

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,840
OK.

2
00:00:00,840 --> 00:00:05,160
So we are turning now
towards those topics that

3
00:00:05,160 --> 00:00:08,880
deal with the museum,
deal with how much

4
00:00:08,880 --> 00:00:13,650
you spoke of your story
before and to whom.

5
00:00:13,650 --> 00:00:17,790
And so my assumption, from
what you're telling me,

6
00:00:17,790 --> 00:00:20,400
it sounds like it
was to these cousins

7
00:00:20,400 --> 00:00:23,190
at some of these
get-togethers you would speak

8
00:00:23,190 --> 00:00:27,840
of certain things,
certain aspects,

9
00:00:27,840 --> 00:00:29,440
certain things that happened.

10
00:00:29,440 --> 00:00:29,940
Yeah.

11
00:00:29,940 --> 00:00:34,110
But as I recall, that
wasn't very extensive.

12

00:00:34,110 --> 00:00:35,160
It was understood.

13
00:00:35,160 --> 00:00:38,476
It wasn't very extensive.

14
00:00:38,476 --> 00:00:41,970
The things I recall, as
you're asking me questions,

15
00:00:41,970 --> 00:00:43,920
I was not the storyteller.

16
00:00:43,920 --> 00:00:46,900
I was back to being the one
who doesn't remember anything

17
00:00:46,900 --> 00:00:47,400
anyway.

18
00:00:47,400 --> 00:00:48,390
I was too young.

19
00:00:48,390 --> 00:00:49,380
Oh, I see.

20
00:00:49,380 --> 00:00:51,690
Nobody asked me.

21
00:00:51,690 --> 00:00:55,830
And certainly, while I was
attending the high school

22
00:00:55,830 --> 00:01:01,020
there, nobody asked me in high
school, no teacher, no student.

23
00:01:01,020 --> 00:01:03,240
So I was not telling.

24
00:01:03,240 --> 00:01:08,700
My sister talked more to the

people, cousins and so on.

25

00:01:08,700 --> 00:01:12,920

So 1949 then, got married.

26

00:01:12,920 --> 00:01:14,220

And we moved to Michigan.

27

00:01:14,220 --> 00:01:17,000

And my husband was attending
University of Michigan.

28

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:18,800

And I met all kinds of--

29

00:01:18,800 --> 00:01:25,460

we were living in a GI
community that all the GI's

30

00:01:25,460 --> 00:01:28,025

who came back and
married and had children.

31

00:01:28,025 --> 00:01:29,750

It was a whole community.

32

00:01:29,750 --> 00:01:33,440

And then they all went back to
college because of the GI Bill

33

00:01:33,440 --> 00:01:34,640

that paid for it.

34

00:01:34,640 --> 00:01:35,240

Of course.

35

00:01:35,240 --> 00:01:38,240

So I was in this community,
the young mothers,

36

00:01:38,240 --> 00:01:40,130

some with young children.

37
00:01:40,130 --> 00:01:42,300
And nobody wanted to know.

38
00:01:42,300 --> 00:01:44,540
Their husbands were in
the war and all that.

39
00:01:44,540 --> 00:01:47,540

40
00:01:47,540 --> 00:01:52,400
There was-- absolutely
didn't talk about it.

41
00:01:52,400 --> 00:01:55,520
I was there for four years.

42
00:01:55,520 --> 00:01:57,300
The husband finished his PhD.

43
00:01:57,300 --> 00:02:03,090
We came to Washington and moved
into, again, in a community.

44
00:02:03,090 --> 00:02:05,370
Washington was very different.

45
00:02:05,370 --> 00:02:08,240
There was a community,
garden apartments,

46
00:02:08,240 --> 00:02:11,030
in the area of Shirlington.

47
00:02:11,030 --> 00:02:12,740
Oh, I know those.

48
00:02:12,740 --> 00:02:13,490
I know those, yes.

49

00:02:13,490 --> 00:02:16,100
Shirley Duke Apartments
was filled, again,

50
00:02:16,100 --> 00:02:19,610
with married GI's, this
time all with children.

51
00:02:19,610 --> 00:02:23,400
And I already had a
two-year-old, a one-year-old,

52
00:02:23,400 --> 00:02:23,900
whatever.

53
00:02:23,900 --> 00:02:25,190
I had a child.

54
00:02:25,190 --> 00:02:26,540
He was two years old.

55
00:02:26,540 --> 00:02:28,820
And so again, there was
absolutely no talking.

56
00:02:28,820 --> 00:02:32,540
There was one woman with a
child who was interested.

57
00:02:32,540 --> 00:02:35,390
And she kept asking me things.

58
00:02:35,390 --> 00:02:36,920
There was one person.

59
00:02:36,920 --> 00:02:42,110
And because she was just one
person, it was easier to talk.

60
00:02:42,110 --> 00:02:44,615
It wasn't talking to a group.

61

00:02:44,615 --> 00:02:48,580
So occasionally, I answered her.

62
00:02:48,580 --> 00:02:51,610
But it wasn't a
significant thing.

63
00:02:51,610 --> 00:02:57,040
So then years after, we
moved, bought a little house,

64
00:02:57,040 --> 00:02:58,600
and moved into a little house.

65
00:02:58,600 --> 00:03:01,150
And again, there was a woman.

66
00:03:01,150 --> 00:03:04,990
I made-- when you have
a child in a carriage,

67
00:03:04,990 --> 00:03:06,520
you meet a lot of mothers.

68
00:03:06,520 --> 00:03:07,570
That's true.

69
00:03:07,570 --> 00:03:08,200
That's true.

70
00:03:08,200 --> 00:03:10,780

71
00:03:10,780 --> 00:03:13,757
All my contacts were young
mothers with children

72
00:03:13,757 --> 00:03:16,250
[INAUDIBLE] park, whatever.

73
00:03:16,250 --> 00:03:19,690
And so there was this

other woman who--

74

00:03:19,690 --> 00:03:21,560
and she was very interested.

75

00:03:21,560 --> 00:03:25,690
She lived nearby and
saw her occasionally.

76

00:03:25,690 --> 00:03:30,430
She was interested, a little
was said, just basics,

77

00:03:30,430 --> 00:03:33,220
definitely not--

78

00:03:33,220 --> 00:03:34,900
just that I lost my family.

79

00:03:34,900 --> 00:03:36,850
And there was a
Holocaust, nothing.

80

00:03:36,850 --> 00:03:40,640
But she was interested
in my tattoo.

81

00:03:40,640 --> 00:03:42,460
That caught her attention.

82

00:03:42,460 --> 00:03:45,340
I was hiding it so that I
wouldn't have to talk about it.

83

00:03:45,340 --> 00:03:48,400
But it was being with her a lot.

84

00:03:48,400 --> 00:03:51,220
So she's the one
who then convinced

85

00:03:51,220 --> 00:03:56,020

me to go to her doctor, who
will take the tattoo off.

86
00:03:56,020 --> 00:03:56,680
And he did.

87
00:03:56,680 --> 00:04:01,840
And I suffered so
much because of having

88
00:04:01,840 --> 00:04:05,920
to talk about it, about my
tattoo and what it meant,

89
00:04:05,920 --> 00:04:11,560
that I was somehow willing to
listen to that at the time.

90
00:04:11,560 --> 00:04:14,430
It was a good thing at
that time in my life.

91
00:04:14,430 --> 00:04:19,000
And so did that,
and again, nothing.

92
00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:28,170
And so now, my husband has
a job in the government

93
00:04:28,170 --> 00:04:31,650
as a geologist,
a paleontologist.

94
00:04:31,650 --> 00:04:38,010
And I'm trying to think when
the second child was born.

95
00:04:38,010 --> 00:04:39,432
No.

96
00:04:39,432 --> 00:04:43,950
Yeah, Lesley, my daughter,

was two years later.

97

00:04:43,950 --> 00:04:49,620

Anyhow, I'm now beginning
to take college classes

98

00:04:49,620 --> 00:04:55,080

in the evening because I
see that my language is

99

00:04:55,080 --> 00:04:55,620

good enough.

100

00:04:55,620 --> 00:05:01,100

101

00:05:01,100 --> 00:05:02,420

This time, I wanted--

102

00:05:02,420 --> 00:05:07,270

I knew I needed an education,
not people telling me to do it.

103

00:05:07,270 --> 00:05:09,250

And I was very interested.

104

00:05:09,250 --> 00:05:11,810

And there were a lot
of evening classes.

105

00:05:11,810 --> 00:05:19,300

University of Virginia had
extension classes in Arlington.

106

00:05:19,300 --> 00:05:24,370

Later on, University
of Maryland had it.

107

00:05:24,370 --> 00:05:26,980

I started at the
University of Virginia.

108

00:05:26,980 --> 00:05:31,720

And I took the classes
in the evening.

