

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,170

2
00:00:04,170 --> 00:00:09,230
Yaffa Munch, March
11, 1997, tape

3
00:00:09,230 --> 00:00:16,050
2, side A. You were talking
about Esther going to Tel Aviv.

4
00:00:16,050 --> 00:00:17,750
And you were still in Jerusalem.

5
00:00:17,750 --> 00:00:20,750
And that was the first time
you had been separated.

6
00:00:20,750 --> 00:00:24,410
And how did you take that,
being separated from Esther,

7
00:00:24,410 --> 00:00:27,260
even though you knew that
was important for her

8
00:00:27,260 --> 00:00:31,110
to be doing what she was doing?

9
00:00:31,110 --> 00:00:33,590
In a way, it was very
difficult, because I

10
00:00:33,590 --> 00:00:36,080
had nobody except her.

11
00:00:36,080 --> 00:00:39,660
And being the older
sister who, all the time,

12
00:00:39,660 --> 00:00:42,830

felt a certain kind
of responsibility,

13
00:00:42,830 --> 00:00:48,800
and being a substitute mother,
in a way, as much she could.

14
00:00:48,800 --> 00:00:54,990
But by that time, perhaps due
to my friends that were very,

15
00:00:54,990 --> 00:01:01,310
very careful, and very
giving, and very supporting,

16
00:01:01,310 --> 00:01:05,510
it was a little bit easier
to take that separation,

17
00:01:05,510 --> 00:01:09,080
and be very in constant
touch with each other.

18
00:01:09,080 --> 00:01:13,400
But then when Jerusalem
was surrounded,

19
00:01:13,400 --> 00:01:18,130
and I could not leave, and
she couldn't come to visit,

20
00:01:18,130 --> 00:01:24,130
that was a little bit difficult,
because the fear was there.

21
00:01:24,130 --> 00:01:26,200
There was hope, but
there was a fear, too.

22
00:01:26,200 --> 00:01:30,280
Who knows how long will
be this separation.

23

00:01:30,280 --> 00:01:33,350

When will I be able
to see her again?

24

00:01:33,350 --> 00:01:37,690

And she was the one
who initiated that I

25

00:01:37,690 --> 00:01:40,210

should be leaving Jerusalem.

26

00:01:40,210 --> 00:01:43,520

And it wasn't easy,
because you could not,

27

00:01:43,520 --> 00:01:46,620

as a civilian leave the city.

28

00:01:46,620 --> 00:01:50,490

Soldiers were going
in secret ways.

29

00:01:50,490 --> 00:01:53,460

And they organized
that, once in a while,

30

00:01:53,460 --> 00:01:57,990

to unite sisters or unite
families, they would take,

31

00:01:57,990 --> 00:02:00,450

each time, a few people.

32

00:02:00,450 --> 00:02:04,140

And so happened that she
made this arrangement.

33

00:02:04,140 --> 00:02:07,800

And with the convoy
of soldiers, I

34

00:02:07,800 --> 00:02:12,150

went from Jerusalem, which

was quite a dangerous kind

35

00:02:12,150 --> 00:02:15,360

of a trip to do, to Tel Aviv.

36

00:02:15,360 --> 00:02:18,960

And she made arrangements
in Tel Aviv for me

37

00:02:18,960 --> 00:02:24,210

that I could continue in the
same kind of school setting

38

00:02:24,210 --> 00:02:27,150

that I have been
attending in Jerusalem

39

00:02:27,150 --> 00:02:30,190

and also in the orphanage home.

40

00:02:30,190 --> 00:02:33,000

There where orphanage
homes established

41

00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:37,480

by the Jewish Agency
in different cities

42

00:02:37,480 --> 00:02:40,410

all over in Israel.

43

00:02:40,410 --> 00:02:42,580

So I went back to school.

44

00:02:42,580 --> 00:02:44,670

I continued my learning.

45

00:02:44,670 --> 00:02:50,400

And Esther was visiting
me on a daily basis.

46

00:02:50,400 --> 00:02:52,750

She was earning a
little bit of money.

47
00:02:52,750 --> 00:02:59,130
So she bought a blouse for
me or some extra little food.

48
00:02:59,130 --> 00:03:05,250
And then, eventually, after
being in that orphanage home

49
00:03:05,250 --> 00:03:11,270
for about a year, we
rented a little room

50
00:03:11,270 --> 00:03:15,830
with the privilege of using
a little bit of kitchen.

51
00:03:15,830 --> 00:03:18,830
And we joined together again.

52
00:03:18,830 --> 00:03:21,000
And we lived on our own.

53
00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:22,640
So this was--

54
00:03:22,640 --> 00:03:27,430
This was about 1948.

55
00:03:27,430 --> 00:03:29,390
And so you were 16?

56
00:03:29,390 --> 00:03:33,770
Yes, yes, I continued
to go to school.

57
00:03:33,770 --> 00:03:36,760
And Esther continued
to go to her work.

58

00:03:36,760 --> 00:03:43,810
And we lived by a family who
rented out one little room.

59
00:03:43,810 --> 00:03:51,010
And we were able to use our
little burner in our room

60
00:03:51,010 --> 00:03:54,880
and make, one in a while, a
little soup or a little bit

61
00:03:54,880 --> 00:03:56,380
of food.

62
00:03:56,380 --> 00:04:01,730
It was a interesting
kind of situation,

63
00:04:01,730 --> 00:04:06,170
because we felt that we
are, again, independent.

64
00:04:06,170 --> 00:04:10,610
And that one little room, even
though it was a rented room,

65
00:04:10,610 --> 00:04:15,390
but we felt that we
are no more orphans.

66
00:04:15,390 --> 00:04:19,200
That we are like
living a normal life,

67
00:04:19,200 --> 00:04:23,310
like other people are living.

68
00:04:23,310 --> 00:04:29,250
They're very friendly with the
people rented us the place out.

69
00:04:29,250 --> 00:04:32,220

They were very nice to us.

70

00:04:32,220 --> 00:04:35,760

Very highly intelligent
people who helped me

71

00:04:35,760 --> 00:04:38,880

a lot with my learning, also.

72

00:04:38,880 --> 00:04:41,530

Then we made friends, neighbors.

73

00:04:41,530 --> 00:04:48,140

There was a piano teacher
who was very much looking out

74

00:04:48,140 --> 00:04:51,080

that we should
come to her house,

75

00:04:51,080 --> 00:04:56,090

that we should be in a family
environment, once in a while.

76

00:04:56,090 --> 00:04:57,480

She lived with her mother.

77

00:04:57,480 --> 00:04:59,720

She had two young children.

78

00:04:59,720 --> 00:05:02,340

And I'd love to go to visit her.

79

00:05:02,340 --> 00:05:05,220

She had a brother
who was a teacher.

80

00:05:05,220 --> 00:05:08,930

And in manner of fact, I
wanted to learn, at that time,

81

00:05:08,930 --> 00:05:11,140

a little bit English.

82

00:05:11,140 --> 00:05:15,250

Because by that time, I had a
command of the Hebrew language.

