00:22:12,720 --> 00:22:16,860
very close to us--

380
00:22:16,860 --> 00:22:19,650
I was practically
raised with their wives

381
00:22:19,650 --> 00:22:22,470
because they're
my first cousins.

382
00:22:22,470 --> 00:22:25,710
My father and their
father were brothers,

383
00:22:25,710 --> 00:22:30,460
so I decided that I want to have
family and live close to them.

384
00:22:30,460 --> 00:22:36,130
I don't want to part again
and be alone in this world.

385

00:22:36,130 --> 00:22:38,980

And where did you settle
in the United States?

386

00:22:38,980 --> 00:22:42,160

We came to New York because
they lived, at that time,

387

00:22:42,160 --> 00:22:44,140

in New York before they
moved to Long Island.

388

00:22:44,140 --> 00:22:46,670

389

00:22:46,670 --> 00:22:53,320

And they came to pick us up when
we came by plane to LaGuardia.

390

00:22:53,320 --> 00:22:57,160

This was the 1st
of August in 1951.

391

00:22:57,160 --> 00:22:59,230

And they were waiting
for us, and they took us

392

00:22:59,230 --> 00:23:01,010

straight to their home.

393

00:23:01,010 --> 00:23:07,150

And since they
lived both together

394

00:23:07,150 --> 00:23:09,550

in the same
building, my cousins,

395

00:23:09,550 --> 00:23:13,750

we stayed with them until
we found our own apartment

396

00:23:13,750 --> 00:23:18,970
and until my husband started
to look for things to do.

397
00:23:18,970 --> 00:23:22,140

398
00:23:22,140 --> 00:23:24,690
And how did your
own lives evolve

399
00:23:24,690 --> 00:23:26,295
over the next several years?

400
00:23:26,295 --> 00:23:29,040

401
00:23:29,040 --> 00:23:31,290
My husband had
friends in New Jersey,

402
00:23:31,290 --> 00:23:33,210
and they all bought farms.

403
00:23:33,210 --> 00:23:36,810
And they were very
happy on the farms

404
00:23:36,810 --> 00:23:43,930
because they didn't have to go
to shops and work or do things.

405
00:23:43,930 --> 00:23:49,020
So they said to my husband
to buy a piece of land

406
00:23:49,020 --> 00:23:53,400
and build a farm, that this
would be very good for him.

407
00:23:53,400 --> 00:23:55,920
First of all, he will
be among friends.

408
00:23:55,920 --> 00:23:57,270
And he did.

409
00:23:57,270 --> 00:24:01,270
So he didn't know that he
will be allergic to all that,

410
00:24:01,270 --> 00:24:04,890
and he couldn't even
come near the equipment.

411
00:24:04,890 --> 00:24:08,430
And we had people working,
and it didn't work out.

412
00:24:08,430 --> 00:24:11,730
And we lost money
on the farm, and we

413
00:24:11,730 --> 00:24:14,100
had to look for other
means to survive.

414
00:24:14,100 --> 00:24:17,330
So we went into business.

415
00:24:17,330 --> 00:24:19,010
What kind of business?

416
00:24:19,010 --> 00:24:22,910
I had a store with yard
goods, and my husband

417
00:24:22,910 --> 00:24:25,250
was a commercial decorator.

418
00:24:25,250 --> 00:24:31,580
He decorated hotels, motels,
homes, all different things,

419
00:24:31,580 --> 00:24:34,730

schools, and
hospitals, the cubic--

420
00:24:34,730 --> 00:24:36,395
drapes, and different things.

421
00:24:36,395 --> 00:24:40,170

422
00:24:40,170 --> 00:24:45,390
Jeanette, have you been able
to speak with your children

423
00:24:45,390 --> 00:24:47,530
about the things
that happened to you?

424
00:24:47,530 --> 00:24:52,500
Have you been able to talk
with them about the Holocaust,

425
00:24:52,500 --> 00:24:54,840
and have they been able to--

426
00:24:54,840 --> 00:24:57,360
have they asked you about it?

427
00:24:57,360 --> 00:25:00,810
With my oldest son, I
always talked about things,

428
00:25:00,810 --> 00:25:03,280
about how it was during the war.