109

00:05:31,720 --> 00:05:35,590

And my husband came home and
took care of the children.

110

00:05:35,590 --> 00:05:38,320

He had a 9-to-5 job.

111

00:05:38,320 --> 00:05:40,030

I drove a car by then.

112

00:05:40,030 --> 00:05:43,720

And I drove at night and all
that, things I don't do now.

113

00:05:43,720 --> 00:05:46,810

Anyhow, I attend the
classes regularly

114

00:05:46,810 --> 00:05:52,300

and the one at a time, sometimes
two subjects at a time.

115

00:05:52,300 --> 00:05:55,540

And I really was
very interested.

116

00:05:55,540 --> 00:05:58,510

I just realized I knew
nothing about America.

117

00:05:58,510 --> 00:06:00,740

I knew nothing about nothing.

118

00:06:00,740 --> 00:06:03,250

And I had this enormous
knowledge of something

119

00:06:03,250 --> 00:06:05,420

that I don't want to share.

120
00:06:05,420 --> 00:06:07,690
And it's irrelevant.

121
00:06:07,690 --> 00:06:12,560
But I need to get some
general knowledge.

122
00:06:12,560 --> 00:06:15,640
I really felt very strong.

123
00:06:15,640 --> 00:06:20,080
Studying and degrees and so
on was very much in my family.

124
00:06:20,080 --> 00:06:24,520
My husband's
brother is learning.

125
00:06:24,520 --> 00:06:31,600
Learning was in the marrow of
the bones, so was OK for me.

126
00:06:31,600 --> 00:06:32,680
I liked it.

127
00:06:32,680 --> 00:06:41,710
So I accumulated two
years worth of credits.

128
00:06:41,710 --> 00:06:45,280
And beyond that, if
I wanted a degree,

129
00:06:45,280 --> 00:06:46,720
I had to be on a campus.

130
00:06:46,720 --> 00:06:47,770
That was the rule.

131
00:06:47,770 --> 00:06:49,810
You can transfer two years.

132
00:06:49,810 --> 00:06:53,410
But I have to be on the
campus to get a degree.

133
00:06:53,410 --> 00:06:54,920
And so I did that.

134
00:06:54,920 --> 00:06:59,560
I decided to study to be a
teacher, because that was

135
00:06:59,560 --> 00:07:02,980
going to be good for my family.

136
00:07:02,980 --> 00:07:06,460
And it's a long story
short at this point.

137
00:07:06,460 --> 00:07:08,290
It took me 10 years
to get a degree--

138
00:07:08,290 --> 00:07:08,790
Wow.

139
00:07:08,790 --> 00:07:09,730
--between [INAUDIBLE].

140
00:07:09,730 --> 00:07:11,860
I had another child.

141
00:07:11,860 --> 00:07:14,895
But I will always go back.

142
00:07:14,895 --> 00:07:16,645
But eventually, I had
to be on the campus.

143
00:07:16,645 --> 00:07:19,630
So I transferred to
American University.

144
00:07:19,630 --> 00:07:21,550
And I didn't live on the campus.

145
00:07:21,550 --> 00:07:25,570
But I was a full-time student,
not a part-time student,

146
00:07:25,570 --> 00:07:26,680
in the daytime.

147
00:07:26,680 --> 00:07:29,695
And I had to do teaching.

148
00:07:29,695 --> 00:07:32,510

149
00:07:32,510 --> 00:07:34,960
For one semester, I had
to teach in a classroom.

150
00:07:34,960 --> 00:07:36,815
That was requisite.

151
00:07:36,815 --> 00:07:39,880
Anyhow, 10 years,
and I was a teacher.

152
00:07:39,880 --> 00:07:42,460
So now, my kids are
in school and so on.

153
00:07:42,460 --> 00:07:44,740
And I'm looking for
a part-time job.

154
00:07:44,740 --> 00:07:51,040
And I easily get it, because
by now the Fairfax County

155
00:07:51,040 --> 00:07:53,350
and the Washington

area is filled

156
00:07:53,350 --> 00:07:55,900
with thousands and
thousands of refugees

157
00:07:55,900 --> 00:07:58,810
from Vietnam, from
Korea, from Afghanistan,

158
00:07:58,810 --> 00:08:04,000
from South America, all these
refugees being admitted here,

159
00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:05,440
and all these children.

160
00:08:05,440 --> 00:08:07,990
And they're flooding
into the public schools.

161
00:08:07,990 --> 00:08:10,300
And the public schools have
to do something with them.

162
00:08:10,300 --> 00:08:15,160
And so they've started an ESL,
English as a second language,

163
00:08:15,160 --> 00:08:17,870
department in the public
schools in Fairfax County.

164
00:08:17,870 --> 00:08:19,846
And they were
looking for teachers.

165
00:08:19,846 --> 00:08:23,230
And so I thought, gee,
that's sounds like something

166
00:08:23,230 --> 00:08:24,410
I could do.

167
00:08:24,410 --> 00:08:26,980
And I went and applied.

168
00:08:26,980 --> 00:08:31,690
And what they wanted, they
wanted a degree in teaching

169
00:08:31,690 --> 00:08:36,370
and a degree teaching of
reading, an elementary school

170
00:08:36,370 --> 00:08:37,270
degree.

171
00:08:37,270 --> 00:08:39,760
But one other thing
they wanted, someone

172
00:08:39,760 --> 00:08:43,270
who was familiar
with other cultures.

173
00:08:43,270 --> 00:08:44,245
And you were.

174
00:08:44,245 --> 00:08:45,430
And you were.

175
00:08:45,430 --> 00:08:48,850
You're not going to
find one who's not--

176
00:08:48,850 --> 00:08:50,710
I'm very familiar.

177
00:08:50,710 --> 00:08:52,810
I got the job immediately.

178
00:08:52,810 --> 00:08:55,660
And I was assigned to a
school in my neighborhood.

179
00:08:55,660 --> 00:08:57,490
And I started part-time.

180
00:08:57,490 --> 00:08:59,920
I could teach part-time.

181
00:08:59,920 --> 00:09:01,410
Many years, I was in that.

182
00:09:01,410 --> 00:09:02,880
I taught many years.

183
00:09:02,880 --> 00:09:04,990
And eventually, I was full time.

184
00:09:04,990 --> 00:09:08,210
But in the school
setting, one year--

185
00:09:08,210 --> 00:09:11,230
so what is it now?

186
00:09:11,230 --> 00:09:16,000
We got here around '52,
'62, somewhere in the '60s.

187
00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:19,820
Well, I have said it took me
10 years to have a degree.

188
00:09:19,820 --> 00:09:26,570
So in the school, the
building where I was,

189
00:09:26,570 --> 00:09:31,370
they were teaching
World War II history.

190
00:09:31,370 --> 00:09:37,940
And I never brought up my
history in any of my classes,

191
00:09:37,940 --> 00:09:43,280
ever, because I didn't
want to be labeled or known

192
00:09:43,280 --> 00:09:46,520
as that refugee, as
that survivor, as--

193
00:09:46,520 --> 00:09:48,110
I was teaching survivors.

194
00:09:48,110 --> 00:09:50,120
I was teaching refugees.

195
00:09:50,120 --> 00:09:53,020
I just had to know
how they felt.

196
00:09:53,020 --> 00:09:56,540
And I think I became a
mother to many of them.

197
00:09:56,540 --> 00:09:58,190
But I didn't bring it up.

198
00:09:58,190 --> 00:10:00,700

199
00:10:00,700 --> 00:10:04,430
They had this terrible
suffering from Cambodia.

200
00:10:04,430 --> 00:10:08,080
And all the kids were orphans.

201
00:10:08,080 --> 00:10:10,190
And I listened to their stories.

202
00:10:10,190 --> 00:10:11,930
I just never brought it up.

203

00:10:11,930 --> 00:10:14,840

But some of the
teachers knew that I

204

00:10:14,840 --> 00:10:16,640

was from Europe and that--

205

00:10:16,640 --> 00:10:21,360

they knew that I was a
survivor, but nothing more.

206

00:10:21,360 --> 00:10:24,700

So one of the teachers
were teaching World War

207

00:10:24,700 --> 00:10:27,910

II history said, you
probably could tell us

208

00:10:27,910 --> 00:10:29,980

something about World War II.

209

00:10:29,980 --> 00:10:33,580

Would you be willing to
come over to my class

210

00:10:33,580 --> 00:10:37,470

and just give a little talk?

211

00:10:37,470 --> 00:10:38,740

Oh, I thought to myself--

212

00:10:38,740 --> 00:10:42,280

by then, I was more comfortable,
and it's World War II--

213

00:10:42,280 --> 00:10:45,140

yeah, I'll do it.

214

00:10:45,140 --> 00:10:47,070

It's my field.