83

00:05:15,250 --> 00:05:18,220

And I wanted some other
foreign language to learn,

84

00:05:18,220 --> 00:05:22,420

because I always
planned to be a teacher.

85

00:05:22,420 --> 00:05:24,370

And I knew that I
would eventually

86

00:05:24,370 --> 00:05:27,010

need more languages to know.

87

00:05:27,010 --> 00:05:30,970

Yeah, did you assume that
you would live in Israel

88

00:05:30,970 --> 00:05:32,640

for the rest of your life?

89

00:05:32,640 --> 00:05:35,710

At that time, I assumed that
I am going to be in Israel.

90

00:05:35,710 --> 00:05:40,080

And I am going to establish
a family life, eventually.

91

00:05:40,080 --> 00:05:44,670

And it's very interesting to
note that he was teaching me.

92

00:05:44,670 --> 00:05:47,160

And he was always
looking my handwriting.

93
00:05:47,160 --> 00:05:48,750
And in those days--

94
00:05:48,750 --> 00:05:51,790
This is the brother
of that music teacher

95
00:05:51,790 --> 00:05:55,650
who were the neighbors
we have been living.

96
00:05:55,650 --> 00:05:59,250
It's outskirts of
Tel Aviv, outskirts

97
00:05:59,250 --> 00:06:01,710
between Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan.

98
00:06:01,710 --> 00:06:03,670
So you went to him
for English lessons.

99
00:06:03,670 --> 00:06:05,750
For English lessons
free of charge.

100
00:06:05,750 --> 00:06:07,620
Just you?

101
00:06:07,620 --> 00:06:09,240
Just me.

102
00:06:09,240 --> 00:06:14,830
And whenever I came, I used to
be amazed with my handwriting.

103
00:06:14,830 --> 00:06:19,080
I don't know, I was
young, very foolish.

104
00:06:19,080 --> 00:06:21,550

I didn't notice
that, actually, he

105
00:06:21,550 --> 00:06:24,630
is teaching because
he is in love with me,

106
00:06:24,630 --> 00:06:28,840
not because he really was
interested to teach me.

107
00:06:28,840 --> 00:06:31,070
And why did you think
he wasn't charging you?

108
00:06:31,070 --> 00:06:33,850

109
00:06:33,850 --> 00:06:36,880
I thought that so
many people wanted

110
00:06:36,880 --> 00:06:41,750
to help all the refugees
in many different ways.

111
00:06:41,750 --> 00:06:43,885
Some who could help
financially, some

112
00:06:43,885 --> 00:06:46,660
who could help educating way.

113
00:06:46,660 --> 00:06:48,910
So I thought that
this is another--

114
00:06:48,910 --> 00:06:53,860
yes, and I was really not
interested, at that time yet,

115
00:06:53,860 --> 00:06:55,450
to get married.

116
00:06:55,450 --> 00:06:57,760
And nevertheless, even if I--

117
00:06:57,760 --> 00:06:59,290
So now you're about 17?

118
00:06:59,290 --> 00:07:03,610
I am about 16, 17, going on 17.

119
00:07:03,610 --> 00:07:08,620
And he wanted to
take me to a theater.

120
00:07:08,620 --> 00:07:11,920
And it's not only that
I was not interested,

121
00:07:11,920 --> 00:07:15,620
because humility
came back to me.

122
00:07:15,620 --> 00:07:18,340
And for sure, at the
age of 16 and 1/2, 17,

123
00:07:18,340 --> 00:07:20,380
something is moving in you.

124
00:07:20,380 --> 00:07:24,040
And you do feel you are a
girl and this is a man, right?

125
00:07:24,040 --> 00:07:27,190
But he was not
attractive at all.

126
00:07:27,190 --> 00:07:32,090
And I really didn't want to be
too much in his caught by me.

127
00:07:32,090 --> 00:07:34,060

I enjoyed learning.

128
00:07:34,060 --> 00:07:35,830
But that's about.

129
00:07:35,830 --> 00:07:41,920
And later on, he was
expressing that he

130
00:07:41,920 --> 00:07:43,780
wants to really date me.

131
00:07:43,780 --> 00:07:45,460
And he would like to go with me.

132
00:07:45,460 --> 00:07:48,080
And I said I am too young, yet.

133
00:07:48,080 --> 00:07:49,390
How old was he?

134
00:07:49,390 --> 00:07:51,120
He was much older.

135
00:07:51,120 --> 00:07:52,000
He was much older.

136
00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:56,680
He must have to be 28,
29, much older than I.

137
00:07:56,680 --> 00:08:00,820
And many, many years
later, when I was already

138
00:08:00,820 --> 00:08:05,470
a mommy of two children,
and I visited in Israel,

139
00:08:05,470 --> 00:08:09,990
I happened to be in the
temple with his mother, who

140
00:08:09,990 --> 00:08:11,970
loved me very much so.

141
00:08:11,970 --> 00:08:16,560
And later, I understood why
they were so much inviting us

142
00:08:16,560 --> 00:08:21,330
to the house, because they had
a plan in their mind for the son

143
00:08:21,330 --> 00:08:23,020
to marry me.

144
00:08:23,020 --> 00:08:27,360
And she said to me,
no, later, you can--

145
00:08:27,360 --> 00:08:29,340
years later, now
you can tell me.

146
00:08:29,340 --> 00:08:31,500
You married already,
and my son is married.

147
00:08:31,500 --> 00:08:35,309
Why didn't you want that to
have Zori for your husband?

148
00:08:35,309 --> 00:08:38,030
I said to her, don't
ask me such questions.

149
00:08:38,030 --> 00:08:41,140
But I know what I was
thinking at the age of 16.

150
00:08:41,140 --> 00:08:45,390
And I didn't want to tell her
that he was not attracting me.

151

00:08:45,390 --> 00:08:47,970

You can't say that to a mother.

152

00:08:47,970 --> 00:08:50,250

But I started,
with him, to learn.

153

00:08:50,250 --> 00:08:55,550

And I with the sister, I was
learning a little bit music.

154

00:08:55,550 --> 00:08:59,960

I wanted, very much, to
get back to all the things

155

00:08:59,960 --> 00:09:03,360

that my parents always
wanted to give us.

156

00:09:03,360 --> 00:09:09,440

And unfortunately, it was
interrupted, by the Germans.

157

00:09:09,440 --> 00:09:12,260

But it was very
difficult because we

158

00:09:12,260 --> 00:09:14,690

didn't have the
means, financially,

159

00:09:14,690 --> 00:09:18,710

that I could go and study
music or financially take

160

00:09:18,710 --> 00:09:21,200

private lessons in English.

161

00:09:21,200 --> 00:09:23,000

So here was the opportunity.

162

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:25,610

But that had to
stop after I learned

163
00:09:25,610 --> 00:09:31,560
that there are other alternative
motivations than just giving us

164
00:09:31,560 --> 00:09:33,230
the extra lessons.

165
00:09:33,230 --> 00:09:36,050
So after you figured
out what was going on,

166
00:09:36,050 --> 00:09:37,070
you stopped the lessons?

167
00:09:37,070 --> 00:09:38,600
I stopped the lessons.

168
00:09:38,600 --> 00:09:39,770
I stopped the lessons.

