

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:14,930

2  
00:00:14,930 --> 00:00:15,430  
Tell me.

3  
00:00:15,430 --> 00:00:20,350

4  
00:00:20,350 --> 00:00:24,700  
Can you reflect a little  
bit on your own childhood?

5  
00:00:24,700 --> 00:00:29,110  
Did you feel that you  
had lost your childhood?

6  
00:00:29,110 --> 00:00:34,600  
I definitely feel that  
I lost my childhood.

7  
00:00:34,600 --> 00:00:39,970  
And in no other  
time did I feel that

8  
00:00:39,970 --> 00:00:45,460  
as when my daughter was born.

9  
00:00:45,460 --> 00:00:48,790  
When my daughter  
was born, I felt

10  
00:00:48,790 --> 00:00:55,070  
like God gave me another chance  
to experience a childhood,

11  
00:00:55,070 --> 00:00:58,090  
even though it's not my own.

12  
00:00:58,090 --> 00:01:04,599  
I used to play with her

toys that many times I

13

00:01:04,599 --> 00:01:09,190

said to myself, I wonder  
if this is normal?

14

00:01:09,190 --> 00:01:15,760

But I felt such a thirst, such  
a craving to play with a doll,

15

00:01:15,760 --> 00:01:22,360

to manipulate her toys, to  
sew dresses for the doll,

16

00:01:22,360 --> 00:01:25,150

to sew clothing for that doll.

17

00:01:25,150 --> 00:01:27,070

There were times that  
I must admit that when

18

00:01:27,070 --> 00:01:29,080

I went to buy her a toy--

19

00:01:29,080 --> 00:01:33,610

and this is I'm sure  
she will forgive me--

20

00:01:33,610 --> 00:01:37,060

was more so because  
I wanted it as much

21

00:01:37,060 --> 00:01:38,550

as I wanted to buy it for her.

22

00:01:38,550 --> 00:01:41,650

23

00:01:41,650 --> 00:01:46,120

There was such a gap left  
open in my early years

24

00:01:46,120 --> 00:01:52,600  
that I feel I was given another  
chance through my children

25  
00:01:52,600 --> 00:01:58,360  
to experience a  
normal childhood.

26  
00:01:58,360 --> 00:02:05,560  
And every aspect of it was  
like a breath of fresh air.

27  
00:02:05,560 --> 00:02:07,060  
It satisfied me.

28  
00:02:07,060 --> 00:02:11,020  
It satisfied a need that I  
could never put into words.

29  
00:02:11,020 --> 00:02:14,980  
Because how can a  
mature person say, Oh,

30  
00:02:14,980 --> 00:02:17,350  
I feel like being a child?

31  
00:02:17,350 --> 00:02:24,580  
This certainly I knew was  
not acceptable at any time

32  
00:02:24,580 --> 00:02:26,900  
in our society.

33  
00:02:26,900 --> 00:02:32,470  
However, I thank God that no one  
questioned my inner feelings,

34  
00:02:32,470 --> 00:02:38,290  
because my inner feelings  
were being fulfilled by this.

35  
00:02:38,290 --> 00:02:41,620  
First of all, I named my first

daughter after my Bubbe Leah.

36

00:02:41,620 --> 00:02:43,075

I named her Leah.

37

00:02:43,075 --> 00:02:45,430

Her name is Lisa.

38

00:02:45,430 --> 00:02:51,250

And to me she was  
the joy of my life.

39

00:02:51,250 --> 00:02:57,070

That having her was fulfilling  
with my Bubbe's name,

40

00:02:57,070 --> 00:03:02,200

having her was fulfilling  
a childhood loss.

41

00:03:02,200 --> 00:03:08,870

Having her filled up every gap  
that was missing from my life,

42

00:03:08,870 --> 00:03:11,770

from my puzzle.

43

00:03:11,770 --> 00:03:15,490

And you know I went into  
my profession as an adult.

44

00:03:15,490 --> 00:03:19,450

I only got my BA degree in 1976.

45

00:03:19,450 --> 00:03:21,760

After my children  
went off to school,

46

00:03:21,760 --> 00:03:25,607

I decided to go  
back to school too.

47

00:03:25,607 --> 00:03:27,940  
Yeah, but today that's not  
an unusual thing for anybody.

48  
00:03:27,940 --> 00:03:28,720  
But for me--

49  
00:03:28,720 --> 00:03:34,430

50  
00:03:34,430 --> 00:03:36,940  
And I had a choice  
of picking anything

51  
00:03:36,940 --> 00:03:41,530  
I wanted because when you're  
out of high school you pick

52  
00:03:41,530 --> 00:03:44,380  
a career, you're young  
and what do we say,

53  
00:03:44,380 --> 00:03:46,570  
youth is wasted on the young.

54  
00:03:46,570 --> 00:03:49,450  
I was a very a mature  
individual and I

55  
00:03:49,450 --> 00:03:52,960  
could have chosen  
any other profession,

56  
00:03:52,960 --> 00:03:57,700  
but I wanted to pick  
elementary and early childhood.

57  
00:03:57,700 --> 00:04:03,670  
I wanted to have  
a look at experts

58  
00:04:03,670 --> 00:04:07,960  
who describe children's

behaviors, who describe

59

00:04:07,960 --> 00:04:11,680

children's development  
and what effects it

60

00:04:11,680 --> 00:04:15,010

can have on an individual.

61

00:04:15,010 --> 00:04:17,740

62

00:04:17,740 --> 00:04:21,820

And that to me meant  
the whole world.

