

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,680

2
00:00:05,680 --> 00:00:08,140
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:08,140 --> 00:00:10,690
Memorial Museum Volunteer
Collection Interview

4
00:00:10,690 --> 00:00:12,220
with Tilda Finzi Cohen.

5
00:00:12,220 --> 00:00:14,260
This is tape number
3, side A. And we

6
00:00:14,260 --> 00:00:18,160
were talking about what brings
you back to the wartime years.

7
00:00:18,160 --> 00:00:22,540
And you had this thought about
working with newcomers now.

8
00:00:22,540 --> 00:00:24,490
I can't-- I can't--

9
00:00:24,490 --> 00:00:25,720
I just cannot--

10
00:00:25,720 --> 00:00:28,030
I wish I could.

11
00:00:28,030 --> 00:00:29,180
I can't do it.

12
00:00:29,180 --> 00:00:32,950
It just brings me back to being
a refugee again, the pain,

13

00:00:32,950 --> 00:00:37,540

of the relocation, of
the parents, children,

14

00:00:37,540 --> 00:00:39,970

where the children
become the parents.

15

00:00:39,970 --> 00:00:42,160

The whole thing is very painful.

16

00:00:42,160 --> 00:00:43,120

And I can't.

17

00:00:43,120 --> 00:00:44,080

I wish I could.

18

00:00:44,080 --> 00:00:46,380

I cannot do it.

19

00:00:46,380 --> 00:00:47,150

I can't.

20

00:00:47,150 --> 00:00:48,210

I don't know why.

21

00:00:48,210 --> 00:00:53,570

And I just find it
I can't relive that.

22

00:00:53,570 --> 00:00:56,840

Once is enough.

23

00:00:56,840 --> 00:00:59,960

What about your feelings
about being Jewish

24

00:00:59,960 --> 00:01:04,208

because of what you went
through, did it change?

25

00:01:04,208 --> 00:01:05,750

Or what are your
thoughts about that?

26

00:01:05,750 --> 00:01:09,140

27

00:01:09,140 --> 00:01:10,520

There was never--

28

00:01:10,520 --> 00:01:20,010

I was always felt very Jewish,
always brought Judaism into--

29

00:01:20,010 --> 00:01:21,580

I don't-- being Jewish--

30

00:01:21,580 --> 00:01:22,980

I never went to synagogue much.

31

00:01:22,980 --> 00:01:24,240

I still go rarely.

32

00:01:24,240 --> 00:01:25,770

My husband goes every Shabbat.

33

00:01:25,770 --> 00:01:28,530

And he's a regular churchgoer.

34

00:01:28,530 --> 00:01:36,450

I don't, but definitely
do not feel that--

35

00:01:36,450 --> 00:01:43,280

I don't feel that being
Jewish brought pain.

36

00:01:43,280 --> 00:01:43,820

Yes.

37

00:01:43,820 --> 00:01:47,000

But I would not have
wanted to be anything else.

38
00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:47,600
It's strange.

39
00:01:47,600 --> 00:01:51,060

40
00:01:51,060 --> 00:01:56,280
It was very important to me
that my children married Jew.

41
00:01:56,280 --> 00:01:57,520
Extremely important.

42
00:01:57,520 --> 00:02:00,140
I don't know--

43
00:02:00,140 --> 00:02:04,710
I think, I would have
handled it if they hadn't.

44
00:02:04,710 --> 00:02:08,940
But all three-- you know,
Jewishness is very important.

45
00:02:08,940 --> 00:02:14,180
How did you convey this
importance to your children?

46
00:02:14,180 --> 00:02:16,124
How did I convey this?

47
00:02:16,124 --> 00:02:19,530

48
00:02:19,530 --> 00:02:22,770
Mostly by observing
the holidays I think, ,

49
00:02:22,770 --> 00:02:29,250

making sure they went to Hebrew
school, Hebrew high school.

50

00:02:29,250 --> 00:02:31,770

Israel was always
part of it, you know.

51

00:02:31,770 --> 00:02:34,590

My cousins from Israel visited.

52

00:02:34,590 --> 00:02:37,470

I think was always part--

53

00:02:37,470 --> 00:02:41,010

my mother and father
were very Jewish.

54

00:02:41,010 --> 00:02:44,880

Father was present at
Yugoslav Jewish group

55

00:02:44,880 --> 00:02:47,690

in the United States.

56

00:02:47,690 --> 00:02:48,600

The national group?

57

00:02:48,600 --> 00:02:50,370

Yes.

58

00:02:50,370 --> 00:02:52,700

And he never had an education.

59

00:02:52,700 --> 00:02:54,450

He was with all these
attorneys and stuff,

60

00:02:54,450 --> 00:02:55,290

but he was president.

61

00:02:55,290 --> 00:02:56,373

And he did not have money.

62
00:02:56,373 --> 00:02:58,530
So he was quite well thought of.

63
00:02:58,530 --> 00:03:01,110
Yeah, he was the president
of the Yugoslav Jews

64
00:03:01,110 --> 00:03:02,118
in the United States.

65
00:03:02,118 --> 00:03:03,660
It's mostly concentrated
in New York.

66
00:03:03,660 --> 00:03:07,380
But it was-- you know,
now it has disbanded.

67
00:03:07,380 --> 00:03:09,460
They're all gone.

68
00:03:09,460 --> 00:03:12,480
He was extremely active.

69
00:03:12,480 --> 00:03:17,910
And he had groves planted
in his honor in Israel.

70
00:03:17,910 --> 00:03:22,890
So he was always very-- so I
think it was always conveyed.

71
00:03:22,890 --> 00:03:28,320
Jewishness was very kind always
a part of our life, always.

72
00:03:28,320 --> 00:03:30,810
Well, the Finzi family
is a well-known name.

73
00:03:30,810 --> 00:03:35,130

Is he a part of a branch
of the large Finzi family?

74
00:03:35,130 --> 00:03:36,250
I don't know.

75
00:03:36,250 --> 00:03:37,170
I really don't know.

76
00:03:37,170 --> 00:03:40,200
Not in Italy-- you
mean, he was a branch

77
00:03:40,200 --> 00:03:42,780
of the Yugoslavian family.

78
00:03:42,780 --> 00:03:45,660
The Italians, I don't think
of the Italian family.

79
00:03:45,660 --> 00:03:48,450
But the Yugoslavian
family, yeah.

80
00:03:48,450 --> 00:03:51,170
Talking about Yugoslavia,
so much has happened there.

81
00:03:51,170 --> 00:03:54,360
What are your
thoughts when you--

82
00:03:54,360 --> 00:03:56,340
Well, that is a very
difficult question,

83
00:03:56,340 --> 00:04:01,500
because my views are not
popular, very unpopular.

84
00:04:01,500 --> 00:04:03,810
I have a very hard
time with Croatians.

85
00:04:03,810 --> 00:04:09,450
Number one, I did
some translations.

86
00:04:09,450 --> 00:04:12,390
Some people ask me to
translate some letters.