429
00:25:03,280 --> 00:25:08,970
And he knew-- as
I put him to bed,

430
00:25:08,970 --> 00:25:13,860
I was telling him a
story, a story of my life.

431

00:25:13,860 --> 00:25:21,270
Every day, I took another day
of my life during the Holocaust,

432
00:25:21,270 --> 00:25:24,600
about the ghettos,
and about the camp,

433
00:25:24,600 --> 00:25:30,270
and also, the way I
escaped from here to there.

434
00:25:30,270 --> 00:25:34,560
When I told my story right
now, I skipped a lot.

435
00:25:34,560 --> 00:25:41,460
But I figured my son should know
if someday he will be the one

436
00:25:41,460 --> 00:25:43,260
to tell the story.

437
00:25:43,260 --> 00:25:45,390
It shouldn't be forgotten.

438
00:25:45,390 --> 00:25:49,560
It was times that he said,
Mom, please, stop telling me.

439
00:25:49,560 --> 00:25:50,460
It breaks my heart.

440
00:25:50,460 --> 00:25:51,671
And he used to cry with me.

441
00:25:51,671 --> 00:25:54,440

442
00:25:54,440 --> 00:25:59,490
But my daughter because--

443

00:25:59,490 --> 00:26:01,360
she couldn't hear those stories.

444
00:26:01,360 --> 00:26:04,590
She used to cry and say, no,
no I don't want to hear that.

445
00:26:04,590 --> 00:26:06,150
Please don't tell me about it.

446
00:26:06,150 --> 00:26:08,460
And when will you
stop talking about it?

447
00:26:08,460 --> 00:26:10,770
You live now in a
different country,

448
00:26:10,770 --> 00:26:12,180
and you shouldn't talk about it.

449
00:26:12,180 --> 00:26:12,990
You should forget.

450
00:26:12,990 --> 00:26:14,490
You should make a
life for yourself

451
00:26:14,490 --> 00:26:15,532
and not live in the past.

452
00:26:15,532 --> 00:26:18,730

453
00:26:18,730 --> 00:26:21,800
My youngest son couldn't
take that either.

454
00:26:21,800 --> 00:26:23,830
It just broke his heart.

455
00:26:23,830 --> 00:26:25,900

Later on, he wanted
me to tell him,

456
00:26:25,900 --> 00:26:32,320
and I couldn't anymore because
I was silent for so many years

457
00:26:32,320 --> 00:26:35,680
that I couldn't bring
it back to life again.

458
00:26:35,680 --> 00:26:38,320

459
00:26:38,320 --> 00:26:41,260
So I the younger
children don't know so

460
00:26:41,260 --> 00:26:44,560
much about it, my younger
son and my younger daughter,

461
00:26:44,560 --> 00:26:50,350
but my oldest son knows
almost everything about--

462
00:26:50,350 --> 00:26:54,670
What brought you to
talk about it now?

463
00:26:54,670 --> 00:26:59,320
Because I'm getting old, and
somebody has to tell the story.

464
00:26:59,320 --> 00:27:04,360
I see how they
deny the Holocaust

465
00:27:04,360 --> 00:27:09,010
and how books are written
about it, that it was a hoax.

466
00:27:09,010 --> 00:27:12,310

467

00:27:12,310 --> 00:27:18,010

And I want to prevent
another reoccurrence of it.

468

00:27:18,010 --> 00:27:21,790

If we won't tell the story and
we won't remind the world what

469

00:27:21,790 --> 00:27:25,930

happened, it might come back.

470

00:27:25,930 --> 00:27:33,340

So I feel it's time to reveal
how unhuman people can be

471

00:27:33,340 --> 00:27:36,520

and what they can do.

472

00:27:36,520 --> 00:27:41,170

And also, with anti-Semitism
growing in this country,

473

00:27:41,170 --> 00:27:44,170

I feel it's time
to tell the story.

474

00:27:44,170 --> 00:27:48,540

Maybe we can prevent
another Holocaust.

475

00:27:48,540 --> 00:27:50,880

I hope so, and thank you
very much for sharing

476

00:27:50,880 --> 00:27:52,270

your experience with us.

477

00:27:52,270 --> 00:27:53,900

You're welcome.

478

00:27:53,900 --> 00:28:29,000