63

00:04:21,820 --> 00:04:23,440

And it served a dual purpose.

64

00:04:23,440 --> 00:04:26,980

It served a purpose that  
it fulfilled my desire

65

00:04:26,980 --> 00:04:29,650

to look into my own  
early childhood.

66

00:04:29,650 --> 00:04:32,020

And it fulfilled my desire  
to enter a classroom

67

00:04:32,020 --> 00:04:36,010

and say, hey Hitler, you lost.

68

00:04:36,010 --> 00:04:37,990

I won.

69

00:04:37,990 --> 00:04:45,220

I am looking at children  
of all colors, so there.

70

00:04:45,220 --> 00:04:50,290

It gave me a satisfaction  
that I could feel.

71  
00:04:50,290 --> 00:04:55,360  
And feelings are the  
ones that keep us going.

72  
00:04:55,360 --> 00:04:56,270  
Don't kid yourself.

73  
00:04:56,270 --> 00:04:59,080

74  
00:04:59,080 --> 00:05:03,400  
So to me it was a triumph  
beyond anybody's imagination.

75  
00:05:03,400 --> 00:05:04,810  
You achieved all  
that you wanted.

76  
00:05:04,810 --> 00:05:09,040  
I achieved everything  
that I wanted.

77  
00:05:09,040 --> 00:05:12,700  
I kept silent all  
these years until I

78  
00:05:12,700 --> 00:05:16,900  
was in a social situation and  
I overheard people saying,

79  
00:05:16,900 --> 00:05:18,470  
the Holocaust never happened.

80  
00:05:18,470 --> 00:05:20,240  
How could that happen?

81  
00:05:20,240 --> 00:05:24,220  
How could people  
survive such a trauma?

82

00:05:24,220 --> 00:05:26,710

It probably never happened.

83

00:05:26,710 --> 00:05:32,080

And this is when, although I  
was too civilized to give them

84

00:05:32,080 --> 00:05:36,100

a piece of my mind because  
when you're out socially

85

00:05:36,100 --> 00:05:39,880

you naturally do not  
behave in a manner that

86

00:05:39,880 --> 00:05:45,670

is not acceptable to the social  
situation, but I was mad.

87

00:05:45,670 --> 00:05:48,460

I was mad and I was hurt.

88

00:05:48,460 --> 00:05:51,460

And this is when the seed  
was planted in my mind.

89

00:05:51,460 --> 00:05:57,270

Hey, Rose, you're not only a  
survivor you are a witness.

90

00:05:57,270 --> 00:06:00,550

You were there.

91

00:06:00,550 --> 00:06:04,930

And how dare they  
think otherwise?

92

00:06:04,930 --> 00:06:08,020

93

00:06:08,020 --> 00:06:11,020

Do you think that



if this happens now

94

00:06:11,020 --> 00:06:16,180  
with the plethora of Holocaust  
denial that exists today

95

00:06:16,180 --> 00:06:19,780  
that you would even think  
twice about answering them back

96

00:06:19,780 --> 00:06:21,310  
on it?

97

00:06:21,310 --> 00:06:26,320  
You know, there is one thing  
that we must always remember.

98

00:06:26,320 --> 00:06:31,690  
First of all, we must teach  
our children mutual respect.

99

00:06:31,690 --> 00:06:36,460  
We must teach our children  
multicultural heritages

100

00:06:36,460 --> 00:06:40,630  
so that they will know what  
to expect one from the other.

101

00:06:40,630 --> 00:06:42,490  
And at the same  
time, we must not

102

00:06:42,490 --> 00:06:46,390  
be silent to those  
who attack us.

103

00:06:46,390 --> 00:06:50,890  
We have to respect  
everyone, but we need

104

00:06:50,890 --> 00:06:53,475  
to demand respect in return.

105  
00:06:53,475 --> 00:06:56,410

106  
00:06:56,410 --> 00:06:58,540  
I am angry.

107  
00:06:58,540 --> 00:07:02,410  
It's too bad that it  
took so many years

108  
00:07:02,410 --> 00:07:07,490  
but it was circumstances that  
brought me to this point.

109  
00:07:07,490 --> 00:07:11,170  
Circumstances of how  
ignorant people can be.

110  
00:07:11,170 --> 00:07:13,730

111  
00:07:13,730 --> 00:07:17,360  
Even in Germany after the  
war they didn't see anything.

112  
00:07:17,360 --> 00:07:20,760  
They didn't smell anything.

113  
00:07:20,760 --> 00:07:25,400  
And as a result, they  
didn't know anything.

114  
00:07:25,400 --> 00:07:27,950  
Shame on them.

115  
00:07:27,950 --> 00:07:29,930  
It was all a lie.

116  
00:07:29,930 --> 00:07:33,620  
They saw everything,  
they smelled everything

117  
00:07:33,620 --> 00:07:35,430  
and did nothing about it.

118  
00:07:35,430 --> 00:07:36,350  
And they were silent.

119  
00:07:36,350 --> 00:07:38,240  
And they were silent.

120  
00:07:38,240 --> 00:07:40,715  
And silence is the worst enemy.

121  
00:07:40,715 --> 00:07:43,590

122  
00:07:43,590 --> 00:07:46,435  
We are human beings.

123  
00:07:46,435 --> 00:07:50,110

124  
00:07:50,110 --> 00:07:54,640  
The Nazi era was--

125  
00:07:54,640 --> 00:07:56,950  
I can't even call  
it animalistic.