215

00:10:47,070 --> 00:10:50,320

It was like it was natural.

216

00:10:50,320 --> 00:10:53,800

And so I did, but
very little, again,

217

00:10:53,800 --> 00:10:56,710

none of the suffering,
none of the nitty

218

00:10:56,710 --> 00:11:00,130

gritty, a bit of an overview.

219

00:11:00,130 --> 00:11:02,255

And it was fine.

220

00:11:02,255 --> 00:11:04,847

Was this the first time
that it was public?

221

00:11:04,847 --> 00:11:05,680

Was this the first--

222

00:11:05,680 --> 00:11:08,740

Oh, the very first time.

223

00:11:08,740 --> 00:11:10,750

I gave so little.

224

00:11:10,750 --> 00:11:13,750

And I stuck to the war
[? and the bombing. ?]

225

00:11:13,750 --> 00:11:15,830

Rather than the
Holocaust, but the war.

226

00:11:15,830 --> 00:11:16,810

Yes, yes.

227

00:11:16,810 --> 00:11:18,550
But I did say--

228
00:11:18,550 --> 00:11:22,420
it seemed like as if my
family was killed in the war.

229
00:11:22,420 --> 00:11:24,580
You could interpret
it like that.

230
00:11:24,580 --> 00:11:32,350
Because again, I
was very emotionally

231
00:11:32,350 --> 00:11:35,740
restricted and aware
of my surroundings

232
00:11:35,740 --> 00:11:39,970
and aware of what's appropriate
and who wants to know.

233
00:11:39,970 --> 00:11:41,390
I did OK.

234
00:11:41,390 --> 00:11:43,610
It was OK what I did.

235
00:11:43,610 --> 00:11:47,000
But this is the 1960s,
just to get us a sense.

236
00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:49,490
The first time you talk is
sometime in the mid '60s.

237
00:11:49,490 --> 00:11:51,740
In the '60s, yes.

238
00:11:51,740 --> 00:11:55,130
So it seems that, in another
public school in Fairfax,

239
00:11:55,130 --> 00:12:03,280
a Jewish teacher heard that
this woman at this school

240
00:12:03,280 --> 00:12:07,510
had something to say
about her experiences.

241
00:12:07,510 --> 00:12:08,830
And he contacted me.

242
00:12:08,830 --> 00:12:11,350
He said, I want
to know the story.

243
00:12:11,350 --> 00:12:14,380
This is a Jewish teacher.

244
00:12:14,380 --> 00:12:16,150
And word got around.

245
00:12:16,150 --> 00:12:20,560
And I began to be called
to other schools to speak.

246
00:12:20,560 --> 00:12:23,170
And I wasn't happy about it.

247
00:12:23,170 --> 00:12:25,320
But I went to his
school, whatever.

248
00:12:25,320 --> 00:12:28,030
I don't even remember exactly.

249
00:12:28,030 --> 00:12:31,840
And word got around like
this, that I was a source.

250
00:12:31,840 --> 00:12:33,520
But I didn't volunteer.

251
00:12:33,520 --> 00:12:36,010
I never volunteered.

252
00:12:36,010 --> 00:12:38,530
I was a fish out of water.

253
00:12:38,530 --> 00:12:42,400
I was getting my bearing.

254
00:12:42,400 --> 00:12:45,550
Now, so when did I--

255
00:12:45,550 --> 00:12:48,850
because when the museum
opened, that's 25 years ago.

256
00:12:48,850 --> 00:12:51,400

257
00:12:51,400 --> 00:12:52,190
What year was--

258
00:12:52,190 --> 00:12:52,390
Actually--

259
00:12:52,390 --> 00:12:52,750
--that now?

260
00:12:52,750 --> 00:12:54,280
--it's a little
bit more than that.

261
00:12:54,280 --> 00:12:58,940
It's 1993 is when
the museums opened.

262
00:12:58,940 --> 00:13:01,235
Yeah, that's already--

263
00:13:01,235 --> 00:13:01,735

27--

264

00:13:01,735 --> 00:13:02,568
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

265

00:13:02,568 --> 00:13:03,500
--years.

266

00:13:03,500 --> 00:13:04,640
When it did open again?

267

00:13:04,640 --> 00:13:06,840
1993.

268

00:13:06,840 --> 00:13:07,590
So we're talking--

269

00:13:07,590 --> 00:13:10,450
Oh, that was much after.

270

00:13:10,450 --> 00:13:11,640
Yes, yeah.

271

00:13:11,640 --> 00:13:13,940
Well, I did not speak.

272

00:13:13,940 --> 00:13:16,750
I don't remember speaking.

273

00:13:16,750 --> 00:13:17,830
But I must have.

274

00:13:17,830 --> 00:13:18,960
I must have--

275

00:13:18,960 --> 00:13:22,300
Your first interaction
with the museum,

276

00:13:22,300 --> 00:13:23,580
were you at the opening?

277
00:13:23,580 --> 00:13:24,840
Did you go later?

278
00:13:24,840 --> 00:13:26,850
When did you first come
to the museum, just--

279
00:13:26,850 --> 00:13:26,970
Oh, much--

280
00:13:26,970 --> 00:13:27,470
--to see it?

281
00:13:27,470 --> 00:13:29,310
--much later, much later.

282
00:13:29,310 --> 00:13:31,215
The museum tells me--

283
00:13:31,215 --> 00:13:36,050
[INAUDIBLE] I hope--
that I must have

284
00:13:36,050 --> 00:13:40,370
come to them about 12 years
ago to want to speak for them,

285
00:13:40,370 --> 00:13:42,320
to want to do
something for them.

286
00:13:42,320 --> 00:13:47,930
So you've been a volunteer
at the museum since 2008?

287
00:13:47,930 --> 00:13:48,590
Say that again?

288
00:13:48,590 --> 00:13:49,225
I didn't hear that.

289

00:13:49,225 --> 00:13:49,725

What?

290

00:13:49,725 --> 00:13:52,390

So you've been a volunteer
at the museum since 2008?

291

00:13:52,390 --> 00:13:52,890

Right.

292

00:13:52,890 --> 00:13:54,170

Right.

293

00:13:54,170 --> 00:13:54,890

When was that?

294

00:13:54,890 --> 00:13:56,450

Do you have that number?

295

00:13:56,450 --> 00:13:58,440

If you say it's 12 years ago--

296

00:13:58,440 --> 00:13:58,940

About, yes.

297

00:13:58,940 --> 00:14:02,180

--it would be 2008.

298

00:14:02,180 --> 00:14:04,950

Oh, it must have
been around there.

299

00:14:04,950 --> 00:14:08,010

Yes, because this is
since I'm speaking,

300

00:14:08,010 --> 00:14:09,690

so it must have been earlier.

301

00:14:09,690 --> 00:14:11,430

But you see, it wasn't so long.

302
00:14:11,430 --> 00:14:12,240
It's long ago.

303
00:14:12,240 --> 00:14:15,250
It's 2020 now, yeah.

304
00:14:15,250 --> 00:14:17,700
So it's something like that,
so might been a little closer

305
00:14:17,700 --> 00:14:19,050
to 2000.

306
00:14:19,050 --> 00:14:20,280
I heard about--

307
00:14:20,280 --> 00:14:21,360
I went to see it.

308
00:14:21,360 --> 00:14:24,340
I met people there, survivors.

309
00:14:24,340 --> 00:14:25,590
They were very friendly.

310
00:14:25,590 --> 00:14:27,870
The atmosphere seemed very nice.

311
00:14:27,870 --> 00:14:31,410
People were pouring in
there, visitors, schools,

312
00:14:31,410 --> 00:14:32,850
and all kinds of people.

313
00:14:32,850 --> 00:14:33,780
And I looked around.

314
00:14:33,780 --> 00:14:35,730
And I said, you know what?

315
00:14:35,730 --> 00:14:39,240
They could use some help
here and particularly

316
00:14:39,240 --> 00:14:43,420
as the groups of school
kids from 50 states

317
00:14:43,420 --> 00:14:44,850
were coming there.

318
00:14:44,850 --> 00:14:48,960
They would come off from
the permanent exhibit,

319
00:14:48,960 --> 00:14:53,070
come out the elevator,
and go right out the door.

320
00:14:53,070 --> 00:14:56,370
And I thought, that's not right.

321
00:14:56,370 --> 00:14:58,570
Just seeing it is not enough.

322
00:14:58,570 --> 00:15:04,410
They should be met by survivors,
so they can ask questions.

323
00:15:04,410 --> 00:15:05,820
Something is wrong there.

324
00:15:05,820 --> 00:15:08,530
They don't have enough people.

325
00:15:08,530 --> 00:15:11,350
And something-- I
want to tell them.

326
00:15:11,350 --> 00:15:14,860
And so I was just

desperate to see

327

00:15:14,860 --> 00:15:19,270

that they are losing all these
people who were going out.

