

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,480  
This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

2  
00:00:03,480 --> 00:00:07,050  
interview with Rachel  
Goldfarb conducted

3  
00:00:07,050 --> 00:00:11,100  
by Margaret Garrett  
on May 20, 1997,

4  
00:00:11,100 --> 00:00:16,860  
in Silver Spring, Maryland,  
tape two, side one.

5  
00:00:16,860 --> 00:00:21,870  
Mrs. Goldfarb, you were  
talking about the school

6  
00:00:21,870 --> 00:00:24,420  
and being put--

7  
00:00:24,420 --> 00:00:26,040  
moved up from the  
elementary school

8  
00:00:26,040 --> 00:00:28,433  
to the junior high school,  
and working very hard

9  
00:00:28,433 --> 00:00:29,100  
on your English.

10  
00:00:29,100 --> 00:00:31,980

11  
00:00:31,980 --> 00:00:34,320  
My homeroom teacher  
was a Jewish woman

12

00:00:34,320 --> 00:00:36,810  
whose mother spoke Yiddish.

13  
00:00:36,810 --> 00:00:40,830  
So that-- she was-- the reason  
I was put in her homeroom

14  
00:00:40,830 --> 00:00:43,560  
is because she said  
that she could help me,

15  
00:00:43,560 --> 00:00:47,160  
that her mother could translate  
some things for me if they

16  
00:00:47,160 --> 00:00:56,150  
became too difficult. And  
also, my English period

17  
00:00:56,150 --> 00:01:00,060  
instructress was a woman  
who lost her husband and two

18  
00:01:00,060 --> 00:01:05,580  
sons in the Second  
World War, and was very

19  
00:01:05,580 --> 00:01:10,425  
sympathetic to my problems.

20  
00:01:10,425 --> 00:01:12,990

21  
00:01:12,990 --> 00:01:16,380  
This woman really  
took me in hand.

22  
00:01:16,380 --> 00:01:19,890  
She would meet me every day  
a half hour earlier prior--

23  
00:01:19,890 --> 00:01:23,640  
before classes and

would instruct me

24  
00:01:23,640 --> 00:01:27,847  
in sentence structure  
and grammar.

25  
00:01:27,847 --> 00:01:28,930  
I think she was probably--

26  
00:01:28,930 --> 00:01:30,597  
And this was just  
voluntary on her part?

27  
00:01:30,597 --> 00:01:31,110  
Voluntary.

28  
00:01:31,110 --> 00:01:32,560  
I was the first--

29  
00:01:32,560 --> 00:01:37,140  
I was the only foreign  
student in that school.

30  
00:01:37,140 --> 00:01:39,930  
And whether they were  
impressed with the fact

31  
00:01:39,930 --> 00:01:42,000  
that I wanted to learn--

32  
00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:44,320  
and later on,  
working as a teacher,

33  
00:01:44,320 --> 00:01:47,340  
I think it's always an  
incentive to help if you feel

34  
00:01:47,340 --> 00:01:49,710  
that the student is willing.

35  
00:01:49,710 --> 00:01:54,170

And also, the fact that she had compassion.

36  
00:01:54,170 --> 00:01:56,430  
That's the best way I can put it.

37  
00:01:56,430 --> 00:01:58,890  
Between these two women, really, they

38  
00:01:58,890 --> 00:02:01,870  
set me on a course of study.

39  
00:02:01,870 --> 00:02:05,610  
But not just on a course of study, but also

40  
00:02:05,610 --> 00:02:07,290  
with the desire to excel.

41  
00:02:07,290 --> 00:02:09,420  
I couldn't let them down-- forget myself.

42  
00:02:09,420 --> 00:02:12,180

43  
00:02:12,180 --> 00:02:15,320  
Most of the kids were pretty kind, even though I was two--

44  
00:02:15,320 --> 00:02:17,700  
was at that point, I was about three years older

45  
00:02:17,700 --> 00:02:18,330  
than they were.

46  
00:02:18,330 --> 00:02:21,510

47

00:02:21,510 --> 00:02:26,490

I didn't-- I kind of  
fell in with everybody.

48

00:02:26,490 --> 00:02:32,500

And they were trying to  
make me feel comfortable.

49

00:02:32,500 --> 00:02:35,080

Also, they tried to  
include me in everything.

50

00:02:35,080 --> 00:02:37,420

I must say that my cousin--

51

00:02:37,420 --> 00:02:39,220

my cousin kind of felt  
like I was a drag,

52

00:02:39,220 --> 00:02:40,810

a noose around her neck.

53

00:02:40,810 --> 00:02:43,090

Now, you were 17, 18?

54

00:02:43,090 --> 00:02:44,710

I was at that point-- no.

55

00:02:44,710 --> 00:02:46,360

I was born in December.

56

00:02:46,360 --> 00:02:51,010

So like 1947, the end of  
'47, I was just turning 17.

57

00:02:51,010 --> 00:02:51,968

And they were about 14?

58

00:02:51,968 --> 00:02:54,427

They were about 14, [CROSSTALK]  
beginning in [? January. ?]

59

00:02:54,427 --> 00:02:55,450  
Such a big difference.

60  
00:02:55,450 --> 00:02:56,980  
It's a big difference  
in maturity.

61  
00:02:56,980 --> 00:02:59,380  
But then again, I was immature.

62  
00:02:59,380 --> 00:03:02,680  
I mean, like I told  
you, I was dancing--

63  
00:03:02,680 --> 00:03:05,200  
at the age of 14, I was  
dancing with-- now I

64  
00:03:05,200 --> 00:03:07,030  
think of them as men  
of 20, and I never

65  
00:03:07,030 --> 00:03:11,650  
thought of anything being  
unusual, and being friends

66  
00:03:11,650 --> 00:03:14,720  
with them, and going to  
movies, and to the opera

67  
00:03:14,720 --> 00:03:17,010  
or whatever with  
them, and swimming.

68  
00:03:17,010 --> 00:03:21,190  
Never dawned on me  
that you had to beware

69  
00:03:21,190 --> 00:03:22,390  
or be afraid of something.

70  
00:03:22,390 --> 00:03:23,730  
I guess I didn't know much.

71  
00:03:23,730 --> 00:03:27,340

72  
00:03:27,340 --> 00:03:29,200  
My cousin really  
in a way, I think,

73  
00:03:29,200 --> 00:03:36,070  
resented the fact that  
I was thrust upon her.

74  
00:03:36,070 --> 00:03:42,280  
And I tried in every  
way possible not

75  
00:03:42,280 --> 00:03:47,260  
to hang on, because I realized  
then and there that it's not

76  
00:03:47,260 --> 00:03:49,150  
good for me or for her.

77  
00:03:49,150 --> 00:03:54,730  
But I found that a lot of her  
friends have taken compassion

78  
00:03:54,730 --> 00:03:57,650  
and included me in  
a lot of things.

79  
00:03:57,650 --> 00:04:00,280  
And then again,  
really, I think I--

80  
00:04:00,280 --> 00:04:03,550  
the way I handled it is  
I made fun of myself.

81  
00:04:03,550 --> 00:04:08,440  
Gym was one of the things that  
I guess that was funny to me.

82

00:04:08,440 --> 00:04:12,430

It was painful, but I made  
it out to be a big joke.

83

00:04:12,430 --> 00:04:13,150

We had gym.

84

00:04:13,150 --> 00:04:16,630

We had to dress for gym and  
go out and play baseball.

85

00:04:16,630 --> 00:04:18,519

I didn't even know  
what baseball was.

86

00:04:18,519 --> 00:04:19,839

I didn't know what a bat was.

87

00:04:19,839 --> 00:04:22,180

I didn't know the  
rules of the game.

88

00:04:22,180 --> 00:04:26,650

And they told me to get up  
there and try to hit the ball.

89

00:04:26,650 --> 00:04:28,820

Nobody showed you  
how to hit the ball?

90

00:04:28,820 --> 00:04:29,320

No.

91

00:04:29,320 --> 00:04:30,820

I mean, do what  
everybody else does.

92

00:04:30,820 --> 00:04:32,980

Remember, I was the  
first one in there.

93

00:04:32,980 --> 00:04:34,675



And I stood up there.

94

00:04:34,675 --> 00:04:36,340

The ball was thrown.

95

00:04:36,340 --> 00:04:38,140

What do I do with it?

96

00:04:38,140 --> 00:04:39,880

Well, they told  
me to swing at it.

97

00:04:39,880 --> 00:04:42,393

So I swung, and I swung  
so hard I hit myself

98

00:04:42,393 --> 00:04:43,810

in the back and  
everybody laughed,

99

00:04:43,810 --> 00:04:45,245

so I laughed along with them.

100

00:04:45,245 --> 00:04:47,620

I mean, there's no better  
laughter, laughing at yourself.

101

00:04:47,620 --> 00:04:49,210

[PHONE RINGING]

102

00:04:49,210 --> 00:04:50,610

And-- my husband can take it.

103

00:04:50,610 --> 00:04:50,800

Is that your telephone?

104

00:04:50,800 --> 00:04:51,758

My husband can take it.

105

00:04:51,758 --> 00:04:53,062

OK.

106

00:04:53,062 --> 00:04:56,520  
[PHONE RINGING]

107

00:04:56,520 --> 00:05:01,220

108

00:05:01,220 --> 00:05:03,350  
Took him a while.

109

00:05:03,350 --> 00:05:08,280  
Anyway, so I found that that was  
one way of getting along well.

110

00:05:08,280 --> 00:05:15,950  
And if anybody made fun, I kind  
of kidded along and did not

111

00:05:15,950 --> 00:05:17,130  
make much out of it.

112

00:05:17,130 --> 00:05:21,710  
So I guess that's in one  
way I'm not sensitive.

113

00:05:21,710 --> 00:05:24,320  
I had to overcome  
the sensitivities.

114

00:05:24,320 --> 00:05:29,180  
But I did work with the teachers  
that were giving me help.

115

00:05:29,180 --> 00:05:31,010  
Shakespeare was awful.

116

00:05:31,010 --> 00:05:34,250  
Julius Caesar was  
presented at that time,

117

00:05:34,250 --> 00:05:37,700  
and I was nicknamed  
"Shakespeare in Yiddish"

118  
00:05:37,700 --> 00:05:42,230  
by this woman who did the  
translation for me, because I--

119  
00:05:42,230 --> 00:05:44,810  
there was no way I  
could understand it.

120  
00:05:44,810 --> 00:05:46,520  
And fortunately,  
she was willing.

121  
00:05:46,520 --> 00:05:51,110

122  
00:05:51,110 --> 00:05:52,970  
I went to summer school--

123  
00:05:52,970 --> 00:05:55,140  
finished that semester,  
went to summer school.

124  
00:05:55,140 --> 00:05:56,900  
And my mother got  
a job in New York.

125  
00:05:56,900 --> 00:05:58,640  
She couldn't get work here.

126  
00:05:58,640 --> 00:06:00,290  
And we moved to New York.

127  
00:06:00,290 --> 00:06:01,790  
Now--

128  
00:06:01,790 --> 00:06:05,120  
That was in June.

129  
00:06:05,120 --> 00:06:07,940  
My mother moved in June of '48.

130

00:06:07,940 --> 00:06:09,920

So she had not found a job.

131

00:06:09,920 --> 00:06:12,200

And she did find  
something in New York?

132

00:06:12,200 --> 00:06:13,170

In New York, yeah.

133

00:06:13,170 --> 00:06:16,490

There were the shops, sewing--

134

00:06:16,490 --> 00:06:18,230

garment industry.

135

00:06:18,230 --> 00:06:20,120

And she found a job there.

136

00:06:20,120 --> 00:06:21,120

In the garment industry.

137

00:06:21,120 --> 00:06:22,050

In the garment industry.

138

00:06:22,050 --> 00:06:24,133

It was extremely difficult  
to get living quarters.

139

00:06:24,133 --> 00:06:27,710

140

00:06:27,710 --> 00:06:31,460

Some of the family, my  
uncle and some other members

141

00:06:31,460 --> 00:06:34,700

of my father's family-- my  
mother had very little family.

142

00:06:34,700 --> 00:06:36,530

She had one uncle  
who was childless

143  
00:06:36,530 --> 00:06:40,220  
and didn't have much to  
offer or much to share.

144  
00:06:40,220 --> 00:06:42,770  
And he was married to a  
woman that I could not

145  
00:06:42,770 --> 00:06:45,980  
see helping anybody.

146  
00:06:45,980 --> 00:06:50,720  
But on my father's side, there  
were some cousins in New York,

147  
00:06:50,720 --> 00:06:57,350  
and they helped out and managed  
to locate an apartment for us.

148  
00:06:57,350 --> 00:06:59,045  
It was over a pub.

149  
00:06:59,045 --> 00:07:00,710  
You talk about scared, you know?

150  
00:07:00,710 --> 00:07:02,210  
[INAUDIBLE] that  
was the only place

151  
00:07:02,210 --> 00:07:03,627  
I was scared to  
come home at night

152  
00:07:03,627 --> 00:07:06,170  
Because there were some drunks.

153  
00:07:06,170 --> 00:07:09,080  
And most of my work  
was in the library.

154

00:07:09,080 --> 00:07:09,770

I had no books.

155

00:07:09,770 --> 00:07:13,412

I had absolutely nothing  
other than the textbook.

156

00:07:13,412 --> 00:07:15,620

Now, were you in public  
school or in a Hebrew school?

157

00:07:15,620 --> 00:07:16,640

I was in public school.

158

00:07:16,640 --> 00:07:17,140

No.

159

00:07:17,140 --> 00:07:19,890

Once I entered junior  
high, it was public school.

160

00:07:19,890 --> 00:07:22,255

But what I did was  
manage in that semester--

161

00:07:22,255 --> 00:07:23,120

Oh, excuse me.

162

00:07:23,120 --> 00:07:25,530

In Washington, when you  
moved up from the elementary,

163

00:07:25,530 --> 00:07:26,390

you went to public school?

164

00:07:26,390 --> 00:07:26,750

Yes.

