

Bertha, could you please tell us your full name, and your parents' name, how many sisters and brothers you have in the family, where you were born, and when?

I was born in October 10, 1920. I was born in Lodz. And I lost everybody in Lodz. I'm the only one who survived from seven children. Three brothers and sisters, and I was the baby in our house.

Could we have their names?

Yes. Wulgeron, Gitel, Yossel, Hadassah, Hanasura, my brother Avrum, myself, Bronia. They're calling me Bertha here.

And your last name was?

My last name was maiden name Szepicka.

And your parents' name?

My parents' name was Jacob David Szepicki. My mother's name was Keidel Abramowitz.

And they were all Jewish?

All Jewish. Very religious Jewish people. Matter of fact, my father was a big shot in Lodz, which he helped [NON-ENGLISH] orphan children. He was working in [NON-ENGLISH]. This is an orphan in a small village were Rumkowski, were the eldest Jude from the ghetto. My father worked with him together in that orphan.

When my father died in 1942, which just took and wanted to eat something which they give us in the ghetto. Excuse me, she give food in the night time instead of what we had on [INAUDIBLE].

After that, it was a big tragedy for us. My mother said, children, don't cry. Your father was a God's person. He died normally. But where your mother is going to be, nobody will know. Two months later, took away in [INAUDIBLE], my mother, on a truck. And I was running after her. And I beg a Jewish policeman, I give you-- my mother had a big chain, a golden chain with a watch. And I said, please take this on the road for me. Take me off my mother.

He said, please, don't-- I cannot do that for you because your mother cannot run. She had troubles with her knees from not having the right food. That's what had start our troubles.

1939 September, the German Gestapo came to Lodz. The religious people went on the attic on Rosh Hashanah to pray to God. Then they took off-- the Gestapo took off all the religious people in the yard and pulled out their beards. I saw that with my eyes. And I asked my mother, I said, please, ma, tell me where is God? He can see the most religious people, they should have such an end.

She said, my child, one thing I can tell you, God knows what is.

How old were you, Bertha?

I was that time, when the war broke out, I think 16.

Did you have a good childhood, school?

School, yes. Matter of fact, I was the best one from arithmetic. Here, one Stefa, she knows my father. I have a picture which my brother will send me from Israel. My father was from the PTA in my brother's schools.

Public school?

Yes, in public school.

How many years did you attend public school?

14 years we went, seven classes was in Poland, Yes.

And did you experience any hate while you were a child, or while you were in school?

Why should I-- that time, I couldn't understand that exist, hate. I did not know what it meant to hate people, or to hate a nationality till the war broke out.

What did you feel when the war first broke out?

You ask me how I felt? I felt terrible at that time because I saw right away 1939, December, when Rumkowski said everybody who's going to be registered to go away from this city, we're going to get money. You're going to get a good future. Then everybody took-- matter of fact, I remember the last few Polish zlotys what we had, we hired a horse and a wagon. We threw in everything, and we went to Glowna-- a little town, Glowna.

Over there, we couldn't stay long. In that time it was cold in December. I never saw in my life my mother fainted. That time over there, she was fainting. And I went in with my hand in mouth, and I knocked out a few teeth because I want to get back her life.

After that, my father and my oldest two sisters, they went back to Lodz. Because they said Rumkowski make a swindle. He told us to run. My father came back to his house, an apartment, and everything was in place with the two older sisters Gietel and Hadassah.

And after that, we went from Glowna to Skierniewice. In Skierniewice, we came over there. I was so-- at that time, I was shaking to go in that shul to sit down the night because I saw that there's so much worms running, and this, and that. Then it was terrible. I was standing outside and crying.

My youngest brother's wife was pregnant at that time in the fifth month, and he said, it has to go with her someplace in the house and rent a little place. He took with my mother. Me and my sister were sitting over there in the shul.

The second day, my mother was sitting over there in that house, and my sister-in-law was. Came in a man. He said he's going to Lodz to buy material. My father was a weaver, which he made out materials.

A weaver?

Yeah. [NON-ENGLISH].

Yes.

Then my mother said, here's the address. Go and tell him I sent you. You're going to get a good buy from us. And she was writing in Jewish a few words, too, he should know. And he sold the materials. And he came back, and my father sent back a note he should call me back immediately.

This was in December 10. That person was in, when was this, in Christmas time. Who was there the only big shot, me to go. I took a red little--

Scarf?

--scarf, and I put it on. And I went back to Lodz. On the way, I went back to Lodz. Before Lodz, they said, we're going to get killed. They're taking off everybody from the train.

I jumped out from the train, almost got killed. And I walked through till I came home to our house. When I came to our yard, I start screaming, Gietel, who this? I'm here!

I came upstairs. That time, my husband said so, when you're not going to come back, I will walk even to get killed. And I have to come back to come back to your house. I would not leave you alone. At that time, we was already four years married.

I was very young. When I left the school, we started dating each other. He's older than me. This is nothing. Then after that, the whole family came back.

So you found your father in the apartment?

Oh yeah and my two sisters. After that, my mother came back. My sister came back, my sister-in-law, and my brother.

How long were you gone from Lodz? It was a few weeks schlepping. We was traveling first to Glowna. From Glowna, they didn't want to accept us. Then went to Skierniewice.

His parents were already Skierniewice. They didn't want to come back because they were very poor. They didn't have money to come back. And he said, I'm not going to stay with my parents. I have to come back to you.

That time, we came back-- my Sister, my sister-in-law, and my mother, my brother. A few months later, my sister-in-law had a baby. She got sick from not eating the right food, and she got TB in her bones. She died. She left a baby not even a month-- not even a year old.

At that time, two oldest brother was gone already to the protectorate in small towns with their wives and two children. We didn't hear nothing from them. And that's like my husband said, we got married in the darkness in 1940, November 16. Matter of fact, yesterday was our--

Anniversary?

Anniversary. Congratulations.

47 years. And from that time on start the biggest problems-- troubles, troubles, and troubles. Every day somebody else. My sister, Hadassah, got TB in her kishkes, and she died in a hospital because we couldn't come to see her. It was contagious. We didn't know even what cemetery she's in.

My father, when I came back to Lodz, I saw his grave [INAUDIBLE]. And from there on, we start having problems.

I went to work on [PLACE NAME] 8 in a tailor shop, and my brother went with my husband to work in a different place.

Was this in the ghetto already?

In the ghetto. In the ghetto-- they closed the ghetto 1940. And I started working. In that time, I left our child in the house alone because I was the only one to raise the child. Because the older sisters, everybody got grabbed from the sperre, and they send them to Auschwitz.

So you were raising your sister-in-law's child?

Yes. I didn't have children at that time. I didn't want to have children. I knew when I'm going to have a child, I'm not going to be alive with my child.

Then I raised my brother's child. It happened, the child was 3 and 1/2 years old. In daytime, I never forget it. He said, [NON-ENGLISH], open the light. I don't see nothing. Big, black eyes open. He got blind from not having--

Every day lunchtime, I begged the supervisor from the shop. I said, please let me run home. The child is staying in bed, sitting in bed, and I'm leaving a piece of bread on a plate. And the child is making an excuse me in bed. I run home every day lunchtime at half an hour.

They could kill me when they would get me. Thinking, he would be in trouble, too, the supervisor. But he did it for me.

I came home. The child was wet, and dirty. And a piece of bread was laying [INAUDIBLE]. That's what I have in the ghetto life.

Was there enough food available?

No. They give us-- they're called [NON-ENGLISH]. One week, every week, one time-- in seven days, one time, they give us a bread. We have to have that bread for eight days.

Some people could control and fight. They survived a little bit. A lot of them took that bread and ate in two, three days, and the rest, they died from hunger. My older sister was sitting. She was swallowing because she couldn't control herself. She was a big eater. Luckily, I survived because I could control myself.

Were you able to get any extra food?

We got-- that what I said. We were standing in a line to get the [NON-ENGLISH]. It called the [NON-ENGLISH].

Ration.

The ration. I was a woman what I could help myself, push myself more to the door. But when I was staying six, seven hours, and I fall apart. I said now my husband, he couldn't do that. Till he came to the door, it was empty. He couldn't get it.

It was the ghetto. Ghetto, we were struggling a lot. They give us the few potatoes. We could squeeze them. It was already frozen. You couldn't do nothing from that.

Then you got to have protection from a doctor to get a note that you need the pills-- the pills from the potatoes. That's what we had in the ghetto.

And what kind of work did you do in the ghetto?

We fixed the soldiers' garments in the shops. We fixed--

How long were you together with your family in the ghetto?

In the ghetto was from 1940. In 1942, my father died on June 15, I think. Let me see. Voluntary-- well, in June-- in the middle of June. My mother they took away two months later. That what I made myself to put down the candle two months later. I mean, I'm not [BACKGROUND NOISES]

After that, they took selections down in the yard. I never forget. It was standing by us in a house a big closet-- not closet like here in the walls. Look like [? shrinks, ?] like--

Like furniture.

Like furniture. And the Gestapo said, [NON-ENGLISH], everybody should go down. My brother was hiding with a child in that closet. And I was standing downstairs. I was shaking because he went through-- he went through with those Gestapo, they went through with those-- how you call it?

Bayonets?

Yes. Luckily, they didn't put it in my brother or my brother's child. That was going on for weeks. Till finally, they took away my older sister, and my third one. Second one died in 1942.

In the ghetto?

In the ghetto. What I told you she had-- she got the tuberculosis in the-- in the kizskis. Then I was alone with my older-- with my youngest brother. The two older brothers, they went with their wives to the protectorate.

This is my only life what I had. He knew me, and I knew him. That's all. We was together till 1944. August the 21st, I never forget that day. They make an end from the ghetto.

And my brother said, so Bogna, we are lost. They're going to send us away. We are lost. We are scared to death.

Well, they said put everything together. Take with everything-- the pillows and everything. You're going to live in a nice place. The Gestapo said so.

And I put everything-- I-- matter of fact, I had already a dowry for myself and for my husband. And I had that time a lot of money with my brother. My oldest brother said, Braedalo, I'm older from you with 18 years. I'm a father to you, and I want you all should make a good living. I'm going to teach him to be a craft-- weber. Not by him.

At that time, when it happened like that, we didn't have my brother. We didn't have the money. We didn't have nothing. But when we packed everything, and I never forget, my father was a good [NON-ENGLISH] with a little tiny knife like this. And he cut out so many things that the world cannot have such a people now like my father was. He make--

As a craftsman?

Sculpture.

A sculpture.

Sculpture.

He make one machine to make the materials-- just a little one-- that was sent away to Warsaw exhibit to show how he was. But what I want to say, he make the times in a long piece of wood small like this, thick like this-- a square one. Like here.

And he cut out a [NON-ENGLISH] Do you know what a [NON-ENGLISH] is?

A hand?

With a hand to read--

The Torah.

--the Torah. And I took with that thing because this was my life. This is the only thing that I had from our house, from my father. When I came out to Auschwitz, and I saw that, and I didn't want to give away [INAUDIBLE].

Then another thing that bastard, what they did. They put us in a train from horses, from animals.

When you went-- left Warsaw, the ghetto?

The ghetto to Auschwitz. No water, no windows. People were sitting in the trains, excuse me. Forty or sixty percent

died from the smell and from what they give us, the concentrate cans-- meat. We ate it over there with no water. We was dying. Luckily, we walked out from over there.

How many people would you say were in that car like that?

It was a train-- a few hundred people they put in.

In each car?

In each station from it. It was a lot of them-- a big, big train connected one to the other.

But in each wagon?

In each wagon.

How many were just--

More than 100 people about that time. What could you--

Crowded.

Crowded. One was laying on the other. One was stepping on the other, screaming.

How long did it take you?

A few days, back and forth, back and forth. Finally, they let us down. We didn't know that's Auschwitz. But when we walked down from over there, that walk down, we threw her down. Walk down. Schnell, Schnell.

Then the time we walked down, and I hold my brother's child on my arm. I even didn't know till now that he took away that child from me. I hold it, and my brother was with him they separate-- women, separate the men-- men separate over there.

I really didn't know what was going on. I was so shocked from losing everybody. I didn't have my husband. I didn't have my last brother what I had. Finally, we came-- on Tuesday night, I never forget that day.

Wednesday morning, my sister what she is here now, that picture, she find out that I'm here. She came to run to my barrack.

In Auschwitz?

In Auschwitz. She said, Braedalo, he is out there. Where is my husband? I said, I don't know. We came together a room, and me and-- and out. She said, you know, I'm going home to talk to my lageralteste my blockalteste from the barrack, and you're going to go to my place to be together. I said, fine. After all, my sister--

Could you explain what a blockalteste is? Someone who is in charge?

In charge. A blockalteste means she is the--

Kapo.

She's like a supervisor from the room.

Kapo.

A kapo. I said before a kapo. A kapo, nobody understand what mean kapo. A supervisor from the room, all those people.

When I was in one barrack, what we had a woman. She was-- [GROANING] she couldn't talk. I don't know how to say that. She was tumbling, I don't know how to.

Oh, wow. Stuttering?

Yes.

Stuttering.

She walked by. She stepped on everybody. She was [INAUDIBLE].

This was the supervisor?

This was the supervisor in that place what I was. Luckily, Wednesday, my sister couldn't show up. In Tuesday morning, they took me out to the crematorium. While sitting, I was sitting like I'm sitting now naked. They took off everything from me.

Mengele passed by with a cane, and he said to me, I'm pregnant. But they should send me to the gas chamber. I'm sitting. I couldn't move because you cannot move.

Luckily, they came. I don't remember how many Gestapo at that time, soldiers came. Luckily, they took me with-- took me, they send me away to work to [NON-ENGLISH].

Was this when you arrived in Auschwitz?

Yes, two days later.

Two days later. This was after-- did you go through any of the sanitizing?

Yes. Everything-- I was naked. Completely naked, like you born naked.

In the morning during counting, did they do the selection?

They didn't count by me in my barrack. They just took out. They didn't count. They just put out on the place where the gas chamber was. I saw building.

And we were sitting. It was like an empty place, like in-- like on a grass. Was like this in a place. It was a big crematorium standing. And I was sitting over there.

Luckily, they took me away, and they sent me away to work. I didn't know where I'm going. That time, nobody knew what's happening, what they going to do with you.

They send me away to [NON-ENGLISH]. This is in Bremenhaven over there someplace. They took me in a place. We came in, it was 500 Jewish Hungarian people-- women. And we was 300 Polish from Lodz. They took us over there.

How did they take you?

By buses, by trucks. By trucks. And we came over there--

Did you have any clothing then?

They give me just a pair of pants to put on. Pair of pants to put on, and a top. And I had a string to put on should the pants-- men's pants. And I didn't have shoes at all. I walked without shoes.

A few days later, they took us in a-- to take a shower, and they gave us wooden shoes. I was luckily to get wooden shoes. 15 womens got it, and I was from the 15. I got those shoes. We had a hauptscharfuhrer. How you say this in-- a hauptscharfuhrer? This is like--

Supervisor.

No, he's-- from the whole lager. From the whole--

He was the--

Like a director?

In charge.

Commander.

Commander.

Commander. He was such a bastard. And we would have that lager. Nobody would be alive. Not one that's-- luckily, a few weeks later, the lager got bombed from bombs. [INAUDIBLE] from the sharp nails, from throwing down the bombs.

And a few women got killed because they were in the revier. It was like a hospital. They didn't go up because they got killed. We was on the [NON-ENGLISH]. We was working in the street at that time. That's why we was lucky we was alive.

From that place, they took us in [NON-ENGLISH] in another place. We had another--

Commander.

He was so-- an elderly man. He said to us, children, if you going to behave, you going to be good, I'm going to be good to you. He said it. Especially we had a few German soldiers, elderly people. They were nice. Because they said, we want to come home to our families, too.

But when we got woman soldiers in that place, we had one woman. She was wearing boots-- high boots. She didn't walk away from us till the blood was running. She did not go away from us before.

Was she beating you?

Kicking with-- kicking us. Finally, we had over there not so-- it was not good, but according other places, we went every Saturday we had a shower to go. He let us bring in from the [NON-ENGLISH], we was working on the place, a piece of wood to warm up a little bit water and to wash up those things what we was wearing the whole week.

He said to us, when we going to be good, he's going to be good to us, too. But that goodness was so. 5:00 in the morning, they woke us up, [NON-ENGLISH] and to go out to staying in the line, 75 womens. They give us a little bit of coffee. The coffee was like water.

We came home at night. We had our water soup and a little piece of bread. This was the whole--

And you had a counting. Did they count again?

Sure. I had once was an alarm because the airplanes was going around. They were-- I was running in the bunkers to hide us with the soldiers. They was counting us. And one day, I was away to get something to eat, and I didn't came back right away.

They didn't move the 74 people till I show up. And I show up, I was hiding he should see me. Otherwise, he would kill me. Nobody said who was there? Nobody did said that.

But when we came home, we went through like a line. Was here a wall, and here a wall. You walk through, and soldiers was looking at you, and checking you didn't brought home something, God forbid.

This was go now from August to April 15, 1945. In 1945, they had a-- 1945 April 14, they told-- I suppose they got a call they should take away all refugees from here-- all those people. And we walk to Bergen-Belsen. Before we left the place--

How long did you have to walk?

That must be a couple of days. A lot of people died in the way walking. But before we left that place, I saw people running in to the kitchen to have something to take with. I was-- when you hungry, you do everything. And I ran into that kitchen.

Lageralteste, she is after was the supervisor. She took off-- I never forget that belt and that coat-- a brown coat with little pieces in it. She took off that belt. It was a buckle.

She hurt me with that buckle in my head till I came back in the-- in lager inside, in barrack. Matter of fact, on that place, on that finger, the last time I try that to cover up my head. I had him like this for weeks and weeks, they treated me for that.

When I came to Bergen-Belsen, I didn't know that I'm going to be alive because my head was like this. Till now, I'm suffering from my head. When I put in a roller to my head, comes out right away like bombs building.

Then when we came to Bergen-Belsen, I looked for that woman which she was hurting us so much-- that soldier. She was hiding. And I came to Bergen-Belsen--

This was after liberation?

No before. Before the liberation. We was over there-- oh, it was by April 1. By April 15, we was liberated. It was April 1 because we was in Bergen-Belsen for two weeks.

And I came to Bergen-Belsen, I said, gosh, why I didn't got killed on the way coming here? And I walked to Bergen-Belsen. I never would believe in my life what those bastards did to people. Womens like scarlets. Long hair-- they didn't took off the hair like they took off in Auschwitz. With, excuse me, big lice. There were big holes on the body from those lice, except no toilets.

We was just going in that place was a piece of wood. And you stand up, and it fell in a dump. No water. Then I walked over there in Bergen-Belsen, and I saw big-- like you see snow, laying big like mountains, big mountains.

I walked over there, and I looked-- I'm not going to find a place for my sisters or brothers. Stale people, green-- bodies. But I saw that. I'm never going to forget that in my life.

And I said, what I'm going to cry. Maybe tomorrow I'm going to lay, too. Yeah. It was already to me like you're walking out from my house. Because I knew tomorrow after tomorrow, I'm going to be that way.

Luckily, we survived those two weeks. And the liberation came from England. It was terrible. They didn't have themselves a piece of bread to eat.

The second day after the liberation, that's what my husband said I was on the list that I'm dead. I got a typhus. A spot typhus. It's worse than diarrhea.

He was laying in hospital, no clothes on. Just a blanket. With that blanket you cover up yourself. With that blanket you walk down from bed. With that blanket, I walk out from hospital without clothes.

Being in hospital for two weeks or more. More of it? What I'm talking two weeks? For six weeks I was lying in hospital. No medication. No food. How I survived, I don't know.

Even after liberation?

After the liberation, we didn't have nothing to eat. Because the ambulances were complaining, they haven't got nothing to eat, either. No medicines. I'll never forget, next bed was sitting by me a woman. She was sitting, and she said, I'm going to die. And I'm going to die. And sitting, she fell to sleep. Was no medicines for nobody.

They let us-- let me out on a Friday. And I'm standing in the line which I couldn't stay after such a sickness. Luckily came my husband's friend, which I knew him from before the war. His name is Alte Rosenzweig. And he fell on me, and I fell on him.

And he said, Bronia, I'm not going to leave you here but one in a minute. He went to the phone. He called to Gardelegen, to the hotel over there, to that-- where they took care of all the refugees. He said, I found a cousin, and I'm bringing him over right away. Because she just walked out from hospital, and she's very sick without clothes, nothing. Just in a blanket, she's wrapped.

When I came to Gardelegen I was sitting, believe me. How I survived sitting on that motorcycle, I couldn't hold myself up. But he made it. I came over there. They took me in to that place where he took care of the refugees. Really [INAUDIBLE] burgermeister. Yeah. But they're not going to understand what burgermeister mean.

And he took me with my friend--

A burgermeister is, I think, a city--

Like a governor.

Yeah. No, well, the mayor.

The mayor, Yes. Yes, the mayor. And he sent me to a store. They give me from a brassiere, and I got underpants, everything. And I got dressed.

I said, gosh, did I look like a human being? I am still a human being. And you start bathing me, my friend, giving me a little by little better food and better food, I shouldn't get right away sick. And from that on, I was over there for two weeks.

After that I said, Alte, I'm not going to stop doing nothing till I'm going to go to Lodz to find out I have somebody. Because I'm from seven children. You know me, and I was the baby in our house.

Finally, we went to Lodz. Walking on the [NON-ENGLISH], the [NON-ENGLISH] street, was the Comintern at that time. All of a sudden, my brother walks-- I'm walking that way, and he comes face to face to me, covered up one eye with a black thing. And I fainted.

I said, Hank, what's happened? He said, I lost my eye. I said-- he asked me, who's out there? I don't know. We were separate in Auschwitz. He said, Alte is alive.

Two weeks later, he came. He came, and my eyes shouldn't see like he came to us. Because he was going on those trains, and they stole his package. When he came, he had the [POLISH].

What is that?

What is what I have to say?

Dysentery?

No. He has like a-- a skin disease. It was-- no, a skin disease what is-- it is contagious. But you go to the doctor, and you get a special cream. Three days later, you clear it up.

You throw away everything what you had on on your body. My brother went. He brought him clothes and everything, and he got cleared up.

Two weeks later, we decided we're going to leave Lodz. So I went on the cemetery. My father had-- his grave is right away in the front. Who is a Lodzer remembers. In the front was laying just the rabbis, and my father is laying over there, too.

I walked to my father's grave, and I saw written down, Jacob David Szepicki. It's a little wood which we put it in. I did not have money to put in a stone. I didn't-- couldn't walk away, but I couldn't make it. I didn't have 10 zlotys on my own to make a stone.

Then we decided to go back to Germany. How are we going? That time, I have another girl, but she didn't-- she was lost-- a young girl, same age from me. I took her like my own sister with. My brother said so. I'm going to put you with [PERSONAL NAME] on a truck from Russian. They're going to take you through the border because you still so weak and everything, and we're going to walk through the border.

Alte and my brother went through the border, and I went to the truck. I came to Znachor. The Russian soldier said he wants to live with me, like this. Then I understood that, and I opened the door like this. There was afraid. Because when I opened the door and I jumped out from that truck, and on the truck was laying the other girl. She had the same problem.

When she heard that I jumped out, she jumped out, too, and we ran away from them. We ran away. We asked people. We couldn't talk-- speak at that time-- [NON-ENGLISH]. That was Czechoslovakia.

And all of a sudden, we came to the train. We walked on the train. They took us off from the train. On Friday, took us off from the train, and they put us in like a concentration camp-- exactly showed like a concentration camp.

A DP camp?

Yeah, a DP camp.

In Czechoslovakia?

In Czechoslovakia. I was crying, and crying, crying. Saturday morning, bingo. I see my husband, my brother, too. I said, thanks, God, and I eat. I don't eat better. I have begged my husband, I have my brother-in-law. He was over there walking like a, how you call it, like we did something wrong. Who knows what? In a line to walk for a few days.

Then they find out that we are refugees, which we are, liberated from concentration camp. And we went to Germany. That's what we came to Munich.

In Munich, they took us to [NON-ENGLISH]. They give us, for instance, was downstairs two rooms, and upstairs two rooms. They'll put in four families in a room-- in a home like this with a little kitchen. This was what we was together.

At that time--

How long were you there? We was over there from 1945 till 1949, until we left to America. 1946, luckily, I had my daughter. And she was born a very sick child. No matter where I went in Germany, reaching to a doctor, they said that she-- the nurse, what I went through, I'm so nervous. She was born where she's so nervous. She was vomiting till eight years with the nervousness.

That's what I-- and then in Germany, I went through the hell because I was very sick. Very sick the minute that I came to Germany. I was sick with my back, with my stomach, till I came to America.

And here, I have-- I went through a lot because I went through seven surgeries in my life here. Even here in Phoenix, I went to a hip surgery. And I have to have other surgeries, too.

But thanks, God, I got a nice family-- two beautiful daughters. They went, too, very nicely. Both teachers. Cannot complain. Because here when you want to work, you can make a living, and can be a human being.

Can you tell us a little bit, when you arrived to the United States, how you adjusted to a new life?

Well, in the United States was so. We came to New York. My husband was crazy to stay in Harlem. We didn't have \$0.10. My Helen was begging me to buy a banana. I didn't have \$0.10 to buy it.

Of course, on the ship, I almost died, and she almost died. Couldn't take it. But when we came to Providence, Rhode Island, they put us in for six weeks in a shelter house where they-- UNRRA took care of us over there.

I went through the hell where I was. I didn't lay down. I was afraid. I was very, very ill. Finally, when my husband got a job, and he made a few dollars, when he went to the shul, he was talking that I was very bad. Everybody was feeling sorry for the refugees. Then said, they're going to look for a little house to see where to move.

Finally, lucky, like my husband said we had a house. It was living with an older couple. They was blind. It was an ice bucket, and there was water underneath. And the warmth was terrible.

But we cleaned out over there, and I was satisfied. What we went through in concentration camp, then I was really satisfied. We didn't have no heat. It was a pump coming up oil to the stove to have a little bit warm air in the house. That's what we had at apartment.

But after that, when my husband was working in that shop, and he started coughing and complaining, he forgot to tell them. The doctor said he should go away from that job because he's going to get asthma from the old [INAUDIBLE]. And then we decided we came to Chicago.

In Chicago, we struggling again. You got to struggle till you make-- to go on the first step till the second step. In 1940-- '55, in May, we moved to south side because the boss said we would have an apartment cheap over there. He doesn't have to travel three hours a day. Luckily, I left in February 12, 1956. We had a fire that lost again everything.

What can I say? Again, from A to Z to start. Thanks, God, we pulled through. I worked with him together very hard-- very hard. But we made it, and God bless America for it.

When did you come to Phoenix?

To Phoenix, I came in 1974 because the doctor told me to move in 1950 to Phoenix for my metritis and my back. My bowels.

You're still suffering?

Suffering. Now I need surgery on my knee. When I stand up, I cannot walk. Well, what can you do? We're getting older.

It's getting worse.

Well, you certainly have a heart rendering story, and--

I still didn't tell you everything because you cannot talk so much. What happened in Lodz with the people.

Please tell us.

Yes, yes. Of course, people that live in Lodz-- used to live in Lodz-- they remember, they put out graves. They put the live people.

Was this at the beginning of the war, at the--

Yeah, at the beginning of the war. They threw the children, they threw them in half and threw them down. It's here in Chicago living a woman--

The Germans did this?

The German. Who else? It lives a Mashiu Dreilich. I'll never forget. She was living with me together in our yard when they took away her daughter. She never find her.

Did they first take the children away?

Yes. Small children took away. Most of all, it is small children. And then they start taking away, for instance, like they took down in our yard was 200 neighbors. Everybody went down. They make a selection.

They pick out my sister because she was a little bit small right away from the beginning-- my older sister. they send her away right away. Then I found out that she died in Bergen-Belsen.

They did-- the bastards did so much that as much as we going to tell you, it's not even 50%. That's why we lost 6 million people.

Do you feel that this could ever happen again?

I believe it did, yes. But I wouldn't like to live to see that. I feel very sorry for the young generation. They should wake up before it's too late.

By telling the story, we hope to prevent this from happening again-- by reminding the people of what happened.

I hope so. I hope so. God bless you for doing that.

And thank you for giving us the time and your very heart rendering story.

Well, It's my duty to do that-- not pleasure. I have a lot of pains from saying that, but I have to-- my responsibility is to do that.

That's right.