87
00:04:12,390 --> 00:04:15,730
And they were talking, the
Croatsians were talking,

88
00:04:15,730 --> 00:04:19,290
somebody who wrote this letter,
probably not for all of them,

89
00:04:19,290 --> 00:04:23,160
that the Nazis were
not-- the Nazis

90
00:04:23,160 --> 00:04:25,230
did not do what the
Serbs did, you know,

91
00:04:25,230 --> 00:04:26,730
the horrible things
the Serbs did.

92
00:04:26,730 --> 00:04:28,560
Probably it's true.

93
00:04:28,560 --> 00:04:34,530
But I just find that they are
using the name for the money.

94
00:04:34,530 --> 00:04:35,380
It's kuna.

95
00:04:35,380 --> 00:04:43,050
It's the same name that Ustasa
used, under the Ustasa regime.

96

00:04:43,050 --> 00:04:46,493

So basically their flag

I think is the same.

97

00:04:46,493 --> 00:04:47,410

I could be a mistaken.

98

00:04:47,410 --> 00:04:49,290

But it's a definite kind of--

99

00:04:49,290 --> 00:04:53,070

the Ustasa were worse than

the Nazis, much worse,

100

00:04:53,070 --> 00:04:55,770

because they knew

who the Jews were.

101

00:04:55,770 --> 00:04:59,910

The Nazis couldn't quite know

who the Jews were, who ident--

102

00:04:59,910 --> 00:05:03,350

you know, they were the helpers.

103

00:05:03,350 --> 00:05:07,490

They were worse, the Ustasa were

much worse than even the Nazis.

104

00:05:07,490 --> 00:05:10,460

Did you have any direct

confrontation with them

105

00:05:10,460 --> 00:05:12,070

or do your parents?

106

00:05:12,070 --> 00:05:12,680

No.

107

00:05:12,680 --> 00:05:17,120

The only time-- it's that period

in between before the Italians

108
00:05:17,120 --> 00:05:20,090
came, some Ustasas
came to our door

109
00:05:20,090 --> 00:05:27,230
to put the Ustasa flag
on the windows welcoming

110
00:05:27,230 --> 00:05:30,080
the Germans or something.

111
00:05:30,080 --> 00:05:31,550
And--

112
00:05:31,550 --> 00:05:33,630
Did your family
keep that flag up?

113
00:05:33,630 --> 00:05:34,940
No, we didn't put it up.

114
00:05:34,940 --> 00:05:35,850
I mean, they came--

115
00:05:35,850 --> 00:05:38,720
no, no, they came to put
it out of the window.

116
00:05:38,720 --> 00:05:39,950
We said we didn't have one.

117
00:05:39,950 --> 00:05:41,660
So it wasn't any--

118
00:05:41,660 --> 00:05:44,420
but it was just
the whole regime--

119
00:05:44,420 --> 00:05:47,330
the Ustasa were--
I mean they were

120
00:05:47,330 --> 00:05:51,230
the ones that like killed
my cousin in Jasenovac,

121
00:05:51,230 --> 00:05:52,220
rather than the Nazis.

122
00:05:52,220 --> 00:05:54,860

123
00:05:54,860 --> 00:06:00,380
So that I have a great
problem with the Croatians.

124
00:06:00,380 --> 00:06:03,290

125
00:06:03,290 --> 00:06:07,370
They really gave
away a lot of Jews.

126
00:06:07,370 --> 00:06:16,130
And the Serbs-- well, Greek
Orthodox, their religion

127
00:06:16,130 --> 00:06:19,100
was a little more
accepting of Jews.

128
00:06:19,100 --> 00:06:22,526
You know, all this is religious
based, I'm sure you know.

129
00:06:22,526 --> 00:06:26,570
My personal feeling, you know,
the Croatians after 50 years

130
00:06:26,570 --> 00:06:28,130
got what they needed to get.

131
00:06:28,130 --> 00:06:29,360

It's very horrible.

132
00:06:29,360 --> 00:06:32,660
It's really not
fair what I feel.

133
00:06:32,660 --> 00:06:36,220
I keep my feelings to myself.

134
00:06:36,220 --> 00:06:43,030
Do you feel in any way that
Yugoslavia is your homeland?

135
00:06:43,030 --> 00:06:44,320
Or do you feel very American?

136
00:06:44,320 --> 00:06:46,030
What are your thoughts
about Yugoslavia,

137
00:06:46,030 --> 00:06:47,710
the former Yugoslavia?

138
00:06:47,710 --> 00:06:49,090
The former Yugoslavia.

139
00:06:49,090 --> 00:06:50,320
I was born in Split.

140
00:06:50,320 --> 00:06:51,670
Dalmatia is my--

141
00:06:51,670 --> 00:06:54,990

142
00:06:54,990 --> 00:06:57,210
Split is my city, OK.

143
00:06:57,210 --> 00:07:00,930
That, not the
country, is the city.

144

00:07:00,930 --> 00:07:04,110
Italy belongs to me emotionally.

145

00:07:04,110 --> 00:07:05,100
I grew up there.

146

00:07:05,100 --> 00:07:08,660
You know, from 10 to 17
are the formative years.

147

00:07:08,660 --> 00:07:13,890
I feel very comfortable, more
comfortable than in English

148

00:07:13,890 --> 00:07:15,430
in some respect than Italian.

149

00:07:15,430 --> 00:07:17,100
I'm very comfortable
with Italian.

150

00:07:17,100 --> 00:07:19,880
I've been teaching
it all these years.

151

00:07:19,880 --> 00:07:23,670
I have Italian friends.

152

00:07:23,670 --> 00:07:25,950
So that's where my sp--

153

00:07:25,950 --> 00:07:26,940
How do I feel now?

154

00:07:26,940 --> 00:07:29,370
I don't feel American.

155

00:07:29,370 --> 00:07:31,540
That's one of the problems.

156

00:07:31,540 --> 00:07:35,520

I don't think you ever
really and truly feel

157
00:07:35,520 --> 00:07:37,200
like you're an American.

158
00:07:37,200 --> 00:07:42,600
Some people start singing
little songs to children.

159
00:07:42,600 --> 00:07:45,150
I don't know the
children's songs.

160
00:07:45,150 --> 00:07:47,400
I just have never, you know--

161
00:07:47,400 --> 00:07:48,570
so it's always--

162
00:07:48,570 --> 00:07:51,900
I tell my grandchildren,
the first song they know,

163
00:07:51,900 --> 00:07:54,280
it's my Italian song,
Batti Le Manine.

164
00:07:54,280 --> 00:07:57,330
But it's so interesting my
nine-month-old adores it.

165
00:07:57,330 --> 00:08:01,440
When I left I had to tape it,
because that's all he does

166
00:08:01,440 --> 00:08:03,100
is wait for me.

167
00:08:03,100 --> 00:08:06,540
And when he sees
me, he goes, Nonna--

168

00:08:06,540 --> 00:08:10,440
he looks at me as the-- and
my grandchildren call me Nonna

169

00:08:10,440 --> 00:08:11,690
and all that, but--

170

00:08:11,690 --> 00:08:13,065
Which is Italian
for grandmother.

