

Tania Rozmaryan

Tape 1, Side A

February 23, 1997

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Abstract

Tania Rozmaryan was born Tania Marcus on June 16, 1928 in Vilna, Poland and grew up in a nearby small town of Smorgan (?), about 40 miles from Vilna with her parents her older sister and her younger brother. Her father had two businesses with a partner: one was a hardware store where they sold farming equipment and the other business was a flax making plant with several hundred employees. Tania attended the Tarbot (?) School where most subjects were taught in Hebrew. Her father would discuss many subjects with her on their walks through the forest. The first change came in 1939 when the Germans divided eastern Poland and their town became occupied by the Soviet Union. They took away her father's businesses and he had to work in the forest cutting down trees. With the Communists in power, she no longer had to worry about the neighborhood non-Jewish children's mischief. On June 21, 1941, someone told her father that they were to be transferred to Siberia the next day. Her mother sewed their valuables into their coat linings and each took a knapsack with food. Instead of the Russians, the Germans took over the next morning and Tania's father said to run toward the Russian border. When they reached Lebetev (?), they found the Germans were already there. They decided that the father should remain with Tania's brother and her mother with Tania and her sister would return home. Her mother returned to Lebetev and found the father had been taken away by the Germans but the son was all right so brought him home. Then a ghetto was formed and Tania's family was assigned a room in the ghetto with four families. At night they would cover their stars and trade valuables for food. At first her mother and sister were assigned work. Later she was sent to wash dishes in a Polish mansion. A German officer lived there who told Tania that all the Jews were to be killed in that region and she might be saved if she went to a labor camp. This part ends with Tania riding on a truck with 298 fellow villagers headed toward a labor camp.

Tania Rozmaryan tells of her many adventures during the War from the time in Winter-'41-'42 when she was on a train going to Zhesmaier (?), Lithuania ending near the time of liberation when she was selected to remain in a (Riga?) concentration camp. In Zhesmaier (?), Tania and her cousin were placed in bunks in the Synagogue and they went to work daily building the road from Kovno to Vilma. Meanwhile her family was transferred to the Oshmiono Ghetto. The Construction Chief was helpful to the Jews by taking a truck once a month to the Ghetto to deliver letters to their relatives and obtain food for them; once he took along Tania. When he learns they are to be liquidated, the Chief decides to take Tania's family to the Zhesmaier work camp. Some White Russian farmers tried to take their belongings but Tania's mother found two nearby Germans to help them. Instead the family is taken to the Kovno Ghetto where Tania works in a galoshe factory. She kept her motivation up by composing songs in Yiddish which

she sung with her friends and sings one to the interviewer. One day while at work, the Germans try to kidnap all the children and they take away her brother. She and her mother hide in a lady's cellar and later they were transferred by barge and train to a concentration camp (Riga?).

Tape 3 starts out with Tania Rozmaryan experiencing humiliation of getting naked and obtaining random clothes upon entering a concentration camp. She composes Yiddish songs and her Kappel hears her singing and gives her an extra ration. When selected for the crematorium, tiny Tania explains to the prison chief that she is a teenager and strong so is permitted to dig trenches alongside her mother and sister. They went in trucks to Malcom (?) and Dubach (?) where they stayed in makeshift barracks. Then they marched north to Stuthof (?) with no food and saw many dead bodies piling up along the way. Tania becomes unconscious and awakens on a feather bed having been liberated by the Russians. After 2 months she recovers from typhus and is taken with her sister and mother to a DP camp. They take a train to Lodz and join a Zionist group planning to join a religious kibbutz in Palestine. Tania saves some Jewish girls being used as concubines near Gdansk by getting them false documents. She with her mother and sister escape across the Carpathian Mountains to the American occupied zone of Berlin. Tania takes courses and does some teaching. Her mother insists on her marrying a man she dislikes and they have a son and go to the US in 1950. After working as a seamstress for several years, she succeeds in completing college in three years and becomes a teacher.

Tape 3 starts out with Tania Rozmaryan living in Queens where she taught and obtained an M.A. In 1990 she followed her sons to Silver Spring, Maryland and was accepted in a teaching position there. She lives in Kemp Mill near her sons and grandsons. They have followed the path of Modern Orthodoxy and started the Kemp Mill Synagogue. Tania believes this is the happiest time of her life as she got over her Post Traumatic Syndrome and enjoys her grandchildren. She owes her adjustment to her motivation in getting an education and accomplishment as a teacher and counselor.

Summary

00:00 Tania Rozmaryan was born Tonia Marcus on June 16, 1928 in Vilna, Poland and grew up in a nearby small town of Smorgan (?), about 40 miles from Vilna. Her family consisted of her parents Yaakov and Celia (?) Marcus (now in the Hebrew Home), Rivka, her older sister and Natan (?), her younger brother. Her family lived there for many generations but it went to Russia during World War I and then they returned and rebuilt their homes. Other relatives in Smorgan were her two aunts and uncles, her father's brothers, their children Fruma and Monya (Goldberg) and her children, Bayla, Sara, and Esther. In Vilna were Paula Fate (?) and Bergen, Eva, Mira, Rivka and Doudal (?) and two sisters on her grandfather's side, all perished. Over 80 people died in Pinsk. Tonia's father had two businesses: one was a hardware store with Mayer Goldberg and Mottle

Perksy (?) who both perished. They sold farming equipment in the area and did well. The other business was a place where farmers brought flax to make into linen with several hundred employees cleaning, sorting and pressing flax. The finished product was shipped out by a freight train that connected to the business. Her mother did not work. The Russians took over their big house and are still there. Tonia's mother did charity work and she had a housekeeper.

05:00 Her mother traveled to Vilna to give birth in a proper hospital and returned to Smorgan where Tania was raised. They lived in a mixed neighborhood. Her aunt and uncle and her father's partner lived across the street. Non-Jews lived on their left and they got along with them though when they returned after the War, the neighbors had cleaned out the house and would not return anything to them. Tania's family was upper middle class but there were hovels nearby with wooden floors and no plumbing. Tania lived in the center of the town. They were very traditional. Her family observed shabbos and her father would learn (study) but he only wore a yamacha for meals. They considered themselves Lithuanians as they were occupied since World War I. They had also been occupied by the White Russians. Their culture and Jewish way of life were like Lithuanians. They were Zionist and had a private Jewish school (Tarbot?) but no Hasidim. Tania had one hour of bible and most subjects were taught in Hebrew, even secular subjects. She attended Tarbot which prevailed all over Lithuania. Her father was a leader in building the school in town and in Zionism. Zionist meetings were held in Tania's home with talk of immigrating to Palestine.