169
00:09:39,770 --> 00:09:41,480
Was that hard for you to do?

170
00:09:41,480 --> 00:09:46,880
It was, because I wanted very
much to further, in any way,

171
00:09:46,880 --> 00:09:49,370
and in every way, my education.

172
00:09:49,370 --> 00:09:51,890
But I was involved
in the school.

173
00:09:51,890 --> 00:09:56,840
And eventually, I learned
a little bit music

174
00:09:56,840 --> 00:09:59,030

from other sources.

175

00:09:59,030 --> 00:10:05,280
And I finished the high school.

176

00:10:05,280 --> 00:10:12,500
And not too many years
after it, I met my husband.

177

00:10:12,500 --> 00:10:14,840
And I got married with him.

178

00:10:14,840 --> 00:10:17,590
How did you meet him?

179

00:10:17,590 --> 00:10:21,940
My husband was living by
the principal of my school.

180

00:10:21,940 --> 00:10:24,720

181

00:10:24,720 --> 00:10:29,500
In Tel Aviv, I was in
Tel Aviv in school.

182

00:10:29,500 --> 00:10:30,240
What school?

183

00:10:30,240 --> 00:10:34,820
In Tel Aviv, it's
call Bet Yaakov.

184

00:10:34,820 --> 00:10:39,890
And my husband was
living in their house.

185

00:10:39,890 --> 00:10:44,470
And one day, he
said to my husband,

186

00:10:44,470 --> 00:10:49,240

he wasn't born there, people
used to take room by families.

187
00:10:49,240 --> 00:10:51,520
And he said, I
have a lovely girl.

188
00:10:51,520 --> 00:10:56,230
And I think that this
girl is just for you.

189
00:10:56,230 --> 00:10:59,620
She has the very similar
kind of a background.

190
00:10:59,620 --> 00:11:02,620
Although my husband was
in Israel from 1939,

191
00:11:02,620 --> 00:11:09,190
and I only came in 1946, but
the background is very similar.

192
00:11:09,190 --> 00:11:11,070
In what way is it similar?

193
00:11:11,070 --> 00:11:14,200
Similar because he comes
from Czechoslovakia,

194
00:11:14,200 --> 00:11:17,410
from where my father,
from the exact same city.

195
00:11:17,410 --> 00:11:21,340
He went to the very same
school that my father

196
00:11:21,340 --> 00:11:23,570
went before him, many years.

197
00:11:23,570 --> 00:11:26,920
But it's the same kind

of setting, more or less,

198
00:11:26,920 --> 00:11:31,240
from the same type of
religious background.

199
00:11:31,240 --> 00:11:39,050
Educationally, the same type,
financially, nobody was--

200
00:11:39,050 --> 00:11:41,830
everybody of us
so-called middle class.

201
00:11:41,830 --> 00:11:43,970
But what did we
call middle class?

202
00:11:43,970 --> 00:11:46,640
If you had that room
and you had a bed,

203
00:11:46,640 --> 00:11:49,950
that was middle
class in those days.

204
00:11:49,950 --> 00:11:53,660
So he was in the
army at that time.

205
00:11:53,660 --> 00:12:01,700
And he had a furlough, few
days of vacation from the army,

206
00:12:01,700 --> 00:12:05,580
and she said, you
come to the school.

207
00:12:05,580 --> 00:12:10,920
I will introduce to you the
girl that I am mentioning.

208
00:12:10,920 --> 00:12:14,660

My husband knew me
from before, seeing me

209
00:12:14,660 --> 00:12:17,010
in the street of Tel Aviv.

210
00:12:17,010 --> 00:12:21,640
He used to walk with
his buddy from the army.

211
00:12:21,640 --> 00:12:26,320
And he would say to him, you
see that girl, then blond one?

212
00:12:26,320 --> 00:12:29,830
I will take her out.

213
00:12:29,830 --> 00:12:32,330
He knew me from
even before, when

214
00:12:32,330 --> 00:12:37,330
we attended the wedding of my
teacher, Esther Echstein, who

215
00:12:37,330 --> 00:12:39,770
was my teacher after the war.

216
00:12:39,770 --> 00:12:42,940
And she is related
to my husband.

217
00:12:42,940 --> 00:12:47,050
She is a second cousin, which I
didn't know until that wedding.

218
00:12:47,050 --> 00:12:49,920
I went as a student
of her to the wedding.

219
00:12:49,920 --> 00:12:51,910
He went as a relative.

220

00:12:51,910 --> 00:12:54,340

And I was introduced
to him at the wedding,

221

00:12:54,340 --> 00:12:58,430

but nothing more than this
is one of my students.

222

00:12:58,430 --> 00:13:01,510

So when he was on the
vacation from the army,

223

00:13:01,510 --> 00:13:03,280

he came to the school.

224

00:13:03,280 --> 00:13:05,800

And I was called
out from the class

225

00:13:05,800 --> 00:13:07,300

that I have to go to the office.

226

00:13:07,300 --> 00:13:09,400

The principal wants to see me.

227

00:13:09,400 --> 00:13:11,140

My heart was beating.

228

00:13:11,140 --> 00:13:14,200

I thought God, did
I fail in the test?

229

00:13:14,200 --> 00:13:15,620

Did I do something?

230

00:13:15,620 --> 00:13:17,770

Why I am called to the office?

231

00:13:17,770 --> 00:13:21,070

And she says to me,
somebody wants to meet you.

232

00:13:21,070 --> 00:13:25,870

And here on the porch
of that office building

233

00:13:25,870 --> 00:13:30,140

is a soldier in uniform.

234

00:13:30,140 --> 00:13:35,050

And he asked me, I have
two days off from the army,

235

00:13:35,050 --> 00:13:36,850

I want to take
you, tonight, out.

236

00:13:36,850 --> 00:13:40,390

I said, I have to ask my sister.

237

00:13:40,390 --> 00:13:45,910

I was-- I had no parents with
whom I am talking anything over

238

00:13:45,910 --> 00:13:48,930

and I said, by the way,
my sister is older.

239

00:13:48,930 --> 00:13:52,666

And she has to get
married before me.

240

00:13:52,666 --> 00:13:55,720

Lo and behold, I don't want
to elaborate on this story.

241

00:13:55,720 --> 00:13:59,390

But now slowly from
this, within a year,

242

00:13:59,390 --> 00:14:02,470

we developed a
friendship to the extent

243

00:14:02,470 --> 00:14:04,510
that we got engaged and married.

244
00:14:04,510 --> 00:14:06,970
So you were how
old when you met?

245
00:14:06,970 --> 00:14:10,150
19, 18 in the school.

246
00:14:10,150 --> 00:14:12,370
And then at the age
of 19, I got married.

247
00:14:12,370 --> 00:14:13,730
And you were still in school?

248
00:14:13,730 --> 00:14:15,320
I was still in school.

249
00:14:15,320 --> 00:14:15,950
I continue--

250
00:14:15,950 --> 00:14:18,160
But this was equivalent
to a college?

251
00:14:18,160 --> 00:14:20,960
This was already done, yes.

252
00:14:20,960 --> 00:14:23,920
Yeah, it was a teacher seminary.