171

00:08:13,065 --> 00:08:14,190
Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

172

00:08:14,190 --> 00:08:19,350
But Nona was the
Spanish, the Latino word.

173

00:08:19,350 --> 00:08:21,960

174

00:08:21,960 --> 00:08:24,330
So it's a mixture, you know.

175

00:08:24,330 --> 00:08:29,250
But basically, if you
had a life like mine,

176

00:08:29,250 --> 00:08:32,010
you are not part of any country.

177

00:08:32,010 --> 00:08:34,470
And that is the sad part.

178

00:08:34,470 --> 00:08:36,900
You don't really
feel you belong.

179

00:08:36,900 --> 00:08:38,640
And then people don't--

180

00:08:38,640 --> 00:08:40,230
you probably detect the accent.

181
00:08:40,230 --> 00:08:42,000
Many people don't too much.

182
00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:43,169
You know, they kind of--

183
00:08:43,169 --> 00:08:47,820
she speaks a little
weirdly, or whatever.

184
00:08:47,820 --> 00:08:50,860
But they don't realize it.

185
00:08:50,860 --> 00:08:53,160
But you're really not--

186
00:08:53,160 --> 00:08:54,870
you're a displaced
person for the rest

187
00:08:54,870 --> 00:08:56,190
of your life in some respects.

188
00:08:56,190 --> 00:08:58,590
And then you have
these American children

189
00:08:58,590 --> 00:09:02,580
who are so American
that I can't even--

190
00:09:02,580 --> 00:09:05,790
yet Sandy has found her way
into the European crowd because

191
00:09:05,790 --> 00:09:08,700
of her husband
who's with the IMF.

192

00:09:08,700 --> 00:09:11,190

So Sandy-- but the
other, my youngest one

193

00:09:11,190 --> 00:09:13,950

that was born in Atlanta,
she's a Southern little girl,

194

00:09:13,950 --> 00:09:14,711

you know.

195

00:09:14,711 --> 00:09:17,477

196

00:09:17,477 --> 00:09:21,300

Do you feel then feel
like sometimes that you're

197

00:09:21,300 --> 00:09:24,030

two different people, the
young person you were--

198

00:09:24,030 --> 00:09:24,720

Oh, yes.

199

00:09:24,720 --> 00:09:26,670

I'm so glad you brought that up.

200

00:09:26,670 --> 00:09:29,700

I feel like they
were two Tildas.

201

00:09:29,700 --> 00:09:32,010

It split, you know.

202

00:09:32,010 --> 00:09:34,710

There was one before
she came to the States

203

00:09:34,710 --> 00:09:36,180

and the one came after.

204

00:09:36,180 --> 00:09:41,760
And there are two people, two
lives, completely separate,

205
00:09:41,760 --> 00:09:42,720
completely.

206
00:09:42,720 --> 00:09:51,750
I mean, it's just different--
and I had this experience.

207
00:09:51,750 --> 00:09:56,550
I was in Israel this
December, past December,

208
00:09:56,550 --> 00:09:59,370
and got together with my
cousin, who I hadn't seen.

209
00:09:59,370 --> 00:10:04,810
She had visited maybe
twice in the last 50 years.

210
00:10:04,810 --> 00:10:06,340
She'd come to the States.

211
00:10:06,340 --> 00:10:08,550
I was in Israel once.

212
00:10:08,550 --> 00:10:10,360
I spent some time.

213
00:10:10,360 --> 00:10:17,380
But here it is, she is my cousin
whose brother got killed in--

214
00:10:17,380 --> 00:10:20,230
and when we got
together, we spoke

215
00:10:20,230 --> 00:10:24,940
so-- it was just like we
were two different people.

216
00:10:24,940 --> 00:10:27,240
Even she was different.

217
00:10:27,240 --> 00:10:28,960
It was like we were
transported back

218
00:10:28,960 --> 00:10:33,250
to Split when she used to
come on vacation from Zagreb.

219
00:10:33,250 --> 00:10:37,630
And she was my big cousin who
used to take me everywhere.

220
00:10:37,630 --> 00:10:38,710
We went every place.

221
00:10:38,710 --> 00:10:40,090
We went swimming.

222
00:10:40,090 --> 00:10:44,980
And it was like we were
back to being young kids.

223
00:10:44,980 --> 00:10:47,800
And we were speaking
the language.

224
00:10:47,800 --> 00:10:50,010
Yeah, definitely, two or three--

225
00:10:50,010 --> 00:10:53,650
two definitely, two
different people.

226
00:10:53,650 --> 00:10:56,110
Have you gone back to visit--

227
00:10:56,110 --> 00:10:57,820
I have not gone

back to Yugoslavia.

228

00:10:57,820 --> 00:11:02,740

I was back in Italy a couple
of times and went to Milan.

229

00:11:02,740 --> 00:11:03,925

And it was kind of sad.

230

00:11:03,925 --> 00:11:06,460

231

00:11:06,460 --> 00:11:10,630

Somehow-- I didn't
even contact any of--

232

00:11:10,630 --> 00:11:11,980

one of my friend died.

233

00:11:11,980 --> 00:11:14,200

But it was sad,
because somehow you're

234

00:11:14,200 --> 00:11:16,300

a stranger in some place.

235

00:11:16,300 --> 00:11:17,890

But this happens here too.

236

00:11:17,890 --> 00:11:19,810

I think if you move
away and go back,

237

00:11:19,810 --> 00:11:22,300

you're a stranger
in the old city.

238

00:11:22,300 --> 00:11:28,590

And so we went to Florence,
which I had not been to.

239

00:11:28,590 --> 00:11:30,070

Went to Rome, which
I had visited.

240
00:11:30,070 --> 00:11:31,170
That was fine.

241
00:11:31,170 --> 00:11:36,750
Milan was difficult because
I kind of saw myself.

242
00:11:36,750 --> 00:11:38,400
Did you go back to Bari.

243
00:11:38,400 --> 00:11:39,600
Never been back to Bari.

244
00:11:39,600 --> 00:11:41,165
That's where I
wanted to go back.

245
00:11:41,165 --> 00:11:42,540
That's where I
wanted to go back.

246
00:11:42,540 --> 00:11:44,040
Everybody advised me against it.

247
00:11:44,040 --> 00:11:46,320
It was very high crime.

248
00:11:46,320 --> 00:11:48,720
But I think next time
I'm going anyway.

249
00:11:48,720 --> 00:11:51,530
But you said you didn't
go back to Yugoslavia.

250
00:11:51,530 --> 00:11:52,620
No, I've never been back.

251
00:11:52,620 --> 00:11:53,460

My parents have--

252

00:11:53,460 --> 00:11:55,020

Do you have any desire to?

253

00:11:55,020 --> 00:11:55,710

Split.

254

00:11:55,710 --> 00:11:57,180

I don't want to say Yugoslavia.

