

Now I want to go back, and I want you to tell me what you think happened to Raoul Wallenberg.

Well, what happened to Raoul Wallenberg? As I probably told you that he wanted to help the people whom he helped already. And he figured that the Soviet is our ally, so we have to go to them to get some help. And everybody told him not to do it, because let's wait how the Soviet will be with us the embassy said. But Raoul said, no, no, no. I have to go, and I have a five year plan for the Soviet how to help these people to get back their homes, and how we feed them, and we need medication.

So nobody could talk to him. And he went with his driver, Wilmer Schlangfelder, together. And they went to that little city called Debrecen. That was the headquarters of the Soviet. In a week, he came back. And that's how I know the story, because the Red Cross head, the Swedish Cross head I met later on in Sweden. And he said Raoul came back, and behind him there were two Russian officers on motorbikes.

And he said, as you can see, I have some Russians behind me, and I am invited back and I have no idea if I am invited back as a visitor or as a prisoner. But he said, I had a wonderful meeting on the way back. I saw an old lady carrying bread in a basket, and she still had a star on.

And I got out of the car, and I went over, and I said, how wonderful to see that somebody is alive. My name is Raoul Wallenberg. And the lady pulled out the Schutz-Pass. She says, I know. I got one of your papers. And he said it was a very emotional moment for him, too. And then he emptied his pockets and he said to Mr. Langfelder, who was the head of the Red Cross. And he said, here I give you all the money and all the diamonds, because you will need it to feed the people whom we saved.

But I keep \$1,000, and I tell you that because in a few minutes I tell you what happened to the \$1,000. Said I keep this just in case my trip takes long. And then he said goodbye and disappeared. Now, in 1945, the mother in Stockholm got a phone call from the Russian ambassador, Mrs. Kollontai telling her not to worry about Raoul. Raoul is in, uh, not captivity. She said he is in Russia, and we are taking care of him.

So the mother was very happy. But Mrs. Kollontai wasn't happy, because every day she got phone calls, and she kept on saying, you better don't ask so much. He is all right. We're protecting him. But after a little while, Mrs. Kollontai was called back, and miraculously she died in a heart attack in no time.

And then they started to ask where is Raoul? In the meantime, the whole embassy got back to Stockholm, and I arrived to Stockholm in 1945. And I said, where is Raoul? And they said, we don't know. They knew nothing about Raoul.

And the Russian answer was that we never heard of him. He's not there. In '47, however, suddenly they said that, yes, he was there, and in Lubyanka Prison, he died in a heart attack. The heart attack they described is for a big, fat man. And Raoul Wallenberg was really not fat. And besides, I'm sure he didn't get fat in prison.

So they ask for the autopsy papers, and they disappeared. They asked for the doctor. He wasn't alive anymore. So we knew that they lying. Then as you know, in '57, Mr. Gromyko said that he's very sorry, but yes, he's dead, and that's that.

Now, the terrible thing is that we know now, and we can imagine why. I told you before that Stockholm was sort of a spy center. And this Mr. Olson, what even we didn't know, and I'm sure that Raoul had no idea, that he worked for the OSS. And when Raoul told the Russians that he was paid by the Americans, they must have had people in Stockholm to see him sitting with Mr. Olson, whom the Russians knew very well who he was.

So they said, aha, Raoul Wallenberg is a spy. They also came up with stories what is not true, that Raoul once flew back home to Sweden while he was there, and he discussed things with the Germans, what was an absolute lie. He could not. The only person who ever went back was Per Anger, because his wife was pregnant. And the last train going, he went with her, and also a lady with her two little boys who was hidden with me. They went. And then Anger came back, and then they closed the curtain.

That was it. Raoul never left. So he was not a spy. But the Russians took it in their head that he was an American spy, and also they didn't like the Jews more than the Nazis. So why this spy goes to Hungary to save the Jews? This was to save--

So we don't know, as Mr. Wiesenthal said, the Russian mind, the Soviet mind, he said that time, is something you don't know what they thinking. And then the whole world really just didn't care about him. His own country didn't care. And I remember how people did not believe in 1945, September. I was already in Switzerland. And I was so excited to tell that story, because that wasn't a sorrowful story. This was a wonderful story.