328

00:15:19,270 --> 00:15:22,810

And I know, when I used to
go through as a tourist,

329

00:15:22,810 --> 00:15:24,560

the kids were not
paying attention.

330

00:15:24,560 --> 00:15:27,040

It was a day off from school.

331

00:15:27,040 --> 00:15:27,710

Yeah.

332

00:15:27,710 --> 00:15:28,390

Yeah.

333

00:15:28,390 --> 00:15:32,030

But they do pay attention to
an individual saying something?

334

00:15:32,030 --> 00:15:32,590

Yes.

335

00:15:32,590 --> 00:15:36,400

And it's happened a few
times that I was at the desk

336

00:15:36,400 --> 00:15:41,110

first, letting people
into the elevator.

337

00:15:41,110 --> 00:15:43,660

But I had a chance,
sometimes, to sit on the bench

338

00:15:43,660 --> 00:15:47,200
there as they came out.

339
00:15:47,200 --> 00:15:50,060
I would talk to them about it.

340
00:15:50,060 --> 00:15:51,910
And as soon as I
said that-- well,

341
00:15:51,910 --> 00:15:55,510
they knew that I was a survivor,
because I was one of those

342
00:15:55,510 --> 00:15:56,200
there--

343
00:15:56,200 --> 00:15:59,890
their questions
were just amazing.

344
00:15:59,890 --> 00:16:01,450
They took my number.

345
00:16:01,450 --> 00:16:02,620
They ask questions.

346
00:16:02,620 --> 00:16:05,170
The teacher said,
can we talk to you?

347
00:16:05,170 --> 00:16:09,310
Oh, it was such a need to
answer their questions.

348
00:16:09,310 --> 00:16:13,540
What kind of questions
would they ask, for example?

349
00:16:13,540 --> 00:16:15,190
All about the Holocaust.

350

00:16:15,190 --> 00:16:16,330
Why did this happen?

351
00:16:16,330 --> 00:16:17,660
When did that happen?

352
00:16:17,660 --> 00:16:18,850
What happened to you?

353
00:16:18,850 --> 00:16:20,630
How did you lose your parents?

354
00:16:20,630 --> 00:16:23,410
What about the crematorium?

355
00:16:23,410 --> 00:16:25,810
Who knew about it?

356
00:16:25,810 --> 00:16:27,970
They got nothing
out of the exhibit.

357
00:16:27,970 --> 00:16:29,470
There's a lot of reading there.

358
00:16:29,470 --> 00:16:31,650
And there are crowds there.

359
00:16:31,650 --> 00:16:33,910
They're talking to each other.

360
00:16:33,910 --> 00:16:36,460
They've pushed from
floor to floor.

361
00:16:36,460 --> 00:16:38,080
I mean, they got
something out of it.

362
00:16:38,080 --> 00:16:42,400
But it's not what people came
from Minnesota and Florida

363
00:16:42,400 --> 00:16:43,210
and all over.

364
00:16:43,210 --> 00:16:46,010
For the teachers,
was not enough.

365
00:16:46,010 --> 00:16:49,300
So I decided that what I--

366
00:16:49,300 --> 00:16:51,190
I don't like to be at the desk.

367
00:16:51,190 --> 00:16:56,980
I'm not doing anything
enough at the desk.

368
00:16:56,980 --> 00:17:00,280
I can't meet them
on the bench there.

369
00:17:00,280 --> 00:17:04,067
I started meeting these people
coming out and talking to them.

370
00:17:04,067 --> 00:17:05,150
I said, now wait a minute.

371
00:17:05,150 --> 00:17:06,980
There has to be a better way.

372
00:17:06,980 --> 00:17:10,690
So I told them that, actually,
even when I signed up,

373
00:17:10,690 --> 00:17:14,109
I told them that what I
would like to do is speak.

374
00:17:14,109 --> 00:17:17,859
I did say that, I remember,

to Diane Saltzman,

375
00:17:17,859 --> 00:17:19,270
that I would like to speak.

376
00:17:19,270 --> 00:17:24,040
But they said, you do the
museum for a while first--

377
00:17:24,040 --> 00:17:27,200
and that was sensible--
just do this for a while.

378
00:17:27,200 --> 00:17:29,590
But when I discovered
that there was such a need

379
00:17:29,590 --> 00:17:34,120
for straightening out all
these questions, I [INAUDIBLE]

380
00:17:34,120 --> 00:17:34,720
back to her.

381
00:17:34,720 --> 00:17:37,390
And I said, I want speaking.

382
00:17:37,390 --> 00:17:39,670
And they began to
assign me to speaking

383
00:17:39,670 --> 00:17:42,250
to groups right in the museum.

384
00:17:42,250 --> 00:17:44,530
And it turned out
that they could

385
00:17:44,530 --> 00:17:47,290
have used me every single
way and every single day,

386

00:17:47,290 --> 00:17:49,720
because there were requests.

387
00:17:49,720 --> 00:17:51,100
There were always groups.

388
00:17:51,100 --> 00:17:52,360
I mean, there were in this--

389
00:17:52,360 --> 00:17:55,390
All these groups who
requested, not just

390
00:17:55,390 --> 00:17:58,150
who were already in the
museum with their people,

391
00:17:58,150 --> 00:18:02,980
but other groups, outside
groups, who wanted a speaker.

392
00:18:02,980 --> 00:18:03,970
That's right.

393
00:18:03,970 --> 00:18:06,250
And I realized there
were other speakers.

394
00:18:06,250 --> 00:18:09,850
And as soon as I
got my confidence--

395
00:18:09,850 --> 00:18:14,260
and also, I realized that when
I started speaking to groups,

396
00:18:14,260 --> 00:18:16,550
and they had all
these questions,

397
00:18:16,550 --> 00:18:19,840
and that they were
so immersed in it,

398

00:18:19,840 --> 00:18:22,990

and it really affected
them, and that really

399

00:18:22,990 --> 00:18:27,460

had an impact beyond
what the exhibits had--

400

00:18:27,460 --> 00:18:29,230

I said, OK, that's
what I want to do.

401

00:18:29,230 --> 00:18:31,110

And I did a lot of speaking.

402

00:18:31,110 --> 00:18:32,200

I did a lot of speaking.

403

00:18:32,200 --> 00:18:36,460

Well, tell me, in those first
years before the museum, when

404

00:18:36,460 --> 00:18:40,630

you were still in the high
school, the Fairfax County High

405

00:18:40,630 --> 00:18:43,450

School system, and
people would call,

406

00:18:43,450 --> 00:18:45,740

other teachers would
ask you to come,

407

00:18:45,740 --> 00:18:48,650

did you get the same
level of interest from--

408

00:18:48,650 --> 00:18:49,150

Yes.

409

00:18:49,150 --> 00:18:49,858
--the young kids?

410
00:18:49,858 --> 00:18:50,710
Yes, there was.

411
00:18:50,710 --> 00:18:54,340
I don't quite remember
when the first one

412
00:18:54,340 --> 00:18:58,816
was to speak to a large group.

413
00:18:58,816 --> 00:19:02,470
I'm almost certain it was
with some high school, which

414
00:19:02,470 --> 00:19:04,900
is the neighborhood school
here where all my children went

415
00:19:04,900 --> 00:19:06,360
to the high school.

416
00:19:06,360 --> 00:19:10,560
They had some-- well, actually,
it was another school.

417
00:19:10,560 --> 00:19:13,590
It was a school in the
Bailey's Crossroads--

418
00:19:13,590 --> 00:19:17,470
I forget now-- toward--

419
00:19:17,470 --> 00:19:18,570
it was somebody.

420
00:19:18,570 --> 00:19:19,980
I do remember now.

421
00:19:19,980 --> 00:19:26,580

It was a school that was
near Lake Barcroft where

422
00:19:26,580 --> 00:19:33,570
it had two types of students,
[INAUDIBLE] students

423
00:19:33,570 --> 00:19:37,410
in a very poor area in the
Bailey's Crossroads area

424
00:19:37,410 --> 00:19:40,590
and very high-end
students who came

425
00:19:40,590 --> 00:19:43,320
from what is called
Lake Barcroft, a very

426
00:19:43,320 --> 00:19:44,220
expensive area.

427
00:19:44,220 --> 00:19:45,880
It is a very expensive area.

428
00:19:45,880 --> 00:19:46,380
Yeah.

429
00:19:46,380 --> 00:19:49,350
And the school, it became--

430
00:19:49,350 --> 00:19:52,390
it was a controversial thing
in the county for a long time.

431
00:19:52,390 --> 00:19:56,880
And so what they did, they ran
two separate kinds of systems

432
00:19:56,880 --> 00:19:59,535
in the school to
satisfy both sides.