253
00:14:23,920 --> 00:14:27,580
Which, we don't have too
much today, except in--

254
00:14:27,580 --> 00:14:29,200
We used to have a lot of them.

255
00:14:29,200 --> 00:14:31,540
Yeah, but we don't have anymore.

256
00:14:31,540 --> 00:14:35,560
I know that near to
Allentown, Kutztown?

257
00:14:35,560 --> 00:14:36,290
Kutztown.

258
00:14:36,290 --> 00:14:39,100
Kutztown has a teacher seminary.

259
00:14:39,100 --> 00:14:42,350
But it's very, very rare.

260
00:14:42,350 --> 00:14:45,700
I think that is something
that I would like to see

261
00:14:45,700 --> 00:14:47,300
that it's coming back again.

262
00:14:47,300 --> 00:14:49,220
So you were still in school?

263
00:14:49,220 --> 00:14:50,750
I was still in the school.

264
00:14:50,750 --> 00:14:51,948
And he was in the army.

265
00:14:51,948 --> 00:14:52,990
He was still in the army.

266
00:14:52,990 --> 00:14:54,790
When you married, he
was still in the army?

267
00:14:54,790 --> 00:14:57,655
He was still in the army
when I married my husband.

268

00:14:57,655 --> 00:14:59,620
And you were then 19?

269
00:14:59,620 --> 00:15:03,150
Yeah, and it wasn't easy life.

270
00:15:03,150 --> 00:15:05,640
But we were very happy.

271
00:15:05,640 --> 00:15:11,700
We lived in one room apartment,
which one was our living room

272
00:15:11,700 --> 00:15:12,870
and dining room.

273
00:15:12,870 --> 00:15:17,550
And later on, when my baby
came, it was even the baby room.

274
00:15:17,550 --> 00:15:22,050
And we were very happy, very
happy, and very thankful

275
00:15:22,050 --> 00:15:23,490
for everything.

276
00:15:23,490 --> 00:15:26,620
And this was the
first baby, my son,

277
00:15:26,620 --> 00:15:32,250
that was born into our
family, the first child

278
00:15:32,250 --> 00:15:33,510
after the Holocaust.

279
00:15:33,510 --> 00:15:34,900
So it was a very special--

280
00:15:34,900 --> 00:15:37,210

Very, very moving moment.

281

00:15:37,210 --> 00:15:39,790

I remember them from
year they interviewed me

282

00:15:39,790 --> 00:15:42,370

for the Holocaust testimony.

283

00:15:42,370 --> 00:15:47,220

And this was the
highlight of my life,

284

00:15:47,220 --> 00:15:50,740

when this baby was born,
because that minute,

285

00:15:50,740 --> 00:15:56,370

I felt that there
is continuation.

286

00:15:56,370 --> 00:16:01,490

And that our nation
and the people

287

00:16:01,490 --> 00:16:06,240

are renewing and getting
back their strength.

288

00:16:06,240 --> 00:16:08,010

And what did you name him?

289

00:16:08,010 --> 00:16:13,200

I named him after my husband's
father who perished also

290

00:16:13,200 --> 00:16:15,570

in the Holocaust, Gabriel.

291

00:16:15,570 --> 00:16:20,430

We wanted, while I was
pregnant, we were discussing,

292

00:16:20,430 --> 00:16:28,140

all the time, each one of us
lost both sets of parents.

293

00:16:28,140 --> 00:16:31,050

And each one of
us lost a brother.

294

00:16:31,050 --> 00:16:34,170

So as many children
we will have,

295

00:16:34,170 --> 00:16:38,820

we would like that, in that
way, their name should not

296

00:16:38,820 --> 00:16:40,330

be forgotten.

297

00:16:40,330 --> 00:16:43,390

So we will name the children.

298

00:16:43,390 --> 00:16:46,960

I wanted to be a good wife,
and I said, if it's a girl,

299

00:16:46,960 --> 00:16:48,980

I will name it
after your mother.

300

00:16:48,980 --> 00:16:51,950

If it's a boy, it will
be after your father.

301

00:16:51,950 --> 00:16:53,880

So it was a boy.

302

00:16:53,880 --> 00:16:55,970

And this one that is
getting now married

303

00:16:55,970 --> 00:16:58,900

is named after my mother.

304

00:16:58,900 --> 00:17:01,010

But we have four children.

305

00:17:01,010 --> 00:17:03,620

And it's after the four parents.

306

00:17:03,620 --> 00:17:05,800

So you have two
boys and two girls?

307

00:17:05,800 --> 00:17:07,190

Two boys and two girls, yes.

308

00:17:07,190 --> 00:17:11,400

309

00:17:11,400 --> 00:17:13,790

Now, the life was
not easy, I have

310

00:17:13,790 --> 00:17:16,520

to say to you,
after the Holocaust.

311

00:17:16,520 --> 00:17:21,170

Even, in Israel, even
when got married.

312

00:17:21,170 --> 00:17:24,060

We lived in one room.

313

00:17:24,060 --> 00:17:28,180

We shared the kitchen,
three families together.

314

00:17:28,180 --> 00:17:30,140

It was apartment of three rooms.

315

00:17:30,140 --> 00:17:32,990

In each room, one

couple was living.

316

00:17:32,990 --> 00:17:34,450

And the kitchen, we divided.

317

00:17:34,450 --> 00:17:38,540

And three women were
sharing the kitchen.

318

00:17:38,540 --> 00:17:40,610

But there was a
lot of happiness.

319

00:17:40,610 --> 00:17:43,370

There was a lot of positiveness.

320

00:17:43,370 --> 00:17:49,290

There was a lot of sharing
and doing together things,

321

00:17:49,290 --> 00:17:55,990

and respectfulness, and
try to cheer each other.

322

00:17:55,990 --> 00:17:58,280

Were the other women
older than you?

323

00:17:58,280 --> 00:18:00,800

Yes, I was the youngest.

324

00:18:00,800 --> 00:18:02,630

Before we started
the interview, we

325

00:18:02,630 --> 00:18:05,960

were talking about
your learning to cook.

326

00:18:05,960 --> 00:18:09,930

And how you didn't have
a chance for your mother

327

00:18:09,930 --> 00:18:12,050
to teach you how to cook.

328

00:18:12,050 --> 00:18:13,800
And that when you were
married, you didn't

329

00:18:13,800 --> 00:18:15,960
know very much about cooking.

330

00:18:15,960 --> 00:18:18,030
You lived with Esther.

331

00:18:18,030 --> 00:18:20,100
Did you learn some
of that cooking

332

00:18:20,100 --> 00:18:21,830
when you lived with Esther?

333

00:18:21,830 --> 00:18:26,170
When I lived with
Esther, Esther was mainly

334

00:18:26,170 --> 00:18:28,630
in charge of the cooking.

335

00:18:28,630 --> 00:18:32,330
And I was mainly in charge
of cleaning or ironing.

336

00:18:32,330 --> 00:18:35,200

337

00:18:35,200 --> 00:18:39,040
I was not so much interested,
really, in cooking.

338

00:18:39,040 --> 00:18:42,200
I was more into
books in those days.