165

00:07:26,750 --> 00:07:27,458

I went to public.

166

00:07:27,458 --> 00:07:29,190

Oh, that was not in  
the Hebrew school?

167

00:07:29,190 --> 00:07:29,420

No.

168

00:07:29,420 --> 00:07:29,920

No, no.

169

00:07:29,920 --> 00:07:32,690

That was the junior high school,  
public junior high school,

170

00:07:32,690 --> 00:07:33,960

Eastern Junior High School.

171

00:07:33,960 --> 00:07:35,000

OK.

172

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:42,020

And then during the summer,  
I went to summer school

173

00:07:42,020 --> 00:07:45,650

and take mostly  
required subjects.

174

00:07:45,650 --> 00:07:48,180

English was the most part.

175

00:07:48,180 --> 00:07:49,580

The math I had no problem with.

176

00:07:49,580 --> 00:07:51,770

I was probably advanced in math.

177

00:07:51,770 --> 00:07:53,720

History, I had no problem with.

178

00:07:53,720 --> 00:07:56,120

Civics, I had to master.

179  
00:07:56,120 --> 00:07:58,500  
And I made some  
friends by that time,

180  
00:07:58,500 --> 00:08:04,970  
and I was coached through  
Civics during the summer.

181  
00:08:04,970 --> 00:08:08,810  
So by fall semester,  
I was preparing

182  
00:08:08,810 --> 00:08:11,660  
myself to enter high school.

183  
00:08:11,660 --> 00:08:15,800  
And I mean, I was still younger  
than the students there,

184  
00:08:15,800 --> 00:08:19,520  
but I was closer in age.

185  
00:08:19,520 --> 00:08:21,710  
And since my mother  
lived in New York,

186  
00:08:21,710 --> 00:08:24,950  
I had to enroll in  
school in New York.

187  
00:08:24,950 --> 00:08:28,100  
The first school I went to  
that was in the district

188  
00:08:28,100 --> 00:08:30,950  
where I lived, the  
principal told me

189  
00:08:30,950 --> 00:08:33,840  
that most of the students  
drop out at the age of 18.



190

00:08:33,840 --> 00:08:36,380

So he didn't see any reason  
to enroll me because I

191

00:08:36,380 --> 00:08:38,990

would turn 18 in six months.

192

00:08:38,990 --> 00:08:43,730

And the school was  
very rough, he says.

193

00:08:43,730 --> 00:08:45,740

You'll never be able  
to keep your lunch.

194

00:08:45,740 --> 00:08:47,420

It will be stolen from you.

195

00:08:47,420 --> 00:08:51,840

And you've got to beware  
of knives and so forth.

196

00:08:51,840 --> 00:08:53,210

And that was 1948.

197

00:08:53,210 --> 00:08:56,120

I mean, this wasn't today.

198

00:08:56,120 --> 00:08:56,690

So--

199

00:08:56,690 --> 00:08:57,980

Where was the school?

200

00:08:57,980 --> 00:09:01,160

The school was in  
Brooklyn, in east actually.

201

00:09:01,160 --> 00:09:05,360

East New York was  
the area there.

202

00:09:05,360 --> 00:09:09,860

But my father's cousin's  
daughter who was my age

203

00:09:09,860 --> 00:09:11,060

said, come on.

204

00:09:11,060 --> 00:09:13,100

She just graduated  
high school, actually.

205

00:09:13,100 --> 00:09:14,660

She was starting college--

206

00:09:14,660 --> 00:09:15,440

Hunter College.

207

00:09:15,440 --> 00:09:17,270

I remember that.

208

00:09:17,270 --> 00:09:19,040

She says, come on with me.

209

00:09:19,040 --> 00:09:21,980

The principal at the other  
school is a very kind man.

210

00:09:21,980 --> 00:09:22,850

He's a Jewish man.

211

00:09:22,850 --> 00:09:25,260

He'll understand your situation.

212

00:09:25,260 --> 00:09:27,410

We went there, and  
she immediately

213

00:09:27,410 --> 00:09:29,360

made me two years younger.

214

00:09:29,360 --> 00:09:31,760

She says, you were  
born in 1932, and don't

215  
00:09:31,760 --> 00:09:34,170  
let anybody tell you otherwise.

216  
00:09:34,170 --> 00:09:36,560  
Because if they  
say that whatever

217  
00:09:36,560 --> 00:09:39,500  
documents I had said  
1930, just say in order

218  
00:09:39,500 --> 00:09:42,560  
to come to the United  
States, in order to survive,

219  
00:09:42,560 --> 00:09:47,590  
you had to higher your  
age, because otherwise,

220  
00:09:47,590 --> 00:09:48,590  
you wouldn't have been--

221  
00:09:48,590 --> 00:09:49,790  
you wouldn't have survived.

222  
00:09:49,790 --> 00:09:51,320  
But your true age--

223  
00:09:51,320 --> 00:09:53,046  
you were truly born in 1932.

224  
00:09:53,046 --> 00:09:54,270  
And we had no documents.

225  
00:09:54,270 --> 00:09:56,630  
There was no way they  
could get documents.

226  
00:09:56,630 --> 00:09:57,860

That'll get me into school.

227

00:09:57,860 --> 00:09:59,220

That was fine.

228

00:09:59,220 --> 00:10:05,390

So we went, and I was enrolled  
in high school from her home.

229

00:10:05,390 --> 00:10:08,630

So I had to stay  
partially over there

230

00:10:08,630 --> 00:10:10,610

in order to qualify to be--

231

00:10:10,610 --> 00:10:12,290

well, I was happy to be allowed.

232

00:10:12,290 --> 00:10:15,320

But again, I was partially  
separated from my mother.

233

00:10:15,320 --> 00:10:18,980

234

00:10:18,980 --> 00:10:26,720

High school, of course, was  
a different set of rules.

235

00:10:26,720 --> 00:10:30,940

And my English was  
not up to par yet.

236

00:10:30,940 --> 00:10:35,750

I was pretty good  
in understanding it.

237

00:10:35,750 --> 00:10:39,830

I had no problem reading  
it, no problem writing it.

238

00:10:39,830 --> 00:10:43,550  
But my pronunciation  
was terrible.

239  
00:10:43,550 --> 00:10:45,560  
And again, I was in luck.

240  
00:10:45,560 --> 00:10:50,240  
I was assigned to a  
woman who was actually

241  
00:10:50,240 --> 00:10:54,290  
of German birth, Ray Reed.

242  
00:10:54,290 --> 00:10:57,930  
And the first thing  
she told me, she says,

243  
00:10:57,930 --> 00:11:00,230  
I don't want you to come  
as a surprise to you,

244  
00:11:00,230 --> 00:11:03,290  
but I was born in Germany.

245  
00:11:03,290 --> 00:11:06,410  
My parents brought  
me here as a child.

246  
00:11:06,410 --> 00:11:09,620  
But my sympathies are with  
you, and not with the Germans.

247  
00:11:09,620 --> 00:11:15,245  
And really, I think she has  
helped me overcome the first--

248  
00:11:15,245 --> 00:11:18,140

249  
00:11:18,140 --> 00:11:21,260  
how should I put it--

250

00:11:21,260 --> 00:11:26,870

helped to overcome the  
difference in people.

251

00:11:26,870 --> 00:11:30,050

Not thinking whenever  
I thought of Germans,

252

00:11:30,050 --> 00:11:32,210

the only thing I could  
think of is the Holocaust

253

00:11:32,210 --> 00:11:34,130

and what I've gone through--

254

00:11:34,130 --> 00:11:36,710

start thinking of  
people as individuals,

255

00:11:36,710 --> 00:11:42,260

and assessing them for their own  
nature and their own feelings

256

00:11:42,260 --> 00:11:45,500

and their own everything.

257

00:11:45,500 --> 00:11:47,360

You'll recall that I  
said, we came to Italy

258

00:11:47,360 --> 00:11:50,600

and felt real warmth  
from the people.

259

00:11:50,600 --> 00:11:53,430

And I think that helped me  
here in the United States,

260

00:11:53,430 --> 00:11:57,830

too, is to have her as  
my guidance counselor.

261

00:11:57,830 --> 00:11:59,570  
And the principal was Jewish.

262  
00:11:59,570 --> 00:12:03,380  
I quickly identified with  
him, needless to say.

263  
00:12:03,380 --> 00:12:07,310  
But she helped me to  
look at things a little

264  
00:12:07,310 --> 00:12:09,440  
differently, too.

265  
00:12:09,440 --> 00:12:15,360  
And she found two Jewish  
teachers who were--

266  
00:12:15,360 --> 00:12:19,220  
their specialty was  
speech and elocution,

267  
00:12:19,220 --> 00:12:22,100  
and to get them to help  
me, again, after school.

268  
00:12:22,100 --> 00:12:24,720  
I used to have  
special instructions.

269  
00:12:24,720 --> 00:12:25,620  
Voluntary?

270  
00:12:25,620 --> 00:12:26,530  
Voluntary.

271  
00:12:26,530 --> 00:12:29,720

272  
00:12:29,720 --> 00:12:34,520  
They were men up in age that  
were called back, I guess,

273

00:12:34,520 --> 00:12:37,490

into the teaching  
profession because there

274

00:12:37,490 --> 00:12:39,890

was a shortage of young  
teachers due to the fact

275

00:12:39,890 --> 00:12:44,570

that a lot of the young  
men were in the service.

276

00:12:44,570 --> 00:12:52,670

And they were kindly gentleman  
who made me practice in front

277

00:12:52,670 --> 00:13:00,950

of the mirror to make sure that  
my T-H's and my R's and my L's,

278

00:13:00,950 --> 00:13:02,330

which were--

279

00:13:02,330 --> 00:13:06,200

the Polish "L" was  
pronounced "ELL..W,"

280

00:13:06,200 --> 00:13:09,410

very difficult to overcome--

281

00:13:09,410 --> 00:13:13,490

to, what they called it,  
learn to speak properly.

282

00:13:13,490 --> 00:13:18,730

283

00:13:18,730 --> 00:13:24,640

I found that the  
students were helpful.

284

00:13:24,640 --> 00:13:29,800



Again, I made everybody laugh  
along with me at myself.

285  
00:13:29,800 --> 00:13:33,460  
I didn't know the first  
thing about football.

286  
00:13:33,460 --> 00:13:36,610  
I knew nothing about baseball.

287  
00:13:36,610 --> 00:13:38,420  
I knew nothing about basketball.

288  
00:13:38,420 --> 00:13:41,050  
And one of the  
criteria to pass gym

289  
00:13:41,050 --> 00:13:43,900  
was that you had to  
understand each game.

290  
00:13:43,900 --> 00:13:47,730  
And these kids really were  
wonderful at helping me.

291  
00:13:47,730 --> 00:13:49,960  
Of course, I was able to  
help them in swimming.

292  
00:13:49,960 --> 00:13:51,990  
We also had to pass  
the lifesaving test.

293  
00:13:51,990 --> 00:13:54,820  
There was a swimming  
pool in the high school.

294  
00:13:54,820 --> 00:13:57,930

295  
00:13:57,930 --> 00:14:01,950  
I was good at math, so  
I helped them in math.

296  
00:14:01,950 --> 00:14:07,050  
In order to get my English  
requirement, the school had--

297  
00:14:07,050 --> 00:14:08,740  
one of the foreign  
languages was Hebrew.

298  
00:14:08,740 --> 00:14:11,610  
I couldn't bring myself  
to do the German--

299  
00:14:11,610 --> 00:14:14,340  
probably could have  
passed it in German, too.

300  
00:14:14,340 --> 00:14:17,820  
But I took the  
Regents in Hebrew,

301  
00:14:17,820 --> 00:14:22,680  
so that gave me the language  
requirement for graduation.

302  
00:14:22,680 --> 00:14:26,010  
European history-- I just took,  
again, the Regents examination.

303  
00:14:26,010 --> 00:14:29,040  
I didn't-- just needed  
a little bit of review.

304  
00:14:29,040 --> 00:14:31,380  
American history, I had to take.

305  
00:14:31,380 --> 00:14:33,660  
I filled in with the  
subject that I needed.

306  
00:14:33,660 --> 00:14:37,710  
I taught myself typing, so I  
got credit for that, to get my,

307  
00:14:37,710 --> 00:14:40,740  
I think it was 32  
credits we needed.

308  
00:14:40,740 --> 00:14:44,140  
So I did what I could on my own.

309  
00:14:44,140 --> 00:14:44,834  
I also worked.

310  
00:14:44,834 --> 00:14:46,334  
I worked a 30-hour  
week, in addition

311  
00:14:46,334 --> 00:14:47,334  
to going to high school.

312  
00:14:47,334 --> 00:14:49,080  
What did you do?

313  
00:14:49,080 --> 00:15:00,270  
When I first came to New York, I  
got a job painting piggy banks.

314  
00:15:00,270 --> 00:15:03,540  
You know, the penny  
piggy banks that

315  
00:15:03,540 --> 00:15:06,840  
stood up with a slot in there.

316  
00:15:06,840 --> 00:15:08,220  
I did those.

317  
00:15:08,220 --> 00:15:10,920  
I knew how to use a  
brush from my childhood

318  
00:15:10,920 --> 00:15:13,590  
because I had some  
painting lessons.

319  
00:15:13,590 --> 00:15:17,340  
And I transferred into a  
profession sort of, to speak.

320  
00:15:17,340 --> 00:15:18,990  
30 hours is a lot.

321  
00:15:18,990 --> 00:15:21,450  
No, I didn't start  
out working 30 hours.

322  
00:15:21,450 --> 00:15:26,550  
I started out-- we  
were on split session.

323  
00:15:26,550 --> 00:15:30,780  
School was [COUGHS]----  
excuse me--

324  
00:15:30,780 --> 00:15:35,745  
from 12:00 to-- from 8:00  
to 1:00 and 12:00 to 6:00.

325  
00:15:35,745 --> 00:15:38,260

326  
00:15:38,260 --> 00:15:43,990  
And I was first put  
in the later session.

