

I'm Sara Weinberger. And today, we are interviewing Mr. Sam Teitelbaum, a Holocaust survivor. The project is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section. In our last segment, Mr. Teitelbaum, you talked about how disguised as a Gentile you would go in and out of the ghetto in Hungary. Which ghetto was that?

This was called the [NON-ENGLISH] ghetto in Budapest.

Could you tell us a little bit about what the conditions were like inside the ghetto?

Inside the ghetto? Horrible. Bodies, dead bodies were piled up by the hundreds in the ghetto. In fact, the ground of the ghetto was yellow from the dead bodies that were piled up there.

In the beginning, it wasn't too bad. They used to get a little food because there was some of these-- some soldiers that were getting their food there, whatever was left they used to give to the Jews from the ghetto. And it wasn't too bad in the beginning.

But later on, it got worse by the day. Once the soldiers got out of there, they did not have any food from them, only whatever they gave them, their daily meals. Whatever they gave them was a little bit of hot water, a piece of dry bread.

And to buy food, you couldn't buy. Money didn't mean anything. You couldn't buy nothing for the food. People were starving there. They were living like animals.

They put 50, 60 in one room, lying on the floor there, whatever they had a blanket, no beds. The people were full of lice, bed bugs, and everything. I, myself, I never stayed in the ghetto except for the time when I came in and I brought in food. Of course, they did not know-- the guards did not know that I bring in food. I just carried a little bit of few things in my hand. It didn't even look like I carry food.

And I had some friends there. And I used to bring in the food. But the living conditions were just terrible. They didn't have any toilet facilities. They didn't have anything.

People were begging to die. But some of them were still struggling. They were trying to survive. They figured that one day it will be over. And they were fighting for survival.

But one thing was very interesting that when the Americans and the Russian planes came to bomb Budapest, the ghetto was never bombed. Well, they must have aerial photographs. I'm sure they had. And they never bombed the ghetto.

At one time, or maybe a couple of times, I remember the Nazis were so mad that the ghetto was never bombed that they went up in the air with planes and they bombed the ghetto themselves. They bombed their own area. But the conditions were very bad.

There was never any fights in the ghetto as far as the Jews trying to fight the Germans or the Nazis because they did not have the power. They didn't have anything to fight with. There was nothing left except their bare hands. They couldn't buy anything with the money because nobody would bring in anything for the money. So they were just dying like lambs.

Do you have any idea of how many people were in that ghetto?

Any what?

Do you have any idea of how many people were in that ghetto?

In that ghetto? Oh, there were thousands. I wouldn't know how many thousands, but there were thousands. They took the whole city of, all the Jews from the city of Budapest, and they put them in there. This was a big area. This wasn't like just a house or two, you know.

This was a very big area. It must have occupied thousands and thousands of square feet. I don't know how many streets were occupied. Actually, originally, the main part of this ghetto was a temple. And I don't know whether you ever heard of this temple in Budapest was called the Tobacco Temple, the Dohány Temple. There most people did hear of it.

The temple was located in that ghetto. That was also a very big. A lot of times, I was hiding on the roof of that temple because I was afraid to go out at night. Because at night, if you walked out on the street, excuse me, your chances of being caught were great, tremendous.

So I was scared to go out. So I just got up on the roof of the temple, and I was hiding there in the ghetto. I slept there all night. Rain or snow, it didn't matter.

Did people hold services in the synagogue at all?

No. No. The synagogue was occupied by the German soldiers and the Nazis. They occupied most everything. Most every public place, especially Jewish temples, synagogues, they occupied them all. They were using them for barracks.

During the time that you lived as a Gentile, were you able to practice your religion at all, either openly or in secret?

No. Not at all. Not at all. In fact, I didn't even think of it. I was thinking of one thing-- survival. There was no way of practicing religion.

In the ghetto, there were some people that they went to-- they tried to have a little service, you know, here and there. But I wouldn't dare go in there because I didn't want them to know that I was Jewish because if the guards see me go in there, you know, the guard knew I was not Jewish. As far as he knew, I was not Jewish. So I would have given myself out if I would have attend any Jewish religious services.

You said that you smuggled some people out of the ghetto.

I can't hear you.

You said that you smuggled some people out of the ghetto.

Yeah, I did smuggle some-- a few boys, young boys out of the ghetto.

How were you able to do that?

I paid off the guard. But it wasn't-- that was very dangerous too. Not every guard was able to pay off to get them out. And this had to be late at night because otherwise they wouldn't take the chance.

You were a very young child at this time.

I was about 13, 14 years old.

Could you say a little bit about what it was like for you being so young living this way?

Well, I could tell you one thing that I did not enjoy my young life because my young life at that age, what I went through, as you can see, as you know, was undescrivable. And it was horrible, terrifying, frightening. And at times, you wished you were just dead because-- it was so frightening, at times you were much-- you were better off if you were dead.

You would never believe, or I wouldn't believe myself, that a person would fight so much to survive to stay alive because conditions were so bad. And I really didn't know what I was fighting for. As far as my parents, my sister, the rest of my family, I didn't know anything about it. In fact, I didn't know that they were in the concentration camps. I

didn't know that they were killed.

Did you make any attempts to correspond with your family?

There was no way. I didn't know where they were. As far as I knew, they were home. I didn't know that they were taken away from-- you see, what happened, back home, they had a ghetto at first. All the Jews were in the ghetto before they were taken to the concentration camps. They were all gathered into the ghetto.

Which ghetto was that?

Well, this was in Beregszasz, in our city. It was in a brick factory. That's where they gathered all the Jews before they took them to Germany, to the concentration camps. See, in any city that they took the Jews away to the concentration camps, first they put them into a ghetto. Every city had their own ghetto.

Or if it was a small village, they didn't have a ghetto, they just took them into the big cities. And they put them in there. And then they put them on trains. And they took them to the concentration camps, to Germany.

But as far as knowing anything at all, or having any idea what is happening to the family, there was no way of knowing anything. In fact, when my first-- when I knew about my brother right after liberation, right after we were liberated, I didn't have any food. So as I was walking, I broke into stores. Robbery was free after the war. You could just walk into a store and take out anything you want.

There was no police force. There was no detective. There was nobody watching, nothing. People were-- in fact, they were still in the shelters trying-- they were afraid to go out.

So after the war, I broke into stores, you know, tried to find any kind of food. I broke into this bakery. I figured I'd find some bread or something. The only thing I found was flour, corn flour. And what I did I just cooked-- I didn't know how to cook. I just put it into water. I let it boil. Whatever happened to it, after it boiled for a while, I just ate it. I'm not going to tell you here what happened to me after, but I was glad I had something to eat. I lived on snow for a long time. I ate nothing but snow for days, for weeks.

So one day I was walking on the street, I met this guy-- like I said, I didn't know anything about my family. And as far as I knew, my older brother was in Israel. I met this guy on the street. He says to me, why don't you come into the organization? The Zionist organization. The Zionist organization did have a place where they took in a lot of these refugees that people were already coming back from concentration camps.

This was after liberation?

This was already after the war, yes. So he says to me, why don't you come into the organization? In fact, he says to me, did you see your brother? I says, what brother? My older brother is in Israel. The rest of the family I know nothing about.

He says to me, do you know that your brother is here? I says, come on now. I thought he was kidding me. I didn't know nothing about him.

So I went in there the next day. But I still didn't believe nothing. I walk in there. They didn't see me for a long time. They were all glad to see me. They were glad to see me that I was alive.

So this friend of mine says to me, did you see your brother? I says, no. I says, come on you guys, don't you have anything else to do but fool around, joke around? Look what we've been going through here. We don't know what's happening in the world.

He says, your brother is here. Your older brother is here. I go on. I meet another friend. Did you see your brother? Because they all knew that he went to Israel. But they knew that he came back. And I didn't. And he was fighting with

the Russian army back. So finally, he used to come in there every day. But he was a soldier in the Russian army, fighting with them, still fighting the Germans.

Then finally-- now these people had food. They gave me food. And they offered me a place to sleep. But I did not take him up on the sleeping because the place was full of lice. People were so lousy, full of lice, that they were covered from top to bottom. The lice were running all over their bodies. And I did not-- I happened to be clean because my apartment was clean.

These people were all coming back from the concentration camps, you know, already. And they were all full of lice. They had typhus. So I didn't want to mix with them.

But that day, my brother never showed up. So I ended up sleeping there. Men and women-- I mean there was no such thing as being ashamed. They didn't know what it means to be ashamed. Men and women were sleeping together. Nobody had any sex in mind because they didn't even-- they couldn't even have any sex. They were all skeletons, just a bunch of skeletons.

So I slept over that night. I got so lousy. The next day I did nothing but scratch. It was-- I didn't know what to do with myself.

So I threw away all my clothes. I went home. I changed clothes. I threw away all my clothes. I put on new clothes. I took a good shower and everything at home. Of course, it was in the winter time and cold water. There was no such thing as hot water.

I had to melt a little snow. I took snow there was no water either because the water was bombed, you know. The pipes were bombed. And there was no water.

But then I went back there. And finally, I met my brother. I was so happy because I didn't know of anybody, you know. But after I met my brother--

How was it that he didn't make it to Israel? What happened?

He never made it to Israel because, you see, when he got to Romania, the borders were closed. You couldn't get any further. There was no way of getting out of Romania. You see, in Romania, the Jews didn't have it as bad. The Romanian Jews were not-- some of them did get to concentration camps. But most of them did not. They survived.

And he-- and from there on, he could not get any further. So he figured he'll come back to Budapest. Maybe he'll find me because he knew that I was supposed to be in Budapest if I am alive. But he did not know that I was alive until he got back to Budapest and when this guy met me at after the war on the street.

We've kind of jumped forward a little bit to liberation. How did you know when the Russians were coming? You had mentioned earlier that there was fear about what would happen to the women and you were protecting that one woman. How did when liberation came?

Well, the Russian soldiers, when the Russian soldiers came in to the shelter we knew we were liberated. But it didn't mean that we liberated because they could have still be put back. Like the house that I lived in had four floors. The Russians and the Germans were fighting for each floor, like the third floor was Russian and the fourth floor was German.

See, so the fighting was going on in one house. I was German and Russian for weeks. We were in the shelter. Now, we knew that the people are fighting up there. But we wouldn't dare go up there to see, you know, how they are fighting because you know what a battlefield looks like. You wouldn't dare put your head out to get shot.

We were in the basement. We heard the shots. But we didn't know who on the third floor or who's on the fourth floor.

But when the Russians came in to the basement, to the shelter, well, we knew that we are under Russian occupation now. Got a shock? But still, we wouldn't dare go out because they could be hit back. If they get hit back, we are under German occupation again.

But then, later on, when we saw Russians already constantly, you know, Russians-- no more German soldiers, then we'll pick out, you know, look what's happening. Now, if we saw that the Russians and the Germans are still fighting in that apartment house, we go back in the shelter. But if we saw that there is no more fighting in the house and the Russians are there, then we were liberated.

But still, even then, we still weren't liberated. We weren't sure until there were way, way ahead of us, until they occupied many, many streets ahead of us. Now, we'll go out in the street and see if the area is occupied by Russians. Then we knew we are liberated.

So what did you do?

Pardon?

What did you do?

There was really not much to do. You didn't know what to do. I didn't know where to turn, what to do. To go out on the street was very dangerous because the battlefield was still around you. You went out on the street, you saw nothing but dead Russian soldiers, dead German soldiers, dead Hungarian soldiers, dead horses. You didn't know what to do.

Now, if you went out on the street and the Russians got a hold of you, as a civilian, they put you to hard labor right away. And they did get me. They caught me. And at night, I escaped. And from there on, I wouldn't dare go out on the street. I just stayed in the shelter for weeks until I finally was able to get to a zone where I knew that they don't take you to hard labor.

How many people were in the shelter with you?

Well, there must have been about 30 or 40 families.

And the Russians didn't come into the shelter?

Oh, yes, they did. But, you see, children and women they did not take. They only took men. And see, I was hiding out there too from the Russians.

But after a while, I took off to a different zone where they wouldn't bother me. I went to this organization, to the Zionist organization. Over there, they didn't bother the people because they knew that these are all Holocaust survivors. These people were not bothered. They did not bother these people.

In fact, a lot of these Russian captains and majors and generals were Jewish. They wouldn't let them bother the Jews. They wouldn't let them take the Jews to put them to hard labor because they knew they had enough in the concentration camps. They never come in to bother anybody to a Zionist organization.

It wasn't an organized-- it wasn't-- it wasn't like a camp. It was just houses that the organization occupied where they put all the DPs, the Holocaust survivors. They put them in there. And that's where they cared for them. But the conditions there were also very, very bad. Now, we had enough food. But the health conditions were very bad.

Where did you go from there?

This was already after the war. From there, I got with the organization. The organization started to send these refugees to Germany, back to Germany, because Germany was already liberated, to Austria, to Romania. And they placed them there under good conditions, you know. They had nice houses for them. They had nice barracks with nice furniture and

clothing.

And we were working until I found out that this was already-- I went already to-- I went with them-- I was hooked up with them for about a year. I went with them to Romania. But getting to Romania, it took us about four months to get to Romania because, you see, you couldn't just get on a train or a plane or a car and go.

First of all, you had to go through borders. And to go through the border, you had to have identifications, you know. They didn't let you go to the border. You had to go through Germany. You had to go through Austria. You had to go through Hungary. You had to go through Romania. You couldn't just go through.

So what happened? We were smuggling at night through the borders. We were walking all night in snow up to here to get through the border, to get from one country to another, until I finally got to Austria, right. We were there for a long time. And then we went to Romania.

And over there, we had what they call-- I don't know if you ever heard of the word Hakhshara. OK, Hakhshara is a Zionist organization. It's mostly-- the people mostly work in the field. We were all working in the field during the day. And then at night, we were putting on, you know-- we were just like they do in Israel, you know. We were singing songs at night, dancing. We were having a very good time already. This was already quite a bit after the war.

Was your brother, your older brother, still in the Russian army during this time?

Now, my older brother, he escaped the Russian army. He joined the organization. But he only escaped the Russian army legally. But he was a Russian soldier-- well, actually, he was a Russian soldier. He was a big officer in the Russian army.

What he did he moved people across the border. See, a Russian soldier was able to do an awful lot. They occupied all those areas, you know. So they were able to move the people across the borders. For them, they had no problem moving the people across the borders.

Now, he moved thousands of people across the borders from one country to the other because he was a Russian soldier, you know, an officer. So he was able to move all these people. If a Russian soldiers stopped him, he was a big officer, he just let him go. And if he said, let these people go through, and they let them go through.

Of course, we had to bribe-- pay off the patrol, the border patrol, you know. But we did go through it, you know. That's when I ended up in Italy.

Oh, yeah, by the way, my brother, my younger brother, I remember I mentioned to you that he was right behind me. I didn't know it was him. I left him in Romania. And he told me he is going to join an organization too. And he's going to follow me to Israel. I was on my way to Israel illegal.

When I got to Italy, he was already ahead of me. I didn't even know. When I got to Italy, when we got into this house, I saw his name on the wall. He says, my name is Manny Teitelbaum, and I was here, and I went there and there.

You see, that's how people, these refugees, these Holocaust survivors found each other. Every time they traveled, when they were in a place, you should see every wall was so full of marks from people that left notes on the wall in case any of their family comes through there they know that they pass through here and they went there and there. And that's how I found out that my brother is in Italy, such and such a city.

Unfortunately, when I got to that city, he was already in Israel. Well, you see, what happened he was younger, so he was able to go legally to Israel. First, they sent to Israel the young children.

How old was he at the time?

He was two years younger than I. And then I stood in Italy for about two years before I came to the United States. But in

those two years, I had to change my name to be able to get into the camp because otherwise, you see, this DP camp-- they had these DP camps after the war where they put all these displaced persons in. You couldn't get into these DP camp unless you had a brother or a sister there.

But when I got to the camp, I got into-- we were able to go in. But you couldn't get an apartment. They wouldn't accept you. They wouldn't give you-- you see, they shelter these people. They gave them a room and board for free from the HIAS organization and the UNRRA. I suppose you heard of the UNRRA.

So I found out I have a cousin there. And the office of the DP camp was in the city. And when I got into the DP camp, when I told my cousin this, that I'm going to go into the office, I'm going to tell them my name is not Teitelbaum. My name is Eikevik. And I'm going to tell them that you are my brother. That's how I was able to get into the camp.

I was so sick and tired of traveling that I said, this is it. I'm going to stay here. And I'm going to try to take it easy because I was doing nothing but travel. If you got on a train, you couldn't get into a train. You had to go on the roof.

And even that was dangerous. You were traveling hundreds of miles on the roof, in the winter, in the cold weather, you know, because the trains-- you couldn't buy a ticket to get on a train. There was no such thing. All the trains were occupied by the army.

So when I got to that camp, since I was young, I was able to join this Jugend organization. I got a nice room. I got board. I went to school. I was learning Hebrew.

But I still didn't know what my destination was. My destination actually was Israel. But the Aliyah stopped. You couldn't go legally. You couldn't go-- illegally, they wouldn't send me because I was too young. Legally, they were stopped. They couldn't-- they didn't allow anybody, you know. The English, you know, they didn't allow the Jews anymore into Israel, to Palestine. I suppose you're read about that, Cyprus and the all that.

So I said to myself, whatever country I can get into, that's what I'll take first. A lot of people went to Brazil. A lot of people went to England. Some people went to America. So finally, I signed up to go to Brazil, because to Brazil, there was a better chance to go than to America or to Israel. These two countries you had to wait a long time to get into.

Finally, in the meantime, I found out my uncle's address in America. I wrote him a letter. It was my mother's brother. He sent me a few dollars. I was able to live a little better. I had a few dollars to spend on the side, you know. I didn't have to depend on just the rations from the UNRRA. What they gave you, it wasn't bad. But I was able to get a little bit food on the side because I had a few dollars.

So I signed up for Brazil. Brazil never came. I signed up for Israel. Israel never came.

Then I found out-- I signed up for America. Finally, I signed up for America. And the time came, they said, you're ready to go to America? And even that, I had a problem. I didn't want to mention. I cannot mention it. I had a problem. They wouldn't let me getting the visa.

But finally, in 1947, I did get to this country. And I have to say I was really a happy man when I got to this country. I started to work for an uncle of mine. I worked for him for three years in a hardware store until I was drafted into the service, in the American army already. I was in the American army for two years. When I got out of the army, I moved to Cleveland.

What happened to the rest of your family?

The rest of the family? Well, my brother, he was in Israel. He got to Israel, I mentioned that, in 1945. And he never got out of there. He never wanted to get out of there. He was so devoted to the country. In fact, he served for 30 years in the Israeli army.

And now, he is a executive for an insurance company. He's got a nice family. He's got two sons. And he's got-- his name

is Menachem Dekel. In fact, one of his sons is playing soccer for the country, for Israel. He plays all over the world. He's a soccer player.

I have a sister in New York, in Williamsburg.

What happened to her during the war?

Pardon?

What happened to her in the war? What happened to her during the war? How did she spend the war?

To them? Well, they were in concentration camps. They survived the concentration camps.

Do you know which camps they were?

Yeah, Auschwitz. They were in Auschwitz. And they were in Dachau. My older brother, like I said, he was a Gentile for a while until he got into this organization, the Zionist organization. And he went illegally to Israel. But he never made it to Israel. He came back fighting with the Russian army. But my sister and my younger brother, they were in a concentration camp.

And you said that he left the Russian army.

That I what?

You said that your older brother had left the Russian army.

Yeah.

How did he do that?

He just walked out. It was like nothing. You see, because in battlefront, it's a funny thing, you can just about do anything. You can join in a battlefront. Nobody will know. Nobody will know who you are.

And the same way, just walking away from battlefront. You see, when you're in battlefront in a city like Budapest, you can just walk right off, walk into a house, put on civilian clothes, and you're not in battlefront anymore. You lay down your gun, nobody will know that you were a soldier.

Because the soldier you were fighting next to you, he doesn't know you. He's not interested in who you are. He doesn't even know your name. He was just fighting alongside of you. Well, the next day, you'll have somebody else fighting alongside of you.

And what happened to him after he left?

After he left the Russian army? Well, like I said, he was in the-- he joined-- he went back to the Zionist organization. He hooked up with them. He was one of the leaders. And he was smuggling people, Zionists and Holocaust survivors, across the border from one country to the other, getting them closer and closer towards Israel because everybody's destination was Israel.

Nobody even dreamt-- well, some of them did. But most of them wanted to go to Israel. They just wanted to get out of Europe, because Europe, to be Europe, to stay in Europe was like staying in a place, you know, that you hate. Like Hungary, they kill so many Jews. All over Europe, they kill Jews, in every country, in every city, in every village, wherever they were.

So everybody was trying to get out to, like, America, Israel, Brazil, England, France. So these were all countries where



people were-- they did not have the happenings that was happening in Europe. They were moving-- they were trying to get into a free world.

Where did he finally end up?

Who? My brother?

Your older brother?

My older brother ended up in America. He never got to Israel. But he came to America. He was-- in fact, he was in Cleveland. That's why I came to Cleveland. He came to America in 1949. He came to New York. He was in New York for a few years. And then he moved to Cleveland.

After I got out of the army, he asked me I should move to Cleveland. But he passed away in 1967. He passed away very young. He passed away about the age of about 46 years old.

And the rest of your brothers and sisters, where did they end up?

They were all killed in concentration camps, except for the next brother after me, the one that is in Israel. I lost five sisters and brothers and my parents in the concentration camps.

And you had one sister who survived?

Yes, the older sister.

And what happened to her?

She lives in New York, in Williamsburg.

How do you think it was that you survived?

How I think it was? Well, I have to say that due to the fact that I acted as a Gentile. Otherwise, I don't know whether I would have survived.

What do you think gave you the strength, though, to keep going? You said that sometimes you really wished you were dead.

Well, I was fighting to survive. I was fighting to stay alive. I was hoping that someday this world will be liberated. Europe will be liberated. And what is going on at that time will not be for too long. I was hoping that the sooner the better, because too long, you couldn't stay on. You couldn't go on too long because of the fear. It was so great that you could drop dead from a heart attack.

Did you think that you would survive?

I was hoping. But I didn't think I will because, you see, what happened, you didn't know how this war was going on for so long, that you didn't know how long it can go on for. You were just hoping that the war is not going to go on for too long and Germany is going to lose. But you didn't know. Who knew?

Nobody-- there was no radio to listen to. Here, you put on the radio, you know what's happening. You call up somebody on the phone, you know what's happening. There was no telephone, no radio. Nobody knew what was going on in the world.

Other than me going out from the shelter and going out on the street and see the battlefield right in front of the house, I didn't know what was happening. I didn't know whether the Germans are ahead or the Russians are ahead or the

Americans are ahead. I didn't know what's going on. And not only me, nobody knew.

In fact, the soldiers themselves didn't know what was happening because nobody told them. Germany didn't tell their soldiers what's happening. Hungary didn't tell their soldiers what's happening. Other than the leadership, nobody knew what's happening.

How do you think your experiences in the Holocaust affect you now?

The experience of the Holocaust? Well, I'm glad I survived because thanks God I cannot complain. You know, I'm not a rich man in the country. But I manage nicely. I put my children to college.

And they're all, thanks God, in good shape. Two of them are married. They're doing very nicely. One of them is going to law school. He's still not married. My youngest daughter, the youngest one, she's got a very good job. She also goes to Case Western Reserve at night. I put her through college. Now, she's on her own. Her college, she's just going for a master's for which her company is paying.

My two olders are out of the house, like I say. My older daughter has two little girls, two lovely girls, of which I'm very happy, for which I'm very happy that I survived. I look at my family, I thank God I survived because I'm very proud of my family. I love my family. And that is my whole future now, to see my family happy.

Did your experiences in the Holocaust affect the way you look at life? Your outlook on life.

I didn't get you.

What you went through in the Holocaust, did that have an effect on your outlook about life now, your philosophy of life.

Oh, yes, it always will. It always feel it is something that you cannot forget it. There's no way you can forget it. No matter how you try to forget it, it will always come back to you. Like we have a memorial service here for the Holocaust survivors, have a memorial service every year at the Zion Memorial Cemetery. We put up there a big monument from the Kol Israel Foundation. And believe me, when you go out there, you know you're among Holocaust survivors.

Because if not that, something else-- something will always come back. When you get together with friends, no matter what's happening, no matter what you talk about, somebody will always bring back the past. And we'll talk about the past. This guy will say, hey, wait a minute, I was in that same camp. Do you remember so and so? And you know that this guy was killed over there, was shot right in front of me. This guy I was carrying in my arms. He was dying. I was trying to keep him alive till the last minute.

Like my father, should rest in peace, he survived practically till the end. He died just about towards the end. He was not killed-- he did not go to the crematorium like my mother and my sister, my younger sisters and brothers. He was working until he finally couldn't make it.

But it will always have an effect on you. What we're trying to do now, we're trying to get our children to remember, to see that they don't forget that their parents are survivors. You want to make sure that people don't forget what happened.

What made you decide to tell your story here today?

Well, I feel it's my duty to do something like this to tell the rest of the world of what did really happen. Because this thing, we don't want these things to be forgotten. We want this thing to go on for our children to remember it, for our grandchildren to remember it, our great grandchildren to remember it.

We would like to see that this thing does not happen again. Because if they will remember what happened, they will not give up as easy as we did. Because these 6 million Jews that were killed, that were burned in the concentration camps, they gave up very easy. The only ones that were really put up a fight were the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto. Other than that, there are 6 million Jews did not put up a fight. They just went, and they did whatever they were told to.

They didn't have a chance. They didn't have any guns. They didn't believe-- they wouldn't believe that these things will happen. That's why we would like to see our great great great grandchildren to remember, one tell the other, that these things happen. Because this could happen very easily again if they will not remember what happened.

I just hope that they believe that it could happen again because what is going on in the world nowadays, antisemitism in many countries and the Nazi party, the Ku Klux Klan. You know, these things happen-- that's the way these things started in the old country too, you know, little by little, until it got real big. It wouldn't be as easy here as it was over there. But God knows it could happen.

That's why we don't want our children to forget these things. Let them remember of what happened. How there is such a thing now as what they call a second generation Holocaust survivors, Kol Israel Foundation here in Cleveland. They are pretty active. They're trying to tell their children of what happened.

They have schools now. They're telling people in the schools now. They tell children in the schools now. They have colleges.

You said that during the war when you were disguised as a Gentile, you were not able to practice your Judaism. Did you believe in God during that time?

Oh, yes, I always did. I come from a very religious family. I always believed in God. And I was always-- and I always said that only God can help us and that I hope God will save us. I never did believe that anything else will save us.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share?

Well, I would like to tell the world, and I would like to tell the rest of the Jews that are alive now to remember and tell their children, and get it into their head that these things did happen. And it's not a thing that should be taken very easily or that it should be just brushed aside. You cannot brush this aside.

Look what happened even now in Washington. They put up that monument there for the Jews. There is no monument. It was already besmirched by the Nazis. They took paint. It was for Holocaust survivors, for memory. They already sprayed it with paint.

Look at all the other things like the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazi party. They shouldn't allow these things. These things should not be allowed. And we should fight for that. When the Ku Klux Klan has a meeting, they should fight for that. And that's the only way-- that's the only way-- we'll try-- we'll be able to keep this from happening again.

Thank you very much, Mr. Teitelbaum. This is Sara Weinberger. Our Holocaust survivor today has been Mr. Sam Teitelbaum. This project is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section.