339

00:18:42,200 --> 00:18:44,740

So how was it after you were
married as far as cooking?

340

00:18:44,740 --> 00:18:48,280

After I got married,
it was difficult.

341

00:18:48,280 --> 00:18:51,160

I remember that once,
I tried to make a cake.

342

00:18:51,160 --> 00:18:53,680

Because my husband
said that it would

343

00:18:53,680 --> 00:18:59,740

be nice on the day of Sabbath
to have a cup of coffee

344

00:18:59,740 --> 00:19:02,500

with a piece of homemade cake.

345

00:19:02,500 --> 00:19:06,260

I mean, bakeries were
not in existence.

346

00:19:06,260 --> 00:19:09,640

It was too expensive, if it
was here and there, a bakery.

347

00:19:09,640 --> 00:19:11,410

Who bought?

348

00:19:11,410 --> 00:19:14,380

And I attempted to make a cake.

349

00:19:14,380 --> 00:19:16,840

And it was a yeast cake.

350

00:19:16,840 --> 00:19:19,940

And it wouldn't rise.

351
00:19:19,940 --> 00:19:21,990
So what should I do?

352
00:19:21,990 --> 00:19:26,900
It's already afternoon
and it's nothing moving.

353
00:19:26,900 --> 00:19:30,410
It's soon the holiday
coming, the Sabbath.

354
00:19:30,410 --> 00:19:32,860
I am not able to bake anymore.

355
00:19:32,860 --> 00:19:34,310
So I took that dough.

356
00:19:34,310 --> 00:19:36,890
And I put it in the garbage can.

357
00:19:36,890 --> 00:19:40,100
And one thing I forgot
that I should have been

358
00:19:40,100 --> 00:19:42,860
wrapping it or hiding it more.

359
00:19:42,860 --> 00:19:45,360
That was the task of my husband.

360
00:19:45,360 --> 00:19:47,960
He came home that he
helped me take down

361
00:19:47,960 --> 00:19:52,040
the garbage from their
apartment and into the dumpster

362
00:19:52,040 --> 00:19:53,360
to put it.

363

00:19:53,360 --> 00:19:56,060

And as he was throwing
it, he saw the dough.

364

00:19:56,060 --> 00:19:58,180

He didn't say nothing.

365

00:19:58,180 --> 00:20:01,820

Sabbath morning, I
was serving coffee.

366

00:20:01,820 --> 00:20:03,600

And I had a piece of chocolate.

367

00:20:03,600 --> 00:20:07,540

And he says, it would be
nice to have a piece of cake.

368

00:20:07,540 --> 00:20:08,600

But what can we do?

369

00:20:08,600 --> 00:20:10,760

It's in the dumpster.

370

00:20:10,760 --> 00:20:13,760

So I know that he
noticed the dough.

371

00:20:13,760 --> 00:20:17,660

But slowly, I don't
know, very little,

372

00:20:17,660 --> 00:20:20,400

I am not a big
cook, today, either.

373

00:20:20,400 --> 00:20:23,210

I am admiring how my
daughter is cooking.

374

00:20:23,210 --> 00:20:25,460

She is a really gourmet cook.

375
00:20:25,460 --> 00:20:27,310
I do simple things.

376
00:20:27,310 --> 00:20:33,590
That taste, I think, came back,
remembering from the home.

377
00:20:33,590 --> 00:20:39,290
I remember how it
tasted, good potato soup.

378
00:20:39,290 --> 00:20:45,620
I remember the dill that mother
was using on the [INAUDIBLE]

379
00:20:45,620 --> 00:20:49,760
or seeing her doing things.

380
00:20:49,760 --> 00:20:53,930
Eventually, certain
things come back to you.

381
00:20:53,930 --> 00:20:57,270
And from experience,
and as my husband says,

382
00:20:57,270 --> 00:20:59,270
I experimented on him.

383
00:20:59,270 --> 00:21:03,980
He had to be the one who had to
eat certain foods that was not

384
00:21:03,980 --> 00:21:05,720
so good.

385
00:21:05,720 --> 00:21:08,210
But thank God, he survived.

386
00:21:08,210 --> 00:21:12,350
47 years, we will be

married, in April.

387

00:21:12,350 --> 00:21:17,430

So apparently,
something went good.

388

00:21:17,430 --> 00:21:20,700

So back to your schooling.

389

00:21:20,700 --> 00:21:23,970

You were in school
when you were married.

390

00:21:23,970 --> 00:21:26,550

I was in school
after I got married.

391

00:21:26,550 --> 00:21:28,900

I was in school for
a very long time.

392

00:21:28,900 --> 00:21:36,030

And at a very early age, I was
still in school and married,

393

00:21:36,030 --> 00:21:41,190

I went to teach in the
outskirts of Tel Aviv.

394

00:21:41,190 --> 00:21:44,570

That time, the head of
the country of Israel,

395

00:21:44,570 --> 00:21:48,000

was Ben-Gurion, which
one is a known name.

396

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:53,100

He asked all the students
who went to teacher seminar

397

00:21:53,100 --> 00:21:56,130

to volunteer and

go out to teach,

398

00:21:56,130 --> 00:22:00,630

because the influx of
immigration was so high.

399

00:22:00,630 --> 00:22:06,090

And Israel was not ready and
prepared with enough teachers.

400

00:22:06,090 --> 00:22:09,660

So it was counted,
to a certain degree,

401

00:22:09,660 --> 00:22:14,150

as credit towards our learning.

402

00:22:14,150 --> 00:22:19,560

We went out to teach in
remote places, outskirts.

403

00:22:19,560 --> 00:22:26,900

My job was in a slum area, so to
say, of Tel Aviv, my first job.

404

00:22:26,900 --> 00:22:31,220

I had 42 students in the class.

405

00:22:31,220 --> 00:22:35,382

Not being experienced teacher
was not really a easy task.

406

00:22:35,382 --> 00:22:36,340

What were you teaching?

407

00:22:36,340 --> 00:22:37,840

And it was maybe--

408

00:22:37,840 --> 00:22:39,860

I was teaching first grade.

409

00:22:39,860 --> 00:22:40,460

First grade.

410

00:22:40,460 --> 00:22:42,440

First grade, reading.

411

00:22:42,440 --> 00:22:48,650

And I remember that I counted
at least 30 different countries

412

00:22:48,650 --> 00:22:50,417

where the children from.

413

00:22:50,417 --> 00:22:51,250

And many different--

414

00:22:51,250 --> 00:22:53,970

And many different
languages, yes.

415

00:22:53,970 --> 00:22:59,630

But I still cherish that
year, because it was not

416

00:22:59,630 --> 00:23:02,990

only teaching those
children, but helping them

417

00:23:02,990 --> 00:23:06,790

to adjust to a new life again.

418

00:23:06,790 --> 00:23:10,490

Later on, I was teaching
children, mainly,

419

00:23:10,490 --> 00:23:13,700

that they came from Morocco.

420

00:23:13,700 --> 00:23:16,820

And I remember, I
wasn't yet married

421

00:23:16,820 --> 00:23:22,550

when I was already helping out
in that special observation

422
00:23:22,550 --> 00:23:24,860
center to teach children.