327  
00:15:43,990 --> 00:15:45,580  
Everybody wanted  
the early session.

328  
00:15:45,580 --> 00:15:49,180  
So I took whatever  
was given to me.

329  
00:15:49,180 --> 00:15:51,700  
And I worked from  
7:00 in the morning

330

00:15:51,700 --> 00:15:54,370  
till 11:00, four hours  
a day, five days a week,

331

00:15:54,370 --> 00:16:00,790  
so it was 20 hours, and  
went to school afterwards.

332

00:16:00,790 --> 00:16:03,470

333

00:16:03,470 --> 00:16:10,320  
As soon as I finished my  
first year in high school,

334

00:16:10,320 --> 00:16:15,470  
I had gained enough knowledge  
that I was able to get a job.

335

00:16:15,470 --> 00:16:17,690  
I got a job with  
Miles Shoes working

336

00:16:17,690 --> 00:16:23,450  
as a cashier in one of their  
stores and do the books.

337

00:16:23,450 --> 00:16:30,230  
And actually, it was just  
for the summer to start with.

338

00:16:30,230 --> 00:16:34,010  
But the manager liked me,  
and even permitted me--

339

00:16:34,010 --> 00:16:39,530  
I worked from 6:00  
to 10:00 every night,

340

00:16:39,530 --> 00:16:41,300  
and then I worked  
on the weekends.

341

00:16:41,300 --> 00:16:45,470

Was that hard for you  
to do that much work

342

00:16:45,470 --> 00:16:49,360

and keep up with  
your schoolwork?

343

00:16:49,360 --> 00:16:50,530

I managed it, though.

344

00:16:50,530 --> 00:16:53,050

I don't even remember  
thinking of it as being hard.

345

00:16:53,050 --> 00:16:55,690

I even managed sometime to  
go out and have fun, too.

346

00:16:55,690 --> 00:16:58,000

I was going to ask you  
whether you had a social life

347

00:16:58,000 --> 00:16:58,840

outside of school.

348

00:16:58,840 --> 00:17:01,090

Yes, I did.

349

00:17:01,090 --> 00:17:03,850

350

00:17:03,850 --> 00:17:08,380

I met some people  
that had been in Bari,

351

00:17:08,380 --> 00:17:14,488

in this last place in Italy,  
because all of them were

352

00:17:14,488 --> 00:17:16,030

waiting to come to

the United States,

353

00:17:16,030 --> 00:17:18,910  
and a great many came to  
New York-- where else--

354

00:17:18,910 --> 00:17:25,720  
and somehow kind of  
got together again.

355

00:17:25,720 --> 00:17:27,880  
I don't even remember how.

356

00:17:27,880 --> 00:17:29,380  
Because this friend  
that I told you,

357

00:17:29,380 --> 00:17:36,455  
when his brother sent him money,  
and he kind of gave everybody

358

00:17:36,455 --> 00:17:36,955  
a share--

359

00:17:36,955 --> 00:17:39,580

360

00:17:39,580 --> 00:17:41,440  
met up with him again.

361

00:17:41,440 --> 00:17:45,130  
And again, through-- I  
ran into one of the girls

362

00:17:45,130 --> 00:17:49,840  
that I knew in camp, and she  
came to the United States, too.

363

00:17:49,840 --> 00:17:51,370  
But she came  
directly to New York,

364

00:17:51,370 --> 00:17:53,710  
and she went to  
Americanization school

365  
00:17:53,710 --> 00:17:56,710  
where all the foreigners  
went to learn English.

366  
00:17:56,710 --> 00:17:59,350  
So she had contact  
with these people.

367  
00:17:59,350 --> 00:18:04,090  
And through her, I  
met the rest of them,

368  
00:18:04,090 --> 00:18:09,047  
and probably kept more  
company with that group

369  
00:18:09,047 --> 00:18:10,630  
than I did with the  
high school group.

370  
00:18:10,630 --> 00:18:12,460  
I sort of-- half and half.

371  
00:18:12,460 --> 00:18:15,370  
Did you feel more  
comfortable with people

372  
00:18:15,370 --> 00:18:17,123  
who were Jewish  
refugees like you

373  
00:18:17,123 --> 00:18:18,790  
than you did with the  
high school girls?

374  
00:18:18,790 --> 00:18:20,260  
Yes, definitely.

375  
00:18:20,260 --> 00:18:20,800



Definitely.

376  
00:18:20,800 --> 00:18:23,073  
In the first place,  
the high school--

377  
00:18:23,073 --> 00:18:23,990  
they were all younger.

378  
00:18:23,990 --> 00:18:28,960  
Their values, their attitudes,  
their approach to life

379  
00:18:28,960 --> 00:18:31,550  
was completely  
different than mine.

380  
00:18:31,550 --> 00:18:33,370  
And I felt more  
comfortable with the people

381  
00:18:33,370 --> 00:18:36,110  
that have gone through  
the same experiences.

382  
00:18:36,110 --> 00:18:38,380  
And nobody wanted to hear  
about my experiences.

383  
00:18:38,380 --> 00:18:40,390  
Nobody wanted to know  
about my experiences

384  
00:18:40,390 --> 00:18:41,450  
or how it affected me.

385  
00:18:41,450 --> 00:18:47,470  
So needless to say, comfort  
comes from different ways.

386  
00:18:47,470 --> 00:18:48,650  
School was fine.

387

00:18:48,650 --> 00:18:50,612

And I pledged for whatever  
there was to pledge,

388

00:18:50,612 --> 00:18:52,570

even though I thought it  
was silly or whatever.

389

00:18:52,570 --> 00:18:53,390

But I wanted to be--

390

00:18:53,390 --> 00:18:54,473

What do you mean, pledged?

391

00:18:54,473 --> 00:18:56,140

Oh, there was the Honor Society.

392

00:18:56,140 --> 00:18:57,130

And in order to--

393

00:18:57,130 --> 00:19:00,250

since I was accepted  
into the Honor Society,

394

00:19:00,250 --> 00:19:03,850

my grades were good  
enough, you had to pledge

395

00:19:03,850 --> 00:19:05,080

for the different clubs.

396

00:19:05,080 --> 00:19:07,480

And of course, there were  
different letters to be earned

397

00:19:07,480 --> 00:19:11,350

and to be part of the crowd.

398

00:19:11,350 --> 00:19:14,020

If I wanted to become  
part of the crowd,

399

00:19:14,020 --> 00:19:16,210

if I wanted to  
become Americanized,

400

00:19:16,210 --> 00:19:18,280

I had to do those things.

401

00:19:18,280 --> 00:19:21,730

I mean, to dress up like a  
child with a big lollipop

402

00:19:21,730 --> 00:19:25,620

to go from Brooklyn to  
the Statue of Liberty

403

00:19:25,620 --> 00:19:29,500

and to grin at everybody  
wasn't exactly my idea of fun.

404

00:19:29,500 --> 00:19:31,240

But if everybody  
else did it, and that

405

00:19:31,240 --> 00:19:33,130

was their idea of fun--

406

00:19:33,130 --> 00:19:34,060

So you wanted to --

407

00:19:34,060 --> 00:19:35,227

--went along with the crowd.

408

00:19:35,227 --> 00:19:36,310

You wanted to fit in.

409

00:19:36,310 --> 00:19:38,500

I wanted to fit in.

410

00:19:38,500 --> 00:19:42,070

Also, I was told by  
my cousins very early

411  
00:19:42,070 --> 00:19:46,960  
that if I wanted to sound  
American, I better learn slang.

412  
00:19:46,960 --> 00:19:49,120  
That was another thing.

413  
00:19:49,120 --> 00:19:50,320  
I mean, I had--

414  
00:19:50,320 --> 00:19:52,390  
I've been pushed from  
different directions

415  
00:19:52,390 --> 00:19:56,170  
I guess, all of it for my  
good, even though at the time

416  
00:19:56,170 --> 00:19:58,750  
it may not have seemed so.

417  
00:19:58,750 --> 00:20:04,570  
And I kind of absorbed a  
little bit of everything.

418  
00:20:04,570 --> 00:20:07,960  
And if I had to go to  
football games and scream,

419  
00:20:07,960 --> 00:20:09,880  
and I didn't know which  
side was which and who

420  
00:20:09,880 --> 00:20:12,733  
was winning points, but if  
everybody stood up and cheered,

421  
00:20:12,733 --> 00:20:13,900  
I stood up and cheered, too.

422  
00:20:13,900 --> 00:20:15,567  
And if somebody slapped

me down and say,

423

00:20:15,567 --> 00:20:17,080  
hey, that's not our side.

424

00:20:17,080 --> 00:20:17,650  
Fine.

425

00:20:17,650 --> 00:20:19,810  
I made a mistake.

426

00:20:19,810 --> 00:20:23,500  
And after a while, I  
started to kibitz around,

427

00:20:23,500 --> 00:20:26,780  
if it got me attention, it got  
me the right kind of attention,

428

00:20:26,780 --> 00:20:28,900  
and if I was accepted  
by the crowd.

429

00:20:28,900 --> 00:20:30,430  
So I had two groups of friends.

430

00:20:30,430 --> 00:20:34,390  
I had the school friends  
that I never dated,

431

00:20:34,390 --> 00:20:37,480  
and I had the outside group.

432

00:20:37,480 --> 00:20:40,300  
And through some  
of them and some

433

00:20:40,300 --> 00:20:44,440  
of the older boys from  
school, I was labeled a snob

434

00:20:44,440 --> 00:20:47,260

because I'll only go  
out with college boys.

435  
00:20:47,260 --> 00:20:50,030  
But it was necessary.

436  
00:20:50,030 --> 00:20:54,610  
I mean, I couldn't tell  
them that I wasn't silly,

437  
00:20:54,610 --> 00:20:58,060  
that some of their pranks  
were not what I consider

438  
00:20:58,060 --> 00:21:00,355  
the right code of behavior.

439  
00:21:00,355 --> 00:21:03,140

440  
00:21:03,140 --> 00:21:08,470  
So you went through high  
school in how many years?

441  
00:21:08,470 --> 00:21:10,993  
About two and a  
half, I think it was.

442  
00:21:10,993 --> 00:21:11,660  
No, [CROSSTALK].

443  
00:21:11,660 --> 00:21:12,865  
Wait a second.

444  
00:21:12,865 --> 00:21:16,990  
In New York, I graduated  
in mid-semester--

445  
00:21:16,990 --> 00:21:17,740  
two and a half.

446  
00:21:17,740 --> 00:21:20,350

And you were living with  
your cousin most of the time?

447  
00:21:20,350 --> 00:21:21,250  
Part of the time.

448  
00:21:21,250 --> 00:21:23,187  
And part of the time  
with your mother?

449  
00:21:23,187 --> 00:21:25,270  
Actually, afterwards, I  
just lived with my mother.

450  
00:21:25,270 --> 00:21:27,790  
I told the principal  
what my problem was.

451  
00:21:27,790 --> 00:21:29,410  
And he said it's fine.

452  
00:21:29,410 --> 00:21:31,210  
I've proven myself in school.

453  
00:21:31,210 --> 00:21:32,380  
We were sort of--

454  
00:21:32,380 --> 00:21:36,340  
it was very close to the  
dividing line for the school

455  
00:21:36,340 --> 00:21:39,520  
district and you could  
make an exception.

456  
00:21:39,520 --> 00:21:41,200  
And I did not--

457  
00:21:41,200 --> 00:21:46,180  
I was not a liability  
to the school.

458

00:21:46,180 --> 00:21:49,130  
I was not causing any problems.

459  
00:21:49,130 --> 00:21:53,020  
And when I told them that  
I live during the week--

460  
00:21:53,020 --> 00:21:56,080  
I stayed at my cousin's, and  
then I had to go to work.

461  
00:21:56,080 --> 00:21:59,080  
And like I would  
come back one place,

462  
00:21:59,080 --> 00:22:01,390  
but I had to make sure I  
went to the other place

463  
00:22:01,390 --> 00:22:08,410  
to fulfill my residency, so  
it was kind of difficult.

464  
00:22:08,410 --> 00:22:13,770  
But I think after the first  
semester he waived it.

465  
00:22:13,770 --> 00:22:17,340  
Now, how did you and  
your mother get along

466  
00:22:17,340 --> 00:22:19,440  
under these new circumstances?

467  
00:22:19,440 --> 00:22:23,250  
And you were rapidly  
learning English.

468  
00:22:23,250 --> 00:22:26,640  
Mother did not take to  
English very easily.

469  
00:22:26,640 --> 00:22:32,250



She had-- she did not have  
the desire nor the drive.

470  
00:22:32,250 --> 00:22:36,610  
I'm still bilingual, Yiddish and  
English, and actually, Hebrew,

471  
00:22:36,610 --> 00:22:37,110  
too.

472  
00:22:37,110 --> 00:22:38,985  
If you speak to me one  
language or the other,

473  
00:22:38,985 --> 00:22:41,100  
I will automatically answer it.

474  
00:22:41,100 --> 00:22:43,110  
And probably one of  
the reasons that I

475  
00:22:43,110 --> 00:22:46,320  
was able to learn English  
as quickly as I did

476  
00:22:46,320 --> 00:22:49,770  
was the fact that I could switch  
from one language to another

477  
00:22:49,770 --> 00:22:51,010  
without thinking about it.

478  
00:22:51,010 --> 00:22:53,850  
So automatically, I guess  
I thought in English

479  
00:22:53,850 --> 00:22:56,520  
instead of trying to  
translate what I was saying.

480  
00:22:56,520 --> 00:22:58,560  
And once I understood  
the sentence structure,

481  
00:22:58,560 --> 00:23:02,280  
I never reverted  
to a translation.

482  
00:23:02,280 --> 00:23:05,490  
Actually, in those days I  
could revert to Russian, too.

483  
00:23:05,490 --> 00:23:09,240  
I mean, it-- whichever  
language was spoken,

484  
00:23:09,240 --> 00:23:11,280  
I had to answer  
it automatically--

485  
00:23:11,280 --> 00:23:12,910  
got answered in that language.