And my own family, my uncle, who was a very prominent gentleman, he turned to my aunt when he thought I don't hear, and they said, we better take this child to a psychiatrist. She's lying through her teeth. She's coming up with stories what are not true. And I was hurt.

And every time the phone rang and my uncle gave it to me, and he said Oh, this must be the Russian-- the Swedish ambassador. And they were very surprised when finally the Norwegian ambassador called and said that there was a Red Cross tank-- truck what are going to take me and many other people away.

And it was-- I talked to newspaper people. And they thought I was lying. Such a person didn't exist. Then when I arrived to Sweden, I thought, well, now I can talk about Raoul. Nobody wanted to hear it. I was a lecturer in the camps where Count Bernadotte, who was also killed unfortunately. Count Bernadotte brought these very, very sick people in from Belsen-Bergen, from Auschwitz, from Treblinka, you name it, those who were still alive. He opened the most beautiful sanatoriums and schools to have these people.

And I asked permission if I at least there can talk, at least to the Hungarians, about Raoul Wallenberg. Well, they gave me the permission to do that. And nobody listened. Absolutely didn't want to listen to the story. And I didn't know what happened to Raoul. And I-- then everybody was scared from the Russians. Everybody was learning Russian in Sweden. That was the only country there, and it looked like the Russians will run them over any moment.

So I wanted to get out. I had enough from the Nazis and the Russians. And I brought my parents out. And they were in Sweden. And I went to Australia, because they didn't let me in here. And there I tried to talk about Raoul. And there some people listened. But still nothing happened. Then I came over here, and nobody did anything. And finally, in the beginning-- in '80, there was Congressman Lantos, who started to look for Raoul Wallenberg, he and his wife.

And I told you that his wife was my little student back in Hungary. But I didn't know that until 40 years after that's her. And then they started to listen. My husband, whom I married in '60, we went on a three week honeymoon. And I told him the story, and he was crying for three weeks. He was the only one who ever listened.

And from then on, we are trying, and trying, and nothing happened. Now they're working on it. And why I brought the \$1,000 up for you, two years ago was the first time that his half-sister and half-brother was invited to go to Russia and help them look for Raoul Wallenberg. Before they arrived there, the Russian television, what is like our Good Morning America, but it's only on Saturday, goes out to something like 50 million people.

They suddenly had Raoul Wallenberg's picture on the screen and a phone number under it. And it said, anyone who has any information about this person, and gave his name, please call this number. And every five minutes they showed that. The Swedish embassy was absolutely beside themselves. And from then on, they cared. They suddenly allowed to talk about Raoul Wallenberg.

They renamed the only burn center in Leningrad. They renamed it the Raoul Wallenberg Medical Center. They now have documentaries. They have films. They have books. They came out with everything, and then they invited Guy and Nina. And they took Per Anger with them. Because after all, Per was the nearest one working with Raoul.

And also they have a secretary who called Sonja [? Sonnenfeld, ?] who is Russian-born. And they took her, so that nobody can cheat when they talk in Russian. Sakharov was still alive. So he offered the family to help because he speaks English, and he speaks Russian.

[BEEP]

OK. If you can finish.

OK, so the family arrived, and there was a tremendous crowd already at the airport. From the whole world, all the newspaper people came, because this was really the first time that they allowed them to come. And they went first to the Swedish embassy. And then they went to a part of where the KGB is. And Sakharov went with them everywhere.

The KGB's question was, from Sakharov, how do we find? Where do we start? They have no idea, today's KGB. They are also all young people. So Sakharov said, as far as I know, there is a key what opens a big vault, a huge vault in the Kremlin. When you find the key and you open it, you will find little sacks, on each of them the people's name. You will find Wallenberg.

They found it. They brought out. And what they gave back to the family was Raoul's passport, Raoul's personal papers, and the \$1,000. That's why I mentioned the \$1,000 before. They didn't even take that away from him. And in 1945, that was a lot of money. But that \$1,000 was with him.

Now, what the KGB man did, he wrote out the receipt, and he wanted Nina to sign it. And Sakharov got very angry. He said, hey, wait a minute. You arresting a man without any reason, you keep him in prison for 46 years, and you want a receipt? So the KGB man said sorry, and took the receipt and just gave everything back.