433

00:19:59,535 --> 00:20:05,140

And in the higher
end in Lake Barcroft,

434

00:20:05,140 --> 00:20:10,150

I had a friend who was
teaching Hebrew school

435

00:20:10,150 --> 00:20:12,130

to the Jewish kids
in Fairfax County.

436

00:20:12,130 --> 00:20:15,850

And then the Jewish day school,
Gesher Jewish Day School,

437

00:20:15,850 --> 00:20:17,380

she was speaking in that.

438

00:20:17,380 --> 00:20:19,150

My grandson went there.

439

00:20:19,150 --> 00:20:20,020

We met.

440

00:20:20,020 --> 00:20:22,900

Anyhow, her daughter
went to that school.

441

00:20:22,900 --> 00:20:28,300

And she said to her
mother, she would like--

442

00:20:28,300 --> 00:20:32,410

very bright girl-- that she's
going to talk to her teacher.

443

00:20:32,410 --> 00:20:33,910

They were talking.

444

00:20:33,910 --> 00:20:36,160

They were learning

about World War II.

445

00:20:36,160 --> 00:20:38,680

And this young
girl in high school

446

00:20:38,680 --> 00:20:39,830

said she wanted to know--

447

00:20:39,830 --> 00:20:40,330

There--

448

00:20:40,330 --> 00:20:40,660

--the teacher should know--

449

00:20:40,660 --> 00:20:42,490

--is a high school
near Lake Barcroft

450

00:20:42,490 --> 00:20:43,740

called the Stuart High School.

451

00:20:43,740 --> 00:20:44,740

Could that have been it?

452

00:20:44,740 --> 00:20:45,725

That was the one.

453

00:20:45,725 --> 00:20:48,370

That was the one,
Stuart High School.

454

00:20:48,370 --> 00:20:51,280

And there was a lot
of controversy because

455

00:20:51,280 --> 00:20:52,870

of the two types of students.

456

00:20:52,870 --> 00:20:55,510

But they compromised somehow.

457

00:20:55,510 --> 00:20:57,430

They ran two tracks.

458

00:20:57,430 --> 00:20:59,390

I don't know exactly
how that worked.

459

00:20:59,390 --> 00:21:01,600

But this girl whose
mother I knew,

460

00:21:01,600 --> 00:21:04,540

who was a teacher at
Gesher Jewish Day School,

461

00:21:04,540 --> 00:21:07,690

she wanted to have a
survivor come and speak

462

00:21:07,690 --> 00:21:10,470

when they were learning
about the Second World War.

463

00:21:10,470 --> 00:21:13,180

And so I was asked
to come there.

464

00:21:13,180 --> 00:21:21,340

And the staff was very
welcoming, huge auditorium

465

00:21:21,340 --> 00:21:23,300

with 400 kids and so on.

466

00:21:23,300 --> 00:21:24,400

And I would speak.

467

00:21:24,400 --> 00:21:27,310

And I would get
flowers and letters.

468

00:21:27,310 --> 00:21:31,060

And everybody was very happy,
the teachers, the principal.

469

00:21:31,060 --> 00:21:34,240

And somehow, it spilled over
to my neighborhood high school,

470

00:21:34,240 --> 00:21:39,880

Woodson High School, where my
kids and later grandkids went.

471

00:21:39,880 --> 00:21:44,830

And Woodson has me
blocked for every year.

472

00:21:44,830 --> 00:21:47,650

When I have finish
speaking in January,

473

00:21:47,650 --> 00:21:50,528

my next year's date is set.

474

00:21:50,528 --> 00:21:51,070

They put it--

475

00:21:51,070 --> 00:21:51,570

So tell me--

476

00:21:51,570 --> 00:21:52,570

--on the calendar.

477

00:21:52,570 --> 00:21:53,112

--what kind--

478

00:21:53,112 --> 00:21:57,580

And this year, I skip
because of the virus.

479

00:21:57,580 --> 00:21:58,860

The pandemic.

480

00:21:58,860 --> 00:22:02,270

I have my date.

481
00:22:02,270 --> 00:22:06,700
They decided that it
was absolutely essential

482
00:22:06,700 --> 00:22:08,420
as part of their curriculum.

483
00:22:08,420 --> 00:22:12,760
And I had such a
welcoming reception.

484
00:22:12,760 --> 00:22:14,920
They did all kinds of welcoming.

485
00:22:14,920 --> 00:22:19,116
There were banners up on the
wall, "Welcome, Mrs. Weiss,"

486
00:22:19,116 --> 00:22:20,790
all kind of things.

487
00:22:20,790 --> 00:22:24,790
And the whole school was
there, and the principal,

488
00:22:24,790 --> 00:22:29,010
and the janitor.

489
00:22:29,010 --> 00:22:29,510
Tell me--

490
00:22:29,510 --> 00:22:31,600
And they gave me an hour.

491
00:22:31,600 --> 00:22:35,230
Tell me, why do you think--

492
00:22:35,230 --> 00:22:37,810
first, again, when
you say something,

493

00:22:37,810 --> 00:22:41,600

I have not one question
but many questions.

494

00:22:41,600 --> 00:22:44,920

Number one, why do you
think-- that's quite a jump

495

00:22:44,920 --> 00:22:49,030

from being a speaker who comes
in because the teacher would

496

00:22:49,030 --> 00:22:53,230

like you to address the
class on a particular topic

497

00:22:53,230 --> 00:22:55,600

that they're
studying to becoming

498

00:22:55,600 --> 00:22:57,680

part of the curriculum.

499

00:22:57,680 --> 00:23:01,100

So my first question,
why do you think that is?

500

00:23:01,100 --> 00:23:05,930

Well, I think I can go right
back to the theme at hand.

501

00:23:05,930 --> 00:23:10,810

It was the influence of the
museum, the Holocaust museum,

502

00:23:10,810 --> 00:23:12,190

absolutely.

503

00:23:12,190 --> 00:23:15,460

Because I went there
first as a visitor.

504

00:23:15,460 --> 00:23:19,930

And then I saw the need that
people need to know this.

505

00:23:19,930 --> 00:23:24,610

And then I realized that
I actually could do it

506

00:23:24,610 --> 00:23:28,010

and that I just must to do it.

507

00:23:28,010 --> 00:23:29,800

I felt I had to do it.

508

00:23:29,800 --> 00:23:31,900

This is not enough.

509

00:23:31,900 --> 00:23:34,000

These people want to know.

510

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:37,930

And as soon as I got over
the fear of speaking--

511

00:23:37,930 --> 00:23:41,500

and believe me, in the
beginning in the museum,

512

00:23:41,500 --> 00:23:44,830

speaking to all kinds
of distinguished people,

513

00:23:44,830 --> 00:23:47,110

or just school--

514

00:23:47,110 --> 00:23:51,730

military people, FBI
people, police groups--

515

00:23:51,730 --> 00:23:54,760

I mean, my heart was
pounding plenty, believe me.

516
00:23:54,760 --> 00:23:55,674
Oh, my.

517
00:23:55,674 --> 00:23:56,590
Oh, my.

518
00:23:56,590 --> 00:24:04,450
My heart was pounding,
sweaty palms and all that.

519
00:24:04,450 --> 00:24:06,130
I had a lot to overcome.

520
00:24:06,130 --> 00:24:07,810
I had two things to overcome.

521
00:24:07,810 --> 00:24:13,580
One, becoming public, which
I just began to want to do,

522
00:24:13,580 --> 00:24:16,630
but talking to children
in a more casual way,

523
00:24:16,630 --> 00:24:20,500
not into an organized
I am upfront,

524
00:24:20,500 --> 00:24:22,030
and they are sitting there.

525
00:24:22,030 --> 00:24:22,810
That's right.

526
00:24:22,810 --> 00:24:23,860
Yeah, it was very hard.

527
00:24:23,860 --> 00:24:24,970
It was public.

528

00:24:24,970 --> 00:24:26,545
It was public speaking.

529
00:24:26,545 --> 00:24:29,890
And then the
questions, I realized

530
00:24:29,890 --> 00:24:35,890
that I had to speak on my feet,
a vast number of questions,

531
00:24:35,890 --> 00:24:40,060
and politics, and
interpretations, and religion,

532
00:24:40,060 --> 00:24:41,710
and personal feelings.

533
00:24:41,710 --> 00:24:44,980
They ask everything.

534
00:24:44,980 --> 00:24:48,910
I didn't think I
was informed enough.

535
00:24:48,910 --> 00:24:51,400
I didn't think I
was smart enough.

536
00:24:51,400 --> 00:24:53,500
I didn't think I had
the clout to do that.

537
00:24:53,500 --> 00:24:56,290
I just wanted to
speak to high school

538
00:24:56,290 --> 00:24:58,510
kids who come in there anyway.

539
00:24:58,510 --> 00:24:59,630
It was very hard.