486  
00:23:12,910 --> 00:23:15,030  
So what was your  
relationship with your mother

487  
00:23:15,030 --> 00:23:15,885  
like at that point?

488  
00:23:15,885 --> 00:23:20,920

489  
00:23:20,920 --> 00:23:23,170  
My relationship with my mother--

490  
00:23:23,170 --> 00:23:24,310  
very cherished one.

491  
00:23:24,310 --> 00:23:25,817  
You have no one else.

492  
00:23:25,817 --> 00:23:26,650  
What do you cherish?

493

00:23:26,650 --> 00:23:28,120

What you have.

494

00:23:28,120 --> 00:23:29,980

And the same thing  
for my uncle and aunt.

495

00:23:29,980 --> 00:23:33,610

I didn't feel that  
my aunt was my aunt.

496

00:23:33,610 --> 00:23:35,710

She almost felt like  
my second mother.

497

00:23:35,710 --> 00:23:38,050

And my uncle  
definitely had taken

498

00:23:38,050 --> 00:23:42,460

on the replacement of a father.

499

00:23:42,460 --> 00:23:46,930

But if you were becoming very  
comfortable with English,

500

00:23:46,930 --> 00:23:49,415

your mother was not  
learning English--

501

00:23:49,415 --> 00:23:50,290

It never bothered me.

502

00:23:50,290 --> 00:23:51,410

It doesn't bother me now.

503

00:23:51,410 --> 00:23:54,580

I go to a store, I take her to  
a store-- my mother is alive.

504

00:23:54,580 --> 00:23:58,150

Unfortunately, my

mother never quite--

505

00:23:58,150 --> 00:24:02,720  
she was a businesswoman before  
the war and very independent,

506

00:24:02,720 --> 00:24:06,700  
which was unusual for  
women in that day and age.

507

00:24:06,700 --> 00:24:12,250  
And yet, here, she never was  
able to regain the community

508

00:24:12,250 --> 00:24:15,010  
respect that she had there,  
and that kind of affected

509

00:24:15,010 --> 00:24:17,290  
her general outlook to life.

510

00:24:17,290 --> 00:24:19,390  
I'd say I'm more of  
a mother to my mother

511

00:24:19,390 --> 00:24:21,190  
now than I am a daughter.

512

00:24:21,190 --> 00:24:26,593  
I'm a daughter in name, but  
when I go shopping with her,

513

00:24:26,593 --> 00:24:27,760  
it doesn't bother me at all.

514

00:24:27,760 --> 00:24:29,198  
I mean, she speaks English.

515

00:24:29,198 --> 00:24:29,990  
She speaks English.

516

00:24:29,990 --> 00:24:32,350

She worked, and  
she spoke English,

517  
00:24:32,350 --> 00:24:37,090  
but not to have the  
command of language that's

518  
00:24:37,090 --> 00:24:43,840  
really necessary to function  
well in this environment.

519  
00:24:43,840 --> 00:24:48,100  
She can get along very well, but  
don't expect anything too much.

520  
00:24:48,100 --> 00:24:50,290  
I mean, for her needs,  
she knows enough English.

521  
00:24:50,290 --> 00:24:51,290  
So she can get along?

522  
00:24:51,290 --> 00:24:51,790  
Oh, yeah.

523  
00:24:51,790 --> 00:24:52,470  
OK.

524  
00:24:52,470 --> 00:24:53,470  
Yeah, she can get along.

525  
00:24:53,470 --> 00:24:55,690  
But to me, she will  
not speak in English.

526  
00:24:55,690 --> 00:24:58,240  
Now automatically, I  
answer her in Yiddish.

527  
00:24:58,240 --> 00:25:00,280  
And also, she's very  
hard of hearing now.

528

00:25:00,280 --> 00:25:02,200

My mother turned 90.

529

00:25:02,200 --> 00:25:06,370

And the sounds that are  
more familiar to her

530

00:25:06,370 --> 00:25:07,810

are the Yiddish sounds.

531

00:25:07,810 --> 00:25:11,590

So she can pick up half words  
and make out their meaning.

532

00:25:11,590 --> 00:25:16,010

Whereas, in English, at time  
it becomes very difficult.

533

00:25:16,010 --> 00:25:19,310

So when you graduated  
from high school,

534

00:25:19,310 --> 00:25:21,220

was that a big deal for you?

535

00:25:21,220 --> 00:25:24,830

536

00:25:24,830 --> 00:25:28,120

It was just a  
step, another step.

537

00:25:28,120 --> 00:25:28,700

OK.

538

00:25:28,700 --> 00:25:30,350

And I'll brag now.

539

00:25:30,350 --> 00:25:35,060

I graduated fifth in my  
graduating class of 598.

540

00:25:35,060 --> 00:25:37,820

And how did you feel about that?

541

00:25:37,820 --> 00:25:39,560

There was nobody  
to really rejoice.

542

00:25:39,560 --> 00:25:43,400

My aunt came to my graduation.

543

00:25:43,400 --> 00:25:45,470

My mother-- I graduated.

544

00:25:45,470 --> 00:25:47,960

That was-- the big point  
was that I graduated,

545

00:25:47,960 --> 00:25:50,810

and I can get a better  
job and I can help more.

546

00:25:50,810 --> 00:25:52,865

Because she was  
just at that point--

547

00:25:52,865 --> 00:25:55,730

548

00:25:55,730 --> 00:25:58,490

I think now, knowing  
what I know now,

549

00:25:58,490 --> 00:26:02,900

I think she was very  
depressed and tired

550

00:26:02,900 --> 00:26:06,020

and unhappy in the line  
of work that she was in.

551

00:26:06,020 --> 00:26:10,850

And it just meant that I would

take over more responsibility.

552

00:26:10,850 --> 00:26:14,475

So nobody made a big fuss  
that you had done so well?

553

00:26:14,475 --> 00:26:14,975

No.

554

00:26:14,975 --> 00:26:19,160

It was nothing to  
make a fuss over.

555

00:26:19,160 --> 00:26:21,260

I mean, I've kept  
my few trinkets

556

00:26:21,260 --> 00:26:24,120

from graduation-- the medal  
and a few pins and whatever,

557

00:26:24,120 --> 00:26:28,380

but there was no big deal.

558

00:26:28,380 --> 00:26:28,880

OK.

559

00:26:28,880 --> 00:26:30,920

So then what happened?

560

00:26:30,920 --> 00:26:34,100

Then I-- actually,  
I was exhausted.

561

00:26:34,100 --> 00:26:39,830

And the doctor suggested  
that I take some time off.

562

00:26:39,830 --> 00:26:46,160

Also, mid-semester was difficult  
to arrange college education,

563



00:26:46,160 --> 00:26:49,430  
plus the fact that I didn't  
have the funds, plus the fact

564  
00:26:49,430 --> 00:26:53,870  
that I had a  
scholarship to Brandeis

565  
00:26:53,870 --> 00:26:57,660  
if I went into the  
teaching profession,

566  
00:26:57,660 --> 00:27:03,650  
taught Hebrew, which I could not  
quite see as a goal for myself.

567  
00:27:03,650 --> 00:27:06,590  
I wanted accounting.

568  
00:27:06,590 --> 00:27:08,780  
And I actually worked  
as a bookkeeper

569  
00:27:08,780 --> 00:27:13,490  
and was offered a job by the  
company in their headquarters.

570  
00:27:13,490 --> 00:27:18,020  
But I still couldn't  
see that as a goal,

571  
00:27:18,020 --> 00:27:23,090  
and I couldn't leave my mother.

572  
00:27:23,090 --> 00:27:28,340  
So my cousin was getting  
married within a couple of weeks

573  
00:27:28,340 --> 00:27:30,170  
here in Washington.

574  
00:27:30,170 --> 00:27:33,680  
And my aunt kind

of helped me make

575

00:27:33,680 --> 00:27:38,330

the decision to take some  
time off work in the meantime.

576

00:27:38,330 --> 00:27:45,680

And my idea was to work, save up  
some money, and start college.

577

00:27:45,680 --> 00:27:48,710

I came back here to  
Washington, and I just

578

00:27:48,710 --> 00:27:50,960

couldn't bring myself  
to leave Washington.

579

00:27:50,960 --> 00:27:53,060

You came back here to  
the wedding or to live?

580

00:27:53,060 --> 00:27:54,060

For the wedding.

581

00:27:54,060 --> 00:27:54,770

OK.

582

00:27:54,770 --> 00:27:56,730

Not planning when  
you came to stay.

583

00:27:56,730 --> 00:27:57,320

Not planning.

584

00:27:57,320 --> 00:27:57,890

No.

585

00:27:57,890 --> 00:27:58,390

No.

586

00:27:58,390 --> 00:27:59,060

No.

587

00:27:59,060 --> 00:28:02,870

Just planning to stay for the  
wedding, take a couple of weeks

588

00:28:02,870 --> 00:28:04,100

off, go back.

589

00:28:04,100 --> 00:28:07,430

I had a job waiting for me  
that everybody considered

590

00:28:07,430 --> 00:28:13,550

that a very good job in the  
main headquarters at Miles

591

00:28:13,550 --> 00:28:14,600

Shoes on Wall Street.

592

00:28:14,600 --> 00:28:16,580

I mean, that was an achievement.

593

00:28:16,580 --> 00:28:20,030

And I said, I have to ride  
the train, the subway,

594

00:28:20,030 --> 00:28:22,040

every morning to work--

595

00:28:22,040 --> 00:28:22,910

didn't appeal to me.

596

00:28:22,910 --> 00:28:25,490

I'm a small-town girl at heart.

597

00:28:25,490 --> 00:28:28,990

Came back here to  
Washington for the wedding.

598

00:28:28,990 --> 00:28:30,980

And needless to say,

as was the habit,

599

00:28:30,980 --> 00:28:33,630

go down and help at  
the grocery store,

600

00:28:33,630 --> 00:28:37,190

especially on weekends and  
evenings when it got busy.

601

00:28:37,190 --> 00:28:43,190

And my uncle had some  
customers that I kind of

602

00:28:43,190 --> 00:28:47,270

took a liking to, and  
they took a liking to me.

603

00:28:47,270 --> 00:28:48,590

They were childless, actually.

604

00:28:48,590 --> 00:28:50,990

They offered to adopt me.

605

00:28:50,990 --> 00:28:54,180

Needless to say, I had a mother.

606

00:28:54,180 --> 00:28:57,740

But still, we kept  
on very good terms.

607

00:28:57,740 --> 00:29:08,980

And the wife worked at the  
Internal Revenue Service,

608

00:29:08,980 --> 00:29:10,400

but that was civil service.

609

00:29:10,400 --> 00:29:12,680

I couldn't work for them.

610

00:29:12,680 --> 00:29:16,690

And there was another customer  
that worked for the FBI

611  
00:29:16,690 --> 00:29:19,180  
and had an in with  
the State Department.

612  
00:29:19,180 --> 00:29:23,380  
And his idea was they were  
looking for Russian translators

613  
00:29:23,380 --> 00:29:25,680  
to try to get me  
in to work there.

614  
00:29:25,680 --> 00:29:28,690

615  
00:29:28,690 --> 00:29:32,020  
I remember Russian pretty  
well, and my English was good.

616  
00:29:32,020 --> 00:29:35,470  
And even though--  
actually, my expertise--

617  
00:29:35,470 --> 00:29:38,170  
if I would have to translate  
from English to Russian,

618  
00:29:38,170 --> 00:29:40,480  
I wouldn't do as well as  
from Russian to English.

619  
00:29:40,480 --> 00:29:42,550  
The spoken language  
was more familiar to me

620  
00:29:42,550 --> 00:29:45,100  
than the written in grammar.

621  
00:29:45,100 --> 00:29:48,140  
Because I hadn't really

learned it for that long.

622  
00:29:48,140 --> 00:29:49,630  
I think I went to  
Russian schools

623  
00:29:49,630 --> 00:29:53,920  
during Russian occupation,  
which was for about two years.

624  
00:29:53,920 --> 00:29:56,110  
And they tested me--

625  
00:29:56,110 --> 00:29:59,920  
gave me a document to translate  
from Russian to English.

626  
00:29:59,920 --> 00:30:02,470  
I had no problem with that.

627  
00:30:02,470 --> 00:30:05,620  
And they said, yes,  
they would consider me,

628  
00:30:05,620 --> 00:30:08,050  
and they asked me to  
fill out an application.

629  
00:30:08,050 --> 00:30:09,820  
Well, I wasn't a citizen.

630  
00:30:09,820 --> 00:30:12,112  
Sorry, can't employ you.

631  
00:30:12,112 --> 00:30:13,570  
You don't have to  
be civil service,

632  
00:30:13,570 --> 00:30:16,180  
but you have to be a citizen.

633  
00:30:16,180 --> 00:30:18,460

So there was a dilemma.

634  
00:30:18,460 --> 00:30:21,910  
What was required for  
you to be a citizen?

635  
00:30:21,910 --> 00:30:23,157  
Did you want to be a citizen?

636  
00:30:23,157 --> 00:30:25,240  
Yes, but I haven't had  
five years in this country.

637  
00:30:25,240 --> 00:30:26,460  
So you had to be  
here five years.

638  
00:30:26,460 --> 00:30:26,590  
OK.

639  
00:30:26,590 --> 00:30:27,090  
Five years.

640  
00:30:27,090 --> 00:30:27,910  
Right.

641  
00:30:27,910 --> 00:30:30,200  
I had filed my intent  
to become a citizen.

642  
00:30:30,200 --> 00:30:31,990  
That you do after two years.

643  
00:30:31,990 --> 00:30:32,710  
OK.

644  
00:30:32,710 --> 00:30:35,630  
But you had to live here in  
this country for five years,

645  
00:30:35,630 --> 00:30:37,330  
which I didn't.

646  
00:30:37,330 --> 00:30:39,070  
So that job was out.