10:00 A special immigration permit was needed to be obtained from the authorities in Palestine and they never received it. In 1939 when Tonia was in the 4th grade, war broke out and she was sad. Her father would play the Jewish National Anthem on the mandolin for them. In the summer they would go to the Volga (?) River nearby with other Jews who could afford it and went swimming, boating, played volleyball and went walking. Her father would take her to the forest to find wild strawberries and hazelnuts and spoke of serious mature subjects on Israel, Jewish history, and family relations. When her father would get home from work, he would sit with her and her sister and ask what they learned. He took them to the stadium where they played soccer and teach them to ride the bicycle. In the winter they went skiing and skating. Her father bought her skis to go cross-skiing. They would ask the farmers to bring horses and sleighs with bells and they would visit the nearby villages. Tania felt that she was quiet and shy and suffered from insecurity and an inferiority complex due to her mother's behavior toward her although she felt that her mother would give her life for her and her sister. Her mother helped her with homework and made sure that she had proper clothes but never kissed her (although now does so). At that time, it was thought to be unhelpful to praise children, but they grew up insecure.

- 15:00 They had non-Jewish neighbors before the War but they were not friends. When she and her friends tried to go swimming in the nearby brook, the non-Jewish children would throw mud on them and chased them out of the water. In the winter when they wanted to go skating, the non-Jews came and caused trouble. The non-Jews threw rocks on their metal roof which made an amplified sound that was frightening so Tania did not like to stay home alone at night. She would speak to her parents about the non-Jewish children's behavior but they felt that nothing could be done. The first change came in 1939 when the Germans divided eastern Poland and their town became occupied by the Soviet Union. They took away her father's businesses and he had to work in the forest and came home with calluses on his hand. The Targot School was converted into a Russian School and they opened a non-kosher coffee shop there. Tania's home was kosher and they observed the holidays so it was upsetting to have a nonkosher shop in her school. Tania's family had sufficient food and clothes at this time. Her grandfather's car was taken away. He had a shiny blue Chevrolet truck with a German chauffeur and wife and gave them a house in which to live. The chauffeur drove Tania and her mother to Vilna to visit relatives. Tania was 11 at this time.
- 20:00 She does not recall what her father said but he was depressed. He worked in the nearby forest with other wealthy men where they cut down trees and sorted the logs. He came home by bicycle and was very tired. They had little contact with their relatives in Vilna. They did not travel there but people who returned brought regards from their relatives. She took the changes for granted. The Russians did not torture them. The Russian Army confiscated one of their rooms for a Russian Lieutenant (Katrew?) who was a tank commander. Tania thought he was a nice man who talked with her parents and brought them food from the Army. He even woke them up for school. She felt safer as did not suffer from the non-Jewish children. Seeing soldiers in their red and blue uniforms did not upset her. The children were organized into Pioneer Communist party groups. She was bourgeois so was not accepted and felt jealous as could not attend meetings or be in parades. When their poor relative became a leader in the Consommel, Tania was able to become a Pioneer and attend meetings and parades. She was brain-washed and felt proud of being in the Communist regime and sang praises to Stalin.
- 25:00 Her parents did not say anything as the children were happy to be liberated from anti-Semitism as there was none in Communism. She spoke Yiddish at home and her father spoke Hebrew which she was required to speak in school. She had a new teacher, an Israeli, who spoke with an accent of a Sabra. Tania also spoke Russian for the two years that Russia occupied their town but Yiddish at home. She studied Polish one hour a week by a Polish teacher. They were required to speak Polish if they visited the municipal offices. There were two sister-in-laws from Poland and she learned to speak it from them and now speaks it well. Passover was her favorite holiday. They started preparations in the beginning of the winter. Her mother started stuffing geese to have fat for Passover.

They would slaughter the geese and render them. Tania's mother bought tons of grapes and made wine ahead of time. In the Fall they placed fruit and vegetables in the cellar for the winter. They put sauerkraut and cabbage in the cellar and strawberry and raspberry jam in jars. Every Thursday Tania was sent to the shochet (religious slaughterer) to slaughter chicken or goose and plucked it and made it kosher. They bought butter and eggs for everyday use.

30:00 Cheese and salamis were bought in bulk for Passover. They cleaned the house and got out the good dishes. Even rich people did not have special Passover dishes. They boiled pots of water to kasher the dishes and took the silverware to a special bath with a cauldron to kasher them. They only had meat dishes, no dairy, for Passover. All the children got dressed up and she had new patent leather shoes and socks and they went to the Rabbi to wish him a Happy Passover and he gave them haroseth (apple, cinnamon, wine mixture for the seder). Everyone made Passover as best as they could at home. Her grandparents came and when her grandpa sang, the non-Jews gathered at their window to listen. Now, Tania has taught her children those songs. There were no restrictions to life except there was less material things in the home. Tania felt honored to be a member of the Communist party. Her grandpa got sick in 1940 and they took him to Vilna as Pauline, a relative, could take care of him. Pauline passed away and her grandpa came home. Bell Benasheska (?), her grandpa, had contracted with the slaughter house to clear the intestines of animals by blowing them and then drying them and exporting it to Germany. That is why he bought the truck. When he was away on business, one of them slept with the grandma. Tania was petrified in their house which was near the Jewish cemetery. When the grandpa returned, he brought them toys. Once he returned playing a violin which was for Tania.

35:00 There was no anti-Semitism as any non-Jewish students in the school which was up to the 8th grade. There were no outsiders. The teachers were Communists. One teacher taught algebra and Russian. They had a German teacher one hour a week and she became an interpreter when the Nazis came. Dr. Zuckerman's wife was trained in drama and music and she organized skits and a choir for the students. Tania loved singing in the choir. At that time there was no Hebrew language, Bible or Jewish history taught. The skits and plays were in Yiddish. The school was converted to a Yiddish School. **Side B.** Tania loved school, especially the teacher who directed plays. She had a concertina and allowed Tania to carry it for her which felt like an honor. Tania feels that children today are so knowledgeable and sophisticated and that she was naïve as not exposed to the media of today.

40:00 The next change was June 22, 1941, a Sunday when she was 14. The day before someone told her father that their names were on a list of wealthy people to be transferred to Siberia. They were shipping the bourgeois to Siberia. They thought they would be put on freight cars the next day. Her mother got their gold valuables together and sewed

them into their coat linings. They each had knapsacks and put in zwieback and other food. The Germans came at 4 AM and there was shooting to end the Russian regime so the family did not go to Siberia. From 1939 to 1941, they heard Hitler's speeches on the radio and knew he was a dictator in Germany but never thought it would concern their small town. Tania's parents understood German. Her father read Jewish newspapers daily and discussed politics with her mother and friends. On vacation, Tonya had read about Franco and Addis Ababa in the newspaper so knew of their existence but not exactly where they were located. Then they would tell a person to go to Honolulu like we tell people to go to Mars today. The Russians had taught geography and she liked it and history. Once she had to compare the Japanese Islands with the British Isles. Her father said to run toward the Russian border. Her father brought the knapsacks and other things. Thousands of people were on the roads going toward the Soviet Union.