And now we have an international committee in there, including two humanitarian Russians. We have a Canadian professor, a mathematics professor from Toronto. We have-- and I'm sure you heard his name, Dr. Martin Makinen. That was the young man who was taken in prison in Russia when Powell was there. Remember Powell? And they exchanged them. He went to-- and Powell came out.

Two years he was in prison. He did nothing. He went to visit Moscow, but they said he was a spy. But today he's a professor in Chicago. And he is one of the men who is on this committee. And they found out fantastic things. Number one, every Russian citizen is now allowed to look for their dead person. It was written, they are also dead like Raoul. Now by the thousands they are walking home, the dead people walking home.

So nobody believes that Raoul is dead. Somewhere he must be alive. They established absolutely for sure that he was never cremated, because they have one crematoria in the whole Soviet Union, or Russia today. And their paper is as long as from here to Manhattan. And that took about four months to go through all the names. It's like a long toilet paper.

Raoul Wallenberg's name is nowhere on. So he was not cremated. If he was killed, they must find somewhere his bones. That's how they found these Polish officers. They opened one. They thought Raoul is there. They found all those Polish officers.

So we don't give up. He must be somewhere. And as you know, this August he will be 80-year-old. And we want to make this year a Raoul Wallenberg international humanitarian year. And this idea come from a lady, whose name is Dr. Vera Parnes, who is Russian, who is a doctor of neurosurgery, who wrote lots of papers. And she never heard of Raoul Wallenberg until two years ago. And he made a Wallenberg Committee, and he also has a museum.

And he's in this country now, medically and not medically. And now she doesn't have to rush back. It's a new country. But when she came out, it was still a communist country. Now it's free. And she is trying to ask the whole world for sending poems, essays, paintings, songs, anything what can make Raoul happy. And--

Let me ask you something, generally. How important are heroes? And how important are heroes in connection with the Holocaust?

Very, very, very important, especially for our American youth. As you know, we do not have any heroes. Because I

don't believe that the great sports figures are heroes. They can be idols, but they're certainly not heroes. Hero is a man who does something for humanity without getting paid for it. And there are very few. And I think I could name just a few who were like Raoul Wallenberg. And these heroes are important because the whole youth of the world don't see the importance of being wonderful and caring people.

And the only way they can learn when they listen to these stories about Wallenberg. I know I had the experience what children can do when they realize what one single person can do. If you're interested, I can tell you two wonderful stories. The one was we have a Raoul Wallenberg School, a public school in Brooklyn.

And one little boy is-- well, most of them are already in junior high school. And two years ago, I was invited to see Fiddler on the Roof. The teacher called me. She says it's all Wallenberg children from the school are playing it. And there was one little boy who was-- two hours he was Tevye.

He sang. He ad libbed. He spoke Hebrew. He did everything. He was absolutely magnificent. Two hours nonstop. And when it was over, I knew I remembered something of the boy, but I didn't know what. So when the teacher called me, she said you remember Johnny? And I said, I do, but what do I remember? Well, I said first of all, the boy is a Christian, and look how beautiful he speaks Hebrew.

The second is, he has a terrible asthma condition. And when he said to me, Mrs. Shapiro, I want to be Tevye, I didn't know how to answer him. And I said, but what's going to happen, Johnny, if you get a coughing fit? And he said, Aggie, the kid was like Wallenberg. He was not four feet. He was seven feet. And he looked at me. He said, if Raoul Wallenberg could do what he did, I can do it. You see what a mind? And if you can tell the children the right way what it means to be a person who cares-- he wanted to make other people happy. So for two years, he never coughed for two hours.

The other one happened when I was a school librarian in another public school. And in the last half an hour of the day, the teacher came up with a class and he said, I can do nothing with these kids. Maybe you tell them the Wallenberg story. So I did. And when the bell went, everybody just sat there. And the teacher said, don't you kids want to go home? And they said, no, could Miss Adachi talk a little longer?

So I said, if you don't hurry, I don't hurry. And I told them that getting involved doesn't mean, if two people on the street killing each other that you go in the middle, because you get killed. Because use your noodles like Raoul used to. What can I do immediately? OK, they went. I forgot about the story.

Three weeks after I'm sitting security at lunchtime, and suddenly I see one little boy coming in, takes my pencil and paper. The other one comes in, hands it to the secretary. And I said, what's going on? The secretary I hear calling the police. And before the principal walks out, I can hear the police arriving. Suddenly, three kids come in from this class. They all sixth graders. One is scratched. His shirt is all torn.

I said, what happened? Well, the ball-- they were playing ball. The ball went out on the street. The boy went out to the street to pick up the ball, and there was a log. And he wants to pick up the log when a car comes, and a man opens the window. And he said, leave that log there!

And the kid, like you would do or I would do, pulled up his shoulder and says OK. For this OK, the man came out of the car and brutally started to hit him, because he answered back. Now, what are my children doing? He came in. He picked up the paper and the pencil. He put down the license number. The other one ran and gave it to the thing.

By the time, as I said, the principal went out, the man was arrested. Stolen car, crazy man. And then all three kids look at me and said, would Wallenberg be proud of us? So you see, I am sure that these three kids, whenever they will go out anywhere and they are now high school or maybe already in college, they will never do anything wrong. They will always look, how can I help other people?

And that's why my committee is every year giving senior high school student Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian awards. I don't want a child who has high grades. I don't care what they do in school. I want to know what they have done four

years outside the school. And you'll be surprised, the most magnificent things these children do.

Looking after AIDS children. These are 16, 17-year-old kids. They are going to nursing homes. They are reading to people. They doing the most fascinating things. They walking blind people. They-- it is wonderful. I wish I could give them instead of just the frame, something I could give them, at least \$100. But I don't have the money.

But there again, I know that these children look for that every year, who can be the best. And they do work four years. That is the importance of a hero, if you ask me.

OK, let's go.

[BEEP]

I want you to tell me what it feels like to have been a rescuer, and what it felt like then to be involved in this.

I'll be glad to.

For you personally, not for Raoul.

Yeah.

For you.

Well, I-- when I was that young and I had someone like Raoul Wallenberg, it was nothing. It was a natural thing. Like it must have been for him. It was a wonderful feeling that I could save my parents, that I could save my cousins. Again, it was a miracle, because as I said, many people with the same papers died.

But we were lucky. But it was a tremendous feeling to be there and be able to do something. I didn't know the meaning. I just knew that now I have the power to do it. And I did it. And because I was young, and because I wanted to live so badly, because the life was so short then, and we hadn't lived yet. So it was so important to be able to be doing this.

And it was the most fantastic feeling that you know that you can hold somebody's hand, and that you saved it. Like a friend of mine trusted me with her child once, and that was when the Russians were already in, but they were still fighting. The Germans went to the Buda side. And from Buda they were shooting. And my friends came to me, and they said would you take our little girl to the nuns?

And here we were walking on the street, where they were shooting. And the little girl was so frightened. And I said, well, what did Raoul do? He said stories. So I started a children's story. And in the meantime, we ducked. And somehow we survived.

And I took the children, that child to the nuns. And next day, the parents went back, and under the window they brought her out. But you never thought of being afraid, because that was the strength. That was the most wonderful feeling, that you can do something. You never thought of it that you get paid for it or praised for it. It was a natural thing.

But sometimes it was a horrifying thing, too. Like when as I said, they were already bombing-- I mean, shooting each other. And we had shortage of water. And I remember that two houses from us there were a courtyard, and they had a-- a-- what do you call it?

A well.

A well. Thank you. Sometimes I don't come to the words. And I wanted my father to be shaved, so I went down to get the water. And again, who cares what's coming around? You don't hear it, really. Only the last minute that shhh. And there was an old gentleman who came out of the house. And up there was his wife, and waving. And he came with the water. And suddenly we hear this. And the man besides me fell.

And I was so shocked. Why not me? Why him? And he was killed right there before my eyes. And yet I had to go on. And his wife came down. There was-- we couldn't really stop. And I brought the water home. And I couldn't tell my parents because I was shaking.

But then you had to go again. You know, and again. And you had to save a child here, a child there. Even when the Russians were in already. Now today it is a far more difficult thing. It upsets me much more. Why was I so strong? Why didn't I do it? Or how dare I was to do it, rather? That's a question.

But I always come back to the same answer. Because we had such a wonderful hero, who wouldn't like it today if somebody would call him a hero. He was just a regular young man. But he was full of pranks and jokes. But he gave us that enormous strength. And I am trying today, even if I couldn't do such things anymore as jumping to the cold water-- today if I just see cold water, I get frozen. That's why maybe I always need the boots.