647  
00:30:39,070 --> 00:30:43,900  
And then these people wanted me  
to stay so much that they went

648  
00:30:43,900 --> 00:30:46,960  
inquiring of other friends.

649  
00:30:46,960 --> 00:30:50,950  
And this couple that I  
mentioned, Mr. and Mrs.

650  
00:30:50,950 --> 00:30:55,360  
Long that they offered to  
adopt me, a neighbor of theirs

651  
00:30:55,360 --> 00:30:58,300  
was the chief probation  
officer for the district court.

652  
00:30:58,300 --> 00:31:00,410  
And he said, hey, we're  
not under civil service.

653  
00:31:00,410 --> 00:31:03,430  
And if you say this  
kid is so good,

654  
00:31:03,430 --> 00:31:06,020  
why don't you send her  
down for an interview?

655  
00:31:06,020 --> 00:31:10,150  
So I went down for an  
interview, and I was hired.

656  
00:31:10,150 --> 00:31:14,110  
And I started to work.

657



00:31:14,110 --> 00:31:14,920  
I got a job.

658  
00:31:14,920 --> 00:31:16,300  
I got a job as a grade 3.

659  
00:31:16,300 --> 00:31:16,840  
I mean--

660  
00:31:16,840 --> 00:31:19,060  
And what was the position?

661  
00:31:19,060 --> 00:31:26,476  
The position was general office  
work and some bookkeeping.

662  
00:31:26,476 --> 00:31:27,820  
I didn't know any shorthand.

663  
00:31:27,820 --> 00:31:29,920  
I knew typing.

664  
00:31:29,920 --> 00:31:34,780  
It was my first problem,  
because I did not--

665  
00:31:34,780 --> 00:31:39,010  
my aim was to have the proper  
credits to go to college,

666  
00:31:39,010 --> 00:31:41,910  
and I learned typing because  
that was a necessity.

667  
00:31:41,910 --> 00:31:45,150

668  
00:31:45,150 --> 00:31:49,000  
He liked my work and the fact  
that I caught on to things

669  
00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:50,500

quickly.

670  
00:31:50,500 --> 00:31:52,810  
And I promised to take  
a course in shorthand,

671  
00:31:52,810 --> 00:31:53,890  
which I did immediately.

672  
00:31:53,890 --> 00:31:56,350  
I enrolled into Strayer College.

673  
00:31:56,350 --> 00:31:59,530  
But my mother was in New  
York, and I was here.

674  
00:31:59,530 --> 00:32:03,458  
And frankly, I didn't  
want to go back there.

675  
00:32:03,458 --> 00:32:05,250  
Why didn't you want to  
go back to New York?

676  
00:32:05,250 --> 00:32:08,460  
I did not like the  
size of the city.

677  
00:32:08,460 --> 00:32:11,200  
I did not like  
transportation in the city.

678  
00:32:11,200 --> 00:32:14,080  
Washington was like a small  
town compared to New York.

679  
00:32:14,080 --> 00:32:17,930  
You took the streetcar,  
and you were there.

680  
00:32:17,930 --> 00:32:21,430  
And if you wanted  
to walk, you walked.

681  
00:32:21,430 --> 00:32:23,200  
And I liked the greenery.

682  
00:32:23,200 --> 00:32:25,930  
I liked the fact  
that not everything

683  
00:32:25,930 --> 00:32:28,790  
was towering over each other--

684  
00:32:28,790 --> 00:32:30,550  
I mean, the general  
feel of the city.

685  
00:32:30,550 --> 00:32:33,690

686  
00:32:33,690 --> 00:32:39,890  
And so I was working in  
the probation office,

687  
00:32:39,890 --> 00:32:42,530  
took my course in  
shorthand, and then I

688  
00:32:42,530 --> 00:32:47,330  
became a little more interested  
in the intricacies of the law.

689  
00:32:47,330 --> 00:32:50,000  
So I enrolled in  
night classes just

690  
00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:52,690  
to be acquainted with the  
codes and everything else.

691  
00:32:52,690 --> 00:32:54,495  
And what kind of night classes?

692  
00:32:54,495 --> 00:32:54,995

College.

693

00:32:54,995 --> 00:32:59,270

694

00:32:59,270 --> 00:33:01,610

George Washington University.

695

00:33:01,610 --> 00:33:04,430

We lived in the district, so  
Maryland University was out

696

00:33:04,430 --> 00:33:04,970

of--

697

00:33:04,970 --> 00:33:07,520

And what courses  
were you taking?

698

00:33:07,520 --> 00:33:08,540

Gosh.

699

00:33:08,540 --> 00:33:10,915

You said you wanted to become  
more familiar with the law.

700

00:33:10,915 --> 00:33:14,510

More acquainted-- any of the  
courses that were offered that

701

00:33:14,510 --> 00:33:15,320

had--

702

00:33:15,320 --> 00:33:17,600

I don't remember  
exactly which ones now,

703

00:33:17,600 --> 00:33:22,910

but any of the courses that were  
offered that they suggested I

704

00:33:22,910 --> 00:33:23,510

take.

705

00:33:23,510 --> 00:33:25,730

OK.

706

00:33:25,730 --> 00:33:30,440

Actually, I was working  
under a special appointment

707

00:33:30,440 --> 00:33:32,660

of the chief judge.

708

00:33:32,660 --> 00:33:34,230

It was laws at that time.

709

00:33:34,230 --> 00:33:41,360

And I had to have the  
sponsorship of three judges.

710

00:33:41,360 --> 00:33:45,860

Judge Holzoff and  
Judge Schweinhaut

711

00:33:45,860 --> 00:33:49,250

were the ones that signed my--

712

00:33:49,250 --> 00:33:51,170

signed the approval  
for me to work there

713

00:33:51,170 --> 00:33:53,780

even though I wasn't a citizen.

714

00:33:53,780 --> 00:33:54,950

And I was known as the kid.

715

00:33:54,950 --> 00:33:59,390

I was the youngest  
member of the staff.

716

00:33:59,390 --> 00:34:03,230

And I enjoyed working there.

717  
00:34:03,230 --> 00:34:07,750  
I became a citizen in front of  
one of the judges in the court,

718  
00:34:07,750 --> 00:34:09,679  
and it was kind of fun.

719  
00:34:09,679 --> 00:34:11,030  
What are you doing there?

720  
00:34:11,030 --> 00:34:12,110  
I saw you.

721  
00:34:12,110 --> 00:34:13,199  
What were you doing there?

722  
00:34:13,199 --> 00:34:14,264  
You stood up.

723  
00:34:14,264 --> 00:34:15,604  
I said, I wasn't a citizen.

724  
00:34:15,604 --> 00:34:18,500

725  
00:34:18,500 --> 00:34:21,650  
But I enjoyed working there.

726  
00:34:21,650 --> 00:34:25,159  
And my mother came here.

727  
00:34:25,159 --> 00:34:27,860  
We found an apartment and  
we set up housekeeping.

728  
00:34:27,860 --> 00:34:29,480  
So she decided to move here.

729  
00:34:29,480 --> 00:34:30,889  
Yes, definitely.

730  
00:34:30,889 --> 00:34:36,469  
At that point, I was already  
able to support both of us.

731  
00:34:36,469 --> 00:34:39,469  
So it wasn't a problem for me.

732  
00:34:39,469 --> 00:34:43,820  
Whereas, before, I couldn't  
earn enough-- at \$0.50 an hour,

733  
00:34:43,820 --> 00:34:46,730  
I didn't earn enough  
to support both of us.

734  
00:34:46,730 --> 00:34:50,540  
It took both of  
us to support us.

735  
00:34:50,540 --> 00:34:52,280  
Mother made very little.

736  
00:34:52,280 --> 00:34:57,230  
But here, I started  
out as a grade 3,

737  
00:34:57,230 --> 00:35:00,150  
which was a decent salary in  
those days, and today probably,

738  
00:35:00,150 --> 00:35:00,650  
too.

739  
00:35:00,650 --> 00:35:03,050  
I don't know what it pays today.

740  
00:35:03,050 --> 00:35:09,110  
But if I'm not mistaken, it  
was like \$2,500 or \$2,600

741  
00:35:09,110 --> 00:35:12,680

a year, which was  
considered good money--

742  
00:35:12,680 --> 00:35:15,380  
enough for us to  
sustain an apartment

743  
00:35:15,380 --> 00:35:18,590  
and to be able to provide  
whatever the necessities were.

744  
00:35:18,590 --> 00:35:20,810  
Now, had you been living  
with your aunt and uncle,

745  
00:35:20,810 --> 00:35:21,490  
or on your own?

746  
00:35:21,490 --> 00:35:23,090  
I was living with  
my aunt and uncle.

747  
00:35:23,090 --> 00:35:25,160  
And actually, when  
I first started

748  
00:35:25,160 --> 00:35:28,850  
to work before my mother  
came here, I lived with them,

749  
00:35:28,850 --> 00:35:31,400  
and my uncle banked  
all my money.

750  
00:35:31,400 --> 00:35:34,190  
So I didn't expect it.

751  
00:35:34,190 --> 00:35:35,930  
I just gave it to him.

752  
00:35:35,930 --> 00:35:37,520  
Just took enough for--



753

00:35:37,520 --> 00:35:38,840  
or asked him for enough--

754

00:35:38,840 --> 00:35:40,910  
I turned my check over,  
and asked him for enough

755

00:35:40,910 --> 00:35:44,780  
for what I needed for daily  
expenses and schooling.

756

00:35:44,780 --> 00:35:46,430  
And he saved it all for you?

757

00:35:46,430 --> 00:35:47,690  
He saved it all for me.

758

00:35:47,690 --> 00:35:48,565  
And did he take out--

759

00:35:48,565 --> 00:35:50,630  
So he basically supported  
me for several months

760

00:35:50,630 --> 00:35:53,030  
and paid for my schooling.

761

00:35:53,030 --> 00:35:58,460  
And when we were going  
to set up an apartment,

762

00:35:58,460 --> 00:36:01,070  
he handed me the checkbook--  
the savings book.

763

00:36:01,070 --> 00:36:01,820  
I beg your pardon.

764

00:36:01,820 --> 00:36:03,290  
It wasn't a checkbook--

765

00:36:03,290 --> 00:36:05,030  
the savings book  
with all my savings.

766  
00:36:05,030 --> 00:36:06,590  
I mean, I bought some clothes.

767  
00:36:06,590 --> 00:36:09,590  
I thought I was  
spending my own money.

768  
00:36:09,590 --> 00:36:12,560  
Well, needless to say,  
I didn't overindulge.

769  
00:36:12,560 --> 00:36:13,970  
Oh, he saved your entire check?

770  
00:36:13,970 --> 00:36:15,980  
He saved my entire check.

771  
00:36:15,980 --> 00:36:18,950  
And the money that he handed to  
you was not from your paycheck.

772  
00:36:18,950 --> 00:36:20,390  
It was a gift from him.

773  
00:36:20,390 --> 00:36:21,590  
It was a gift.

774  
00:36:21,590 --> 00:36:24,110  
Basically, he supported me.

775  
00:36:24,110 --> 00:36:26,630  
When I went to junior high,  
and when I went to school,

776  
00:36:26,630 --> 00:36:31,470  
and he would hand car fare and  
lunch money to the children,

777

00:36:31,470 --> 00:36:33,290  
he handed me the same thing.

778  
00:36:33,290 --> 00:36:35,060  
I never spent it.

779  
00:36:35,060 --> 00:36:36,080  
I walked to school.

780  
00:36:36,080 --> 00:36:37,700  
I didn't take the bus.

781  
00:36:37,700 --> 00:36:41,510  
And he would ask me,  
don't you need a--

782  
00:36:41,510 --> 00:36:43,615  
how come the kids  
always ask me for more?

783  
00:36:43,615 --> 00:36:44,990  
I give them the  
week's allowance,

784  
00:36:44,990 --> 00:36:46,880  
and they always ask me for more.

785  
00:36:46,880 --> 00:36:48,110  
You never ask me for more.

786  
00:36:48,110 --> 00:36:50,240  
When I want to give you  
the next week allowance,

787  
00:36:50,240 --> 00:36:51,980  
you show me you still have some.

788  
00:36:51,980 --> 00:36:53,930  
Well, I didn't  
feel that it was--

789  
00:36:53,930 --> 00:36:56,570

that I was entitled to it.

790  
00:36:56,570 --> 00:36:59,333  
So I just spent very frugally.

791  
00:36:59,333 --> 00:37:00,875  
I didn't have to  
have the extra soda.

792  
00:37:00,875 --> 00:37:03,050  
I mean, water is  
fine enough to drink.

793  
00:37:03,050 --> 00:37:05,250  
I didn't need the ice cream.

794  
00:37:05,250 --> 00:37:06,470  
We had lunch packed.

795  
00:37:06,470 --> 00:37:08,270  
We have to stop,  
turn over the tape.

796  
00:37:08,270 --> 00:37:14,760

797  
00:37:14,760 --> 00:37:18,870  
Tape two, side two.

798  
00:37:18,870 --> 00:37:22,680  
So you were working at the  
probation office, and then

799  
00:37:22,680 --> 00:37:24,180  
what happened?

800  
00:37:24,180 --> 00:37:27,480  
Well, shortly thereafter,  
I got married.

801  
00:37:27,480 --> 00:37:30,610  
And how did you

meet your husband?

802

00:37:30,610 --> 00:37:36,390

My husband is also a Holocaust survivor, and I met him--

803

00:37:36,390 --> 00:37:39,000

actually, I met him a while back when I first

804

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:42,960

came here to Washington through relatives.

805

00:37:42,960 --> 00:37:47,040

My uncle knew a cousin of his, and kind of tried

806

00:37:47,040 --> 00:37:47,850

to get us together.

807

00:37:47,850 --> 00:37:51,420

But in the meantime, my husband spent a tour in the service,

808

00:37:51,420 --> 00:37:53,110

and a second tour in the service.

809

00:37:53,110 --> 00:37:57,720

He was drafted when-- he came here to the United States

810

00:37:57,720 --> 00:38:03,570

in 1946, and he was drafted because he was of serving age.