255

00:11:57,180 --> 00:11:59,760

I want to go back to split.

256

00:11:59,760 --> 00:12:03,210

My parents went back a couple
of years before they died,

257

00:12:03,210 --> 00:12:07,020

probably 1978 or something.

258

00:12:07,020 --> 00:12:11,310

And they found it
extremely painful.

259

00:12:11,310 --> 00:12:14,230

So it was very difficult.

260

00:12:14,230 --> 00:12:19,170

But I'd like to go
back to see the sea.

261

00:12:19,170 --> 00:12:21,480

Just to see the sea
and see the city.

262

00:12:21,480 --> 00:12:25,650

But see the sea and
just kind of go up

263

00:12:25,650 --> 00:12:28,260

in the mountain--

not the mountain.

264

00:12:28,260 --> 00:12:31,620

Back to where the cemetery is.

265

00:12:31,620 --> 00:12:33,840

But just go up there.

266

00:12:33,840 --> 00:12:38,160

I think I'd like

to put kind of--

267

00:12:38,160 --> 00:12:40,890

it's probably going to

be much smaller or not as

268

00:12:40,890 --> 00:12:43,140

beautiful and all that.

269

00:12:43,140 --> 00:12:45,570

Does water bring back

your childhood to you,

270

00:12:45,570 --> 00:12:47,910

when you're near

a body of water?

271

00:12:47,910 --> 00:12:50,140

Yeah, you picked

that up very well.

272

00:12:50,140 --> 00:12:54,480

Yeah, I'm a different

person, my husband always

273

00:12:54,480 --> 00:12:56,820

says, if I'm near the ocean.

274

00:12:56,820 --> 00:12:57,750

Not water.

275

00:12:57,750 --> 00:12:58,470

Body of water.

276

00:12:58,470 --> 00:13:00,250

Not a river and stuff.

277

00:13:00,250 --> 00:13:03,600

Though last night we
went, yesterday afternoon,

278

00:13:03,600 --> 00:13:04,980

close by a river.

279

00:13:04,980 --> 00:13:07,410

But the river was moving fast.

280

00:13:07,410 --> 00:13:09,300

So it had this--

281

00:13:09,300 --> 00:13:09,990

Motion--

282

00:13:09,990 --> 00:13:15,360

Motion of the-- who do you say?

283

00:13:15,360 --> 00:13:17,010

But actually--

284

00:13:17,010 --> 00:13:19,320

The current?

285

00:13:19,320 --> 00:13:24,210

Waves, waves, the ocean waves,
the waves that make noise.

286

00:13:24,210 --> 00:13:26,730

287

00:13:26,730 --> 00:13:28,920

But I am a different
person, because that's

288

00:13:28,920 --> 00:13:33,360
where-- if I'm near
the ocean and I

289
00:13:33,360 --> 00:13:36,240
hear the waves and
the smell of the sea,

290
00:13:36,240 --> 00:13:37,620
I am immediately happy.

291
00:13:37,620 --> 00:13:41,550
I guess that brings me back to
Split when I was a little girl

292
00:13:41,550 --> 00:13:45,150
and the beach was
my oyster actually.

293
00:13:45,150 --> 00:13:47,300
I just loved to swim.

294
00:13:47,300 --> 00:13:48,810
I still do.

295
00:13:48,810 --> 00:13:53,940
Yeah, the ocean
has a great deal.

296
00:13:53,940 --> 00:13:57,990
What are your thoughts
about Germans and Germany?

297
00:13:57,990 --> 00:14:00,180
It's very interesting.

298
00:14:00,180 --> 00:14:01,500
I have a very hard time--

299
00:14:01,500 --> 00:14:06,360
I teach English at Berlitz and
Lingua and all the language

300

00:14:06,360 --> 00:14:07,560
schools.

301

00:14:07,560 --> 00:14:10,860
And German students
always request

302

00:14:10,860 --> 00:14:13,300
me, businessmen, executives.

303

00:14:13,300 --> 00:14:15,330
I have a very hard
time teaching them.

304

00:14:15,330 --> 00:14:20,040
But still my personality
being so grammatically correct

305

00:14:20,040 --> 00:14:23,310
and this and that
appeals to them.

306

00:14:23,310 --> 00:14:24,420
I have a hard time.

307

00:14:24,420 --> 00:14:29,290
So I have lately requested,
please, no more Germans

308

00:14:29,290 --> 00:14:29,790
students.

309

00:14:29,790 --> 00:14:31,410
I have a hard time.

310

00:14:31,410 --> 00:14:34,770
I still have a hard time.

311

00:14:34,770 --> 00:14:38,580
And they must sense
it too, because I've

312

00:14:38,580 --> 00:14:43,575

had some women students and they
try to shower me with gifts.

313

00:14:43,575 --> 00:14:47,150

314

00:14:47,150 --> 00:14:48,620

And I just--

315

00:14:48,620 --> 00:14:50,450

I don't understand-- maybe--

316

00:14:50,450 --> 00:14:55,640

These are Germans students,
German adult students.

317

00:14:55,640 --> 00:14:56,900

Who are learning English.

318

00:14:56,900 --> 00:14:57,612

Yes.

319

00:14:57,612 --> 00:14:58,820

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

320

00:14:58,820 --> 00:15:01,310

And so I don't--

321

00:15:01,310 --> 00:15:04,190

but I think something
about my personality

322

00:15:04,190 --> 00:15:07,070

when I teach appeals to them.

323

00:15:07,070 --> 00:15:09,890

Or maybe the guilt,
I don't know,

324

00:15:09,890 --> 00:15:12,270

appeals to them because
of the structured--

325
00:15:12,270 --> 00:15:14,270
when I teach I'm very--

326
00:15:14,270 --> 00:15:15,240
I don't know.

327
00:15:15,240 --> 00:15:16,880
But it's funny.

328
00:15:16,880 --> 00:15:21,140
As a matter of fact, three
weeks ago, I said, who is it?

329
00:15:21,140 --> 00:15:21,890
From Ziemanns.

330
00:15:21,890 --> 00:15:22,970
I said, German.

331
00:15:22,970 --> 00:15:25,310
I said, skip me, give
me somebody else,

332
00:15:25,310 --> 00:15:27,500
give me somebody from
South America, you know,

333
00:15:27,500 --> 00:15:30,860
because we work intensely
with students for two or three

334
00:15:30,860 --> 00:15:32,090
weeks.

335
00:15:32,090 --> 00:15:35,370
And then they go on.

336
00:15:35,370 --> 00:15:37,190
Is this a one on one type--

337
00:15:37,190 --> 00:15:37,900
One on one.

338
00:15:37,900 --> 00:15:40,820
So you develop a very-- you
see what's happening here

339
00:15:40,820 --> 00:15:42,240
within a few hours.

340
00:15:42,240 --> 00:15:46,580
So if you work this many hours
on a daily basis with somebody,

341
00:15:46,580 --> 00:15:49,490
you know, I'd just rather not.