540

00:24:59,630 --> 00:25:03,840

Have you changed
your mind about that?

541

00:25:03,840 --> 00:25:04,990

Did I--

542

00:25:04,990 --> 00:25:07,890

Have you changed your mind
about all of the doubts?

543

00:25:07,890 --> 00:25:10,960

Oh, I didn't change my mind.

544

00:25:10,960 --> 00:25:14,920

Even though I had
a very hard time,

545

00:25:14,920 --> 00:25:19,120

I used to take two
Tylenol to calm me.

546

00:25:19,120 --> 00:25:22,090

There were times early
on where I was nauseous

547

00:25:22,090 --> 00:25:23,050

before I got there--

548

00:25:23,050 --> 00:25:24,730

Oh, dear.

549

00:25:24,730 --> 00:25:31,390

--mostly because I had to
be exposed so personally.

550

00:25:31,390 --> 00:25:33,490

I don't know how
to explain that.

551

00:25:33,490 --> 00:25:35,650

I wanted people to know that.

552
00:25:35,650 --> 00:25:38,740
But somehow, my inner--

553
00:25:38,740 --> 00:25:41,092
things I tell you
now, it's so personal.

554
00:25:41,092 --> 00:25:41,800
Of course, it is.

555
00:25:41,800 --> 00:25:42,400
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

556
00:25:42,400 --> 00:25:43,340
Of course, it is.

557
00:25:43,340 --> 00:25:44,390
--painful.

558
00:25:44,390 --> 00:25:47,140
And it was raw.

559
00:25:47,140 --> 00:25:52,030
And I became aware that other
survivors were speaking.

560
00:25:52,030 --> 00:25:55,930
And I became aware of the fact
that they broke into tears

561
00:25:55,930 --> 00:25:57,430
while they were speaking.

562
00:25:57,430 --> 00:26:00,670
And they actually cried
through the whole thing.

563
00:26:00,670 --> 00:26:03,820
And I was determined
never, never

564

00:26:03,820 --> 00:26:08,950

to cry because I understood
that, if I start crying,

565

00:26:08,950 --> 00:26:11,230

I cut off the questions.

566

00:26:11,230 --> 00:26:13,660

People feel they're hurting me.

567

00:26:13,660 --> 00:26:15,880

And they will not ask questions.

568

00:26:15,880 --> 00:26:17,730

You know something?

569

00:26:17,730 --> 00:26:22,290

Again, I go back
to this incident

570

00:26:22,290 --> 00:26:24,320

I told you about earlier--

571

00:26:24,320 --> 00:26:28,638

not incident, but
the interest I had

572

00:26:28,638 --> 00:26:32,280

in interviewing and writing
about people who survive

573

00:26:32,280 --> 00:26:34,260

torture.

574

00:26:34,260 --> 00:26:37,950

And one of the people
that I spoke with,

575

00:26:37,950 --> 00:26:41,370

I spoke with not only the
director of this rehabilitation

576

00:26:41,370 --> 00:26:48,460
center but also with a physical
therapist and a psychiatrist.

577

00:26:48,460 --> 00:26:49,930
Clearly, there was
a psychiatrist.

578

00:26:49,930 --> 00:26:53,560
The psychiatrist told me
many, many interesting things.

579

00:26:53,560 --> 00:26:56,800
And one of those
interesting things

580

00:26:56,800 --> 00:27:03,390
is, as a torture victim finally
is opening up and starting

581

00:27:03,390 --> 00:27:09,900
to tell the psychiatrist about
what happened to him or her,

582

00:27:09,900 --> 00:27:13,200
if the psychiatrist
starts crying--

583

00:27:13,200 --> 00:27:18,610
because it's a
horrible, horrible event

584

00:27:18,610 --> 00:27:21,910
that he's listening,
or she's listening to--

585

00:27:21,910 --> 00:27:27,430
that victim, that person
who survived this, clams up

586

00:27:27,430 --> 00:27:28,900
and shuts up--

587

00:27:28,900 --> 00:27:30,160

Interesting.

588

00:27:30,160 --> 00:27:34,450

--and will not talk

more, because they do not

589

00:27:34,450 --> 00:27:38,280

want to hurt the psychiatrist.

590

00:27:38,280 --> 00:27:39,400

Works both ways.

591

00:27:39,400 --> 00:27:40,030

Yeah.

592

00:27:40,030 --> 00:27:45,820

And so when you say you

don't want the audience

593

00:27:45,820 --> 00:27:48,460

to see you cry because then

they'll think that they're

594

00:27:48,460 --> 00:27:56,290

hurting you, which was

exactly that same reaction

595

00:27:56,290 --> 00:27:59,200

that you anticipated,

something that actually

596

00:27:59,200 --> 00:28:03,200

happens in this interaction.

597

00:28:03,200 --> 00:28:07,167

Saw some of those, I heard

some of those occasionally.

598

00:28:07,167 --> 00:28:08,000

And then they cried.

599

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:10,150

I [? saw ?] them
on TV or whatever.

600

00:28:10,150 --> 00:28:12,610

And I, right away, saw
that that was wrong.

601

00:28:12,610 --> 00:28:14,370

It was wrong.

602

00:28:14,370 --> 00:28:16,960

She lost the audience.

603

00:28:16,960 --> 00:28:19,930

And in addition to that,
there's another element.

604

00:28:19,930 --> 00:28:21,460

It's very complicated.

605

00:28:21,460 --> 00:28:27,970

I did not want pity, not pity.

606

00:28:27,970 --> 00:28:29,380

It's a terrible thing.

607

00:28:29,380 --> 00:28:31,540

I do not want to be pitied.

608

00:28:31,540 --> 00:28:37,650

I did not do anything wrong
that people did this to me.

609

00:28:37,650 --> 00:28:42,780

But I am more angry
than anything else.

610

00:28:42,780 --> 00:28:46,860

And I don't pity me.

611

00:28:46,860 --> 00:28:52,130
And if I cry, I'm going to
invite pity and all the rest.

612
00:28:52,130 --> 00:28:56,190
And so I held on to that.

613
00:28:56,190 --> 00:29:03,170
All of those factors play into
you coming up and becoming

614
00:29:03,170 --> 00:29:06,380
a public speaker
about these things

615
00:29:06,380 --> 00:29:09,440
or speaking about
these things publicly.

616
00:29:09,440 --> 00:29:14,490
All of these things play
into it or did play into it?

617
00:29:14,490 --> 00:29:15,950
Yeah, yeah.

618
00:29:15,950 --> 00:29:20,330
So eventually-- that
fear and so on--

619
00:29:20,330 --> 00:29:26,870
I overcame, because I
realized that it got easier,

620
00:29:26,870 --> 00:29:30,560
that people seemed
to connect to it.

621
00:29:30,560 --> 00:29:33,860
And the more questions they
asked me, the more I realized

622
00:29:33,860 --> 00:29:36,890

that I did have some answers.

623
00:29:36,890 --> 00:29:40,140
In other words, I
became more confident.

624
00:29:40,140 --> 00:29:43,110
And then it was not--

625
00:29:43,110 --> 00:29:45,250
but the beginning was hard.

626
00:29:45,250 --> 00:29:50,760
I was not taught how to speak
and all that, but still.

627
00:29:50,760 --> 00:29:54,580
So I was in great demand,
like all other survivors.

628
00:29:54,580 --> 00:29:57,030
And I was in the museum a lot.

629
00:29:57,030 --> 00:30:03,270
And I realized that this
museum is a fantastic

630
00:30:03,270 --> 00:30:10,710
place for remembering, and
projecting, and explaining what

631
00:30:10,710 --> 00:30:12,990
happened in Europe long ago.

632
00:30:12,990 --> 00:30:17,730
And that even though when
it was planned and built,

633
00:30:17,730 --> 00:30:22,740
Americans and others
said we are not guilty.

634

00:30:22,740 --> 00:30:24,390
This didn't happen here.

635
00:30:24,390 --> 00:30:28,710
This museum doesn't
belong on the--

636
00:30:28,710 --> 00:30:29,620
On the mall.

637
00:30:29,620 --> 00:30:30,120
On the mall.

638
00:30:30,120 --> 00:30:31,350
--on the mall.

639
00:30:31,350 --> 00:30:33,390
And it's a terrible
thing you remember,

640
00:30:33,390 --> 00:30:38,340
the fight, and that this
is wrong, and all that.

641
00:30:38,340 --> 00:30:41,090
By the huge numbers
of visitors that

642
00:30:41,090 --> 00:30:45,300
poured in there and the
great interest, that stopped.

643
00:30:45,300 --> 00:30:48,510
And everybody realized it
belongs here, because it

644
00:30:48,510 --> 00:30:51,030
was a genocide of a continent.

645
00:30:51,030 --> 00:30:54,060
And it doesn't matter if it
wasn't on this continent.