811

00:38:03,570 --> 00:38:06,510

And he put in a year.

812

00:38:06,510 --> 00:38:08,940

He got out of the service, and then he was called back

813  
00:38:08,940 --> 00:38:10,650  
for the Korean War.

814  
00:38:10,650 --> 00:38:14,010  
And I actually met  
him again at the end

815  
00:38:14,010 --> 00:38:17,010  
of his tour of service  
of the Korean War

816  
00:38:17,010 --> 00:38:18,780  
when he was about  
to be discharged.

817  
00:38:18,780 --> 00:38:23,820  
And it didn't take us  
long to find each other.

818  
00:38:23,820 --> 00:38:24,983  
And where did you meet him?

819  
00:38:24,983 --> 00:38:26,025  
Right here in Washington.

820  
00:38:26,025 --> 00:38:27,900  
I mean, how?

821  
00:38:27,900 --> 00:38:29,790  
A party.

822  
00:38:29,790 --> 00:38:33,360  
Also friends, Holocaust  
survivors, had a get-together.

823  
00:38:33,360 --> 00:38:39,390  
We kind of tried to keep  
in touch and socialize.

824  
00:38:39,390 --> 00:38:41,070  
Is he from Poland, also?

825

00:38:41,070 --> 00:38:44,460

Yes, but he's from  
central Poland.

826

00:38:44,460 --> 00:38:56,070

And once we met, his family  
urged him not to procrastinate.

827

00:38:56,070 --> 00:39:01,740

And we got married in  
1952, in June of 1952,

828

00:39:01,740 --> 00:39:04,650

and started a family thereafter.

829

00:39:04,650 --> 00:39:08,250

My daughter was born in 1954.

830

00:39:08,250 --> 00:39:10,830

I actually went back to work  
at the probation office.

831

00:39:10,830 --> 00:39:12,810

I took off maternity leave.

832

00:39:12,810 --> 00:39:18,210

Believe it or not, in  
1954 took maternity leave,

833

00:39:18,210 --> 00:39:20,430

stayed out for three months,  
and went back to work,

834

00:39:20,430 --> 00:39:22,530

and worked for about  
a year after that.

835

00:39:22,530 --> 00:39:25,200

Was that hard for you to leave  
your baby and go back to work?

836

00:39:25,200 --> 00:39:27,940

It was, but my mother  
was living with me.

837

00:39:27,940 --> 00:39:33,420

And I had a built-in babysitter,  
so it wasn't as difficult.

838

00:39:33,420 --> 00:39:35,820

But then it became  
too much for her

839

00:39:35,820 --> 00:39:38,580

to take care of my daughter.

840

00:39:38,580 --> 00:39:43,560

So actually, I went  
on leave again,

841

00:39:43,560 --> 00:39:48,870

but I never did return to work.

842

00:39:48,870 --> 00:39:51,480

I did continue with  
some schooling--

843

00:39:51,480 --> 00:39:53,760

classes here or there.

844

00:39:53,760 --> 00:40:00,490

And I did volunteer work.

845

00:40:00,490 --> 00:40:04,050

That was my big period  
of volunteer work.

846

00:40:04,050 --> 00:40:06,540

Was it difficult  
for you when you

847

00:40:06,540 --> 00:40:10,140

got married to have your  
mother living with you?



848  
00:40:10,140 --> 00:40:11,370  
Never thought of it this way.

849  
00:40:11,370 --> 00:40:12,900  
My husband lost his family.

850  
00:40:12,900 --> 00:40:18,810  
He didn't have a parent,  
and we just accepted it.

851  
00:40:18,810 --> 00:40:20,760  
It wasn't a matter of--

852  
00:40:20,760 --> 00:40:25,470  
I don't think-- it  
would not be a hardship.

853  
00:40:25,470 --> 00:40:26,730  
Now it would be a hardship.

854  
00:40:26,730 --> 00:40:28,620  
I don't think my  
mother could get

855  
00:40:28,620 --> 00:40:33,240  
adjusted to our mode of life.

856  
00:40:33,240 --> 00:40:38,490  
I don't think we would be  
adjusted to her mode of life.

857  
00:40:38,490 --> 00:40:39,750  
It's a lot different now.

858  
00:40:39,750 --> 00:40:42,160  
And fortunately, she  
can live independently,

859  
00:40:42,160 --> 00:40:45,240  
so that is good for both of us.

860

00:40:45,240 --> 00:40:48,150

But my mother lived with us  
actually the first 15 years

861

00:40:48,150 --> 00:40:48,990

of our married life.

862

00:40:48,990 --> 00:40:49,890

That's a long time.

863

00:40:49,890 --> 00:40:52,230

Yes, and went on  
vacation with us.

864

00:40:52,230 --> 00:40:57,777

We never went on a vacation  
by ourselves until that time.

865

00:40:57,777 --> 00:40:59,610

So that was a big change  
when she moved out.

866

00:40:59,610 --> 00:41:01,020

It was.

867

00:41:01,020 --> 00:41:01,680

It was.

868

00:41:01,680 --> 00:41:03,090

But she decided--

869

00:41:03,090 --> 00:41:07,860

I think she probably worked  
out a lot of the problems

870

00:41:07,860 --> 00:41:13,860

from her losses of family  
and in stature and status

871

00:41:13,860 --> 00:41:18,660

and financial position.

872

00:41:18,660 --> 00:41:23,290

And she found a  
niche at work at Hex.

873

00:41:23,290 --> 00:41:26,160

She worked behind  
the bakery counter,

874

00:41:26,160 --> 00:41:30,600

and she found that that  
was a good way for her

875

00:41:30,600 --> 00:41:35,910

because she would  
meet people, and was

876

00:41:35,910 --> 00:41:43,890

in a situation where she did not  
feel inferior, I guess to say.

877

00:41:43,890 --> 00:41:48,240

Because working in the  
shops in the garment

878

00:41:48,240 --> 00:41:50,760

industry in New York, I think  
she found very inferior.

879

00:41:50,760 --> 00:41:55,470

Because in Poland, she had the  
store where she sold dry goods,

880

00:41:55,470 --> 00:41:56,700

sold fabrics.

881

00:41:56,700 --> 00:42:00,330

And here, she was  
doing the sewing.

882

00:42:00,330 --> 00:42:04,890

And we raised a family.

883

00:42:04,890 --> 00:42:06,225  
I went back to work--

884  
00:42:06,225 --> 00:42:08,910

885  
00:42:08,910 --> 00:42:12,090  
actually, at that time I  
got my teaching certificate,

886  
00:42:12,090 --> 00:42:15,150  
and I went to teach in  
the afternoon school

887  
00:42:15,150 --> 00:42:18,540  
so that I would not be  
away from my children.

888  
00:42:18,540 --> 00:42:21,690  
And they were attending, too,  
so I started out with two days

889  
00:42:21,690 --> 00:42:29,700  
a week and progressed to  
four days a week of working.

890  
00:42:29,700 --> 00:42:31,170  
Now, this was teaching Hebrew.

891  
00:42:31,170 --> 00:42:33,635  
Teaching-- no,  
actually, I taught--

892  
00:42:33,635 --> 00:42:35,760  
well, I taught the Hebrew  
language, too, but mostly

893  
00:42:35,760 --> 00:42:38,310  
history.

894  
00:42:38,310 --> 00:42:46,350  
And we settled into  
typical American life.

895  
00:42:46,350 --> 00:42:48,480  
You said in the  
previous interview

896  
00:42:48,480 --> 00:42:53,610  
that your family had  
been very observant.

897  
00:42:53,610 --> 00:42:54,960  
Yes.

898  
00:42:54,960 --> 00:42:56,820  
In Europe, they  
were very observant.

899  
00:42:56,820 --> 00:43:00,930  
But here, we became  
conservative.

900  
00:43:00,930 --> 00:43:04,620  
We adhere to a great many  
aspects of the Jewish religion.

901  
00:43:04,620 --> 00:43:07,410  
The holidays are very  
meaningful to us.

902  
00:43:07,410 --> 00:43:09,270  
I keep a kosher home.

903  
00:43:09,270 --> 00:43:14,830  
I feel that that kind of  
distinguishes my house.

904  
00:43:14,830 --> 00:43:18,630  
I do not eat kosher  
all the time.

905  
00:43:18,630 --> 00:43:20,970  
My husband's relatives  
do not keep kosher,

906

00:43:20,970 --> 00:43:24,480

and not wanting to be an  
outsider all the time, kind of

907

00:43:24,480 --> 00:43:26,250

got adjusted to  
eating some things.

908

00:43:26,250 --> 00:43:28,440

I will not touch pork.

909

00:43:28,440 --> 00:43:34,120

Somehow that has a stigma to it.

910

00:43:34,120 --> 00:43:36,960

And I will not eat anything  
that's milk and meat.

911

00:43:36,960 --> 00:43:38,130

And you know, it's crazy.

912

00:43:38,130 --> 00:43:40,020

I will eat non-kosher  
meat, and yet,

913

00:43:40,020 --> 00:43:43,000

I will not anything  
that's cooked with milk--

914

00:43:43,000 --> 00:43:48,000

a combination of dairy  
products in with meat products

915

00:43:48,000 --> 00:43:48,960

combination.

916

00:43:48,960 --> 00:43:52,430

So some of the principles  
are very important to you.

917

00:43:52,430 --> 00:43:53,356

They are.

918  
00:43:53,356 --> 00:43:54,450  
They are.

919  
00:43:54,450 --> 00:43:59,230  
The holidays we  
observe religiously.

920  
00:43:59,230 --> 00:44:01,070  
Have a lot of company  
over the holidays--

921  
00:44:01,070 --> 00:44:03,180  
I like to have family around--

922  
00:44:03,180 --> 00:44:06,360  
don't have much family.

923  
00:44:06,360 --> 00:44:09,120  
One of my cousins passed  
away, and my other two

924  
00:44:09,120 --> 00:44:12,090  
are not very close with me.

925  
00:44:12,090 --> 00:44:14,790  
But my husband's  
family is very close.

926  
00:44:14,790 --> 00:44:17,940  
They are unusual.

927  
00:44:17,940 --> 00:44:22,920  
They are really-- in addition  
to me keeping holidays,

928  
00:44:22,920 --> 00:44:28,110  
the religious holidays, the  
Jewish non-religious holidays

929  
00:44:28,110 --> 00:44:34,450  
we attend with my husband's

family, and it's a big family.

930  
00:44:34,450 --> 00:44:37,050  
My husband's mother  
was one of eight,

931  
00:44:37,050 --> 00:44:42,660  
and I think six survived.

932  
00:44:42,660 --> 00:44:44,820  
And they all had families here.

933  
00:44:44,820 --> 00:44:46,980  
And actually, my  
husband's mother

934  
00:44:46,980 --> 00:44:49,440  
was the only one that  
was still in Europe.

935  
00:44:49,440 --> 00:44:51,570  
And the reason he  
came here in 1946

936  
00:44:51,570 --> 00:44:56,250  
was because papers were  
already made out for them

937  
00:44:56,250 --> 00:44:57,600  
to come to the United States.

938  
00:44:57,600 --> 00:44:58,490  
The war stopped them.

939  
00:44:58,490 --> 00:45:02,190

940  
00:45:02,190 --> 00:45:05,190  
He was on the first ship  
that arrived from Germany

941  
00:45:05,190 --> 00:45:06,390



to the United States--

942  
00:45:06,390 --> 00:45:09,160  
first transport.

943  
00:45:09,160 --> 00:45:13,530  
So his family is very attentive.

944  
00:45:13,530 --> 00:45:16,380  
My children don't feel  
that they are deprived

945  
00:45:16,380 --> 00:45:18,420  
of family because of that.

946  
00:45:18,420 --> 00:45:23,820  
And even though his  
mother was the youngest,

947  
00:45:23,820 --> 00:45:29,700  
and his cousin's children  
are his generation,

948  
00:45:29,700 --> 00:45:30,810  
we're all cousins.

949  
00:45:30,810 --> 00:45:32,490  
Nobody ever thinks  
about it-- first,

950  
00:45:32,490 --> 00:45:34,530  
second, removed, whatever.

951  
00:45:34,530 --> 00:45:36,360  
And my children, the same thing.

952  
00:45:36,360 --> 00:45:37,150  
They are cousins.

953  
00:45:37,150 --> 00:45:40,950  
They're not thought of as  
actually distant relatives,

954  
00:45:40,950 --> 00:45:43,770  
if you want to know.

955  
00:45:43,770 --> 00:45:45,780  
Do your children live nearby?

956  
00:45:45,780 --> 00:45:46,800  
Yes.

957  
00:45:46,800 --> 00:45:48,720  
My daughter lives  
here in Potomac.

958  
00:45:48,720 --> 00:45:51,330  
My son right now lives at home.

959  
00:45:51,330 --> 00:45:53,280  
Both of them are architects.

960  
00:45:53,280 --> 00:45:54,090  
Architects?

961  
00:45:54,090 --> 00:45:56,190  
Yes.

962  
00:45:56,190 --> 00:46:00,600  
My son actually is working  
on a project now in Syracuse.

963  
00:46:00,600 --> 00:46:02,340  
Well, he will be  
going to Syracuse,

964  
00:46:02,340 --> 00:46:04,910  
but he is working  
here in Washington.

965  
00:46:04,910 --> 00:46:10,110  
He is with a well-known firm,  
Baltimore firm, Ayers Saint

966  
00:46:10,110 --> 00:46:11,400  
Gross.

967  
00:46:11,400 --> 00:46:16,770  
And my daughter is with AI,  
which is an interiors firm--

968  
00:46:16,770 --> 00:46:19,230  
very well-known  
firm in Washington.

969  
00:46:19,230 --> 00:46:21,150  
And is your husband retired?

970  
00:46:21,150 --> 00:46:22,560  
My husband's retired, yes.

971  
00:46:22,560 --> 00:46:24,000  
And what did he do?

972  
00:46:24,000 --> 00:46:26,940  
He was in sales with Sears.