45:00 While they were walking, German planes came down with machine guns so they hid under the wheat until the plane passed. They marched 50 miles to Lepedek (?), a little town. They knew that they had to leave their house to save their life. It never dawned on her that life would be different from her beautiful house. As a 13 year old girl, she took a little scrapbook with photos and her favorite doll. One girl in her class had relatives in the US who sent her a doll whose eyes closed when it was laid down and Tania was thrilled to play with it. They went to their relatives in Lepedek, the grandma's sister who had two boys, Moishe and Reuven and one girl, Golda. They were very poor and she could not understand why they had a wooden floor and no rugs and made moccasins which they sold at the market. Tania always mentions their names when she says yiskeh (mourner's prayer). She was happy to see her relatives who made them comfortable but the German tanks were already there as they had taken over the town. Tania's family decided they might as well return home. They thought it was not safe for her father to walk with them. They decided to go on foot unless a cart comes along and offers them a ride.

50:00 They decided that the father should remain with the six year old son and the mother with the two girls would return home. The mother would see the situation and might return to get the father. The Germans were moving East and they were moving West. They arrived home to find an empty house but the grandfather was there as his house had burned down. He had remarried Tania's mother's sister who had two small children. All three were sitting on the floor so Tania's mother asked the neighbor to return some furniture and they got a bed and a mattress. They found some food in the cellar. Her mother spoke with friends and neighbors and found that the Jews were afraid. The Germans required the Jews to give up their valuables such as art and gold or be killed. Tania's mother decided that life at home was the same as in Lebetev (?) so went to bring them home. In Lebetev all able-bodied men were taken away by the Germans and they never saw her father again. The son was all right so brought him home. Tania cried and

tore her skin and hair as she could not imagine that her father was gone. All the Jews were asked to work as a form of humiliation as they swept the streets—even the Rabbi.

- 55:00 It was a small town so it was not paved and had cobblestones with wheat growing in between so they had to cut out the wheat with knives. Two Germans came to her house and knocked on the door and shot their barking German shepherd. The grandpa gave them everything they wanted so they took her mother's fur coat and left. They remained at home for several months. The Germans looked tall, blond and strong in their impressive uniforms but did nothing to her. The Germans fenced off an area with the two shules (synagogues) where the poorest lived and created a ghetto. There was another ghetto, Koka (?), north of Smorgan where 25 families tried to organize a farm community. Tania's family consisting of her mother, sister, grandfather, brother and herself, was assigned a room in the ghetto with four families. Her grandfather was industrious and he suddenly decided that he knows how to fix shoes. People brought him bread and vegetables and he fixed their shoes. Then people were taken to work outside the ghetto so every day they took her mother and her sister. The high school was converted into a lodge where German soldiers from the West could stay overnight. Jewish girls and boys washed their clothes and darned their socks. They did not rape the girls. One German said that when they lose the war, the German officers should be killed. Her mother was assigned to the soup kitchen to serve the starving people. Tania's family still had food and gold and had to wear stars on the front and back of their garments.
- 60:00 Her mother knew the farmers so at night they covered the stars and ran to the neighbors to get flour, ham and any other food they could obtain. Until 1943 they still had items that they could exchange. When the others went to work, Tania would sit on her bed and read or go out and see her friends. She found an anatomy book that she read. She slept in the bed with her mother and sister. Her grandfather and his wife slept in another bed and her brother slept on the floor on a straw mattress. There was an outhouse and a water pump outside which they used to wash and cook. They had a basin to wash themselves. Everyone wore the star and since they did not leave the ghetto, she did not feel much suffering. Tania believes she was either optimistic or stupid as did not comprehend the tragedy. Now she speaks to 11 and 12 year olds and tells her story and they understand.
- 65:00 When Tania was their age, she did not know much. She cut out the Jewish stars from the material that the Judenrat (Jewish Council) had distributed and sewed it on her clothes. The Judenrat were the richer people and usually did things to benefit themselves. One time the Germans asked for a list of people and the Judenrat did not submit anyone as the bible indicates that one is not allowed to so the Germans should pick the people themselves. Tania and a boy were called to work in a beautiful house that belonged to a Polish landowner. The house smelled good and she was taken to the kitchen where she washed dishes and the boy chopped wood. It was warm there so she felt good. The

German officer who lived there came home in the evening. He impressed her as he was tall, smoked a pipe, wore glasses and had dark hair. She saw a letter on the table with his name, Heinrich Funker (?). It seemed to be a letter from his wife with the address of Berlin S036 Dresden Strasse 18. He was the Oberstrammer Bonfier (?), an important official over White Russia. He wore a uniform with a swastika and was nice to her.

70:00 He told Tania that all the Jews were to be killed in that region and she might be saved if she went to a labor camp. She slept at home and had a special pass to walk in the street. One day her uncle Manya (?) Goldberg (has his photo) who was a member of the Judenrat said the Nazis want 300 men and women for the labor camp. This time the Germans will not pick but are requesting a list. He placed his own family members on the list. He had a daughter, Bayla Goldberg and the grandfather's wife for the list. They discussed how Tania could go with Bayla. She volunteered for the camp and said that she would take care of Bayla. Tania had red leather boots and a red shearing coat. Her mother gave her food and walked with her to the station and cried. The soldiers were not SS but the German construction brigade. Tania's mother went up to the officer and placed something in his hand and Tania went into the freight car and her mother left. Tania was with 300 people in a closed, dark car and they did not know where they were going. There were two little windows on the top for air. The next morning, the car doors were opened and she saw SS men talking to the construction men.

75:00 They were kept in the closed car for three hours. The Jews from White Russia did not want to go anywhere as knew the Jews of Vilna had been killed there. Then they were told that they were needed to build the roads of Kovno. When they got to Lublin, the car doors were opened and they were loaded onto trucks. Tania was with her cousin and 298 others from Smorgan, some of them she knew. Everyone was sitting and crying and depressed and talked about what might happen. They knew they were going to work. No one talked of Jews being shot, crematoriums or concentration camps.

77:00

Tania Rozmaryan

Tape 2, Side A

February 23, 1997

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Summary

00:00 This tape starts when Tania is traveling around December 1941 to January 1942 on a train with people from her hometown to Zhesmaier (?), Lithuania. The atmosphere is gloomy but they only know they are going to work; they have not yet heard about

crematoriums or concentration camps. They get on trucks and believe they are going through a town that is about 80% Jewish as they saw blank spots on doors where mezuzahs (religious item) were probably ripped off. After 15 or 20 minutes they arrived at a synagogue that was fenced off by barbed wire. It was emptied of religious items and chairs and filled with 3-tiered bunks as one sees in the Holocaust Museum. There were 20 to 30 people packed in like sardines next to each other. Since Tania and her cousin were young, they climbed up to the 3rd tier. There was another house in the yard constructed with bunks for the men. They were given food. The next morning they were lined up in the courtyard and were told that they were going to build roads from Kovno to Vilna. If they were too weak to work, they could return home as they had sufficient people to work. About 25 people stepped forward and were taken away. Later Tania found out that they were killed and buried about three miles away. The age of the entire group was about 16 or 17 to 28 or 30.

05:00 Tania was 13 and ½ years old and small for her age. Because she was so small, she caught the eye of the construction chief who said he would do her a favor. She stayed with a cousin. Tania was still wearing her red boots and grey shirring coat so she was warm. Her mother had given her chicken and other food. She brought an extra dress with her. The following day they went to work by truck and train to the area where the highway was to be built. The jobs were divided up. One group placed sand on the two lane highway. Then round stones were placed close together with their tips up and shoveled in place by the younger people. Men sat with hammers and chopped up stones to make smaller stones which were put in wheelbarrows and used to fill the holes between the stones. After about 50 or 100 yards, they were covered with boiling tar and then used a steamroller on the road. Every day they proceeded further and further and were watched by soldiers in charge of the construction. They could not speak to them and could not leave. In the morning they were given imitation coffee with a slice of bread. With a straw, they divided the bread in four parts for four girls to last the day.

10:00 Upon their return to camp, they were given soup with potato peels, nonpoisonous grass and flour. They were not given any food during the day so ate the bread they had saved from the morning. After a few weeks, the head of construction got hoarse so called him "Hazeler (hoarse) Geshect (king). Once a month he took a truck to the ghetto with one Jew to obtain food from their relatives for them and deliver letters they wrote to the relatives. The Smogen (?) Ghetto no longer existed so the families had to go elsewhere. Tania's sister came to her labor camp and worked in a nearby office and stayed in a special barracks. No one wore yellow stars at Tania's camp. Everyone from Smogen, including Tania's mother, brother, grandparents, and their child went to Oshmiono (?) Ghetto. Before they entered the ghetto, a selection was made to get rid of the old people and the children. They placed the old people and the children in the synagogue and then they were taken to the field and were killed. The grandfather was healthy and went to the

gate and picked up the invalids and the sick and placed them in the corner. The Germans saw how strong he was and allowed him to enter the ghetto. Every day they took the train to work and one day the Hazeler Chief told Tania he knew her mother as she had walked Tania to the train. It was February or early March and very cold.

- 15:00 He told Tania that the following week they were going to Oshmiono to get food and she could go to see her mother and nothing bad would happen to her. It took several hours riding in the truck and they reached Oshmiono and went to the Jewish police station and asked them to get her mother. They kissed and hugged and Tania saw all her relatives and stayed the night. She awoke with a strep throat and was very sick with a high fever. The Chief said he has to take back the same amount of people. In her place, they sent an orphan who had a sister at the camp and gave her food and clothes and told her that the cousin would help her. Tania remained with her mother and recovered and made friends. They were not starved as they snuck out and bartered items and, also, got fed by a soup kitchen. No one got killed but it was still a ghetto and they hoped to survive to see the War end. It was a walled ghetto with barbed wire. It was Spring – April or May. She took walks and read books with her friends. One day at the entrance, Tania saw the Chief in a car and he came over and said Kleiner (little girl), tell your mother to pack up as he is taking them to Zheshmier (?). They should meet at the entrance in the morning where he will have horses and wagons. He took Tania's family along with another 20 or 30 families.
- 20:00 Farmers with horses and wagons took their belongings and took them to a train in the town where they were to place their belongings in freight cars. They were to sleep the night in the ghetto and the next day go to Zhesmeir (?) which was 15 miles away. They passed the village of Zhuprani (?) and a farmer pulled them to his farm. His family came out with pitchforks and wanted to take away all their belongings. Tania's mother ran down the street and saw two Germans (they did not act like these White Russians but only performed duties assigned them). She told the Germans that they were on their way to labor camps and the farmer wants to kill them. The Germans took out their guns and told the farmer and his family to return to their house or they will be killed. The families continued on to the train station and put their belongings in the freight cars and returned to the ghetto.
- 25:00 They cried while awaiting her mother to return but knew that she was trying to save them (At age 75 her mother was still helping people; now she is 95). They found Tania's father's relatives living in a wealthy house in the Oshmiono Ghetto. The Chief slept in one room and four of them slept in one bed in another room. The Chief reported that he found out that in two weeks the ghetto would be liquidated and the people killed so he will take more people as workers. The Oshmiono Ghetto saved some of their relatives from Zhesmeir. Some people tried to bribe the Chief so he took one gold coin. The Chief told Tania to bring her relatives in two weeks as all will be slaughtered. She found

Rivka, the daughter of her aunt in Lebetev along with her boy friend. Rivka said that a few months after they left, all the Jews were placed in a barn and were burned alive. She was at work and survived. Tania invited Rivka but she refused. Tania went with her relatives to Zhesmeir and they were happy to see her sister. Her mother had bribed the Chief when she took Tania to the train and by nature he was a good person.

30:00 He was in his 50s. Tania was singled out when she was asked if she wanted to see her mother. She felt lucky and thought it was because she looked clean and neat and nice as her coat and boots made a difference. In Zheshmier there were places for her relatives. Her mother worked in the bakery so they had enough bread to eat and they all worked until Spring 1943. Tania lived one day at a time. She composed poems and sang and talked with her friends. One Sunday when they were not working but sitting on their bunk, they looked out the window and saw Christians dressed up and going to church. She cried and asked why these experiences were happening to her and poured out her misery and suffering by singing at night. They sat in groups and imagined it was Friday night with the aromas of chicken, soup and cholla and her mother was there. They discussed how Shabbat looked like but then looked up and saw the reality. Tania then sings a song in Yiddish from that time that she had written.

35:00 She recites the end in English – "I hope the storm will end; like the river is flowing peacefully by, her life will be peaceful." In Spring 1943 there are rumors that the Russians are pushing back the Germans and heavy battles are going on. One day Tania saw trucks enter and people set out a station and said that everyone must sign up. The Chief tells her mother to go back as this camp will be liquidated since the War is close. He found a place, Glasgow (?), near the Russian border that needs workers. They should not sign up yet and wait for him. The people who signed up were taken away in trucks. Then men in armbands, the Jewish police from Kovno came and the Chief told them to sign up. They all got on the trucks except for the sister who works in the office. Tania was taken to Kovno with her uncle, Mayer, and his family. **Tape 2, Side B.** They went to the ghetto where the Jews looked well-fed and well-dressed and were nice to them. This was June, 1943 when she was 16. They were divided into two groups. Tania was always the same size, whether she was 11 or 72. One group went into the synagogue which had been converted for lodging with wall-to-wall mattresses for ladies and for men. They got one mattress for her mother, brother and herself. The other group went to the movie house which had mattresses. The uncle, aunt and their family went there. They had nothing to do. Two nicely dressed girls, Caesar (?) Trotsky and Bathsher (?) came over and said that they lived all their lives in Kovno and now lived in their beautiful house which was in the ghetto.

40:00 Caesar now lives in New York. They gave her food and introduced her to more girls and boys. They had an organization which had contact with Zionists outside the ghetto. It was the first time that Tania belonged to a group of teenagers. They were intellectual and

did not date. They were concerned about the political situation. It was the first time that Tania heard about the Partisans who resisted in the forest. There were too few to search for them. Tania lived in a small town and there were no partisans in her part of the Ukraine. The Chief surprised them by bringing her sister. Her mother worked in the soup kitchen so they always had soup and potatoes. Someone from Zhashmer (?) came looking for girls and she was afraid they were looking for her sister. All her friends were educated and sophisticated except for one girl from a plain family but sometimes Tania spent time with her. She told this girl that she was afraid and the girl said not to worry that she will hike with her strong brother and they returned. One day while sitting on a mattress in the synagogue with the holy ark nearby and the outside cook with potatoes nearby, Jewish police come and inquired after the two Marcus sisters and the two Yablonich (?) sisters.

45:00 He indicated that he had a room for them in the ghetto for Tanya, her mother and her sister. They had not applied for it. An old lady with a son had room for them. They went to the room and had to go to work. It was hard work at the airport where they had to build bunkers around the hangers and in between would be filled with sand. Some threw sand on the platform and others put sand in the hollows between the two walls. Tanya was small but did the work. No one was hit or punished. This was three weeks after their arrival. They lined up at the ghetto entrance every morning. One morning the Jewish police sent them to another job so they had to go on the truck to where galoshes and rubber boots were made. It was warm and clean and they sat at a conveyor belt. The galoshes came on the belt and Tania put soles on the galoshes on their way to the vulcanizing oven for hardening. Every day at lunchtime the Kovno ghetto prepared a meal for the women from Zheshmia (?). The people were absorbed with survival so did not discuss philosophy, only discussed food.

50:00 The people from the Kovno Ghetto were wonderful. Two Jewish policemen were in charge of the gate. People sewed pockets in the lining of their clothes to hold items they bartered for bread. Lolo Lenofaki (?) and Lithuanian police frisked everyone and Young Karivabloski (?) probably bribed the Lithuanian to permit people enter with their food. There were Devashakon (?) workshops in Kovno that produced food and clothing and had many workers. Dr. Elkins, the head of the ghetto, had a horse and driver and sat on his chariot and drove around the ghetto as everything was under his control. Everyone respected him. All the time, Tanya was thinking whether her father was alive. She felt that he would have saved them as he knew many farmers who would take care of them. Her mother did not talk about him. One day the ghetto was surrounded and they heard rumors that the Nazis were taking 6,000 people to labor camps. No lists were distributed. The Nazis went to the synagogue and the theatre and took Drezmor (?) to the trains going to the concentration camp in Riga. They took all her young cousins. First they took old people and children. They grabbed as many as were needed. Her mother packed a bag

and a woman had a cellar for them to hide in. It was the same as in the movie, "Schindler's List."

- 55:00 They all got in the cellar and pulled down a door and covered it with a rug. They heard the Germans looking for them and they saw their bags and left. Tanya and her family came out and they, the Marcus and Obloganich (?) families survived. She was sad, and terrified and resolved that whatever happens will happen since her father and cousins probably died. She always believed in dreams and would get answers from her dreams. Once in the US she dreamt that a relative came from Israel and that after the Fast, Harold came to the door and asked for food. On erev Yom Kippur, a man knocked on their door and asked for food. Tania has an MA in Marital and Family Counseling and at her psychology class in college they discussed her dream. She is afraid to interpret her dreams. One night she dreamt that she was on a stormy lake with her mother and sister (not her brother) and they are drowning and grabbed a log and held on and swam to shore. She awoke and told her mother they'll survive the war as the dream said so.
- 60:00 In the cellar they were all petrified and listened and hoped the door would not be opened. They were silent as they were fearful. They had enough food. She did not see people die from starvation. In March '44 the ghetto was surrounded and she saw Meseddedus (?), the top Nazi wearing a leather coat and Dobermans and was told to go to the entrance or to work. She had dreamed the night before that they're in the kitchen with water boiling and her brother is thrown into it. She went to work as knew something would happen. At midday the action happened. The Germans took the old people and children to Fortress #9 and killed them. She came home and her brother was not there. A neighbor said he begged for his life but they took him away. They lived in a 2-story building with 2 other families and she was told not to go to work. She gathered together with her mother, sister and neighbors in a front room. They all cried and tore their clothes but her mother knew that she had to be strong. Her mother stuffed her bra and fixed her lips and hair to look mature as the Nazis were checking to see if any children were left. Two doors down they found children hiding in a bunker. The children screamed and were dragged down the stairs. Babies were stuck with bayonets and thrown into trucks and the Germans shot the crying mothers. The next day they returned to work and came home and did the same thing every day until July. The Ghetto was surrounded as it was to be liquidated and everyone had to take their belongings and walk to the River Niemen which crossed the city of Kovno. They were pushed like sardines into freight and coal barges. They had the instinct of survival to go on. Some people gave up. A Yablonovich sister would not eat or wash and died. One must have self-preservation without discussing the current situation.
- 65:00 Only animal instinct prevailed; just looking to eat and not afraid of death. They were stunned or petrified like animals. The Niemen River barges went West and the sun was boiling and their lips were parched as they had no water. The water from the river was

beautiful and they saw flowers, grass and trees that were beautiful. A few days later they came to the town of Elbing (?), a German town, where they went into trains. On the barge they ate the food that they brought. Tanya was healthy. They sold their last valuables in Kovno which included gold coins and jewelry such as her father's 24 carat diamond studded pocket watch. Suddenly everyone was ordered to get out and lineup. They saw barracks and a tall chimney with smoke coming out that smelled like burned meat. They did not know where they were. They went to a large room. They all wore double dresses and double underwear. Men and women were selected with a number written on their hand and on their clothes which they sewed on their jacket.

70:00 Men, women and children were separated. They had to leave all their belongings behind as it was presumed they had lice and had to be de-liced. It was the first time they realized there were crematoriums. Tania was in a gas chamber and did not realize it. In the latrine was a 20 foot hole with a board over it. People were dumping all their belongings into the hole and some jumped into it to die. Thousands of people were selected. They were told to go through a door for selection. There were about three to five people in a cube and it was embarrassing as no one discussed bras or periods in those days. There were two gynecological chairs and they made the women spread their feet over it and check their insides and she did not know what was happening. SS men found jewels and threw them on a pile. They were sent into a square room, about 400 square feet and told to strip and leave their clothes behind. The Germans would shout, "arous" ("out"). The women were afraid and massaged their uterus and hoped their items would go in deeper. They were sent to the shower to delouse and saw walls covered with sheets of metal and shower heads on the roof.

75:00

Tania Rozmaryan

Tape 3, Side A

February 23, 1997

RG-50.106*0067.03.04

Summary

00:00 This tape starts with Tania's first experiences in a concentration camp. She has been pushed into a room with many more women packed in with her. A few sprinkles of water come out of the shower head which they use to wash themselves. Then they all go into a room with shoes and clothes and told to grab some. They are humiliated so try to hide their nakedness. They did what they were told. It was a horrible, dehumanizing experience. A large person might grab a small dress or a small person might grab a large

one so they had to trade. Then they went into the barracks and had to step on arms and legs to get to their place. They had appel in the morning where they all went out and lined up five in a row for roll call. Her mother would rake up a pile of dirt for Tania to stand on so she would appear as tall as the others. They were given watered down coffee and remained in the barracks unless people were being punished or hung. They found out that this was a place for cremation, not Am Stuthof. They were placed in barracks to wait for the time they would be killed. The guards lined up rows of logs and rows of people and rows of logs and rows of people and poured gas over them to burn them alive.

05:00 Tania was with her mother and her sister with others from Kovno but did not know them. The people walked around like zombies. They just walked out when told and came back in when told. There was a Koppel for each barrack. Tania was singing and the Koppel came in and asked who was singing and she was taken to the Koppel's room. The Koppel gave her a chunk of bread and a chunk of margarine and told her to share it with her mother. She was singing a cursed song that the Germans would be defeated and die and she'll survive and be liberated. Tania tries to sing the tune which was a song in anger that she made up. The words were "You should all go to hell and we'll bury you nicely but meanwhile you are calling us to roll call but we will survive." Tania sings in Yiddish, "Mach us shnell, mach us shnell, appel" (come quickly, come quickly, to roll call). One night Tania was sitting on her bunk and looked at the moon and thought it was teasing her as it is so beautiful and she is locked up and wondering if the day will come when she can enjoy the moon. One day they needed 5,000 women to dig trenches as the Russians were advancing. The women had to line up in a row in front of the gate. They saw the head of the prison with a Doberman and guards with guns who pulled out old people. Her grandfather's wife and her daughter were placed in the wagon to the crematorium.

10:00 Tania, the youngest went with her mother, her sister and two of her mother's friends, Rita and Bathsheba. She felt that if you believe in G-d that there's an angel but no one could beg for his life and be effective. If someone talked up, they would send the Doberman. Tania crossed the gate and was thrown on the pile with the women and young children. She got up and walked to the Lagerfuhrer, the head of the camp. He had red hair, freckles and gray, watery eyes. She said, "I'm not a little girl, I am a teenager and I'm strong and there is my mother and my sister." She saw a flicker in his eye and he grabbed her by the neck and told her to run to her mother. Her mother and her friends grabbed her, hugged and kissed her like she came back from the dead. Then they marched and went by truck to Dubach (?), Poland. They were placed in circular barracks that are made for horses with a triangle for the horse to stand, an iron stone in the center and straw on the floor. On their way to Dubach, they first stopped at Malcolm (?) where they had tents for five women on each side. They dug cylindrical trenches along the line from South to North so the Russians would plunge into them.

- 15:00 They worked with picks and shovels. No one died of fatigue but from the diphtheria epidemic. Dubach was not far from Poznan (?). It was OK in the beginning to dig the trenches. They had a latrine with a board and a hole and a guard watched if you were taking too long, he would clobber you. They had a brown bowl as is seen in the Holocaust Museum. They got a little coffee in the morning and again divided a slice of bread among them. At night they were given a meal of soup which might have a piece of horsemeat in it. They got water in their bowls which they used to wash themselves and their panties and used it for coffee the next morning. At home when her mother made hot chocolate and if her sister sipped it, she would not touch it. They had no change of clothing. She had grabbed leather shoes but they were torn by this time so was given wooden shoes which were difficult to walk in. In Malcolm, the barracks were meant for horses. Tania, her mother and her sister lay down on the circular area and soon it got colder. Her mother placed more straw around them so they would be warmer. Her mother rubbed snow on their bodies, hands and arms for better circulation and they felt good. This was December 1944 and the earth was frozen.
- 20:00 She had no gloves but did not get frostbite. It was a snowy winter, below zero and was told to lineup and get a loaf of bread to march north to Stuthof as the Russians were coming close. There was snow on the road and they marched for a week. Some days the sun was shining and the snow was frosty. She remembered cross country skiing when she breathed against a warm scarf and remembered when her father took them on horses. If she stayed behind, she would be shot. There were bodies and blood on both sides of the road. The German military and civilians were retreating they marched on the sides toward Stuthof. Once they were put in a school and another time in a cold barn. Frozen bodies were pulled out of the barn the next day. They were so hungry and near a village so ran into a farmer's house and said they were very hungry. The farmer put fat on two large pieces of bread and saw the German soldier shooting another girl doing the same but she crawled back and shared the bread with her mother and sister.
- 25:00 Her mother was angry with her and made Tania and her sister eat it but she would not touch it. Her mother was healthy until now at 95 has diabetes and Alzheimer's. They were warm in a cow barn and every night her mother woke them up and rubbed them with snow to improve their circulation. One day she saw a farmer and his wife outside their farm and thought they must be warm inside as smoke was coming out of their chimney. She was so hungry and rummaged through their garbage and found a marrow bone. Her sister was the weakest so she sucked it first, then Tania and then her mother. They found raw lungs and sucked on that. People were dying on both sides of the road and saw someone dragging her mother on a ball tied to a string. It was the 5th or 6th day and very cold when they were near the village of Visler (?). Her sister got upset and leaned against a tree. They were at the end of the line and would be killed. Her mother said that she would stay with the sister. The German asked what was going on and the

sister said, "Kill me, I can't go on." He said, "No way, you're not going to die." He gave her cake and bread and smacked her with his rifle and said to go on. They went to a big barn with lots of blood around it and saw people dying who were lying on straw. There were lots of lice. People died every morning and they were put near the big open pit. There were about 600 to 800 people and her mother said they are dying from typhus.

30:00 The lice spread it so they can't lie down there. They found a small Army barracks with an Army wash room with long troughs and long pipes overhead with faucets. Her mother said it was empty and they stayed there. Every day they went to work to build trenches for the soldiers. The pit was kept open and every morning more people were put in. A friend who was a nurse in the Kranken Stule (?) (hospital) let them in and they slept on the two-tier bed. They had boards on the floor. One day Tania was feverish and the next day she was unconscious. The death camp, "Totem camp" was called Proust (?). Stuthof did not have enough boats to sink the people so diverted them to Proust. The Germans made airplanes out of paper so the allies would believe it was an airport. She woke up and her mother and sister were dragging her. She could not catch her breath and lost consciousness again. When she awoke, she found herself in a feather bed with her hair shaved and she screamed. It was March 23, 1945 and her mother said they were liberated by the Russians.

35:00 She had typhus and her sister and friends said that at night their mother snuck out to the roads where the Germans rested and begged for aspirin and food to try to save her. The Germans put dynamite in and around the camp to blow it up without leaving any traces that it was a death camp. A Hungarian girl who worked for the Nazis asked them what would they accomplish by killing everyone. Ten minutes before the dynamite went off, he told everyone to leave. Tanya woke up from the explosion but then got unconscious. Out of 800 people, 30 were saved. When the Russians came, they kicked out the peasants and placed the prisoners in the houses. **Tape 3, Side B.** Tanya's mother crossed the bridge to where the Germans retreated. Tanya could not get off the bed as she only weighed 40 pounds and had spindly arms. Her mother and sister nourished her and stayed with her for six weeks. The Russians took them by truck to Tarwin (?), Poland, a DP camp. It was a transit house and primitive. The Russians wanted to take them back to Smogen but they knew Tanya's father was dead and neighbors lived in their home so they did not want to go. No one died and they were given bread and potatoes and ate normal food. When the British and US Armies liberated the people from Bergen-Belsen and Munich, they immediately gave them food and chocolate so they died (like her grandpa).

40:00 He had survived the War, working as a shoemaker and was in Dachau. He died in Danishevsky (?) and was buried in a Polish cemetery with a cross. Tania's mother took him to Munich and had him buried in a Jewish cemetery. Two months later when Tania survived the typhus, they had to work. They went to a lumber yard and sorted boards.

She was weak and could not catch her breath. It was also difficult for her to drag the flour bags but she survived. People would go to DP camps looking for survivors. One day people in the Polish Army were looking for survivors and were told to go to Lodz or Warsaw but not to Smogen. The Jewish committee helped them. Tania did not want to go as she desired to go to Russia where education was free. Soldiers came and cut the barbed wire. It was October or November and there was freezing rain. After two months in Proust (?), they were in the Russian DP transit camp from June to October or November. They were taken to the train station where hundreds of people waited for hours and when a train arrived, they hung on to the steps.

45:00 They were helped to get on top of the roof of the passage train. It had a slanted roof and several chimneys and it was raining and snowing. They lay down flat and held on to the chimneys. They came to Lodz where there were many Jews. There were many places to sleep and food was available from several organizations. These organizations prepared people to go to Israel. As many girls were pregnant, they decided that a religious kibbutz would be best. Her mother worked in the kitchen by cooking, baking and serving people. She brought Tania and her sister food under a blanket as it was insufficient to share with others. She saw a young man, Moshe Yamrie (?), crying and gave him food. He returned from Russia as had no relatives left there. They comforted him and two years later he married her sister. They live in Israel and he'll be 80 next week. They only had oil, bread and onions to eat so spread the onions and oil on the bread. Everyone had to work to sustain the kibbutz as there was no support from the US at that time. There were bedrooms for boys and girls and a dining room where they studied Jewish history, the Bible, Hebrew and Zionism. Tania graduated from different groups and became a teacher.

50:00 Everyone had to work. One Friday, a Jewish family came and Tania cleaned the floors and the bathroom and washed the dishes and cried as thought her father would be happy. If they did the laundry, they got extra bread and herring. They were in Lodz. The mother slept in the transit camp for refugees where she worked. Tania lived with her sister. They felt invincible since they survived the War and could not die. In Gdansk in the Russian area, they kept girls as concubines and Tanya wanted to help them. She and a boy took a train and walked eight miles and went to a farmer's house and told them about the compound where they kept Jewish girls as slaves. They were given a room to sleep and brought out one girl. They found out that there were 20 girls and one, a Rabbi's daughter, was pregnant and she had a sister. They wanted to take them to Russia. They walked the eight miles and took the train to Lodz. They held a meeting to make fake documents for the girls. Tanya was to go alone and it was a freezing Thursday. There was a Zionist gathering in Sosnowiec that three boys and one girl were attending.

55:00 Tania took the documents in the drifts of snow and found the sister (now lives in Teaneck, NJ) and they walked the eight miles in the blizzard with the snow drifting up to

their knees and hips and were breathless. They thought that no one could die after liberation. Then she saw the twinkling lights from the village and came to the farm house. In the morning she gave the farmer's wife the fake documents and they returned to the kibbutz where everyone was mourning. The four headed for the convention on the trucks were stopped by the Polish AK. They had an open coffin in the bathroom and she saw that one was the boy who had originally gone with her. She would have gone with them to the convention if she had not gone to Russia. Berecha (?) took people from Poland to the allies by truck and on the border they went into a little house where they had to give a fictitious name and say they were born in West Germany. Tania said that she was born in Frankfurt Am Main but does not recall what name she gave. The border police were bought off and they crossed the high Carpathian Mountains which was difficult to cross. They went from Magdalock (?) to Challa (?) to the American occupied zone of Berlin. Munich was a small town.

60:00 In the barracks they met people from Lodz and joined their kibbutz to go to Kvar Etzion (?) who later, except for some children, were slaughtered by the Arabs. Now they felt free to be Jews. They could have conferences, take courses and hoped the Americans would help them get to Israel. They did not think of going to the US. Tania was still with her mother and sister in the kibbutz. They found a cousin and his wife from Vilna in a DP camp near Stuttgart and Munich. The cousin urged them to stay with them instead of with the kibbutz. They went to the DP camp which had plans for the Germans to build turbines for industry and then settled in the DP camp. There were houses for everyone but little food, only CARE packages. One Shabbos they lit candles and sang Shabbos songs with a teacher from a Yeshiva for boys. He organized a school for children from Russia. Her sister worked for the Jewish Agency. A teacher from Hayden (?), a place near Zigler (?) asked Tania to teach first grade whatever she knows and she will receive an extra care package and become a Hebrew teacher.

65:00 She always wanted to be a teacher. An organized youth group for B'nai Akivah (orthodox) asked her to organize such a group in the British zone and promised 100,000 people would go to Israel from the Bergen-Belsen kibbutz. Tania did not feel like eating with them so she was starving. The superintendant of the school had been a high school principal before the War. It was 1947 when Tania met the girls in the Bergen-Belsen kibbutz. They worked in the kitchen and had a nice apartment and invited her for Shabbos. Dr. Lublina (?) was the principal and taught her and told her that soon she will get her certificate. Tania was with her mother in '47. Her sister married in '47 and her husband had been to Israel before the War and he and his minor daughter were returning. The Exodus story of '48 is so tragic and could have been hers. Tania was happy that she was going to Israel. One of the two girls she met was getting married and fixed her up with someone she did not like. Her mother was her G-d who she could not contradict. She said that Mandel Rosen (?), a survivor, met her and his family has money and she

must meet him. Her mother said that if Tania did not, she would commit suicide. They got engaged January 1, 1949, had a son and came to the US in 1950 without the language, money or relatives. Her son was eight months old. HIAS helped them out.

70:00 Tanya recalls boiling corn flakes. They found an apartment in Crown Heights, Brooklyn and looked for work. Her husband got a small salary working as supervisor of kosher meat. Someone taught her to sew patches on coats and she made \$35 a week. Her mother-in-law stayed with them. The apartment was boiling hot in the summer and they had no balcony so laid in the bathtub with cold water. Tanya was depressed working in the shop for several years. She was dizzy and felt like dying but was afraid to walk out. Tanya had a second son in '54 and she cried and asked why did she survive the concentration camp. She felt that she must do something with her life so studied English at night until '57. Her mother remarried a cousin of her husband's and came in '56. Her mother helped her with cooking and cleaning. Tanya wanted to be a teacher and made an appointment with Rabbi Feigelson (?) at Yeshiva Institute. She had no grade school or high school diploma and asked him to give her a chance.

75:00 The Rabbi taught her three nights a week at the Yeshiva on Lexington Avenue which she reached by subway. Tanya owns a set of Bibles with Russian and English translation and graduated summa cum laude after three years. She required nine credits in regular college courses including psychology. In 1960 she moved to Queens and got a BA in Education and her first job at teaching.

77:00

Tania Rozmaryan

Tape 4, Side A

February 23, 1997

RG-50.106*0067.04.04

Summary

00:00 Tania took courses in psychology and art at Queens College to become a teacher. She obtained a teaching position at the Yeshiva of Forest Hills which her children attended as they lived nearby. She loved being a teacher and after a few years was awarded "Teacher of the Year." Her principal took a position at the Yeshiva of Flatbush and she followed him there until 1990 when she moved to Silver Spring. In 1985 Tania took a double major in Educational Counseling and Family Counseling at Queens and upon getting an M.A. she started practicing. She felt awkward when she found her son taking one of her classes. He said that she is the only person who went from 4th grade to college. Her oldest son is an engineer and came to Silver Spring 15 years ago where he

designs systems for Howard University. Her younger son specializes in microvascular hand surgery in the DC area. Tania came to be near her children and grandchildren. She accepted a position at the Charles Smith Day School and is happy despite her past obstacles. She talks to her mother and her sister about their Holocaust experiences. Tania and her husband told their experiences to their children in detail. When her son was 18 and visiting Vancouver, he went to a kosher butcher and noticed his accent. By coincidence, he came from Sosnowic, his father's hometown, and the son knew details of the town.

05:00 When the Holocaust Museum opened, Tania told her sons to go but she could not. Her son reported that he was not impressed compared to what the parents told him. When he was interviewed at Columbia, he was told that he spoke like a survivor. Tania is happy to have grandchildren and life is good for her today. Three years ago she went to Europe with her friend, Molly, and toured Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest and Vienna. They went to the Jewish Theatre in Warsaw and met the non-Jewish actors. They were told that some Jews recently learned about their background from Catholics who hid them. They wanted to have a clear conscience before they died. Now there are more Polish Jews who admit to being Jewish. When they went to Auschwitz, Molly smelled nothing but Tania smelled the burnt flesh. Nightmares used to wake her up but she got rid of her Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and Anxiety attacks and now, at 68, controls the attacks. She feels that this is the best time of her life. Life was not harder for her when her sons turned 11 although that was the age when she started to experience the Holocaust. She experienced nightmares at that time. Because the US has a Democratic environment due to the social and political structure, she does not have such feelings now. Tania remembers her relatives at the time of Yiskeh.

10:00 Tania felt the War did not ruin her life but people her mother's age or people her age who did not pursue an education, suffered from the War. Some people her age married wealthy people and did not get educated are still suffering. Since her father and her brother were both killed, it is difficult for her to go to the Holocaust Museum. She hesitates to volunteer at the Holocaust Museum although she believes she is one of the last people left who actually experienced being in the Holocaust. Tania believes that she rebuilt her life by getting an education so she was not completely demolished by the Holocaust. She insisted on rebuilding her life and being active in Mizrachi and gave lectures on her experiences. Every year she speaks in her school on Yom Hashoah. Her children are modern Orthodox and live in Kemp Mill. Her oldest son started the Kemp Mill Synagogue with 250 families and they will build a synagogue in the Spring. Both sons are hospitable to others as they have others sleep over their house and give them meals. They often have 15 to 20 people over their house for Shabbat. Tania lives within walking distance of their homes. One grandson attends the Hebrew Academy and the eldest grandson attends a Yeshiva in Israel. She feels they are going in the right

direction. Many survivors, like Madeline Albright's family, felt that if the Holocaust could happen, they do not want to be Jewish.

15:00 Many survivors do not want to have anything to do with religion and work the holidays and send their children to public school. They do not want the Holocaust to happen to them. At first when Tania came to the US, she questioned where is G-d and went to the movies on Shabbat. Later she realized that it was wrong and thought she was not giving the next generation the right path if she denies Judaism. She was afraid that Hitler might win if the second or third generation were no longer Jewish. Tania then became more religious and gave her children a religious upbringing. Some survivors hardly speak English and the children are not observant.

18:00