646

00:30:54,060 --> 00:30:55,950

We have a great deal
to learn about it

647

00:30:55,950 --> 00:30:57,850

and must learn about it.

648

00:30:57,850 --> 00:31:04,120

But in general, the welcoming
was very welcoming there,

649

00:31:04,120 --> 00:31:09,220

all the people who work there,
and the people who run it,

650

00:31:09,220 --> 00:31:10,930

and all the survivors.

651

00:31:10,930 --> 00:31:13,330

I became very comfortable there.

652

00:31:13,330 --> 00:31:16,840

I had made many friends
there that you didn't have

653

00:31:16,840 --> 00:31:19,415

to explain very much at all.

654

00:31:19,415 --> 00:31:21,790

Yeah, you don't have to go--
it's not like you're talking

655

00:31:21,790 --> 00:31:23,570

to someone from another planet.

656

00:31:23,570 --> 00:31:25,240

No.

657

00:31:25,240 --> 00:31:28,720

And they had events
that were social.

658

00:31:28,720 --> 00:31:34,060

But most of all, I
understood what--

659

00:31:34,060 --> 00:31:39,610

since the world forgets,
and Germany was forgiven--

660

00:31:39,610 --> 00:31:41,230

very few were punished--

661

00:31:41,230 --> 00:31:46,630

and so how are we going to
keep this horrendous, brutal

662

00:31:46,630 --> 00:31:47,440

genocide?

663

00:31:47,440 --> 00:31:51,820

How are we going to keep this
alive for other generations

664

00:31:51,820 --> 00:31:55,540

to remember this
incredible event

665

00:31:55,540 --> 00:31:59,590

that they perpetrated in the
middle of the 20th century,

666

00:31:59,590 --> 00:32:02,800

trying to wipe out
an entire people

667

00:32:02,800 --> 00:32:09,340

and aiming to wipe out
our babies and everybody

668

00:32:09,340 --> 00:32:10,850

who belongs to this group?

669

00:32:10,850 --> 00:32:14,860

How can we preserve the
memory and teach from it,

670
00:32:14,860 --> 00:32:18,550
to teach these barbaric humans?

671
00:32:18,550 --> 00:32:21,250
This museum was
doing a wonderful job

672
00:32:21,250 --> 00:32:24,340
doing that without
even trying very hard,

673
00:32:24,340 --> 00:32:28,000
just opening the doors
and having the exhibits

674
00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:30,180
and welcoming people.

675
00:32:30,180 --> 00:32:36,190
And then of course, it's more
than just opening the doors.

676
00:32:36,190 --> 00:32:41,260
It's like a college with
many disciplines; all

677
00:32:41,260 --> 00:32:47,870
the researchers; all the
translators; all the people

678
00:32:47,870 --> 00:32:51,780
who dig deep into
the why it happened,

679
00:32:51,780 --> 00:32:55,670
how it happened;
tracking the survivors;

680
00:32:55,670 --> 00:32:59,900
and tracking the perpetrators;

and tremendous amount

681
00:32:59,900 --> 00:33:06,470
of research that goes on
there; and that there are so

682
00:33:06,470 --> 00:33:08,750
many people,
survivors of children,

683
00:33:08,750 --> 00:33:11,390
who are willing to
support it financially.

684
00:33:11,390 --> 00:33:14,100
And it has a very high standard.

685
00:33:14,100 --> 00:33:22,800
And it's just a place where
students come to be interns,

686
00:33:22,800 --> 00:33:25,070
to write books and do
the research there,

687
00:33:25,070 --> 00:33:28,385
to get PhD's on the subject.

688
00:33:28,385 --> 00:33:29,750
It's a whole college.

689
00:33:29,750 --> 00:33:31,280
It's a whole universe.

690
00:33:31,280 --> 00:33:34,250
And it's all about
what happened.

691
00:33:34,250 --> 00:33:36,590
And it deserves all
that, because what

692

00:33:36,590 --> 00:33:41,000
happened is a mark
on human civilization

693
00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:45,140
and, certainly, worse than
anything that ever happened

694
00:33:45,140 --> 00:33:48,350
to the Jews from
way back to when

695
00:33:48,350 --> 00:33:51,920
we lost the Temple, and
Jesus, and all the rest.

696
00:33:51,920 --> 00:33:58,695
This tops it all because of
the time when it happened,

697
00:33:58,695 --> 00:34:03,440
the enormous preparation
for it, the great success

698
00:34:03,440 --> 00:34:04,970
with which they carried it out.

699
00:34:04,970 --> 00:34:08,020

700
00:34:08,020 --> 00:34:11,739
It happened to me out
of the blue and people

701
00:34:11,739 --> 00:34:14,860
like me, who lived their
lives like ordinary people.

702
00:34:14,860 --> 00:34:17,791

703
00:34:17,791 --> 00:34:20,710
This is the perfect

institution that

704
00:34:20,710 --> 00:34:23,760
embraces all aspects of it.

705
00:34:23,760 --> 00:34:26,199
And they keep
adding, and building,

706
00:34:26,199 --> 00:34:28,719
and doing more and more that--

707
00:34:28,719 --> 00:34:29,770
they have lectures.

708
00:34:29,770 --> 00:34:32,179
They have movies.

709
00:34:32,179 --> 00:34:35,739
They have everything for
the audience that comes in,

710
00:34:35,739 --> 00:34:38,190
for the scholars who want it.

711
00:34:38,190 --> 00:34:41,420
They have this new
building for the--

712
00:34:41,420 --> 00:34:41,920
I want to--

713
00:34:41,920 --> 00:34:42,480
--artifacts.

714
00:34:42,480 --> 00:34:43,900
Yeah, the artifacts.

715
00:34:43,900 --> 00:34:47,790
That's actually the
place where my office--

716
00:34:47,790 --> 00:34:49,830
I mean, where I work.

717
00:34:49,830 --> 00:34:53,682
My workstation is in
that new building.

718
00:34:53,682 --> 00:34:54,546
Is it in Maryland?

719
00:34:54,546 --> 00:34:58,580
Yeah, in Bowie, Maryland.

720
00:34:58,580 --> 00:35:01,610
And it's a way to let viewers--

721
00:35:01,610 --> 00:35:03,470
not viewers, but listeners--

722
00:35:03,470 --> 00:35:06,830
when they will listen to this
interview in years from now,

723
00:35:06,830 --> 00:35:10,310
know that we are now
talking during a pandemic

724
00:35:10,310 --> 00:35:12,860
where we are working from home.

725
00:35:12,860 --> 00:35:17,310
And this pandemic, at some
point, will be over as well.

726
00:35:17,310 --> 00:35:19,310
So when we talk
about the museum--

727
00:35:19,310 --> 00:35:21,620
and it's sometimes
in the past tense.

728

00:35:21,620 --> 00:35:24,170

But it's only a
temporary past tense.

729

00:35:24,170 --> 00:35:26,120

For right now, the
museum is closed.

730

00:35:26,120 --> 00:35:28,730

And all of the things
that you are mentioning

731

00:35:28,730 --> 00:35:30,230

have been suspended.

732

00:35:30,230 --> 00:35:32,300

But that's only temporary.

733

00:35:32,300 --> 00:35:35,540

I have a question that
is somewhat provocative.

734

00:35:35,540 --> 00:35:38,750

But there are few people
that I think could address it

735

00:35:38,750 --> 00:35:40,310

as well as you could.

736

00:35:40,310 --> 00:35:41,405

And here is the question.

737

00:35:41,405 --> 00:35:44,740

738

00:35:44,740 --> 00:35:47,630

What does the museum offer?

739

00:35:47,630 --> 00:35:53,520

What relevance does
it bring to a student,

740

00:35:53,520 --> 00:35:59,220
for example, whose parents
might have come from Cambodia

741

00:35:59,220 --> 00:36:07,056
and who experienced the Pol
Pot regime; or, let's say,

742

00:36:07,056 --> 00:36:12,090
any of the repressions that
happened in the United States

743

00:36:12,090 --> 00:36:14,850
to groups that are discriminated
against, whether these

744

00:36:14,850 --> 00:36:19,890
be Native Americans, whether
this be the legacy of slavery;

745

00:36:19,890 --> 00:36:23,250
or to Stalinism, and
to what the Soviet

746

00:36:23,250 --> 00:36:25,230
Union did to its own people?

747

00:36:25,230 --> 00:36:28,830
When someone who has
experienced these other kinds

748

00:36:28,830 --> 00:36:35,140
of repressions, what relevance
does this story have?

749

00:36:35,140 --> 00:36:38,310
Well, I have witnessed
the relevance.

750

00:36:38,310 --> 00:36:40,450
The museum gives
all these people

751

00:36:40,450 --> 00:36:45,740

a platform, a recognition,
and a belief that it happened.