342
00:15:49,490 --> 00:15:51,000
Have you ever visited Germany?

343
00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:53,690
No.

344
00:15:53,690 --> 00:15:56,180
But-- and I was very angry--

345
00:15:56,180 --> 00:15:59,720
when we decided to go to
Israel on a bat mitzvah

346
00:15:59,720 --> 00:16:06,110
trip for our granddaughter, the
rabbi booked through Germany,

347
00:16:06,110 --> 00:16:07,820
through Frankfurt.

348
00:16:07,820 --> 00:16:09,560
And we flew Lufthansa.

349

00:16:09,560 --> 00:16:12,800

350

00:16:12,800 --> 00:16:15,200

One of the stewardess
picked up my grandson.

351

00:16:15,200 --> 00:16:18,360

And I became-- but
she was really--

352

00:16:18,360 --> 00:16:21,140

she picked on the rabbi, because
there were no kosher meals.

353

00:16:21,140 --> 00:16:23,390

They forgot to
bring kosher meals.

354

00:16:23,390 --> 00:16:28,520

And we were flying a long
trip from Frankfurt to--

355

00:16:28,520 --> 00:16:30,170

they had vegetarian.

356

00:16:30,170 --> 00:16:32,540

And then they-- it
became a very big--

357

00:16:32,540 --> 00:16:34,550

it was new year's
day we were flying.

358

00:16:34,550 --> 00:16:37,400

Make a big-- and then
she picked on my grandson

359

00:16:37,400 --> 00:16:40,050

that he was playing a game.

360

00:16:40,050 --> 00:16:44,265

And this was-- oh,

I became violent.

361
00:16:44,265 --> 00:16:45,140
I have never become--

362
00:16:45,140 --> 00:16:47,210
I really became violent.

363
00:16:47,210 --> 00:16:49,670
And the rabbi's
daughter became violent.

364
00:16:49,670 --> 00:16:51,590
I think both of us
get this reaction.

365
00:16:51,590 --> 00:16:54,110
And the poor rabbi
said please, we

366
00:16:54,110 --> 00:16:55,520
got to fly with these people.

367
00:16:55,520 --> 00:16:56,750
We are on the plane--

368
00:16:56,750 --> 00:17:00,500
so I've never been to
Germany and don't want to.

369
00:17:00,500 --> 00:17:02,270
I'm sorry, but this is really--

370
00:17:02,270 --> 00:17:05,089
violence.

371
00:17:05,089 --> 00:17:08,480
You were a young child
during wartime years.

372
00:17:08,480 --> 00:17:12,980
Do you feel that that was an

advantage, because you really

373

00:17:12,980 --> 00:17:16,255
weren't aware of what could
possibly have happened to you?

374

00:17:16,255 --> 00:17:17,630
In other words,
that your parents

375

00:17:17,630 --> 00:17:20,050
were adults and knew
more of the danger.

376

00:17:20,050 --> 00:17:21,260
A child doesn't know--

377

00:17:21,260 --> 00:17:22,819
I was not aware of the danger.

378

00:17:22,819 --> 00:17:27,230
I was aware that there
was something to fear.

379

00:17:27,230 --> 00:17:32,180
But I was not aware of what
I was fearing, you know.

380

00:17:32,180 --> 00:17:35,390
It was communicated
to me, the danger

381

00:17:35,390 --> 00:17:39,230
was communicated to
me, maybe not verbally.

382

00:17:39,230 --> 00:17:42,530
But I still felt--

383

00:17:42,530 --> 00:17:46,790
I couldn't-- the horrors that
I saw afterwards, you know,

384

00:17:46,790 --> 00:17:51,710
like the Holocaust Museum,
something here, I did not--

385

00:17:51,710 --> 00:17:55,070
You know being in
the Holocaust museum,

386

00:17:55,070 --> 00:17:59,810
I much more identified
with the children exhibit,

387

00:17:59,810 --> 00:18:02,630
because that was my--

388

00:18:02,630 --> 00:18:03,560
That's who you were.

389

00:18:03,560 --> 00:18:05,480
That's who I was, exactly.

390

00:18:05,480 --> 00:18:12,890
I'm much more hiding and
being in these small places

391

00:18:12,890 --> 00:18:14,690
with a lot of people.

392

00:18:14,690 --> 00:18:17,990
You know, because in
our small apartment,

393

00:18:17,990 --> 00:18:20,570
everybody descended on us.

394

00:18:20,570 --> 00:18:23,975
The dark-- you know, no
lights, the whole thing.

395

00:18:23,975 --> 00:18:26,510

396

00:18:26,510 --> 00:18:27,110

So it's--

397

00:18:27,110 --> 00:18:31,024

398

00:18:31,024 --> 00:18:32,780

When your children
were growing up,

399

00:18:32,780 --> 00:18:38,260

did you talk openly about what
happened to you during the war

400

00:18:38,260 --> 00:18:38,860

time?

401

00:18:38,860 --> 00:18:40,870

No, I did not.

402

00:18:40,870 --> 00:18:42,310

It wasn't popular then.

403

00:18:42,310 --> 00:18:43,430

I hate to say this.

404

00:18:43,430 --> 00:18:45,550

People say people
avoided talking.

405

00:18:45,550 --> 00:18:47,800

I don't think we
avoided talking.

406

00:18:47,800 --> 00:18:52,020

I really think since the
Holocaust Museum was built,

407

00:18:52,020 --> 00:18:52,520

I think--

408

00:18:52,520 --> 00:18:55,442

409

00:18:55,442 --> 00:19:02,620

I'm sorry-- now, I realize that
basically it wasn't popular.

410

00:19:02,620 --> 00:19:06,520

And maybe I'm rationalizing.

411

00:19:06,520 --> 00:19:07,840

I did talk.

412

00:19:07,840 --> 00:19:09,630

I would get depressed.

413

00:19:09,630 --> 00:19:11,650

It's funny, I don't anymore.

414

00:19:11,650 --> 00:19:12,820

I would get depressed.

415

00:19:12,820 --> 00:19:16,420

And then all these things-- why
did I survive and the others

416

00:19:16,420 --> 00:19:17,750

didn't?

417

00:19:17,750 --> 00:19:21,310

And was it really worthwhile?

418

00:19:21,310 --> 00:19:24,340

419

00:19:24,340 --> 00:19:26,050

It was one of these--

420

00:19:26,050 --> 00:19:27,610

oh, God, the driving machine.

421

00:19:27,610 --> 00:19:29,890

I'm sorry, there was
somebody on the telci.

422

00:19:29,890 --> 00:19:31,060

That's OK.

423

00:19:31,060 --> 00:19:31,750

OK.

424

00:19:31,750 --> 00:19:34,245

So did I really--

425

00:19:34,245 --> 00:19:36,970

426

00:19:36,970 --> 00:19:38,290

please ask me the question.

427

00:19:38,290 --> 00:19:38,800

I lost it.

428

00:19:38,800 --> 00:19:40,810

I don't like to talk about it.