973  
00:46:26,940 --> 00:46:28,230  
So he wasn't an architect?

974  
00:46:28,230 --> 00:46:28,540  
That's not where they got it?

975  
00:46:28,540 --> 00:46:29,140  
No.

976  
00:46:29,140 --> 00:46:29,640  
No.

977  
00:46:29,640 --> 00:46:31,860  
They blame me for it.

978  
00:46:31,860 --> 00:46:32,770  
I don't know.

979

00:46:32,770 --> 00:46:35,880

I really don't know  
where they got it from.

980

00:46:35,880 --> 00:46:41,160

Our son was five when he  
sketched the Verrazzano bridge.

981

00:46:41,160 --> 00:46:43,740

And our daughter was  
interested in the arts,

982

00:46:43,740 --> 00:46:47,760

and she just fell  
into architecture.

983

00:46:47,760 --> 00:46:55,030

She spoke to her advisor, and he  
suggested since she likes math

984

00:46:55,030 --> 00:46:58,600

and she likes art that she  
ought to try architecture.

985

00:46:58,600 --> 00:47:01,840

And lo and behold, she made it.

986

00:47:01,840 --> 00:47:03,940

She was accepted into the  
School of Architecture

987

00:47:03,940 --> 00:47:07,180

here in Maryland, and  
completed her course

988

00:47:07,180 --> 00:47:11,370

and did well for herself.

989

00:47:11,370 --> 00:47:17,650

You said that early in the  
states most of your friends

990

00:47:17,650 --> 00:47:22,900  
were also refugees  
and/or survivors.

991  
00:47:22,900 --> 00:47:23,980  
What about now?

992  
00:47:23,980 --> 00:47:25,030  
Do you have--

993  
00:47:25,030 --> 00:47:29,230  
Well, I always had  
two sets of friends.

994  
00:47:29,230 --> 00:47:36,940  
I had a special relationship,  
I guess, with survivors.

995  
00:47:36,940 --> 00:47:40,640  
And then I just made friends--

996  
00:47:40,640 --> 00:47:44,930  
neighbors who became  
friends and from school.

997  
00:47:44,930 --> 00:47:48,490  
I've met some people that have  
remained friends, and still

998  
00:47:48,490 --> 00:47:51,205  
make some new friends  
now through work.

999  
00:47:51,205 --> 00:47:54,070

1000  
00:47:54,070 --> 00:47:57,820  
But there's always a special  
feeling, a special closeness,

1001  
00:47:57,820 --> 00:47:59,800  
a special relationship  
with survivors

1002  
00:47:59,800 --> 00:48:03,070  
because we have  
the same background

1003  
00:48:03,070 --> 00:48:10,670  
and I think certain values  
that remain with us.

1004  
00:48:10,670 --> 00:48:15,370  
We may not be related, and  
yet it feels like family--

1005  
00:48:15,370 --> 00:48:20,380  
always attended each other's  
happy occasions, celebrations.

1006  
00:48:20,380 --> 00:48:22,930  
And a celebration  
wouldn't be the same

1007  
00:48:22,930 --> 00:48:28,470  
if we wouldn't have  
each other to attend.

1008  
00:48:28,470 --> 00:48:30,490  
It's sort of like--

1009  
00:48:30,490 --> 00:48:33,505  
I'd say like a support  
group, like a second family.

1010  
00:48:33,505 --> 00:48:36,280

1011  
00:48:36,280 --> 00:48:41,740  
There's a certain bound--

1012  
00:48:41,740 --> 00:48:42,940  
I don't know how to say it.

1013  
00:48:42,940 --> 00:48:46,590

1014  
00:48:46,590 --> 00:48:49,965  
There's a certain kinship  
that goes beyond family.

1015  
00:48:49,965 --> 00:48:57,150

1016  
00:48:57,150 --> 00:49:01,560  
I know you can make  
very close friends that

1017  
00:49:01,560 --> 00:49:06,630  
can be like sisters  
and not being related.

1018  
00:49:06,630 --> 00:49:09,690  
But that's the best  
way I can describe it.

1019  
00:49:09,690 --> 00:49:13,740  
It would be like  
having sisters, being

1020  
00:49:13,740 --> 00:49:16,990  
able to share some things that  
nobody else would understand

1021  
00:49:16,990 --> 00:49:17,730  
is--

1022  
00:49:17,730 --> 00:49:20,570  
there are certain experiences  
that nobody else can understand

1023  
00:49:20,570 --> 00:49:23,550  
them, what it means to us.

1024  
00:49:23,550 --> 00:49:27,000  
Do you talk about  
your experiences

1025

00:49:27,000 --> 00:49:29,220  
during the Holocaust?

1026

00:49:29,220 --> 00:49:33,190  
Occasionally of--  
just as reminders.

1027

00:49:33,190 --> 00:49:39,270  
And I mean, we don't sit down  
and talk about them per se,

1028

00:49:39,270 --> 00:49:42,190  
but it has to come out.

1029

00:49:42,190 --> 00:49:43,860  
It has to come out in some way.

1030

00:49:43,860 --> 00:49:45,902  
You mean something might  
remind you of something?

1031

00:49:45,902 --> 00:49:49,020  
Something would remind--  
give you a little example.

1032

00:49:49,020 --> 00:49:56,520  
We were celebrating Mother's  
Day here around this same table,

1033

00:49:56,520 --> 00:50:01,110  
and we had some guests.

1034

00:50:01,110 --> 00:50:03,630  
And my husband  
actually has difficulty

1035

00:50:03,630 --> 00:50:07,440  
talking about the Holocaust  
and his experiences.

1036

00:50:07,440 --> 00:50:12,660  
I seem to be able to



talk about it easier.

1037  
00:50:12,660 --> 00:50:15,030  
He gets very emotional.

1038  
00:50:15,030 --> 00:50:19,230  
And out of nowhere, oh, I don't  
know, something touched off,

1039  
00:50:19,230 --> 00:50:23,850  
and he started to  
talk about things.

1040  
00:50:23,850 --> 00:50:25,680  
This Passover, the same thing.

1041  
00:50:25,680 --> 00:50:28,950  
Something came up, and  
just a slight thing,

1042  
00:50:28,950 --> 00:50:32,910  
something that draws  
the memory to back home

1043  
00:50:32,910 --> 00:50:38,100  
with family, with friends,  
celebrations, it comes back.

1044  
00:50:38,100 --> 00:50:40,800  
And needless to say, the  
next thing comes around

1045  
00:50:40,800 --> 00:50:43,140  
is, what happened  
during the Holocaust

1046  
00:50:43,140 --> 00:50:44,220  
during those holidays.

1047  
00:50:44,220 --> 00:50:46,980  
And my husband remembered  
that Yom Kippur,

1048

00:50:46,980 --> 00:50:50,640  
which is our day of atonement,  
he hid his portion of bread.

1049

00:50:50,640 --> 00:50:52,140  
He couldn't bring  
himself, as hungry

1050

00:50:52,140 --> 00:50:54,790  
as he was, to eat on that day.

1051

00:50:54,790 --> 00:51:00,240  
And even though he  
needed the energy,

1052

00:51:00,240 --> 00:51:03,000  
he still couldn't bring  
himself to eat that.

1053

00:51:03,000 --> 00:51:07,830  
And really, just  
knowing what day it was,

1054

00:51:07,830 --> 00:51:12,870  
and getting together a few men  
discreetly and intoning some

1055

00:51:12,870 --> 00:51:15,720  
prayers, whoever-- who  
remembered what portion

1056

00:51:15,720 --> 00:51:16,890  
of what--

1057

00:51:16,890 --> 00:51:18,630  
those things come out.

1058

00:51:18,630 --> 00:51:21,080  
Was he in hiding  
or in the camps?

1059

00:51:21,080 --> 00:51:21,580

No.

1060  
00:51:21,580 --> 00:51:23,200  
He was in camps.

1061  
00:51:23,200 --> 00:51:23,970  
He was in camps.

1062  
00:51:23,970 --> 00:51:27,630  
Actually, he managed to run  
away once from the ghetto

1063  
00:51:27,630 --> 00:51:30,610  
and found that he  
had no way to hide,

1064  
00:51:30,610 --> 00:51:33,000  
and he had to bribe his  
way back into the ghetto.

1065  
00:51:33,000 --> 00:51:34,740  
And then he was  
worse off, because he

1066  
00:51:34,740 --> 00:51:35,730  
didn't have any papers.

1067  
00:51:35,730 --> 00:51:38,760  
Then he had to be in  
hiding in the ghetto.

1068  
00:51:38,760 --> 00:51:40,590  
But those things come out.

1069  
00:51:40,590 --> 00:51:42,270  
I don't know his complete story.

1070  
00:51:42,270 --> 00:51:43,495  
I get bits and pieces.

1071  
00:51:43,495 --> 00:51:44,730  
He hasn't told you?

1072  
00:51:44,730 --> 00:51:49,850  
I get bits and pieces because  
he cannot sit down from A to Z.

1073  
00:51:49,850 --> 00:51:51,270  
Have you-- go ahead.

1074  
00:51:51,270 --> 00:51:55,560  
That's why he has never been  
interviewed because he just

1075  
00:51:55,560 --> 00:51:57,040  
breaks down.

1076  
00:51:57,040 --> 00:52:00,510  
His first experience  
going over his story

1077  
00:52:00,510 --> 00:52:03,810  
was with the  
Department of Justice.

1078  
00:52:03,810 --> 00:52:05,580  
They were looking  
for some information,

1079  
00:52:05,580 --> 00:52:11,010  
and he had volunteered to do  
some interviews with them.

1080  
00:52:11,010 --> 00:52:14,220  
And needless to say,  
it's not sitting down

1081  
00:52:14,220 --> 00:52:16,770  
like I'm sitting with  
you and talking about it.

1082  
00:52:16,770 --> 00:52:20,310  
It was really being grilled.

1083

00:52:20,310 --> 00:52:26,310  
And he just-- since then  
he can't bring himself

1084  
00:52:26,310 --> 00:52:28,170  
to sit down and talk about it.

1085  
00:52:28,170 --> 00:52:31,980  
And of course, the recordation  
of the history is fairly new.

1086  
00:52:31,980 --> 00:52:37,710  
It's not that it  
was done years ago.

1087  
00:52:37,710 --> 00:52:41,700  
This was-- this has only been  
done within the last probably

1088  
00:52:41,700 --> 00:52:43,350  
six or seven years.

1089  
00:52:43,350 --> 00:52:47,460  
I know I was one of the  
early recorders of it.

1090  
00:52:47,460 --> 00:52:51,960  
And the only recordation,  
as I told you before,

1091  
00:52:51,960 --> 00:52:54,600  
was a tape that I made  
for Brandeis University.

1092  
00:52:54,600 --> 00:52:57,210  
But then, it was  
very few and far

1093  
00:52:57,210 --> 00:53:00,090  
between that recorded anything.

1094  
00:53:00,090 --> 00:53:01,680  
There have been some

that have written

1095  
00:53:01,680 --> 00:53:05,550  
books about their  
experiences and so forth.

1096  
00:53:05,550 --> 00:53:07,710  
I think I feel more  
comfortable talking about it

1097  
00:53:07,710 --> 00:53:09,865  
than to write a book about it.

1098  
00:53:09,865 --> 00:53:12,240  
Because frankly, I don't have  
the organization of thought

1099  
00:53:12,240 --> 00:53:14,370  
to go through.

1100  
00:53:14,370 --> 00:53:15,930  
I would have to  
have a ghost writer.

1101  
00:53:15,930 --> 00:53:18,930  
And then it doesn't  
have the same meaning.

1102  
00:53:18,930 --> 00:53:20,940  
Have you always been  
able to talk about it?

1103  
00:53:20,940 --> 00:53:24,360

1104  
00:53:24,360 --> 00:53:27,870  
As I told you, more  
or less, always.

1105  
00:53:27,870 --> 00:53:35,400  
And part of it came from my  
experience and my relationship

1106

00:53:35,400 --> 00:53:38,310  
with my guidance counselor.

1107

00:53:38,310 --> 00:53:42,900  
Because she made me in a way  
bare my soul, as she said.

1108

00:53:42,900 --> 00:53:45,630  
Bare your soul now.

1109

00:53:45,630 --> 00:53:48,750  
And I think it's helped for me.

1110

00:53:48,750 --> 00:53:52,710  
But then again,  
experiences as a child

1111

00:53:52,710 --> 00:53:57,290  
are quite different than  
when you're more grown up.

1112

00:53:57,290 --> 00:53:59,220  
I think they affect  
you differently.

1113

00:53:59,220 --> 00:54:01,130  
The things that  
affected me, the things

1114

00:54:01,130 --> 00:54:05,740  
that were memorable to me,  
were probably a lot different

1115

00:54:05,740 --> 00:54:09,620  
than to somebody  
who was an adult.

1116

00:54:09,620 --> 00:54:11,870  
I mean, one of the  
memories that I

1117

00:54:11,870 --> 00:54:15,680

have is playing hopscotch  
and knitting, because you

1118  
00:54:15,680 --> 00:54:19,280  
had to be productive  
in the ghetto or else

1119  
00:54:19,280 --> 00:54:20,780  
you were eliminated.

1120  
00:54:20,780 --> 00:54:23,700  
And in order to survive,  
you had to be productive.

1121  
00:54:23,700 --> 00:54:24,980  
So I learned to knit.

1122  
00:54:24,980 --> 00:54:26,480  
My mother couldn't  
knit, so I had

1123  
00:54:26,480 --> 00:54:29,750  
to produce my quota  
and her quota.

1124  
00:54:29,750 --> 00:54:32,060  
And yet, you know,  
I'm thinking about it

1125  
00:54:32,060 --> 00:54:35,420  
as playing hopscotch and  
knitting because this

1126  
00:54:35,420 --> 00:54:37,340  
is my memory of it.

1127  
00:54:37,340 --> 00:54:40,310

1128  
00:54:40,310 --> 00:54:45,940  
I learned to spin wool because  
this was another way of proving



1129

00:54:45,940 --> 00:54:50,440

your worthiness to live,  
or to be allowed to live,

1130

00:54:50,440 --> 00:54:51,580

I should say.

1131

00:54:51,580 --> 00:54:54,937

Do you think as a child you  
didn't see the larger picture

1132

00:54:54,937 --> 00:54:56,020

in the way an adult would?

1133

00:54:56,020 --> 00:54:57,010

Probably.

1134

00:54:57,010 --> 00:54:57,914

Probably.

1135

00:54:57,914 --> 00:54:58,820

Probably.

1136

00:54:58,820 --> 00:55:02,620

And also, I think  
the fading of memory,

1137

00:55:02,620 --> 00:55:07,300

where I'm sure if probably  
somebody would extract more

1138

00:55:07,300 --> 00:55:09,840

from me, I would remember  
a lot of other things,

1139

00:55:09,840 --> 00:55:16,100

and the normal and natural  
way of burying in your memory

1140

00:55:16,100 --> 00:55:17,380

some of the worst memories.

1141  
00:55:17,380 --> 00:55:21,780

1142  
00:55:21,780 --> 00:55:24,990  
Did you tell your  
children about it?

1143  
00:55:24,990 --> 00:55:28,330  
Oh, they're very much aware  
of it from early years.

1144  
00:55:28,330 --> 00:55:30,480  
So when they were  
young you told them.

1145  
00:55:30,480 --> 00:55:32,250  
They were very protective of us.

1146  
00:55:32,250 --> 00:55:35,712  
Because any time there was  
something on television,

1147  
00:55:35,712 --> 00:55:37,170  
they would make  
sure that they kept

1148  
00:55:37,170 --> 00:55:39,690  
us busy with something else  
so we wouldn't turn on the TV

1149  
00:55:39,690 --> 00:55:40,740  
and watch it.

1150  
00:55:40,740 --> 00:55:45,360  
And especially early films  
of the Germans and so forth.

1151  
00:55:45,360 --> 00:55:49,920  
I mean, just seeing the  
Germans march can touch off

1152  
00:55:49,920 --> 00:55:54,630

a certain memory and a certain  
bitterness, I would say.

1153  
00:55:54,630 --> 00:55:59,280  
And really, our youth  
was stolen from us.

1154  
00:55:59,280 --> 00:56:01,830  
Our families were  
stolen from us.

1155  
00:56:01,830 --> 00:56:05,340  
No experiences that  
the normal child

1156  
00:56:05,340 --> 00:56:09,530  
has, or the normal teenager  
or young adult, or old adult,

1157  
00:56:09,530 --> 00:56:10,530  
for that matter of fact.

1158  
00:56:10,530 --> 00:56:13,650  
How did that affect  
you as a mother

1159  
00:56:13,650 --> 00:56:17,640  
when your children were living  
through those years, when

1160  
00:56:17,640 --> 00:56:22,120  
you didn't have a childhood?

1161  
00:56:22,120 --> 00:56:27,670  
I guess in a way I have rejoiced  
in my children's childhood.

1162  
00:56:27,670 --> 00:56:31,680  
You know, the only thing is I'm  
sorry I'm not a grandmother.

1163  
00:56:31,680 --> 00:56:33,550  
And doesn't look from--

1164  
00:56:33,550 --> 00:56:34,990  
my daughter is 42.

1165  
00:56:34,990 --> 00:56:39,760  
My son is 38, almost 39.

1166  
00:56:39,760 --> 00:56:43,690  
And I don't see myself  
as a grandmother anymore.

1167  
00:56:43,690 --> 00:56:47,740  
But I have enjoyed  
my friends' children.

1168  
00:56:47,740 --> 00:56:52,540  
And I have one friend, and  
she works at the museum--

1169  
00:56:52,540 --> 00:56:53,500  
Regina Spiegel.

1170  
00:56:53,500 --> 00:56:58,160  
And it was always a joke that--

1171  
00:56:58,160 --> 00:56:58,660  
watch it.

1172  
00:56:58,660 --> 00:57:02,290  
My grandchildren like  
you more than me.

1173  
00:57:02,290 --> 00:57:04,310  
Always enjoy them.

1174  
00:57:04,310 --> 00:57:05,170  
I enjoy children.

1175  
00:57:05,170 --> 00:57:08,770  
I wish I had grandchildren,  
but one of those things

1176

00:57:08,770 --> 00:57:11,670

that you adjust  
to, you live with.

1177

00:57:11,670 --> 00:57:15,020

You said that you're active  
in Jewish organizations?

1178

00:57:15,020 --> 00:57:20,680

I was very active in Hadassah,  
very active at the temple.

1179

00:57:20,680 --> 00:57:27,040

In my early years before UJA  
became an organization per se,

1180

00:57:27,040 --> 00:57:30,100

even went door to door  
collecting for UJA.

1181

00:57:30,100 --> 00:57:33,010

But I was more  
active in Hadassah--

1182

00:57:33,010 --> 00:57:36,970

not in the last 10,  
12 years, though,

1183

00:57:36,970 --> 00:57:41,020

with my aunt, when  
she was aging.

1184

00:57:41,020 --> 00:57:44,620

She passed away, and my, God,  
it's almost five years ago.

1185

00:57:44,620 --> 00:57:45,340

She lived here.

1186

00:57:45,340 --> 00:57:47,470

She was at the Hebrew  
home-- want to visit her.

1187

00:57:47,470 --> 00:57:50,950

So if you spend a day  
here and a day there,

1188

00:57:50,950 --> 00:57:56,410

you don't want to commit to  
a day of organizational work.

1189

00:57:56,410 --> 00:57:59,920

You said that when  
you were in Italy,

1190

00:57:59,920 --> 00:58:03,100

your first choice was  
to go to Palestine.

1191

00:58:03,100 --> 00:58:04,870

Did you ever get  
to visit Israel?

1192

00:58:04,870 --> 00:58:06,040

Oh, yes.

1193

00:58:06,040 --> 00:58:08,150

And what was that like for you?

1194

00:58:08,150 --> 00:58:09,830

What was that like?

1195

00:58:09,830 --> 00:58:16,560

Like-- I don't know--  
like being in cloud nine.

1196

00:58:16,560 --> 00:58:19,230

In what way?

1197

00:58:19,230 --> 00:58:21,965

Well, you've never  
visited there?

1198

00:58:21,965 --> 00:58:22,465

No.

1199  
00:58:22,465 --> 00:58:25,140

1200  
00:58:25,140 --> 00:58:26,380  
In the first place--

1201  
00:58:26,380 --> 00:58:29,340  
I mean, for me, especially,  
knowing the history

1202  
00:58:29,340 --> 00:58:33,390  
and having read the Bible, as  
I told you, cover to cover,

1203  
00:58:33,390 --> 00:58:39,180  
it was like coming to  
a place that was alive,

1204  
00:58:39,180 --> 00:58:44,070  
seeing the accomplishments  
of the Jewish people,

1205  
00:58:44,070 --> 00:58:49,590  
knowing that there is a place  
that at any time anybody

1206  
00:58:49,590 --> 00:58:55,165  
tried to do something like  
that to the Jewish people,

1207  
00:58:55,165 --> 00:58:56,790  
that there are-- and  
hopefully, there's

1208  
00:58:56,790 --> 00:58:59,250  
always going to be a state,  
that there is somebody that

1209  
00:58:59,250 --> 00:59:06,750  
could speak up, that there is--  
that there is an entity that

1210

00:59:06,750 --> 00:59:13,020

cares, and an entity that  
has the ability and the power

1211

00:59:13,020 --> 00:59:15,870

to make it known  
to somebody else.

1212

00:59:15,870 --> 00:59:20,660

1213

00:59:20,660 --> 00:59:25,100

Having experienced life  
under Russian rule,

1214

00:59:25,100 --> 00:59:29,960

under the communists, and under  
the Germans, needless to say,

1215

00:59:29,960 --> 00:59:33,980

coming to the United  
States, experiencing

1216

00:59:33,980 --> 00:59:38,390

what I experienced here, my  
first comments were when--

1217

00:59:38,390 --> 00:59:44,330

during the McCarthy  
era is, gee, anybody

1218

00:59:44,330 --> 00:59:46,640

who wants to be a communist,  
let them go to Russia

1219

00:59:46,640 --> 00:59:47,432

and be a communist.

1220

00:59:47,432 --> 00:59:50,690

Let them experience  
firsthand what it's like,

1221



00:59:50,690 --> 00:59:55,040  
and they're not going to feel  
so communist inclined as much.

1222  
00:59:55,040 --> 00:59:58,800

1223  
00:59:58,800 --> 01:00:03,630  
I feel that this  
country has afforded us

1224  
01:00:03,630 --> 01:00:09,660  
freedom, opportunity,  
has allowed

1225  
01:00:09,660 --> 01:00:12,990  
us to have a way of life.

1226  
01:00:12,990 --> 01:00:16,690  
I consider myself  
having a very good life.

1227  
01:00:16,690 --> 01:00:20,490  
I think that we're not  
wanting for anything.

1228  
01:00:20,490 --> 01:00:24,630  
The experience of being able to  
work and supply for ourselves

1229  
01:00:24,630 --> 01:00:28,980  
and make our own way was  
the most wonderful gift

1230  
01:00:28,980 --> 01:00:32,490  
that any country  
can give anyone.

1231  
01:00:32,490 --> 01:00:37,920  
The opportunity to go to  
school, the opportunity

1232  
01:00:37,920 --> 01:00:39,520

to just learn English--

1233  
01:00:39,520 --> 01:00:43,698  
I mean, I consider that a  
height above all others.

1234  
01:00:43,698 --> 01:00:45,240  
Because unless you  
know the language,

1235  
01:00:45,240 --> 01:00:48,780  
you're not part of the country.

1236  
01:00:48,780 --> 01:00:57,170  
It's a freedom that I think  
is being missed out on now.

1237  
01:00:57,170 --> 01:01:01,560  
I think that keeping with  
tradition is important,

1238  
01:01:01,560 --> 01:01:05,400  
but tradition  
belongs in the home.

1239  
01:01:05,400 --> 01:01:09,880  
It does not-- it does not have  
to be imposed on the population

1240  
01:01:09,880 --> 01:01:10,380  
around.

1241  
01:01:10,380 --> 01:01:14,040

1242  
01:01:14,040 --> 01:01:16,620  
I feel American.

1243  
01:01:16,620 --> 01:01:18,900  
And so how did you  
feel in Israel?

1244

01:01:18,900 --> 01:01:20,070  
Did that feel--

1245  
01:01:20,070 --> 01:01:21,330  
It was a different feeling.

1246  
01:01:21,330 --> 01:01:23,160  
I felt a feeling of belonging.

1247  
01:01:23,160 --> 01:01:24,315  
I was part of a people.

1248  
01:01:24,315 --> 01:01:27,480

1249  
01:01:27,480 --> 01:01:31,470  
If you ask me what am I  
first, I couldn't answer you

1250  
01:01:31,470 --> 01:01:34,350  
whether I'm a Jew first  
or an American first.

1251  
01:01:34,350 --> 01:01:35,910  
I'd say I'm equally.

1252  
01:01:35,910 --> 01:01:37,740  
I'm an American Jew.

1253  
01:01:37,740 --> 01:01:38,490  
I'm a Jew.

1254  
01:01:38,490 --> 01:01:41,100  
I have feelings for Israel.

1255  
01:01:41,100 --> 01:01:42,750  
We do donate to Israel.

1256  
01:01:42,750 --> 01:01:44,130  
We buy Israeli bonds.

1257

01:01:44,130 --> 01:01:46,270  
We support Israel.

1258  
01:01:46,270 --> 01:01:50,820  
But I always wanted to be there.

1259  
01:01:50,820 --> 01:01:53,380  
But I still feel an American.

1260  
01:01:53,380 --> 01:01:56,430  
And I think it's wonderful  
that America is a country that

1261  
01:01:56,430 --> 01:02:05,700  
allows us to be loyal to  
Israel, and not feel that we

1262  
01:02:05,700 --> 01:02:07,380  
are disloyal to America.

1263  
01:02:07,380 --> 01:02:10,530

1264  
01:02:10,530 --> 01:02:11,940  
I don't know how else to put it.

1265  
01:02:11,940 --> 01:02:13,890  
OK.

1266  
01:02:13,890 --> 01:02:15,840  
Well, we're getting  
near the end.

1267  
01:02:15,840 --> 01:02:19,470  
Is there anything  
that I neglected

1268  
01:02:19,470 --> 01:02:21,690  
to ask you, anything I  
should have asked you

1269  
01:02:21,690 --> 01:02:25,320

that I didn't, or anything  
that you would like to say?

1270  
01:02:25,320 --> 01:02:27,560  
Well, the only thing  
I can say is to--

1271  
01:02:27,560 --> 01:02:30,930  
and I guess this tape is going  
to be listened to generations

1272  
01:02:30,930 --> 01:02:36,250  
after, is value what you  
have and keep freedom.

1273  
01:02:36,250 --> 01:02:38,850  
Don't let it slip away.

1274  
01:02:38,850 --> 01:02:44,260  
And your life will be only as  
good as you make it yourself.

1275  
01:02:44,260 --> 01:02:48,297  
Take advantage of all the  
opportunities that you have

1276  
01:02:48,297 --> 01:02:49,630  
and that this country gives you.

1277  
01:02:49,630 --> 01:02:52,360

1278  
01:02:52,360 --> 01:02:54,210  
How else can I say it?

1279  
01:02:54,210 --> 01:02:56,120  
You put it very well.

1280  
01:02:56,120 --> 01:02:57,910  
Thank you very  
much, Mrs. Goldfarb.

1281

01:02:57,910 --> 01:02:58,743

Thank you very much.

1282

01:02:58,743 --> 01:03:03,160

This concludes the United  
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1283

01:03:03,160 --> 01:03:05,760

interview with Rachel Goldfarb.

1284

01:03:05,760 --> 01:03:07,228