126  
00:07:56,950 --> 00:08:00,670  
Animals only kill  
when they're hungry.

127  
00:08:00,670 --> 00:08:03,130  
How many times I  
watch these shows

128  
00:08:03,130 --> 00:08:06,910  
on television about nature.

129  
00:08:06,910 --> 00:08:07,990

It's amazing.

130

00:08:07,990 --> 00:08:10,570

They only kill when  
they're hungry.

131

00:08:10,570 --> 00:08:14,650

But here one group  
of individuals

132

00:08:14,650 --> 00:08:19,540

picked out another group  
to torment, to torture,

133

00:08:19,540 --> 00:08:24,880

to burn, to experiment  
only because they were

134

00:08:24,880 --> 00:08:31,210

Jewish and for no other reason?

135

00:08:31,210 --> 00:08:33,720

Well, I was a  
witness to all that.

136

00:08:33,720 --> 00:08:36,610

137

00:08:36,610 --> 00:08:42,070

And when I'm in the classroom,  
I teach a bilingual class now,

138

00:08:42,070 --> 00:08:44,770

would you believe it  
of Polish children,

139

00:08:44,770 --> 00:08:48,400

Polish immigrants that just  
came to the United States

140

00:08:48,400 --> 00:08:51,010

this past August?

141

00:08:51,010 --> 00:09:02,590

And every day we have some kind  
of an expressive interaction

142

00:09:02,590 --> 00:09:05,800

of how we need to  
behave to one another.

143

00:09:05,800 --> 00:09:09,760

Do we persecute people on  
the basis of how they look

144

00:09:09,760 --> 00:09:14,185

or do we look at people on  
the inside how they are?

145

00:09:14,185 --> 00:09:17,660

146

00:09:17,660 --> 00:09:22,295

So in a way I think I  
survived for a purpose.

147

00:09:22,295 --> 00:09:25,450

148

00:09:25,450 --> 00:09:28,900

I survived for a purpose.

149

00:09:28,900 --> 00:09:29,940

I am now married.

150

00:09:29,940 --> 00:09:32,680

I have a wonderful husband.

151

00:09:32,680 --> 00:09:35,330

He survived under  
similar circumstances.

152

00:09:35,330 --> 00:09:37,840

153

00:09:37,840 --> 00:09:44,570

I picked him at age 18  
right out of high school

154

00:09:44,570 --> 00:09:48,950

and I must be a very perceptive  
individual because we're now

155

00:09:48,950 --> 00:09:52,820

married 38 years.

156

00:09:52,820 --> 00:09:56,690

He is not only my  
husband in every way

157

00:09:56,690 --> 00:09:58,055

but he's my best friend.

158

00:09:58,055 --> 00:10:00,900

159

00:10:00,900 --> 00:10:03,510

I have two beautiful  
children, my daughter Lisa

160

00:10:03,510 --> 00:10:07,380

who is an occupational therapist  
at Columbia Presbyterian.

161

00:10:07,380 --> 00:10:08,350

She's married.

162

00:10:08,350 --> 00:10:13,050

She has a son named  
Corey who was 4 and 1/2

163

00:10:13,050 --> 00:10:16,830

and a little girl named Robin  
who is a year and a half.

164

00:10:16,830 --> 00:10:25,050

I have a son Alan, Alan Jay,

who is named after my Zeda that

165

00:10:25,050 --> 00:10:28,050  
was burned in the gas chambers.

166

00:10:28,050 --> 00:10:31,890  
He's married to my  
daughter-in-law, Joyce,

167

00:10:31,890 --> 00:10:34,090  
and they have three children.

168

00:10:34,090 --> 00:10:39,240  
The oldest is Jessica who is  
five and Heather is three.

169

00:10:39,240 --> 00:10:43,980  
And they just had a little  
boy named David Jeremy.

170

00:10:43,980 --> 00:10:48,540  
And he has a degree  
in computer science.

171

00:10:48,540 --> 00:10:49,950  
My son-in-law, Merrill.

172

00:10:49,950 --> 00:10:54,210  
Merrill is also a  
computer scientist

173

00:10:54,210 --> 00:10:56,820  
and he's a graphic arts.

174

00:10:56,820 --> 00:10:58,410  
They live in Bergenfield.

175

00:10:58,410 --> 00:11:01,020  
My son lives in  
Richboro, Pennsylvania.

176

00:11:01,020 --> 00:11:03,270

Tell me a little  
about your parents.

177  
00:11:03,270 --> 00:11:03,900  
My parents.

178  
00:11:03,900 --> 00:11:06,900

179  
00:11:06,900 --> 00:11:14,580  
When we came to  
America in 1951, we

180  
00:11:14,580 --> 00:11:16,230  
were detained at Ellis Island.

181  
00:11:16,230 --> 00:11:19,740  
I'm also a product  
of Ellis Island.

182  
00:11:19,740 --> 00:11:24,930  
You know when I took a course  
in photography here at Kean

183  
00:11:24,930 --> 00:11:28,950  
we needed to review different  
pictures of different times

184  
00:11:28,950 --> 00:11:30,340  
in America.

185  
00:11:30,340 --> 00:11:31,980  
And when they were  
reviewing naturally

186  
00:11:31,980 --> 00:11:36,270  
times of the Holocaust, so I  
said I'm a Holocaust survivor.

187  
00:11:36,270 --> 00:11:38,370  
Then the review reviewing  
times of Ellis Island



188

00:11:38,370 --> 00:11:39,600  
of the early immigrants.

189

00:11:39,600 --> 00:11:41,880  
I said, I'm a product  
of Ellis Island.

190

00:11:41,880 --> 00:11:43,680  
And my professor said to me--

191

00:11:43,680 --> 00:11:48,120  
and he envisions Ellis Island  
people only from the 20s--

192

00:11:48,120 --> 00:11:52,440  
and he said, Rose, if you tell  
me that you're 85 years old

193

00:11:52,440 --> 00:11:55,110  
I will flunk you on this course.

194

00:11:55,110 --> 00:11:56,220  
I said, no, no, no.

195

00:11:56,220 --> 00:11:57,690  
I'm not 85.

196

00:11:57,690 --> 00:12:03,390  
Because we were the last  
of the Ellis Island people.

197

00:12:03,390 --> 00:12:07,140  
And my father,  
during the war, must

198

00:12:07,140 --> 00:12:09,840  
have had some kind of  
infection of the lungs

199

00:12:09,840 --> 00:12:12,993  
because a spot  
remained on his lungs.

200

00:12:12,993 --> 00:12:14,910

So that's why they  
detained us at Ellis Island

201

00:12:14,910 --> 00:12:21,990

to see if the spot  
did not change size.

202

00:12:21,990 --> 00:12:25,170

So they quarantined  
us for a few weeks.

203

00:12:25,170 --> 00:12:30,960

And if that spot on his  
lungs had changed size,

204

00:12:30,960 --> 00:12:32,490

they were going to deport us.

205

00:12:32,490 --> 00:12:36,100

206

00:12:36,100 --> 00:12:42,070

So again I'm here  
by sheer miracle.

207

00:12:42,070 --> 00:12:48,440

After we got off from Ellis  
Island we came to New York

208

00:12:48,440 --> 00:12:50,080

and we went to the HIAS.

209

00:12:50,080 --> 00:12:54,850

And because my father's sister,  
her name was Dora Sarajev,

210

00:12:54,850 --> 00:12:56,990

she lived in Reading,  
Pennsylvania,

211

00:12:56,990 --> 00:12:59,830  
she was the one that  
brought us to America.

212  
00:12:59,830 --> 00:13:02,710  
The HIAS could not  
help us with anything.

213  
00:13:02,710 --> 00:13:07,340  
We had \$0.25 to our name.

214  
00:13:07,340 --> 00:13:11,390  
The people that came here  
without being requested

215  
00:13:11,390 --> 00:13:14,210  
by relatives, they were  
given jobs and apartments

216  
00:13:14,210 --> 00:13:17,380  
and the kids were  
sent off to school.

217  
00:13:17,380 --> 00:13:22,130  
So the only way the HIAS would  
help us was for my aunt to say

218  
00:13:22,130 --> 00:13:25,460  
that she cannot support us.

219  
00:13:25,460 --> 00:13:28,850  
And she was a very  
respected individual

220  
00:13:28,850 --> 00:13:30,030  
in Reading, Pennsylvania.

221  
00:13:30,030 --> 00:13:36,110  
Her children were educated  
and she was a very from high

222  
00:13:36,110 --> 00:13:39,980  
society, let's put it this way.

223  
00:13:39,980 --> 00:13:42,110  
So my father said to  
her, tell the HIAS

224  
00:13:42,110 --> 00:13:43,250  
that you can't help us.

225  
00:13:43,250 --> 00:13:44,660  
They will help us.

226  
00:13:44,660 --> 00:13:47,630  
So she said, Moishele,  
if I tell them

227  
00:13:47,630 --> 00:13:49,680  
that I brought you  
here to America

228  
00:13:49,680 --> 00:13:53,390  
and I'm going to dump you  
on the taxpayers' backs,

229  
00:13:53,390 --> 00:13:56,730  
they will crucify me in Reading.

230  
00:13:56,730 --> 00:13:58,430  
So please don't embarrass me.

231  
00:13:58,430 --> 00:14:00,800  
Come back to Reading  
with us and we'll

232  
00:14:00,800 --> 00:14:03,080  
see what we can do for you.

233  
00:14:03,080 --> 00:14:04,730  
We went back to  
Reading with them.

234  
00:14:04,730 --> 00:14:06,020  
Reading is a small town.

235  
00:14:06,020 --> 00:14:08,780

236  
00:14:08,780 --> 00:14:11,220  
She had eight  
children, by the way.

237  
00:14:11,220 --> 00:14:15,410  
And she had a few girls  
that did not get married.

238  
00:14:15,410 --> 00:14:19,460  
My sister Sarah at the time  
was already 20 years old,

239  
00:14:19,460 --> 00:14:26,390  
my Sister Jean was 18,  
I was 15 and a half,

240  
00:14:26,390 --> 00:14:32,100  
and Phyllis was 12  
and 1/2, almost 13.

241  
00:14:32,100 --> 00:14:36,300  
So my father went to work  
and they got my sister Sarah

242  
00:14:36,300 --> 00:14:39,470  
and my sister Jean a  
job in the same shop

243  
00:14:39,470 --> 00:14:45,710  
because my father was a tailor,  
by the way, an expert tailor.

244  
00:14:45,710 --> 00:14:50,510  
When he made a piece of  
work, it was to be admired.

245  
00:14:50,510 --> 00:14:52,278  
Because I saw tailor  
on the questionnaire,

246  
00:14:52,278 --> 00:14:54,320  
and you told me that he  
ran a general food store.

247  
00:14:54,320 --> 00:14:56,120  
He was tailor here.

248  
00:14:56,120 --> 00:14:57,830  
He was a tailor at home too.

249  
00:14:57,830 --> 00:14:59,930  
But he was working  
as a tailor and then

250  
00:14:59,930 --> 00:15:02,570  
helping out in the business.

251  
00:15:02,570 --> 00:15:05,830  
He could have worked  
for Pierre Cardin

252  
00:15:05,830 --> 00:15:11,240  
and be the master craftsman  
because when he made a garment,

253  
00:15:11,240 --> 00:15:18,260  
a garment that  
was to be admired.

254  
00:15:18,260 --> 00:15:23,540  
So we came to Reading there.

255  
00:15:23,540 --> 00:15:25,940  
And my sister said we're  
going to be spinsters just

256  
00:15:25,940 --> 00:15:27,690  
like her children.

257  
00:15:27,690 --> 00:15:30,758  
We don't want to sit here

and have no social life.

258

00:15:30,758 --> 00:15:32,300

We want to go back  
to New York and be

259

00:15:32,300 --> 00:15:34,160

with our greener friends--

260

00:15:34,160 --> 00:15:36,770

greener are the refugee friends.

261

00:15:36,770 --> 00:15:37,970

That's where we want to be.

262

00:15:37,970 --> 00:15:42,140

And my sister Sarah nudged him  
and nudged him and nudged him

263

00:15:42,140 --> 00:15:43,110

every morning.

264

00:15:43,110 --> 00:15:45,290

Finally he said, all  
right, all right.

265

00:15:45,290 --> 00:15:46,820

I'm going to New York.

266

00:15:46,820 --> 00:15:47,970

He went to New York.

267

00:15:47,970 --> 00:15:52,680

And he some friends helped  
him find an apartment.

268

00:15:52,680 --> 00:15:54,900

And we got on the bus  
and moved to New York.

269

00:15:54,900 --> 00:15:55,830

We got to New York.

270  
00:15:55,830 --> 00:15:59,270  
My father got a job in a  
sweatshop and my sister Sarah

271  
00:15:59,270 --> 00:16:01,220  
and sister Jean also.

272  
00:16:01,220 --> 00:16:05,060  
And I had to get working  
papers because I wasn't 16 yet.

273  
00:16:05,060 --> 00:16:07,220  
And I went to work there too.

274  
00:16:07,220 --> 00:16:09,980  
And Phyllis started high  
school during the day,

275  
00:16:09,980 --> 00:16:12,230  
but we went to high  
school at night.

276  
00:16:12,230 --> 00:16:17,540  
And I graduated Thomas Jefferson  
High School in Brooklyn.

277  
00:16:17,540 --> 00:16:23,780  
And after I was after  
I graduated, I met--

278  
00:16:23,780 --> 00:16:28,230  
Well, this is another  
story how I met my husband.

279  
00:16:28,230 --> 00:16:30,350  
I was going with  
somebody else at the time

280  
00:16:30,350 --> 00:16:35,000  
and he too came from similar  
circumstances as a survivor.



281

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:39,585

But he came here, his mother  
had tuberculosis and--

282

00:16:39,585 --> 00:16:41,460

You're talking now about  
your future husband,

283

00:16:41,460 --> 00:16:42,902

No.

284

00:16:42,902 --> 00:16:43,610

The other fellow.

285

00:16:43,610 --> 00:16:45,890

The other fellow, right.

286

00:16:45,890 --> 00:16:48,230

And he was adopted.

287

00:16:48,230 --> 00:16:50,780

The mother said, I  
can't leave Germany

288

00:16:50,780 --> 00:16:53,420

but I want my children  
to, so he came here

289

00:16:53,420 --> 00:16:55,520

and he wanted to go  
visit these parents that

290

00:16:55,520 --> 00:16:57,990

adopted him and his sister.

291

00:16:57,990 --> 00:17:01,640

And he said would I mind staying  
home, and I said, no, of course

292

00:17:01,640 --> 00:17:04,069

not, and my sister's  
sister-in-law

293  
00:17:04,069 --> 00:17:07,270  
made a New Year's Eve  
party, and she said to me,

294  
00:17:07,270 --> 00:17:08,270  
why don't you come over?

295  
00:17:08,270 --> 00:17:13,400  
I hear that your boyfriend went  
to visit his adoptive parents.

296  
00:17:13,400 --> 00:17:15,869  
I said, no, I promised  
him I'll stay home.

297  
00:17:15,869 --> 00:17:17,244  
She said, please come.

298  
00:17:17,244 --> 00:17:18,619  
They're only  
married people here.

299  
00:17:18,619 --> 00:17:19,970  
Don't worry.

300  
00:17:19,970 --> 00:17:23,000  
The only two people I invited  
were Brenda and Moishe--

301  
00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:26,420  
that's my husband and his  
sister and they live in Jersey.

302  
00:17:26,420 --> 00:17:27,380  
They'll never get here.

303  
00:17:27,380 --> 00:17:29,300  
It was a blizzard outside.

304  
00:17:29,300 --> 00:17:32,000  
And who do you think

walks in at midnight?

305

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:35,810

No, 11 o'clock, just  
before midnight.

306

00:17:35,810 --> 00:17:38,660

Brenda and Moishe.

307

00:17:38,660 --> 00:17:42,620

Well, I took one look at him  
and it was love at first sight.

308

00:17:42,620 --> 00:17:50,210

He was the handsomest guy I have  
ever seen in my life anyway.

309

00:17:50,210 --> 00:17:55,220

And he didn't call  
me for four months

310

00:17:55,220 --> 00:17:57,320

because he felt he wasn't  
making enough money.

311

00:17:57,320 --> 00:17:59,300

That was his excuse.

312

00:17:59,300 --> 00:18:02,840

Meanwhile, I graduated  
high school, and in the 50s

313

00:18:02,840 --> 00:18:04,760

I did something very brazen.

314

00:18:04,760 --> 00:18:06,760

I called up his  
sister and invited her

315

00:18:06,760 --> 00:18:09,370

to my graduation party.

316

00:18:09,370 --> 00:18:11,860

And I said, by the way if  
Moishe isn't doing anything,

317

00:18:11,860 --> 00:18:12,640

bring him too.

318

00:18:12,640 --> 00:18:16,370

319

00:18:16,370 --> 00:18:17,930

And sure enough,  
they both showed up.

320

00:18:17,930 --> 00:18:19,370

You were a feminist before  
there were feminists.

321

00:18:19,370 --> 00:18:21,162

I was a feminist before  
there was feminism.

322

00:18:21,162 --> 00:18:23,700

323

00:18:23,700 --> 00:18:24,200

Wait.

324

00:18:24,200 --> 00:18:27,230

And then my other boyfriend  
called me the next day

325

00:18:27,230 --> 00:18:29,630

because he was away  
on business again.

326

00:18:29,630 --> 00:18:33,120

And Moishe already asked me  
out for the following day.

327

00:18:33,120 --> 00:18:35,240

And when he called  
me, guess what

328  
00:18:35,240 --> 00:18:38,410  
I had a nerve to tell  
this person on the phone?

329  
00:18:38,410 --> 00:18:42,460

330  
00:18:42,460 --> 00:18:44,820  
I'm sorry, but I  
met someone else,

331  
00:18:44,820 --> 00:18:47,020  
and if it doesn't  
work out, maybe we

332  
00:18:47,020 --> 00:18:51,560  
can pick up where we left off.

333  
00:18:51,560 --> 00:18:54,608  
Now I ask you, is that feminism?

334  
00:18:54,608 --> 00:18:56,635  
Is that being a  
feminist or what?

335  
00:18:56,635 --> 00:18:59,560

336  
00:18:59,560 --> 00:19:01,030  
I must have heard  
it in the movie,

337  
00:19:01,030 --> 00:19:03,190  
because I would not  
that sophisticated.

338  
00:19:03,190 --> 00:19:04,540  
But to get the courage--

339  
00:19:04,540 --> 00:19:07,470  
You certainly made the point.

340  
00:19:07,470 --> 00:19:08,150  
Right.

341  
00:19:08,150 --> 00:19:08,650  
Poor guy.

342  
00:19:08,650 --> 00:19:13,270  
And that was in May and  
in August we got engaged

343  
00:19:13,270 --> 00:19:18,790  
and we got married  
January 21, 1956.

344  
00:19:18,790 --> 00:19:22,300  
And Lisa was born  
10 months later,

345  
00:19:22,300 --> 00:19:24,670  
which in itself was  
a miracle because we

346  
00:19:24,670 --> 00:19:27,610  
had no way of knowing what  
the war did to our bodies

347  
00:19:27,610 --> 00:19:29,755  
because we were  
malnourished the whole time.

348  
00:19:29,755 --> 00:19:35,230

349  
00:19:35,230 --> 00:19:41,670  
and then when my children  
went off to school I decided--

350  
00:19:41,670 --> 00:19:47,860  
Then my mother said to me, you  
know you finished high school.

351

00:19:47,860 --> 00:19:50,440  
None of the greener  
are doing that.

352  
00:19:50,440 --> 00:19:53,230  
Why don't you try  
and go to college?

353  
00:19:53,230 --> 00:19:57,400  
And I met Moishe  
already and I said, Ma--

354  
00:19:57,400 --> 00:19:59,050  
And you know where  
we come from we

355  
00:19:59,050 --> 00:20:00,700  
don't talk back to our elders.

356  
00:20:00,700 --> 00:20:01,450  
We don't.

357  
00:20:01,450 --> 00:20:04,270  
If mother says  
something we listen.

358  
00:20:04,270 --> 00:20:07,060  
And my mother was a  
very strong woman.

359  
00:20:07,060 --> 00:20:09,580  
So I said to Moishe, you know,  
Moishe, when you come here

360  
00:20:09,580 --> 00:20:11,780  
from Jersey, let's spend  
a little time with Mother

361  
00:20:11,780 --> 00:20:18,310  
each time in the kitchen  
so that she can see

362  
00:20:18,310 --> 00:20:20,930

what a wonderful guy you are.

363

00:20:20,930 --> 00:20:25,390

P.S. I got the courage  
and I said to my mother,

364

00:20:25,390 --> 00:20:28,450

Ma, if you let me  
marry Moishe, I

365

00:20:28,450 --> 00:20:32,440

promise you one day I  
will go back to college.

366

00:20:32,440 --> 00:20:38,470

And that's what stuck in my  
mind not to go back on my word.

367

00:20:38,470 --> 00:20:41,980

368

00:20:41,980 --> 00:20:44,950

All right, going back  
a little bit after we

369

00:20:44,950 --> 00:20:45,920

get back to New York.

370

00:20:45,920 --> 00:20:47,170

So my father worked.

371

00:20:47,170 --> 00:20:48,760

He got sick right away.

372

00:20:48,760 --> 00:20:54,580

Apparently that spot  
inflamed itself.

373

00:20:54,580 --> 00:20:57,640

It was cancer of the lungs.

374

00:20:57,640 --> 00:21:00,790



And exactly to the year he died.

375

00:21:00,790 --> 00:21:04,570

He was 49 years old.

376

00:21:04,570 --> 00:21:07,990

My sister Sarah was  
planning to be married.

377

00:21:07,990 --> 00:21:10,810

He died five days  
before her wedding.

378

00:21:10,810 --> 00:21:18,910

Didn't live to see any one  
of us, any kind of naches.

379

00:21:18,910 --> 00:21:22,240

And after we got off from  
she got up from shiva

380

00:21:22,240 --> 00:21:26,400

we had a chupah in the house  
and Sarah and Sam were married.

381

00:21:26,400 --> 00:21:31,040

382

00:21:31,040 --> 00:21:36,980

He is buried on Staten Island.

383

00:21:36,980 --> 00:21:38,360

49 years old.

384

00:21:38,360 --> 00:21:41,170

385

00:21:41,170 --> 00:21:44,293

But he got you  
here and your lives

386

00:21:44,293 --> 00:21:45,460

are different because of it.

387

00:21:45,460 --> 00:21:48,330

388

00:21:48,330 --> 00:21:50,230

He did.

389

00:21:50,230 --> 00:21:51,170

And your mother.

390

00:21:51,170 --> 00:21:51,880

My mother.

391

00:21:51,880 --> 00:21:53,440

My mother.

392

00:21:53,440 --> 00:21:57,290

The war took a  
great toll on her.

393

00:21:57,290 --> 00:22:02,410

And she developed osteoporosis.

394

00:22:02,410 --> 00:22:05,040

395

00:22:05,040 --> 00:22:08,680

And it's no wonder, no wonder.

396

00:22:08,680 --> 00:22:13,360

But she worked and she thrived.

397

00:22:13,360 --> 00:22:15,220

And she raised my brother--

398

00:22:15,220 --> 00:22:17,310

my brother was five years  
old when my father died.

399

00:22:17,310 --> 00:22:19,930

400

00:22:19,930 --> 00:22:24,940

And the osteoporosis  
became very severe.

401

00:22:24,940 --> 00:22:28,870

She suffered with it quite a  
few years and then she developed

402

00:22:28,870 --> 00:22:29,620

Parkinson's.

403

00:22:29,620 --> 00:22:32,140

404

00:22:32,140 --> 00:22:35,020

And three years ago-- she  
was nine years bedridden--

405

00:22:35,020 --> 00:22:36,780

and three years ago she died.

406

00:22:36,780 --> 00:22:45,110

407

00:22:45,110 --> 00:22:48,110

I want to ask you one  
thing in conclusion.

408

00:22:48,110 --> 00:22:52,950

409

00:22:52,950 --> 00:22:58,770

When you were in the forest,  
when you were in hiding,

410

00:22:58,770 --> 00:23:04,140

living from day to day, did  
you as a child, as a very young

411

00:23:04,140 --> 00:23:07,740

child, believe that  
you would come through?

412  
00:23:07,740 --> 00:23:11,700

413  
00:23:11,700 --> 00:23:13,830  
Well you know children  
can fantasize.

414  
00:23:13,830 --> 00:23:16,890  
But we've heard so  
many times the people

415  
00:23:16,890 --> 00:23:20,020  
around us saying,  
[SPEAKING HEBREW]..

416  
00:23:20,020 --> 00:23:25,680

417  
00:23:25,680 --> 00:23:28,450  
Let at least one  
person survive to tell.

418  
00:23:28,450 --> 00:23:28,950  
Yeah.

419  
00:23:28,950 --> 00:23:33,830

420  
00:23:33,830 --> 00:23:38,360  
And towards the end  
of the war, which

421  
00:23:38,360 --> 00:23:44,220  
we didn't know was going to  
be the end, as I got older,

422  
00:23:44,220 --> 00:23:47,870  
I was already beginning to  
believe that probably only one

423

00:23:47,870 --> 00:23:52,340

person will survive  
but who will that be?

424

00:23:52,340 --> 00:23:55,560

Which one of us will that be?

425

00:23:55,560 --> 00:24:00,740

So it was like a game we  
were playing, which one of us

426

00:24:00,740 --> 00:24:04,010

will it be that  
will survive to be

427

00:24:04,010 --> 00:24:12,470

a witness to this monstrous war?

428

00:24:12,470 --> 00:24:17,120

I mean for a nation to set  
up crematoriums and gas

429

00:24:17,120 --> 00:24:24,170

chambers for this only reason  
to torture and torment and burn

430

00:24:24,170 --> 00:24:29,720

people, the world must  
never forget that.

431

00:24:29,720 --> 00:24:33,200

432

00:24:33,200 --> 00:24:37,880

And with my last  
breath I will see to it

433

00:24:37,880 --> 00:24:41,600

that I ring those bells.

434

00:24:41,600 --> 00:24:44,550

We must never forget.

435  
00:24:44,550 --> 00:24:49,220  
And when someone is  
attacking us verbally,

436  
00:24:49,220 --> 00:24:57,230  
like lately at Kean College with  
that group, we need to respond.

437  
00:24:57,230 --> 00:24:59,720  
We are a nation.

438  
00:24:59,720 --> 00:25:01,700  
We have our own country.

439  
00:25:01,700 --> 00:25:04,160  
We are no longer gypsies.

440  
00:25:04,160 --> 00:25:08,180  
We are willing to  
give respect to anyone

441  
00:25:08,180 --> 00:25:16,580  
but we must have it in return,  
even if we have to demand it.

442  
00:25:16,580 --> 00:25:19,970  
We are a proud nation.

443  
00:25:19,970 --> 00:25:24,980  
We have a country called  
Israel that blossoms

444  
00:25:24,980 --> 00:25:27,530  
from the driest desert.

445  
00:25:27,530 --> 00:25:30,972  
Oh by the way, my husband  
has a brother in Israel

446  
00:25:30,972 --> 00:25:32,180  
who went there on the exodus.

447  
00:25:32,180 --> 00:25:35,090

448  
00:25:35,090 --> 00:25:40,970  
He forged his father's name when  
he was only 15 at the DP camps

449  
00:25:40,970 --> 00:25:43,790  
because he too said, if you  
want to wait around here

450  
00:25:43,790 --> 00:25:45,800  
for another Hitler  
go right ahead.

451  
00:25:45,800 --> 00:25:48,620  
I am going to Israel.

452  
00:25:48,620 --> 00:25:56,000  
And he truly deserves  
the label "Israeli"

453  
00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:00,110  
because every piece of  
ground you walk on he

454  
00:26:00,110 --> 00:26:05,490  
was part of regaining it.

455  
00:26:05,490 --> 00:26:08,985  
There's a pride that  
warms our hearts.

456  
00:26:08,985 --> 00:26:12,440

457  
00:26:12,440 --> 00:26:13,700  
We cherish him.

458  
00:26:13,700 --> 00:26:14,880  
He's still alive.

459

00:26:14,880 --> 00:26:15,740

He's still alive.

460

00:26:15,740 --> 00:26:17,450

He's married to a Sabra.

461

00:26:17,450 --> 00:26:19,290

He has three children.

462

00:26:19,290 --> 00:26:22,610

He has a son and two daughters.

463

00:26:22,610 --> 00:26:24,140

One daughter finished the army.

464

00:26:24,140 --> 00:26:25,740

She's married.

465

00:26:25,740 --> 00:26:27,980

She has three children.

466

00:26:27,980 --> 00:26:30,770

Son just came out of the army  
and his youngest daughter just

467

00:26:30,770 --> 00:26:33,200

came out of the army.

468

00:26:33,200 --> 00:26:38,660

And they visited  
us frequently here.

469

00:26:38,660 --> 00:26:46,760

And we are extremely proud  
of the land called Israel

470

00:26:46,760 --> 00:26:52,430

because it gives us  
respect all over the world.

471



00:26:52,430 --> 00:26:54,770  
And let's face it, we're  
the only democratic country

472  
00:26:54,770 --> 00:26:56,360  
in that area.

473  
00:26:56,360 --> 00:27:00,300  
We are a source of pride  
not just to ourselves

474  
00:27:00,300 --> 00:27:03,320  
but to everyone else concerned.

475  
00:27:03,320 --> 00:27:05,540  
That's right.

476  
00:27:05,540 --> 00:27:06,633  
One final question.

477  
00:27:06,633 --> 00:27:08,300  
I keep saying this  
will be the last one,

478  
00:27:08,300 --> 00:27:10,790  
but I just want to take  
advantage of a minute or so

479  
00:27:10,790 --> 00:27:13,730  
that we have left.

480  
00:27:13,730 --> 00:27:16,610  
Did you talk to your children  
about your experiences

481  
00:27:16,610 --> 00:27:21,800  
from the very beginning, when  
they were able to understand?

482  
00:27:21,800 --> 00:27:23,690  
Or did you have to wait?

483

00:27:23,690 --> 00:27:26,900  
I could not verbalize it.

484  
00:27:26,900 --> 00:27:29,330  
I could not verbalize it.

485  
00:27:29,330 --> 00:27:34,443  
The point really came about  
when I heard people denying

486  
00:27:34,443 --> 00:27:35,610  
that the Holocaust happened.

487  
00:27:35,610 --> 00:27:36,680  
So that was the catalyst.

488  
00:27:36,680 --> 00:27:40,490  
That was the catalyst  
that made me come out.

489  
00:27:40,490 --> 00:27:43,850  
And you have no idea  
how much better I feel.

490  
00:27:43,850 --> 00:27:47,300  
I should have done  
that a long time ago.

491  
00:27:47,300 --> 00:27:50,150  
But either I didn't  
have the courage,

492  
00:27:50,150 --> 00:27:58,130  
but who is to tell how the  
inner emotions guide a person?

493  
00:27:58,130 --> 00:28:01,880  
But now I'm happy to  
say I am a survivor

494  
00:28:01,880 --> 00:28:07,410  
and I am a witness  
to the Holocaust.

495  
00:28:07,410 --> 00:28:07,910  
I'm glad.

496  
00:28:07,910 --> 00:28:09,290  
I'm glad you are here to say it.

497  
00:28:09,290 --> 00:28:14,150  
And I think what you have to  
say needs really to be heard.

498  
00:28:14,150 --> 00:28:15,410  
And I hope it will be heard.

499  
00:28:15,410 --> 00:28:17,660  
I hope this tape will  
be played for others.

500  
00:28:17,660 --> 00:28:21,320  
I hope that my children  
and grandchildren this

501  
00:28:21,320 --> 00:28:26,420  
will be a source of knowing  
where they came from.

502  
00:28:26,420 --> 00:28:28,250  
I'm sure with you  
there they will.

503  
00:28:28,250 --> 00:28:30,760  
Thank you very much.

504  
00:28:30,760 --> 00:28:46,000