429

00:19:40,810 --> 00:19:43,347

I was asking you whether you
talked with your children

430

00:19:43,347 --> 00:19:44,680

about what you had gone through.

431

00:19:44,680 --> 00:19:45,722

I mentioned occasionally.

432

00:19:45,722 --> 00:19:48,400

And-- oh, please,
please, please, please,

433

00:19:48,400 --> 00:19:52,420

don't let me forget
to mention one person.

434
00:19:52,420 --> 00:19:57,970
It's funny, there's a saying
in Spanish, [SPANISH],,

435
00:19:57,970 --> 00:20:05,320
which means if you forget
anything, you forget the gold.

436
00:20:05,320 --> 00:20:07,330
If you have a piece of jewelry--

437
00:20:07,330 --> 00:20:11,620
I in Split had of
a young boyfriend.

438
00:20:11,620 --> 00:20:14,320
We were born a few months apart.

439
00:20:14,320 --> 00:20:17,090

440
00:20:17,090 --> 00:20:20,390
And we lived close by.

441
00:20:20,390 --> 00:20:22,080
As you know, I
left when I was 10.

442
00:20:22,080 --> 00:20:27,440
But this was like this blond
child was absolutely beautiful.

443
00:20:27,440 --> 00:20:30,950
And we were always kind
of pitched together.

444
00:20:30,950 --> 00:20:34,880
When they saw us,
everybody said, oh, Tilda,

445
00:20:34,880 --> 00:20:36,140

where is Mosco?

446

00:20:36,140 --> 00:20:39,050

Oh, Mosco, where is Tilda?

447

00:20:39,050 --> 00:20:42,110

His last name was the

same as mine, Finzi.

448

00:20:42,110 --> 00:20:44,960

Finzi was a very popular name.

449

00:20:44,960 --> 00:20:52,430

And he was like

somebody that you

450

00:20:52,430 --> 00:20:55,010

think as a child

who you are going

451

00:20:55,010 --> 00:20:58,130

to end up with, this

was somebody that it

452

00:20:58,130 --> 00:21:01,150

was kind of predestined.

453

00:21:01,150 --> 00:21:06,040

Unfortunately, he was killed

in concentration camp.

454

00:21:06,040 --> 00:21:12,700

And occasionally-- occasionally,

when I think I used to get

455

00:21:12,700 --> 00:21:13,440

depressed--

456

00:21:13,440 --> 00:21:16,650

457

00:21:16,650 --> 00:21:19,130

he was born 1933, same year.

458

00:21:19,130 --> 00:21:23,570

He was taken to camp in March.

459

00:21:23,570 --> 00:21:29,450

This was the dates here, on
March 11, 1944, to Jasenovac.

460

00:21:29,450 --> 00:21:32,900

And he never survived,
never came back.

461

00:21:32,900 --> 00:21:36,140

I had heard that he had
written postcards asking

462

00:21:36,140 --> 00:21:41,060

to send them food and the Jewish
people that he knew as a child.

463

00:21:41,060 --> 00:21:43,700

But I don't know.

464

00:21:43,700 --> 00:21:47,180

And occasionally, years ago
when I used to get depressed,

465

00:21:47,180 --> 00:21:48,460

I used to cry for him.

466

00:21:48,460 --> 00:21:51,450

467

00:21:51,450 --> 00:21:55,770

And this was-- again,
I had forgotten him.

468

00:21:55,770 --> 00:21:58,950

I forgot to talk about him.

469

00:21:58,950 --> 00:22:00,100

No, I did.

470
00:22:00,100 --> 00:22:01,140
That's it.

471
00:22:01,140 --> 00:22:06,210
But I almost-- and in my book,
there's a dot beside his name.

472
00:22:06,210 --> 00:22:09,890

473
00:22:09,890 --> 00:22:12,920
And what was the question?

474
00:22:12,920 --> 00:22:13,980
I'd forgotten.

475
00:22:13,980 --> 00:22:15,290
Sorry.

476
00:22:15,290 --> 00:22:19,160
We were just talking about
what you had talked about.

477
00:22:19,160 --> 00:22:21,875
In this book, you said
there was a notice--

478
00:22:21,875 --> 00:22:24,990

479
00:22:24,990 --> 00:22:28,100
Here's a notice
with the Italian--

480
00:22:28,100 --> 00:22:30,560
but it's interesting,
this precedes--

481
00:22:30,560 --> 00:22:35,510
no, this-- first, notice

the Italian put up,

482

00:22:35,510 --> 00:22:37,820

I don't know, at the beach.

483

00:22:37,820 --> 00:22:38,990

Can you translate it?

484

00:22:38,990 --> 00:22:39,620

Yes.

485

00:22:39,620 --> 00:22:46,250

[SPEAKING ITALIAN],, which means,
attention, entrance to Jews

486

00:22:46,250 --> 00:22:47,720

is prohibited.

487

00:22:47,720 --> 00:22:49,010

This is to the beach.

488

00:22:49,010 --> 00:22:49,720

To the beach.

489

00:22:49,720 --> 00:22:53,180

It was many places, but it was--

490

00:22:53,180 --> 00:22:56,540

When you would see
that, would you obey it?

491

00:22:56,540 --> 00:22:59,180

Oh, definitely, otherwise
if they caught you, my God.

492

00:22:59,180 --> 00:23:02,870

No, you obeyed everything.

493

00:23:02,870 --> 00:23:06,851

So you are not rebellious
in the sense of--

494

00:23:06,851 --> 00:23:08,090

Of going to this beach?

495

00:23:08,090 --> 00:23:09,740

Oh, no.

496

00:23:09,740 --> 00:23:11,570

I went to separate--

497

00:23:11,570 --> 00:23:13,190

this was a fancy beach that--

498

00:23:13,190 --> 00:23:15,470

I've always gotten to fancy--

499

00:23:15,470 --> 00:23:18,080

with this little
cots and everything.

500

00:23:18,080 --> 00:23:21,710

We went to a beach that was
just jump from the stones

501

00:23:21,710 --> 00:23:22,520

and go swimming.

502

00:23:22,520 --> 00:23:25,130

The sea was still the same.

503

00:23:25,130 --> 00:23:26,690

And I had my friends.

504

00:23:26,690 --> 00:23:29,270

But, you know, Jewish
friends that went.

505

00:23:29,270 --> 00:23:31,940

This is all a 10-year-old,
I can't believe,

506

00:23:31,940 --> 00:23:34,835

going to the beach alone
and swimming in the ocean,

507
00:23:34,835 --> 00:23:36,600
you know, in the sea.

508
00:23:36,600 --> 00:23:39,010
It was just--

509
00:23:39,010 --> 00:23:42,740
You were even aware of the
danger of not obeying a sign.

510
00:23:42,740 --> 00:23:43,900
Oh, yes, definitely.

511
00:23:43,900 --> 00:23:44,960
I mean there was no--

512
00:23:44,960 --> 00:23:46,370
OK, there was no--

513
00:23:46,370 --> 00:23:48,200
OK, now here is a sign.