But what you have to go on teaching our children to be that strong, and that caring, and that their eyes should be open what they can do to others without prejudice, what also Raoul Wallenberg taught us. And I think I took that over. And I will always do it. And I am proud of it, if I can.

I know my children had lots of wonderful Black friends who slept over in my house. And they all became lawyers and doctors and whatever. They're great kids. And my neighbor, who unfortunately came out with a terrible word. She's an Arab Jew from Persia, and she came and says, why do you let that nigger into your house?

And I looked at her. I said, you of all people asking me this? And I said, besides I don't see their color. And then when I was at my door, I turned around and I said, interestingly enough, they put their slacks on the same way as my sons. And I banged the door.

But this all what we have to. That's what Raoul said to us. He always talked about, I want to save the young, because only the young can make peace. And finally, once, while we were waiting for a Red Cross truck, I ask him. I say, Raoul, explain. I am young. What do you want us young people to do? Not that he was so much older. 10 years or something.

And he said, Oh, Aggie, it's so easy. Prejudice has to disappear. In my book, I am colorblind. I am religious-blind. I only know two kinds of people-- the good and the bad. And if you good, try to make the bad better. That was all he said. But his dream was always that one day all the children will come out and hold hands.

But you see, we can't do this unless we teach our children. Two years ago, I was invited to Brooklyn, in a junior high school. The principal called me. And he said, now, Agnes, I want you to know we have 99% Black children. The rest of it is kids in wheelchairs, Jews, and Orientals. I said, fine. Can I speak of all Holocaust?

He said, what all Holocaust? I said, well, don't you know what they're doing in Africa? What happens in Central America? What happened to the 3 million people who Hitler killed besides the six million Jews? Well, he didn't know. I says, Can I or can I not talk? He said, yes, you can.

OK. Now, what I didn't know that he invited the whole ward, Ward 22. And when-- the kids were wonderful, 300 of them in a huge, big auditorium. And everybody looked at me, and when I was finished with the story, nobody moved. The kids were wonderful. And then I asked the Black children, do you know about the Ku Klux Klan? Blank. And I looked back at the board, and everybody pulls up the shoulder.

I thought that's terrible. Then I looked at the little Jewish kids, whom I thought I said, did you hear about neo-Nazis? Blank. So I explained to the kids that they are both very bad people. And they are against us all. And if you kids don't look out for each other, then we all perish. But you can do it together. You can all do it together, and you can love each other, and forget colors, religions, anything. You will have to be just standing up very proud.

And suddenly I see a Black and a white kid hugging, two boys holding their hands. And then suddenly, the 300 kids got up and gave me a standing ovation. And I cried. And the board says they had never seen this. I said, what is with you

people? You teach nothing, absolutely nothing. You come to the Holocaust, and you say that many people were killed, and how they killed.

Children are not interested that way. But teach them who else is out there. And if they don't look out for each other, they all get killed, because they're Black and because they're Jewish. Then the little boy in the wheelchair came up to and said, Miss Adachi, will you come to my ball game? I am great in playing. I said, of course I will.

And you see, this is what-- I am getting too old, and I wish a lot of young people would go out and talk to the children. I'm asking children to talk to other kids, to tell them that we are all one. And especially junior high school kids, they are really thinking themselves. They have a mind.

The parents tell them, don't talk to him because he's this, and don't talk to him because he's that. And that's no good. And that was not Raoul Wallenberg's dream. But I think we do reach a lot of children. And if we don't reach more than five kid in every class at every school, then there is 5 better children in the world. And I think it's so important.

And I'm going to meet-- by chance, this Hungarian ambassador to the United Nations, and we ask him to try to have the United Nations accept this year as Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian year, and help us to read those poems, grown-ups and children will write, or have our beautiful symphonic poetry, what is written by an American com-- American playwright and a Swedish composer. They should play that, because it's for Raoul.

They are also trying to build a very great, the first in the world, a Raoul Wallenberg Center for the Arts in Florida, what we already started many years ago, and then all our money was stolen. I don't want to get into that. But these things happen. But now the Senate wants to help. So this would be one of the greatest 80th birthday present to Raoul Wallenberg.