423
00:23:24,860 --> 00:23:29,030
And I used to take
home to bathe children.

424
00:23:29,030 --> 00:23:32,930
I was not only teaching, but
I was teaching the parents,

425
00:23:32,930 --> 00:23:39,170
because they came from Morocco,
from caves that they lived in.

426
00:23:39,170 --> 00:23:41,450
And they had very
little knowledge

427
00:23:41,450 --> 00:23:47,710
of how to maintain
hygiene life at home.

428
00:23:47,710 --> 00:23:51,600
I used to take home
children for the weekend,

429
00:23:51,600 --> 00:23:55,470
that they should have a
little bit better food,

430
00:23:55,470 --> 00:23:57,800
that they should have a
little bit better home.

431
00:23:57,800 --> 00:24:03,150
And in matter of fact, I got
sick from one of the children.

432
00:24:03,150 --> 00:24:09,340

They had a lot of problems
with eye infections, trachoma.

433
00:24:09,340 --> 00:24:12,370
And I developed from
this one little gorgeous,

434
00:24:12,370 --> 00:24:14,610
beautiful child, I bedded her.

435
00:24:14,610 --> 00:24:16,600
I put her next to me in bed.

436
00:24:16,600 --> 00:24:19,100
I didn't have extra bed anyway.

437
00:24:19,100 --> 00:24:21,170
And she was sleeping with me.

438
00:24:21,170 --> 00:24:23,390
So my husband is
always teasing me

439
00:24:23,390 --> 00:24:26,680
that when I said to
him, yes, I marry you,

440
00:24:26,680 --> 00:24:31,720
I was not seeing
really well, because I

441
00:24:31,720 --> 00:24:34,210
had that sickness of my eye.

442
00:24:34,210 --> 00:24:37,120
But it was pioneer years.

443
00:24:37,120 --> 00:24:38,990
And everybody was doing.

444
00:24:38,990 --> 00:24:40,810
And everybody was helping.

445
00:24:40,810 --> 00:24:43,980
So even if we had a
lot of difficulties,

446
00:24:43,980 --> 00:24:50,010
but we felt that we are
all together, building back

447
00:24:50,010 --> 00:24:51,660
normal kind of a life.

448
00:24:51,660 --> 00:24:56,640
We are building a new
home for all of us,

449
00:24:56,640 --> 00:25:03,140
that we are establishing back a
nation that has been destroyed.

450
00:25:03,140 --> 00:25:07,070
Until this day, when I
see a pregnant woman,

451
00:25:07,070 --> 00:25:11,710
I bless, because
it means one more

452
00:25:11,710 --> 00:25:13,920
life is coming to this world.

453
00:25:13,920 --> 00:25:17,190
And it's strengthening,
again, the humanity.

454
00:25:17,190 --> 00:25:20,370
That there is one more
instant of the ones

455
00:25:20,370 --> 00:25:22,420
that have been wiped.

456

00:25:22,420 --> 00:25:26,850

We have to replace
the ones who we lost.

457

00:25:26,850 --> 00:25:29,620

So it was a very--

458

00:25:29,620 --> 00:25:33,590

it was like the spring.

459

00:25:33,590 --> 00:25:36,280

Yeah, the springtime is
the time when everything

460

00:25:36,280 --> 00:25:38,290

is starting to come to life.

461

00:25:38,290 --> 00:25:43,480

That's how those years will
be always remembered by me.

462

00:25:43,480 --> 00:25:48,640

Difficult in one way, it
was very little income.

463

00:25:48,640 --> 00:25:51,250

It was very hard to find a job.

464

00:25:51,250 --> 00:25:56,360

It was very hard to
have normal living

465

00:25:56,360 --> 00:26:01,210

quarters, or any, really,
luxurious condition.

466

00:26:01,210 --> 00:26:03,640

Who had a car?

467

00:26:03,640 --> 00:26:05,430

We walked to places.

468

00:26:05,430 --> 00:26:08,200

And we never minded,
because they were all

469

00:26:08,200 --> 00:26:15,330

determined to try to
prove to us, to the world,

470

00:26:15,330 --> 00:26:20,150

and to humanity, that with
all of us we went through,

471

00:26:20,150 --> 00:26:22,500

we are back to humanity.

472

00:26:22,500 --> 00:26:27,370

And we are building back
a normal kind of a life.

473

00:26:27,370 --> 00:26:30,660

So I think that that
gave us a lot of courage,

474

00:26:30,660 --> 00:26:34,810

a lot of strength,
and a lot of hope,

475

00:26:34,810 --> 00:26:41,290

seeing that things are
getting back to normality.

476

00:26:41,290 --> 00:26:45,990

So this year that you were
teaching on the outskirts,

477

00:26:45,990 --> 00:26:48,320

you had finished school?

478

00:26:48,320 --> 00:26:53,790

I finished school two
years after I was married.

479

00:26:53,790 --> 00:26:56,270

I have a teaching more.

480
00:26:56,270 --> 00:27:01,320
I was teaching and going
to school at the same time.

481
00:27:01,320 --> 00:27:07,420
In school, was your training
elementary education?

482
00:27:07,420 --> 00:27:08,305
Elementary education.

483
00:27:08,305 --> 00:27:09,972
That's what you were
studying in school?

484
00:27:09,972 --> 00:27:13,690
I was-- yes, I always
wanted primary grades.

485
00:27:13,690 --> 00:27:20,520
And until these days, it's
40 years that I am teaching.

486
00:27:20,520 --> 00:27:21,370
So you're still--

487
00:27:21,370 --> 00:27:24,350
And always race young children.

488
00:27:24,350 --> 00:27:29,380
So you continued going to
school and finished when you

489
00:27:29,380 --> 00:27:31,120
had been married for two years.

490
00:27:31,120 --> 00:27:32,520
I had been married.

491
00:27:32,520 --> 00:27:35,470

In matter of fact,
I had been pregnant.

492
00:27:35,470 --> 00:27:37,310
And I was teaching.

493
00:27:37,310 --> 00:27:39,370
And I was going to school.

494
00:27:39,370 --> 00:27:43,195
And I continued to
go even after it.

495
00:27:43,195 --> 00:27:44,530
After you had the baby?

496
00:27:44,530 --> 00:27:46,930
After that I had the baby, yes.

497
00:27:46,930 --> 00:27:48,050
The same school?

498
00:27:48,050 --> 00:27:50,680
I went to the Hebrew
University in Jerusalem.

499
00:27:50,680 --> 00:27:54,700
I have my BA from the Hebrew
University in Jerusalem.

500
00:27:54,700 --> 00:27:57,340
So did you transfer or you
had finished one school?

501
00:27:57,340 --> 00:27:58,630
I finished one school.

502
00:27:58,630 --> 00:28:00,680
And then I started
the other school

503
00:28:00,680 --> 00:28:02,380

at the Hebrew University.

504

00:28:02,380 --> 00:28:03,580

And you got a BA there?

505

00:28:03,580 --> 00:28:05,890

A BA there, in education.

506

00:28:05,890 --> 00:28:11,470

And then, we came to this
country as exchange teachers.

507

00:28:11,470 --> 00:28:14,830

Now, your husband was
out of the army by now.

508

00:28:14,830 --> 00:28:19,720

My husband was out of
the army very shortly

509

00:28:19,720 --> 00:28:20,710

after we were married.

510

00:28:20,710 --> 00:28:23,470

511

00:28:23,470 --> 00:28:28,040

Very shortly, I was
pregnant with my first son

512

00:28:28,040 --> 00:28:30,080

when he was out of the army.

513

00:28:30,080 --> 00:28:33,520

And he went back
to his profession.

514

00:28:33,520 --> 00:28:36,460

He is a high school teacher.

515

00:28:36,460 --> 00:28:39,400

And he was back to teaching.

516
00:28:39,400 --> 00:28:41,200
And what was his subject?

517
00:28:41,200 --> 00:28:50,920
His subject was Talmud,
and Bible, and prophets.

518
00:28:50,920 --> 00:28:55,390
And we were both a
couple of teachers.

519
00:28:55,390 --> 00:28:57,370
And then came as
exchange teachers.

520
00:28:57,370 --> 00:29:00,290
Now, why did you
decide to do that?

521
00:29:00,290 --> 00:29:01,190
Teaching?

522
00:29:01,190 --> 00:29:02,890
No, to come to--

523
00:29:02,890 --> 00:29:04,080
To America?

524
00:29:04,080 --> 00:29:05,270
As exchange teachers, yes.

525
00:29:05,270 --> 00:29:09,410
Because Esther, my
sister, got married

526
00:29:09,410 --> 00:29:13,040
about a year and
a half, because I

527
00:29:13,040 --> 00:29:16,470
was in high months

of my pregnancy

528

00:29:16,470 --> 00:29:17,630
when Esther got married.

529

00:29:17,630 --> 00:29:20,330
So she got married a
year and a half, about,

530

00:29:20,330 --> 00:29:22,140
after I got married.

531

00:29:22,140 --> 00:29:25,490
She married a
rabbi from America.

532

00:29:25,490 --> 00:29:26,210
In Israel?

533

00:29:26,210 --> 00:29:26,900
In Israel.

534

00:29:26,900 --> 00:29:27,860
She met him in Israel?

535

00:29:27,860 --> 00:29:30,080
Yes, he was visiting in Israel.

536

00:29:30,080 --> 00:29:31,670
And he met her.

537

00:29:31,670 --> 00:29:33,290
And they got engaged.

538

00:29:33,290 --> 00:29:34,910
And they got married.

539

00:29:34,910 --> 00:29:40,510
And she had to wait for
papers to join him here back.

540

00:29:40,510 --> 00:29:43,660

He was a rabbi
near to Pittsburgh,

541

00:29:43,660 --> 00:29:46,200

named a place, Braddock.

542

00:29:46,200 --> 00:29:48,320

And he came-- she came out.

543

00:29:48,320 --> 00:29:52,440

And we didn't see each
other for a couple years.

544

00:29:52,440 --> 00:29:54,660

And when this
opportunity came that I

545

00:29:54,660 --> 00:29:58,770

can come to the state
as exchange teacher.

546

00:29:58,770 --> 00:30:01,740

I was very happy to
do that, because I

547

00:30:01,740 --> 00:30:03,443

wanted to see my sister.

548

00:30:03,443 --> 00:30:05,610

So you thought you would
be able to spend some time?

549

00:30:05,610 --> 00:30:06,570

Some time, yes.

550

00:30:06,570 --> 00:30:10,740

I thought we came for two years
teaching in a school named

551

00:30:10,740 --> 00:30:12,000

Yeshiva Flatbush.

552

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:16,040

One of the best Jewish day
schools in this country.

553

00:30:16,040 --> 00:30:18,000

And how many children
did you have?

554

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:20,040

I had two sons when I came.

555

00:30:20,040 --> 00:30:21,210

I came with two sons.

556

00:30:21,210 --> 00:30:25,310

They are Israeli born, my boys.

557

00:30:25,310 --> 00:30:28,955

Citizens of America,
because, after a while,

558

00:30:28,955 --> 00:30:31,310

you got your citizenship here.

559

00:30:31,310 --> 00:30:34,010

But I was able to be--

560

00:30:34,010 --> 00:30:37,340

Esther moved, at that
time, to New York.

561

00:30:37,340 --> 00:30:38,690

And I was in New York.

562

00:30:38,690 --> 00:30:42,770

And we saw each other,
almost, on a daily basis.

563

00:30:42,770 --> 00:30:44,820

And she had children.

564

00:30:44,820 --> 00:30:48,950
So the cousins played together.

565
00:30:48,950 --> 00:30:51,560
And after the two years,
we wanted to return,

566
00:30:51,560 --> 00:30:54,830
because that was the
exchange teachers.

567
00:30:54,830 --> 00:30:57,640
And we were asked, in
Allentown, Pennsylvania,

568
00:30:57,640 --> 00:31:00,740
by the school established
a couple years prior

569
00:31:00,740 --> 00:31:03,740
to our coming to this country.

570
00:31:03,740 --> 00:31:06,320
And they asked us
to help them out.

571
00:31:06,320 --> 00:31:09,780
They had problems with the
principal and the teachers.

572
00:31:09,780 --> 00:31:12,950
And they said to
us, knowing you,

573
00:31:12,950 --> 00:31:16,330
as pioneer kind of
people, who like to build

574
00:31:16,330 --> 00:31:20,860
and who want to do, could
you do this much a favor

575
00:31:20,860 --> 00:31:22,880

that you extend your stay?

576

00:31:22,880 --> 00:31:26,480

We'll make the arrangements
for you and stay at.

577

00:31:26,480 --> 00:31:30,450

Lo and behold, we stay
10 years in Allentown.

578

00:31:30,450 --> 00:31:30,950

10 years.

579

00:31:30,950 --> 00:31:34,750

10 years until we
establish that school.

580

00:31:34,750 --> 00:31:36,860

It's a flourishing school.

581

00:31:36,860 --> 00:31:38,990

We are still in
contact with people.

582

00:31:38,990 --> 00:31:42,410

It's already over
25 years that we

583

00:31:42,410 --> 00:31:46,550

left that place, more than 25.

584

00:31:46,550 --> 00:31:53,450

And we still have some people
who are in touch with us.

585

00:31:53,450 --> 00:31:56,600

And when did you decide
to stay permanently

586

00:31:56,600 --> 00:31:59,590

in the United States?

587

00:31:59,590 --> 00:32:06,500

About 27 years
ago, 30 years ago.

588

00:32:06,500 --> 00:32:09,390

How did you make that decision?

589

00:32:09,390 --> 00:32:12,160

Well, I tell you,
I love you Israel.

590

00:32:12,160 --> 00:32:16,000

But I am very thankful
to this country.

591

00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:18,610

It has been very good to us.

592

00:32:18,610 --> 00:32:24,690

And I like the education that
my children were acquiring here.

593

00:32:24,690 --> 00:32:29,150

And I felt that,
after Europe, this

594

00:32:29,150 --> 00:32:32,650

is a country that
gives a lot of freedom.

595

00:32:32,650 --> 00:32:40,210

I wouldn't go back to any
of the countries in Europe.

596

00:32:40,210 --> 00:32:44,440

I am amazed whoever
is able to live there.

597

00:32:44,440 --> 00:32:47,290

And there are people
who went back.

598

00:32:47,290 --> 00:32:54,500

But this country is
really home to me.

599
00:32:54,500 --> 00:32:57,560
You talked about
Israel as though you

600
00:32:57,560 --> 00:33:01,700
might have felt at home there.

601
00:33:01,700 --> 00:33:05,080
Israel or America,
these are the two places

602
00:33:05,080 --> 00:33:07,930
that I can see myself living.

603
00:33:07,930 --> 00:33:10,120
But that time, it
was really, mainly--

604
00:33:10,120 --> 00:33:13,120
the decision to remain
was mainly my kids

605
00:33:13,120 --> 00:33:16,140
had very good education.

606
00:33:16,140 --> 00:33:21,790
And I felt that I can
give them a University

607
00:33:21,790 --> 00:33:30,650
education here much easier
if I made the right decision.

608
00:33:30,650 --> 00:33:33,990
Thank God, I raised
four beautiful and very

609
00:33:33,990 --> 00:33:38,840
well-educated children who
contribute to the country

610
00:33:38,840 --> 00:33:41,750
as much the country
has contributed to us.

611
00:33:41,750 --> 00:33:46,060
So your children were feeling
at home here and getting

612
00:33:46,060 --> 00:33:48,200
plugged in to things.

613
00:33:48,200 --> 00:33:51,430
And it seemed that they--

614
00:33:51,430 --> 00:33:55,890
And then I went, also, I went
to Lehigh University that's

615
00:33:55,890 --> 00:33:58,500
in Bethlehem, next to Allentown.

616
00:33:58,500 --> 00:34:02,350
And I got my master's degree
in Children's Literature there.

617
00:34:02,350 --> 00:34:05,760

618
00:34:05,760 --> 00:34:10,380
It's very hard to jump from one
place again to the other place.

619
00:34:10,380 --> 00:34:12,929
We spend a lot of
time in Israel.

620
00:34:12,929 --> 00:34:16,050
We have a little
condominium in Jerusalem.

621
00:34:16,050 --> 00:34:20,929

And as much we can, we spend.

622

00:34:20,929 --> 00:34:26,520

And whenever I go, I try, there,
to be with young children.

623

00:34:26,520 --> 00:34:30,909

This whole desire of being
with children and teaching,

624

00:34:30,909 --> 00:34:34,860

I think it comes from the time
when we're in the cattle car,

625

00:34:34,860 --> 00:34:38,489

going towards Auschwitz, and
the crying, in the night,

626

00:34:38,489 --> 00:34:41,520

of the children, which is
still ringing in my ear.

627

00:34:41,520 --> 00:34:45,080

628

00:34:45,080 --> 00:34:47,000

I was very young.

629

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:49,310

But yet, there were
younger children who

630

00:34:49,310 --> 00:34:51,239

unfortunately never made it.

631

00:34:51,239 --> 00:34:53,880

I tried to sing to them.

632

00:34:53,880 --> 00:34:56,210

I remembered a lot of stories.

633

00:34:56,210 --> 00:35:02,000

Our house was-- mama
was into poetry.

634
00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:05,690
And my father was always
reading to us in the evening,

635
00:35:05,690 --> 00:35:08,630
or walking with us near
to the bank of the river,

636
00:35:08,630 --> 00:35:10,940
he would always tell us stories.

637
00:35:10,940 --> 00:35:14,150
So I used the stories
and calmed the children.

638
00:35:14,150 --> 00:35:19,520
And they all took to me during
that trip of a few days.

639
00:35:19,520 --> 00:35:24,140
And at that time, I somehow,
it's not that I made a oath.

640
00:35:24,140 --> 00:35:27,140
But it went through my
mind that maybe one day,

641
00:35:27,140 --> 00:35:28,700
that would be my profession.

642
00:35:28,700 --> 00:35:32,990
Even my parents encouraged
that I go into medicine.

643
00:35:32,990 --> 00:35:36,360
But maybe that would
be better for me.

644
00:35:36,360 --> 00:35:39,860
So when I came back

from the war, I started.

645

00:35:39,860 --> 00:35:44,120

I always have been
tutoring younger children

646

00:35:44,120 --> 00:35:48,830

or helping the ones that
needed in a certain area.

647

00:35:48,830 --> 00:35:52,040

And it came to me very
naturally to go into.

648

00:35:52,040 --> 00:35:53,690

Seem to fit.

649

00:35:53,690 --> 00:35:55,590

We have to turn over the tape.

650

00:35:55,590 --> 00:36:02,950

651

00:36:02,950 --> 00:36:07,850

So teaching has always been an
important part of your life.

652

00:36:07,850 --> 00:36:12,160

And you go back to the time
when you were in the cattle

653

00:36:12,160 --> 00:36:14,544

car with the children.

654

00:36:14,544 --> 00:36:17,370

655

00:36:17,370 --> 00:36:21,890

You've been teaching for
most of your life, I gather.

656

00:36:21,890 --> 00:36:23,100

Is that right?

657

00:36:23,100 --> 00:36:24,150

That's very right.

658

00:36:24,150 --> 00:36:26,490

I am teaching most of my life.

659

00:36:26,490 --> 00:36:29,360

And I hope to continue
for many years.

660

00:36:29,360 --> 00:36:33,300

And what I like that I
want to give to my students

661

00:36:33,300 --> 00:36:37,570

not only knowledge,
but strength,

662

00:36:37,570 --> 00:36:44,480

and hope, and stamina,
and just to teach them

663

00:36:44,480 --> 00:36:47,930

that they should cherish,
always, the positive

664

00:36:47,930 --> 00:36:51,030

and not to dwell
on the negative.

665

00:36:51,030 --> 00:36:54,350

And I think that comes from
my experience as a Holocaust

666

00:36:54,350 --> 00:36:55,880

survivor.

667

00:36:55,880 --> 00:37:01,300

And to tell them the
story on their own level.

668

00:37:01,300 --> 00:37:05,680

Well, I think you have
lots more to tell us.

669

00:37:05,680 --> 00:37:08,290

I think we will
conclude this interview.

670

00:37:08,290 --> 00:37:11,410

And then we'll pick
up on another day

671

00:37:11,410 --> 00:37:13,210

with more of your story.

672

00:37:13,210 --> 00:37:16,180

Thank you very much, Mrs.
Munch, for giving your testimony

673

00:37:16,180 --> 00:37:17,670

today.

674

00:37:17,670 --> 00:37:18,820

You're very welcome.

675

00:37:18,820 --> 00:37:23,500

And I'm looking forward being
with you again and tell as much

676

00:37:23,500 --> 00:37:27,730

I can for the future
generation to know.

677

00:37:27,730 --> 00:37:31,420

This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

678

00:37:31,420 --> 00:37:34,410

interview with Yaffa Munch.

679

00:37:34,410 --> 00:37:36,000