514
00:23:48,200 --> 00:23:49,040
Can you translate?

515
00:23:49,040 --> 00:23:49,540
Yes.

516
00:23:49,540 --> 00:23:50,900
And this was probably--

517
00:23:50,900 --> 00:23:54,080
I don't know when
the sign was posted.

518
00:23:54,080 --> 00:23:56,390
Yeah, it was in 1943.

519

00:23:56,390 --> 00:23:58,980
But what it says--

520
00:23:58,980 --> 00:24:04,880
I would assume is sometimes
after September 20,

521
00:24:04,880 --> 00:24:08,340
I would assume it
to have been posted.

522
00:24:08,340 --> 00:24:09,660
And here, I'm going to--

523
00:24:09,660 --> 00:24:15,870

524
00:24:15,870 --> 00:24:19,140
to the population of Split.

525
00:24:19,140 --> 00:24:22,223
[NON-ENGLISH]

526
00:24:22,223 --> 00:24:23,640
Oh, maybe you don't
want a civica.

527
00:24:23,640 --> 00:24:28,380
All Jews without regard
to their religion--

528
00:24:28,380 --> 00:24:31,260
Jews without regard
to their religion--

529
00:24:31,260 --> 00:24:39,130
or citizenship must
report by September 28

530
00:24:39,130 --> 00:24:46,510
the latest at 12 noon at the
command, at the German command,

531

00:24:46,510 --> 00:24:49,060

in front of the
Hotel Ambassador.

532

00:24:49,060 --> 00:24:51,880

533

00:24:51,880 --> 00:24:56,530

Who doesn't report will be hung.

534

00:24:56,530 --> 00:24:59,660

535

00:24:59,660 --> 00:25:06,965

With all citizens of
Split who hide Jews--

536

00:25:06,965 --> 00:25:11,708

537

00:25:11,708 --> 00:25:18,830

who hide converted Jews
or non-converted Jew,

538

00:25:18,830 --> 00:25:29,990

all who do not report that they
see Jews will be treated just

539

00:25:29,990 --> 00:25:32,660

as the Jews are.

540

00:25:32,660 --> 00:25:36,170

And the owners of
houses, which houses

541

00:25:36,170 --> 00:25:45,200

mean buildings in this case,
must remove all Jewish print

542

00:25:45,200 --> 00:25:49,670

material and all
communist print material,

543
00:25:49,670 --> 00:25:56,930
all things pertaining to
Judaism from their premises

544
00:25:56,930 --> 00:25:57,740
immediately.

545
00:25:57,740 --> 00:26:00,710
And it's commandant
mestre, which

546
00:26:00,710 --> 00:26:03,290
is the commander of the town.

547
00:26:03,290 --> 00:26:05,870
And this was a sign
that was posted.

548
00:26:05,870 --> 00:26:06,860
I don't know.

549
00:26:06,860 --> 00:26:10,160
I would assume all over the
city, all over the city,

550
00:26:10,160 --> 00:26:12,960
because they had
to report to me.

551
00:26:12,960 --> 00:26:14,990
And you had left already
for the mountains.

552
00:26:14,990 --> 00:26:17,090
We had left September 11.

553
00:26:17,090 --> 00:26:21,810
Remember, my mother's
11th wedding anniversary,

554
00:26:21,810 --> 00:26:23,330

and I was 10 years old.

555

00:26:23,330 --> 00:26:25,310

And my mother had gone back.

556

00:26:25,310 --> 00:26:30,680

So my mother was there,
remember, for a few hours.

557

00:26:30,680 --> 00:26:35,270

But she'd gone back, I think,
around September 18 or 17.

558

00:26:35,270 --> 00:26:36,470

I don't know when.

559

00:26:36,470 --> 00:26:37,640

This is September 28--

560

00:26:37,640 --> 00:26:38,870

28th already.

561

00:26:38,870 --> 00:26:41,700

But wait a minute, they
must report no later than,

562

00:26:41,700 --> 00:26:45,650

so this must have been
posted a few days before.

563

00:26:45,650 --> 00:26:48,230

I don't know how many.

564

00:26:48,230 --> 00:26:52,220

And this is pictures which will
eventually give to the museum.

565

00:26:52,220 --> 00:26:57,080

566

00:26:57,080 --> 00:26:58,790

Why is it that some

people like you

567

00:26:58,790 --> 00:27:01,970

and your family left for the
mountains and others did not?

568

00:27:01,970 --> 00:27:04,490

That's an excellent
question too,

569

00:27:04,490 --> 00:27:11,030

because people who did not feel
strong enough, like my aunt who

570

00:27:11,030 --> 00:27:13,450

was a little bit
spoiled on that,

571

00:27:13,450 --> 00:27:21,980

my soul, her soul, forgive me,
couldn't handle hard walking,

572

00:27:21,980 --> 00:27:23,480

was afraid of her little son.

573

00:27:23,480 --> 00:27:27,710

574

00:27:27,710 --> 00:27:30,470

She was afraid of what is
going to be in the mountains,

575

00:27:30,470 --> 00:27:31,490

they stay.

576

00:27:31,490 --> 00:27:34,070

Some people couldn't
leave their homes.

577

00:27:34,070 --> 00:27:39,650

They felt that their homes
were so important to them.

578

00:27:39,650 --> 00:27:43,970

Some people were naive and
thought nothing would happen.

579

00:27:43,970 --> 00:27:47,070

So they were different people
for different reasons that

580

00:27:47,070 --> 00:27:47,570

didn't.

581

00:27:47,570 --> 00:27:49,730

Some people were old
that I understood--

582

00:27:49,730 --> 00:27:55,580

but some old people
left too and walked.

583

00:27:55,580 --> 00:28:00,890

I don't know, my father
had this we had to leave.

584

00:28:00,890 --> 00:28:02,990

it was like you couldn't--

585

00:28:02,990 --> 00:28:04,670

I mean, there was not a--

586

00:28:04,670 --> 00:28:07,160

and maybe that's why when
you, say how did you feel,

587

00:28:07,160 --> 00:28:09,110

there was no question.

588

00:28:09,110 --> 00:28:11,030

It was just we were leaving.

589

00:28:11,030 --> 00:28:13,690

I mean it was a definite thing.

590

00:28:13,690 --> 00:28:19,040

He even had some money in
my step grandmother's house,

591

00:28:19,040 --> 00:28:21,950

apartment, in another
part of the city, not far.

592

00:28:21,950 --> 00:28:24,980

He did not want to go get-- of
course, that's what saved her,

593

00:28:24,980 --> 00:28:26,540

because she was hidden.

594

00:28:26,540 --> 00:28:27,680

Somebody hid her.

595

00:28:27,680 --> 00:28:30,510

And she used all that
money to survive.

596

00:28:30,510 --> 00:28:36,080

And she survive the war.

597

00:28:36,080 --> 00:28:38,930

They picked her up towards
the end and put her in jail.