752

00:36:45,740 --> 00:36:47,350

And they can tell their story.

753

00:36:47,350 --> 00:36:53,440

They can do their exhibits,
the Rohingya, all the others

754

00:36:53,440 --> 00:36:56,790

that you mentioned.

755

00:36:56,790 --> 00:37:00,530

The museum speaks
in their behalf.

756

00:37:00,530 --> 00:37:03,150

It publicizes their plight.

757

00:37:03,150 --> 00:37:08,080

But most of all, it
welcomes to them and opens.

758

00:37:08,080 --> 00:37:11,950

Then, just like I could
open and speak about it,

759

00:37:11,950 --> 00:37:14,470

they can come and speak
to large audiences.

760

00:37:14,470 --> 00:37:17,630

And they know that
they have a platform.

761

00:37:17,630 --> 00:37:19,090

They have a friend.

762

00:37:19,090 --> 00:37:25,060

And they know that the museum

will spend money and effort

763
00:37:25,060 --> 00:37:29,530
to follow up on it and to--

764
00:37:29,530 --> 00:37:34,060
the museum is going
to advocate for them.

765
00:37:34,060 --> 00:37:37,180
What happened to the
Jews, to this day,

766
00:37:37,180 --> 00:37:40,180
is that, when I
was in Auschwitz,

767
00:37:40,180 --> 00:37:44,950
and I witnessed killing around
the clock, nobody cared.

768
00:37:44,950 --> 00:37:49,210
Nobody knew, [? must ?]
not have known.

769
00:37:49,210 --> 00:37:51,190
But nobody cared.

770
00:37:51,190 --> 00:37:53,410
And these people
feel the same way.

771
00:37:53,410 --> 00:37:54,970
It's an open world.

772
00:37:54,970 --> 00:37:57,070
There's a lot of communication.

773
00:37:57,070 --> 00:37:59,200
And yet, nobody cares.

774
00:37:59,200 --> 00:38:02,650

And here is a huge institution
with a lot of reach

775
00:38:02,650 --> 00:38:04,870
to a lot of groups.

776
00:38:04,870 --> 00:38:06,160
They care.

777
00:38:06,160 --> 00:38:07,730
They listen.

778
00:38:07,730 --> 00:38:12,340
And they advocate for them.

779
00:38:12,340 --> 00:38:15,970
It's invaluable for people.

780
00:38:15,970 --> 00:38:18,950
They don't feel
forgotten and neglected.

781
00:38:18,950 --> 00:38:22,780
And even though the
museum can't turn over

782
00:38:22,780 --> 00:38:28,450
every wrong in the
world, the world

783
00:38:28,450 --> 00:38:30,910
will know, through
the museum, what

784
00:38:30,910 --> 00:38:33,610
happens in other parts
of the world, what

785
00:38:33,610 --> 00:38:35,500
is being done to people.

786
00:38:35,500 --> 00:38:38,200

And I know that they
are very grateful.

787
00:38:38,200 --> 00:38:43,810
And the museum sends
people into these countries

788
00:38:43,810 --> 00:38:47,500
and basically listen,
report, and recognize

789
00:38:47,500 --> 00:38:49,030
that they're suffering.

790
00:38:49,030 --> 00:38:52,480
And if I had had
that in Auschwitz,

791
00:38:52,480 --> 00:38:56,740
I wouldn't have such terrible
lack of faith in people.

792
00:38:56,740 --> 00:38:58,510
I would say, yes,
there are people

793
00:38:58,510 --> 00:39:02,680
who care and are doing
all they can to stop it

794
00:39:02,680 --> 00:39:05,390
and to publicize it.

795
00:39:05,390 --> 00:39:09,100
Irene, I couldn't
think of a better way

796
00:39:09,100 --> 00:39:11,740
to conclude our interview.

797
00:39:11,740 --> 00:39:12,640
Well, thank you.

798

00:39:12,640 --> 00:39:16,030

I think you've said it
all and said it well.

799

00:39:16,030 --> 00:39:18,910

And it's been a true gift.

800

00:39:18,910 --> 00:39:21,220

Thank you very much.

801

00:39:21,220 --> 00:39:22,990

Thank you.

802

00:39:22,990 --> 00:39:29,770

I want to really apologize to
you for all the many details--

803

00:39:29,770 --> 00:39:30,270

No.

804

00:39:30,270 --> 00:39:33,190

--that I don't know.

805

00:39:33,190 --> 00:39:34,980

You know how I feel.

806

00:39:34,980 --> 00:39:36,990

I understand you
want the details.

807

00:39:36,990 --> 00:39:41,040

And nevertheless, I think it's
very almost selfish to be so--

808

00:39:41,040 --> 00:39:42,240

No, no, no.

809

00:39:42,240 --> 00:39:42,740

--involved.

810

00:39:42,740 --> 00:39:43,530

No, no.

811
00:39:43,530 --> 00:39:46,212

812
00:39:46,212 --> 00:39:49,911
You have painted
a picture for us

813
00:39:49,911 --> 00:39:53,640
of what happened
at various stages.

814
00:39:53,640 --> 00:39:56,670
And you've also let
us into your mind.

815
00:39:56,670 --> 00:39:59,250
And that, I
particularly appreciate,

816
00:39:59,250 --> 00:40:05,940
because that's so personal, and
grappling with these questions,

817
00:40:05,940 --> 00:40:09,630
which nobody has had
an ability to answer,

818
00:40:09,630 --> 00:40:13,185
because the atrocity
was so huge.

819
00:40:13,185 --> 00:40:16,590

820
00:40:16,590 --> 00:40:21,570
Talking to you has provided
an opportunity for somebody

821
00:40:21,570 --> 00:40:24,150
to think about what
you said and then

822
00:40:24,150 --> 00:40:27,030
to see what can
they take from it.

823
00:40:27,030 --> 00:40:28,620
How can they go forward with it?

824
00:40:28,620 --> 00:40:32,250
How can they try to
understand, because you've

825
00:40:32,250 --> 00:40:34,830
spent a lifetime
trying to understand.

826
00:40:34,830 --> 00:40:36,900
And you've shared that with me.

827
00:40:36,900 --> 00:40:40,320
Yeah, it really is
not comprehensible.

828
00:40:40,320 --> 00:40:42,860
So I suppose the
more people tell,

829
00:40:42,860 --> 00:40:46,450
the more likely
something will stick.

830
00:40:46,450 --> 00:40:52,585
Well, talking does
not always solve it.

831
00:40:52,585 --> 00:40:55,480
It is what one says.

832
00:40:55,480 --> 00:41:04,520
And you know the phrase of
somebody who may say not a lot,

833

00:41:04,520 --> 00:41:08,330
but what they do say
is very valuable.

834
00:41:08,330 --> 00:41:13,055
Well, you've said a lot, but
all of it's very valuable.

835
00:41:13,055 --> 00:41:14,105
It's not just--

836
00:41:14,105 --> 00:41:17,607

837
00:41:17,607 --> 00:41:18,190
I don't know--

838
00:41:18,190 --> 00:41:18,300
Well--

839
00:41:18,300 --> 00:41:19,550
--if I'm expressing this well.

840
00:41:19,550 --> 00:41:20,940
--I hope that it has--

841
00:41:20,940 --> 00:41:24,000
and it's personal
history-- but that it

842
00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:28,650
applies to others who've went
through this similar way.

843
00:41:28,650 --> 00:41:30,700
Yeah, thank you.

844
00:41:30,700 --> 00:41:32,910
Well, thank you for
being so patient.

845
00:41:32,910 --> 00:41:34,410

And your questions were great.

846
00:41:34,410 --> 00:41:34,910
Thank you.

847
00:41:34,910 --> 00:41:38,040
And you certainly made it
easy for me to open up.

848
00:41:38,040 --> 00:41:40,270
And so I thank you for that.

849
00:41:40,270 --> 00:41:40,980
You're welcome.

850
00:41:40,980 --> 00:41:41,850
You're welcome.

851
00:41:41,850 --> 00:41:46,620
And what I will do now is I
will say a few words to conclude

852
00:41:46,620 --> 00:41:47,370
the interview.

853
00:41:47,370 --> 00:41:49,200
I'll turn the recording off.

854
00:41:49,200 --> 00:41:51,610
And then we'll talk
of a few other things.

855
00:41:51,610 --> 00:41:56,460
So I will say that this now
concludes the United States

856
00:41:56,460 --> 00:42:00,720
Holocaust Memorial Museum
interview with Mrs. Irene

857
00:42:00,720 --> 00:42:01,710
Weiss.

858

00:42:01,710 --> 00:42:09,360

And I believe today is
the 29th of May in 2020.

859

00:42:09,360 --> 00:42:12,500

And thank you again.

860

00:42:12,500 --> 00:42:13,000