598

00:28:38,930 --> 00:28:42,050

And she was a tough
cookie, that step--

599

00:28:42,050 --> 00:28:43,850

I called her my nonna.

600

00:28:43,850 --> 00:28:45,770

She was a tough
cookie, spit on them.

601

00:28:45,770 --> 00:28:48,500

I mean treated them like--

and she survived the war

602

00:28:48,500 --> 00:28:50,870

and ended up in
Israel, and I saw her

603

00:28:50,870 --> 00:28:54,590

in Israel many years ago.

604

00:28:54,590 --> 00:28:56,090

What are your
thoughts about Israel?

605

00:28:56,090 --> 00:28:59,230

606

00:28:59,230 --> 00:29:01,420

In what sense?

607

00:29:01,420 --> 00:29:02,560

What it means to you?

608

00:29:02,560 --> 00:29:04,340

What does Israel mean to you?

609

00:29:04,340 --> 00:29:07,570

It means a great deal.

610

00:29:07,570 --> 00:29:11,750

It's a safe place.

611

00:29:11,750 --> 00:29:15,070

And I think maybe I
ask that question,

612

00:29:15,070 --> 00:29:18,400

maybe there's some guilt
for not having gone there,

613

00:29:18,400 --> 00:29:21,182

for having come to the States.

614

00:29:21,182 --> 00:29:23,730

It wasn't my--

615

00:29:23,730 --> 00:29:24,870

I did not--

616

00:29:24,870 --> 00:29:29,010

17, I was not grown
up enough when I came.

617

00:29:29,010 --> 00:29:32,430

I think there's some guilt
for having come to the--

618

00:29:32,430 --> 00:29:36,340

taking the easy way
out, the soft life.

619

00:29:36,340 --> 00:29:38,800

It wasn't soft, but
relatively soft.

620

00:29:38,800 --> 00:29:41,320

621

00:29:41,320 --> 00:29:43,090

How I feel about Israel now?

622

00:29:43,090 --> 00:29:44,140

I don't know.

623

00:29:44,140 --> 00:29:48,430

You know, I think my opinion
now is I was just there.

624

00:29:48,430 --> 00:29:55,840

And it seems like there's
so much materialism.

625

00:29:55,840 --> 00:29:58,600

But that's a completely,
you know, era,

626
00:29:58,600 --> 00:30:01,930
but I feel it's where
I should have been,

627
00:30:01,930 --> 00:30:05,610
where I probably would
have felt more comfortable.

628
00:30:05,610 --> 00:30:09,030
Why I don't know.

629
00:30:09,030 --> 00:30:10,420
I'm perfectly comfortable.

630
00:30:10,420 --> 00:30:12,510
I fit in.

631
00:30:12,510 --> 00:30:14,860
I feel at times I don't fit in.

632
00:30:14,860 --> 00:30:15,630
But I fit in.

633
00:30:15,630 --> 00:30:19,410
I know I do, you know.

634
00:30:19,410 --> 00:30:22,440
But somehow I think
maybe more family,

635
00:30:22,440 --> 00:30:25,050
there is more family there.

636
00:30:25,050 --> 00:30:26,282
There was more family.

637
00:30:26,282 --> 00:30:27,740
Go ahead, you had
another question.

638

00:30:27,740 --> 00:30:30,480

639

00:30:30,480 --> 00:30:33,120

Is there any message you'd want
to give to your grandchildren

640

00:30:33,120 --> 00:30:35,198

about, lessons that
you have because

641

00:30:35,198 --> 00:30:36,240

of what you went through.

642

00:30:36,240 --> 00:30:38,055

That I have to think about.

643

00:30:38,055 --> 00:30:43,150

644

00:30:43,150 --> 00:30:45,550

Oh, God.

645

00:30:45,550 --> 00:30:46,050

I'm sorry.

646

00:30:46,050 --> 00:30:51,330

647

00:30:51,330 --> 00:30:53,130

I'm having a hard
time with that one.

648

00:30:53,130 --> 00:31:00,320

649

00:31:00,320 --> 00:31:03,530

Basically, it's the
same, being dependent.

650

00:31:03,530 --> 00:31:06,400

651
00:31:06,400 --> 00:31:08,515
Prepare yourself for life well.

652
00:31:08,515 --> 00:31:11,390

653
00:31:11,390 --> 00:31:13,490
Not study hard,
prepare yourself.

654
00:31:13,490 --> 00:31:14,040
Be prepared.

655
00:31:14,040 --> 00:31:18,690

656
00:31:18,690 --> 00:31:21,660
I always insisted that my
daughters, go to school,

657
00:31:21,660 --> 00:31:25,800
get a college, go to grad
school, go to this, go to that.

658
00:31:25,800 --> 00:31:27,090
Be independent.

659
00:31:27,090 --> 00:31:28,260
Why independence?

660
00:31:28,260 --> 00:31:29,640
I guess independence.

661
00:31:29,640 --> 00:31:32,250
Just be independent.

662
00:31:32,250 --> 00:31:36,750
Be able to think for yourself.

663
00:31:36,750 --> 00:31:41,320

The big thing is have an open
mind and think for yourself.

664
00:31:41,320 --> 00:31:48,870
Don't allow people to
influence your thinking.

665
00:31:48,870 --> 00:31:51,990
They always say, I
fight for everything.

666
00:31:51,990 --> 00:31:57,270
I'm a big-- sometimes
I stick my head down,

667
00:31:57,270 --> 00:31:59,730
but it's painful for me.

668
00:31:59,730 --> 00:32:03,180
It's painful for the others,
but then they come around.

669
00:32:03,180 --> 00:32:09,630
So this is the big message is
basically think for yourself.

670
00:32:09,630 --> 00:32:14,990
And form your own opinions.

671
00:32:14,990 --> 00:32:16,125
And be true to yourself.

672
00:32:16,125 --> 00:32:20,960

673
00:32:20,960 --> 00:32:23,610
Is there anything you'd want
to add before we finish?

674
00:32:23,610 --> 00:32:25,280
I don't think so.

675

00:32:25,280 --> 00:32:26,730

I don't know.

676

00:32:26,730 --> 00:32:28,790

No, I don't think so.

677

00:32:28,790 --> 00:32:30,080

I love my family.

678

00:32:30,080 --> 00:32:33,910

I love my children
and my grandchildren.

679

00:32:33,910 --> 00:32:37,570

And I'm very proud
of all of them.

680

00:32:37,570 --> 00:32:40,480

I'm sorry.

681

00:32:40,480 --> 00:32:42,720

Well, thank you very much
for doing the interview.

682

00:32:42,720 --> 00:32:43,960

Oh, please, thank you.

683

00:32:43,960 --> 00:32:44,830

You were wonderful.

684

00:32:44,830 --> 00:32:47,830

685

00:32:47,830 --> 00:32:50,830

This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

686

00:32:50,830 --> 00:32:55,320

Volunteer Collection Interview
with Tilda Finzi Cohen.

687

00:32:55,320 --> 00:32:59,085

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection