

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,730

Continuation of the United
States Holocaust Memorial

2

00:00:02,730 --> 00:00:06,600

Museum volunteer collection
interview with Helen Luksenburg

3

00:00:06,600 --> 00:00:10,380

This is tape two, side
A. And you told me

4

00:00:10,380 --> 00:00:12,960

that you came to the
United States in 1949,

5

00:00:12,960 --> 00:00:17,050

but I want to go back to
clean up a few details.

6

00:00:17,050 --> 00:00:20,520

I wanted to ask you if you
followed the Nuremberg trials

7

00:00:20,520 --> 00:00:24,360

and what you knew of at the
time about the Nuremberg trials.

8

00:00:24,360 --> 00:00:26,970

Yes, we knew all
about what's going on

9

00:00:26,970 --> 00:00:28,620

with the Nuremberg trials.

10

00:00:28,620 --> 00:00:30,340

We were watching,
listening to it.

11

00:00:30,340 --> 00:00:31,630

We didn't have television.

12
00:00:31,630 --> 00:00:35,130
We were listening to the radio.

13
00:00:35,130 --> 00:00:41,010
And there were a lot of people
who were called as witnesses.

14
00:00:41,010 --> 00:00:43,870
I wasn't one of them.

15
00:00:43,870 --> 00:00:48,660
And we were following
very close every day

16
00:00:48,660 --> 00:00:53,310
what's going on, and
being angry many times

17
00:00:53,310 --> 00:00:55,620
that they didn't get
punished enough people

18
00:00:55,620 --> 00:00:57,330
and how they punished them.

19
00:00:57,330 --> 00:01:02,160

20
00:01:02,160 --> 00:01:05,830
At around that same time frame
when you were still in Europe,

21
00:01:05,830 --> 00:01:10,380
I want to know if you were
aware of the issue of Palestine

22
00:01:10,380 --> 00:01:13,200
and how it was
treated by the UN.

23
00:01:13,200 --> 00:01:15,270
We also followed

that very closely.

24

00:01:15,270 --> 00:01:16,440

I remember the day.

25

00:01:16,440 --> 00:01:20,400

We stood by the radio
listening when they announced--

26

00:01:20,400 --> 00:01:25,090

I will never forget the day
in 1948 in April, when Paris

27

00:01:25,090 --> 00:01:26,710

and when America--

28

00:01:26,710 --> 00:01:29,010

and Russia actually was
the first to recognize

29

00:01:29,010 --> 00:01:30,810

Israel as a state.

30

00:01:30,810 --> 00:01:33,450

And after came America.

31

00:01:33,450 --> 00:01:38,190

Truman agreed to it,
but Russia at least

32

00:01:38,190 --> 00:01:41,530

was the second who recognized.

33

00:01:41,530 --> 00:01:48,840

And now I know more about the
details, because it's history.

34

00:01:48,840 --> 00:01:52,470

It recently was on television
even for the 50th anniversary

35

00:01:52,470 --> 00:01:56,070

of Israel's independence.

36
00:01:56,070 --> 00:01:58,740
It was on television,
everything with all the details

37
00:01:58,740 --> 00:02:01,230
about Truman, how and what.

38
00:02:01,230 --> 00:02:08,009
And I was very surprised
that Marshall was against it.

39
00:02:08,009 --> 00:02:11,940
And Bevin said--

40
00:02:11,940 --> 00:02:16,200
Bevin, when they approached
him with the exodus,

41
00:02:16,200 --> 00:02:19,740
how people are living in
Israel they arrested on Cyprus,

42
00:02:19,740 --> 00:02:23,760
he said, they waited 2000
years, so they will wait longer.

43
00:02:23,760 --> 00:02:24,960
That was his statement.

44
00:02:24,960 --> 00:02:28,330

45
00:02:28,330 --> 00:02:31,410
So we were very involved
in it, because my dream

46
00:02:31,410 --> 00:02:34,830
was to go to Palestine.

47
00:02:34,830 --> 00:02:37,200

Did you participate in
any way with any protests

48
00:02:37,200 --> 00:02:40,620
or any demonstrations for
partition of Palestine?

49
00:02:40,620 --> 00:02:43,470
Yes, in Germany we
were very involved.

50
00:02:43,470 --> 00:02:47,790
Bricha was an organization what
was bringing people illegally

51
00:02:47,790 --> 00:02:50,280
to Palestine.

52
00:02:50,280 --> 00:02:52,360
We were very involved.

53
00:02:52,360 --> 00:02:55,770
I knew about the exodus
and everything else.

54
00:02:55,770 --> 00:02:59,070
We're were very involved
with the Zionist movement

55
00:02:59,070 --> 00:02:59,700
in Germany.

56
00:02:59,700 --> 00:03:03,410

57
00:03:03,410 --> 00:03:05,210
Can you tell me
about your reaction

58
00:03:05,210 --> 00:03:08,780
when Israel finally did declare
independence-- statehood?

59

00:03:08,780 --> 00:03:11,360

We were drinking liquor
and we were singing.

60

00:03:11,360 --> 00:03:12,710

We got drunk.

61

00:03:12,710 --> 00:03:17,930

You can't imagine the joy when
we heard that Israel finally

62

00:03:17,930 --> 00:03:18,950

would have a home--

63

00:03:18,950 --> 00:03:21,710

a Jewish state.

64

00:03:21,710 --> 00:03:22,950

I can't even describe.

65

00:03:22,950 --> 00:03:25,160

We were dancing the
horahs in the streets,

66

00:03:25,160 --> 00:03:27,740

and we had a big
Jewish Community

67

00:03:27,740 --> 00:03:31,130

Center and a Cafe
[? Vice. ?] And I

68

00:03:31,130 --> 00:03:36,440

remember American soldiers--

69

00:03:36,440 --> 00:03:37,670

tall guys.

70

00:03:37,670 --> 00:03:39,890

We didn't know they were
Jewish, but they were

71

00:03:39,890 --> 00:03:42,080
behind me singing the Hatikvah.

72

00:03:42,080 --> 00:03:45,620
It was really a big,
big celebration.

73

00:03:45,620 --> 00:03:48,290
And the soldiers,
the occupation army,

74

00:03:48,290 --> 00:03:50,510
participated-- the
Jewish soldiers with us.

75

00:03:50,510 --> 00:03:56,470

76

00:03:56,470 --> 00:03:57,880
You had told me
a few moments ago

77

00:03:57,880 --> 00:04:00,760
that you came to the
United States in 1949.

78

00:04:00,760 --> 00:04:04,540
I wanted to ask you what
organizations helped you

79

00:04:04,540 --> 00:04:06,945
in Europe and in
the United States?

80

00:04:06,945 --> 00:04:09,070
If there were any Jewish
organizations or Red Cross

81

00:04:09,070 --> 00:04:11,950
organizations, who helped you?

82

00:04:11,950 --> 00:04:16,700

Actually, when he registered
in Munich and they called us,

83
00:04:16,700 --> 00:04:17,950
we didn't know.

84
00:04:17,950 --> 00:04:20,680
I have still the papers.

85
00:04:20,680 --> 00:04:24,440
And we didn't know who
was sponsoring us at all.

86
00:04:24,440 --> 00:04:26,750
We just went to Hamburg.

87
00:04:26,750 --> 00:04:35,860
They went through is all
the X-rays to check us out.

88
00:04:35,860 --> 00:04:39,550
Because if you had
tuberculosis or so,

89
00:04:39,550 --> 00:04:41,440
you couldn't enter the country.

90
00:04:41,440 --> 00:04:45,760
And from there they sent us
to Bremerhaven to the port,

91
00:04:45,760 --> 00:04:49,330
and we came on to
General Stuart's boat--

92
00:04:49,330 --> 00:04:50,530
a ship.

93
00:04:50,530 --> 00:04:52,660
What with the ships,
we didn't pay.

94

00:04:52,660 --> 00:04:55,540
We didn't have any
tickets, but the ships

95
00:04:55,540 --> 00:05:01,810
that were sending the occupation
army to Europe came back.

96
00:05:01,810 --> 00:05:06,070
Displaced persons-- DP,
were brought to America

97
00:05:06,070 --> 00:05:07,090
on the same ships.

98
00:05:07,090 --> 00:05:09,130
It wasn't a luxury ship.

99
00:05:09,130 --> 00:05:11,990
The men and women
were separated.

100
00:05:11,990 --> 00:05:12,820
We were higher.

101
00:05:12,820 --> 00:05:14,620
The men were on
the lowest levels.

102
00:05:14,620 --> 00:05:17,725
The only cabins--
there were a few

103
00:05:17,725 --> 00:05:20,500
with mothers with small
children-- with infants,

104
00:05:20,500 --> 00:05:22,330
what they gave it.

105
00:05:22,330 --> 00:05:24,280
And many people got sick.

106

00:05:24,280 --> 00:05:30,130

It was a 9-day voyage, but the weather was very beautiful.

107

00:05:30,130 --> 00:05:34,370

It was at the end of August, and we arrived here

108

00:05:34,370 --> 00:05:37,120

on September the 2nd.

109

00:05:37,120 --> 00:05:41,530

I remember arriving at night, on a Friday night at the port,

110

00:05:41,530 --> 00:05:44,680

and seeing the Statue of Liberty.

111

00:05:44,680 --> 00:05:47,620

I will never forget the sight.

112

00:05:47,620 --> 00:05:54,040

And the next day they embarked us, and they gave us papers.

113

00:05:54,040 --> 00:05:55,630

Oh, they didn't give us any papers.

114

00:05:55,630 --> 00:05:57,700

They took the papers whatever we had.

115

00:05:57,700 --> 00:06:00,895

And to my surprise, a friend of mine read in the paper

116

00:06:00,895 --> 00:06:05,410

that we were arriving, and she waited for us in the port.

117

00:06:05,410 --> 00:06:07,480
That was really a big surprise.

118
00:06:07,480 --> 00:06:10,600
And I remember going
alphabetically.

119
00:06:10,600 --> 00:06:16,000
Tables were set up,
and we walk away.

120
00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:20,440
They gave us tickets on the
train for Washington DC,

121
00:06:20,440 --> 00:06:24,000
and my husband goes
back, and he says,

122
00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:25,960
but I don't have any papers.

123
00:06:25,960 --> 00:06:29,560
In Europe, you have to always
carry ID card or something.

124
00:06:29,560 --> 00:06:32,110
He said they told him if
you don't get in trouble,

125
00:06:32,110 --> 00:06:35,380
you don't need
papers in America.

126
00:06:35,380 --> 00:06:39,940
And this was Labor Day weekend.

127
00:06:39,940 --> 00:06:41,940
So she lived with a woman--

128
00:06:41,940 --> 00:06:44,950
Etta lived with a
woman, Mrs. Warsaw.

129
00:06:44,950 --> 00:06:45,940
The woman was--

130
00:06:45,940 --> 00:06:47,680
I never met her even--

131
00:06:47,680 --> 00:06:50,560
was very nice, but Etta
told her that her friends

132
00:06:50,560 --> 00:06:52,780
are coming from Europe.

133
00:06:52,780 --> 00:06:56,770
She went to stay with a friend--
good lady, the landlady--

134
00:06:56,770 --> 00:07:00,790
and they give the
apartment to us with Etta.

135
00:07:00,790 --> 00:07:03,520
And I remember she
tried everything.

136
00:07:03,520 --> 00:07:06,550
We got on the subway.

137
00:07:06,550 --> 00:07:08,680
So we had some change.

138
00:07:08,680 --> 00:07:09,820
She didn't let him pay.

139
00:07:09,820 --> 00:07:10,600
You will need it.

140
00:07:10,600 --> 00:07:13,690
It was 10 cents to
get on the subway.

141

00:07:13,690 --> 00:07:16,750

She was the big shot
in paying for us.

142

00:07:16,750 --> 00:07:20,530

She took us to a
movie, Blue Lagoon,

143

00:07:20,530 --> 00:07:22,750

and I came to a double feature.

144

00:07:22,750 --> 00:07:26,360

We were so tired
from the long trip.

145

00:07:26,360 --> 00:07:29,320

I didn't understand any English.

146

00:07:29,320 --> 00:07:31,210

And people-- I was very annoyed.

147

00:07:31,210 --> 00:07:35,050

I'd never seen-- in Europe, the
movie was so nice and clean.

148

00:07:35,050 --> 00:07:36,160

Here it was upstairs.

149

00:07:36,160 --> 00:07:38,830

People were smoking,
throwing papers.

150

00:07:38,830 --> 00:07:41,710

I said, I wasn't used to
it coming from Germany.

151

00:07:41,710 --> 00:07:45,130

I lived for three or
four years in Germany.

152

00:07:45,130 --> 00:07:47,330

Everything was so

nice and clean.

153
00:07:47,330 --> 00:07:50,280
Nobody would dare
drop a piece of paper.

154
00:07:50,280 --> 00:07:53,750
So that was my
welcome to America.

155
00:07:53,750 --> 00:07:56,410
And she immediately
called all the people

156
00:07:56,410 --> 00:07:58,560
that we knew who were
already in America,

157
00:07:58,560 --> 00:08:02,635
and we got a big get together.

158
00:08:02,635 --> 00:08:06,580
And after on Tuesday,
she had to sign for us.

159
00:08:06,580 --> 00:08:09,820
She took us to Penn Station,
put us on the train,

160
00:08:09,820 --> 00:08:11,650
and we came to Washington DC.

161
00:08:11,650 --> 00:08:15,380

162
00:08:15,380 --> 00:08:17,630
Who helped you
when you got here?

163
00:08:17,630 --> 00:08:22,910
When we got here, we had
accumulated some things.

164

00:08:22,910 --> 00:08:26,550

165

00:08:26,550 --> 00:08:29,270

So we had 2 crates that we sent.

166

00:08:29,270 --> 00:08:33,860

And on the crate, we wrote
Jewish Social Services.

167

00:08:33,860 --> 00:08:38,240

That was our
address, Spring Road.

168

00:08:38,240 --> 00:08:42,480

And unfortunately, when
the crates arrived,

169

00:08:42,480 --> 00:08:44,390

we got immediately--

170

00:08:44,390 --> 00:08:47,600

we took a taxi from
the station, and we

171

00:08:47,600 --> 00:08:50,180

went to the Jewish
Social Services

172

00:08:50,180 --> 00:08:54,830

on Spring Road in Washington DC.

173

00:08:54,830 --> 00:08:57,410

And they welcomed
us, gave us a key.

174

00:08:57,410 --> 00:09:01,280

Right around the corner was
Mr. Himmelfarb's building,

175

00:09:01,280 --> 00:09:02,780

who was a landlord.

176
00:09:02,780 --> 00:09:09,590
And he was a very generous man.

177
00:09:09,590 --> 00:09:11,540
He helped a lot of people.

178
00:09:11,540 --> 00:09:17,330
And he gave us not an apartment
but an efficiency room

179
00:09:17,330 --> 00:09:19,670
on the first floor,
with a Murphy bed

180
00:09:19,670 --> 00:09:23,510
in the wall and a kitchenette.

181
00:09:23,510 --> 00:09:26,510
And Mr. Himmelfarb,
on every holiday

182
00:09:26,510 --> 00:09:32,150
he used to give \$30
to each newcomer.

183
00:09:32,150 --> 00:09:35,490
And my husband said,
I'm young, I want a job.

184
00:09:35,490 --> 00:09:39,530
They sent us for three months--

185
00:09:39,530 --> 00:09:42,380
he went for three months
to Americanization school.

186
00:09:42,380 --> 00:09:46,340
I went for six months the
Americanization school.

187
00:09:46,340 --> 00:09:49,040

Later he said, I'm
young, and I want a job.

188
00:09:49,040 --> 00:09:50,880
Because I was ashamed.

189
00:09:50,880 --> 00:09:53,210
I never went to the
Jewish Social Service,

190
00:09:53,210 --> 00:09:59,060
because they were giving us
\$30 a week for living expenses.

191
00:09:59,060 --> 00:10:02,540
When we came in the
beginning, a social worker

192
00:10:02,540 --> 00:10:07,880
was driving us around and
explaining everything.

193
00:10:07,880 --> 00:10:09,650
And they gave us some furniture.

194
00:10:09,650 --> 00:10:11,990
They wanted to give
us used furniture.

195
00:10:11,990 --> 00:10:15,830
I started to cry that I
don't want somebody's junk.

196
00:10:15,830 --> 00:10:17,360
I was poor.

197
00:10:17,360 --> 00:10:22,700
We had \$20 to our name when
we arrived, I was very proud.

198
00:10:22,700 --> 00:10:26,510
And so Mrs. [? Rigorsky ?]
was her name,

199

00:10:26,510 --> 00:10:29,780

the social worker-- took
us on Indiana Avenue.

200

00:10:29,780 --> 00:10:33,840

They used to sell the
furniture-- cheap furniture.

201

00:10:33,840 --> 00:10:36,800

So they bought us a
studio couch, two chairs,

202

00:10:36,800 --> 00:10:39,110

and a little table
that collapsed.

203

00:10:39,110 --> 00:10:46,760

And a straw rug, and we lived
there until I became pregnant.

204

00:10:46,760 --> 00:10:51,380

Because I didn't want to
have children in Germany

205

00:10:51,380 --> 00:10:54,200

if I could help it, because
we didn't know where

206

00:10:54,200 --> 00:10:55,010

we would end up.

207

00:10:55,010 --> 00:10:59,450

And to drag a baby and things
under these conditions-- a lot

208

00:10:59,450 --> 00:11:04,910

of people had-- a 1,000 children
were born every day of the war

209

00:11:04,910 --> 00:11:11,090

among the refugees, because
they wanted to multiply.

210
00:11:11,090 --> 00:11:13,920
What we never can keep up--

211
00:11:13,920 --> 00:11:16,440
to catch up.

212
00:11:16,440 --> 00:11:22,340
And so when I became pregnant
there, I got a job after.

213
00:11:22,340 --> 00:11:23,870
I worked for Lansburghs.

214
00:11:23,870 --> 00:11:27,980
I was doing alteration,
and I didn't know much.

215
00:11:27,980 --> 00:11:30,387
I had a hard time finding a job.

216
00:11:30,387 --> 00:11:31,970
Finally, at--
Lansburgh-- that we used

217
00:11:31,970 --> 00:11:34,490
to be a department store here.

218
00:11:34,490 --> 00:11:37,610
They gave me a job, but I didn't
know how to put a zipper in.

219
00:11:37,610 --> 00:11:39,920
I had to do
alterations, and I was

220
00:11:39,920 --> 00:11:42,710
afraid I couldn't afford
if I spoiled something

221
00:11:42,710 --> 00:11:44,450
to replace it.

222

00:11:44,450 --> 00:11:48,090

So it was a tailor, an old man.

223

00:11:48,090 --> 00:11:49,130

He was so nice.

224

00:11:49,130 --> 00:11:53,180

When the superintendent left
the room, he said to me,

225

00:11:53,180 --> 00:11:54,860

I show you.

226

00:11:54,860 --> 00:11:57,020

He taught me how to do
alterations actually.

227

00:11:57,020 --> 00:11:58,560

I knew how to sew
on the machine,

228

00:11:58,560 --> 00:11:59,880

but I didn't know how to--

229

00:11:59,880 --> 00:12:02,300

a Mr. Brillo.

230

00:12:02,300 --> 00:12:05,420

He couldn't even write,
but he was a kind man,

231

00:12:05,420 --> 00:12:07,610

and he taught me how
to do the alterations.

232

00:12:07,610 --> 00:12:11,060

Whenever she walked out,
he put into zipper for me

233

00:12:11,060 --> 00:12:12,620

and he taught me how to do it.

234
00:12:12,620 --> 00:12:21,410

235
00:12:21,410 --> 00:12:25,300
I wanted to ask you what
your expectations of America

236
00:12:25,300 --> 00:12:30,927
were before you came and how
you met these expectations

237
00:12:30,927 --> 00:12:31,510
in the States.

238
00:12:31,510 --> 00:12:34,190
Were you pleased or
were you disappointed?

239
00:12:34,190 --> 00:12:36,400
I really didn't
know much about it.

240
00:12:36,400 --> 00:12:40,390
Once as a child, I
remember my mother's cousin

241
00:12:40,390 --> 00:12:44,590
came for a visit with
his wife and children.

242
00:12:44,590 --> 00:12:47,770
And I remember my
father's remark.

243
00:12:47,770 --> 00:12:51,280
He looks like a
hard working man.

244
00:12:51,280 --> 00:12:53,170
He's hands were so--

245

00:12:53,170 --> 00:12:56,030
We lived much better
in Europe, some of us.

246
00:12:56,030 --> 00:12:58,180
I don't say they
were not poor people,

247
00:12:58,180 --> 00:13:01,840
but I came from a middle
class, and I went on vacation

248
00:13:01,840 --> 00:13:05,170
every summer, and
I never had a need

249
00:13:05,170 --> 00:13:07,400
not to have things, and so on.

250
00:13:07,400 --> 00:13:09,130
I went to private school.

251
00:13:09,130 --> 00:13:11,070
In the beginning, I
went to public school.

252
00:13:11,070 --> 00:13:13,540
We had Jewish public
schools, and after I

253
00:13:13,540 --> 00:13:17,320
went to high school,
but just for two years.

254
00:13:17,320 --> 00:13:17,920
That's all.

255
00:13:17,920 --> 00:13:21,200
The war broke out, and we
couldn't go to school anymore.

256
00:13:21,200 --> 00:13:25,120
So I didn't really--

257
00:13:25,120 --> 00:13:29,230
I knew that people,
remembering that cousin,

258
00:13:29,230 --> 00:13:33,310
how my father spoke about
him, that he works very hard.

259
00:13:33,310 --> 00:13:36,530
You could tell in
his hands and so on.

260
00:13:36,530 --> 00:13:41,020
And I expected more.

261
00:13:41,020 --> 00:13:44,950
I was a little bit disappointed
when I arrived in America,

262
00:13:44,950 --> 00:13:48,820
because I realized that
who in America is important

263
00:13:48,820 --> 00:13:51,490
is people who have money.

264
00:13:51,490 --> 00:13:53,420
People didn't know
how to read and write,

265
00:13:53,420 --> 00:13:58,640
but if they had money,
they very respected.

266
00:13:58,640 --> 00:14:00,760
So this was a great
disappointment to me.

267
00:14:00,760 --> 00:14:03,400

268

00:14:03,400 --> 00:14:06,580
That I know from
where they come-- most

269
00:14:06,580 --> 00:14:11,695
where refugees, came here as
running around from Russia,

270
00:14:11,695 --> 00:14:13,580
and under what conditions.

271
00:14:13,580 --> 00:14:16,050
Now we have live under
much better conditions.

272
00:14:16,050 --> 00:14:18,360
I know that America was very--

273
00:14:18,360 --> 00:14:21,440
after the Depression
there were hard times.

274
00:14:21,440 --> 00:14:25,390
I also was angry that people
didn't know anything about what

275
00:14:25,390 --> 00:14:26,580
was going on in Europe.

276
00:14:26,580 --> 00:14:29,600

277
00:14:29,600 --> 00:14:31,280
And I couldn't understand.

278
00:14:31,280 --> 00:14:32,300
Didn't they read?

279
00:14:32,300 --> 00:14:33,500
Now I am more--

280
00:14:33,500 --> 00:14:34,670

I mellowed.

281
00:14:34,670 --> 00:14:38,870
And I feel that they work very
hard after the Depression.

282
00:14:38,870 --> 00:14:41,480
They didn't have the things.

283
00:14:41,480 --> 00:14:44,150
Some maybe didn't know
how to read and write.

284
00:14:44,150 --> 00:14:46,250
They didn't have televisions.

285
00:14:46,250 --> 00:14:50,360
They worked very hard in
grocery stores and so on.

286
00:14:50,360 --> 00:14:53,360
During the war, a lot
of people got very rich,

287
00:14:53,360 --> 00:14:56,660
but before the war, when
I listen to the stories,

288
00:14:56,660 --> 00:14:59,270
we lived much more
comfortably in Europe

289
00:14:59,270 --> 00:15:02,360
than the people who lived here.

290
00:15:02,360 --> 00:15:03,300
Some of us.

291
00:15:03,300 --> 00:15:05,570
I don't say everybody.

292
00:15:05,570 --> 00:15:07,520

When you came to this
country, did Americans

293

00:15:07,520 --> 00:15:11,240
ask you about your experiences
during the Holocaust?

294

00:15:11,240 --> 00:15:13,850
First of all, the
experience was--

295

00:15:13,850 --> 00:15:17,340

296

00:15:17,340 --> 00:15:20,880
did you read the book about--

297

00:15:20,880 --> 00:15:23,640
I have it here.

298

00:15:23,640 --> 00:15:27,840
About the how they brought--

299

00:15:27,840 --> 00:15:29,970
he's a psychologist
in New York, and wrote

300

00:15:29,970 --> 00:15:32,610
about the welcomes,
what the survivors got

301

00:15:32,610 --> 00:15:35,350
when they arrived in America.

302

00:15:35,350 --> 00:15:37,740
They didn't believe the stories.

303

00:15:37,740 --> 00:15:40,290
I didn't have any
relatives here.

304

00:15:40,290 --> 00:15:43,680

I didn't know a soul when
we came to Washington.

305
00:15:43,680 --> 00:15:47,200
I didn't know the language,
I didn't know anything.

306
00:15:47,200 --> 00:15:49,290
I didn't know anybody.

307
00:15:49,290 --> 00:15:52,800
One grocer, we could
speak Yiddish to him.

308
00:15:52,800 --> 00:15:54,300
He was speaking, I didn't.

309
00:15:54,300 --> 00:15:56,580
He couldn't speak
English either.

310
00:15:56,580 --> 00:16:00,140
So they didn't believe us.

311
00:16:00,140 --> 00:16:01,890
They thought they are
sitting and reading,

312
00:16:01,890 --> 00:16:03,780
and they didn't
want to listen even.

313
00:16:03,780 --> 00:16:06,270
I had this tattoo
number on my arm.

314
00:16:06,270 --> 00:16:09,120
I had people ask me if
it's my social security

315
00:16:09,120 --> 00:16:12,780
number, if it's my dance
number, my laundry number.

316
00:16:12,780 --> 00:16:15,630
I put a Band-Aid to cover it up.

317
00:16:15,630 --> 00:16:17,640
You couldn't open your
heart to everybody

318
00:16:17,640 --> 00:16:20,880
and tell them the
story of your life.

319
00:16:20,880 --> 00:16:23,940
Was very disappointing.

320
00:16:23,940 --> 00:16:27,810
The first people we met,
he was in a higher class--

321
00:16:27,810 --> 00:16:29,730
had a different teacher.

322
00:16:29,730 --> 00:16:31,530
And his class was--

323
00:16:31,530 --> 00:16:34,110

324
00:16:34,110 --> 00:16:35,880
became friends of ours.

325
00:16:35,880 --> 00:16:42,360
Her name was [? Leo Barjanek. ?]
And she came here to family,

326
00:16:42,360 --> 00:16:45,300
so they in the
beginning took us in.

327
00:16:45,300 --> 00:16:49,770
They had family circles and
meetings, and they took us in.

328

00:16:49,770 --> 00:16:54,750

She had a very large family
here, they are very rich--

329

00:16:54,750 --> 00:16:56,280

Smith Cargo and so on.

330

00:16:56,280 --> 00:16:58,110

That was her family.

331

00:16:58,110 --> 00:17:04,530

But they didn't want
to listen even to us.

332

00:17:04,530 --> 00:17:08,520

Some said they feel like
they are watching a movie.

333

00:17:08,520 --> 00:17:12,420

And it was very difficult,
and I was very disappointed

334

00:17:12,420 --> 00:17:16,619

how people didn't participate
and didn't do anything.

335

00:17:16,619 --> 00:17:21,390

If they would be more
aware of what's going on--

336

00:17:21,390 --> 00:17:23,400

They were almost well,
why did Zygielbojm

337

00:17:23,400 --> 00:17:25,200

commit suicide in London?

338

00:17:25,200 --> 00:17:31,130

To prove to the world
what's going on in Europe.

339

00:17:31,130 --> 00:17:34,630
But they didn't know.

340
00:17:34,630 --> 00:17:36,820
A lot of people,
my contemporaries,

341
00:17:36,820 --> 00:17:41,080
now say we didn't know anything.

342
00:17:41,080 --> 00:17:43,550
Everything comes from the home.

343
00:17:43,550 --> 00:17:48,520
That's the foundation, and
if they don't know anything

344
00:17:48,520 --> 00:17:50,200
about it--

345
00:17:50,200 --> 00:17:51,640
I'll tell you another incident.

346
00:17:51,640 --> 00:17:56,400
We were here the
first Thanksgiving.

347
00:17:56,400 --> 00:18:02,280
So Rabbi Levinson invited
all the survivors.

348
00:18:02,280 --> 00:18:04,240
One man was here with triplets.

349
00:18:04,240 --> 00:18:06,300
And I have some place
in the article how they

350
00:18:06,300 --> 00:18:08,850
are holding the turkey leg.

351
00:18:08,850 --> 00:18:12,900

That was our first big
thing with Americans,

352
00:18:12,900 --> 00:18:16,350
and we had the
first Thanksgiving.

353
00:18:16,350 --> 00:18:18,770
They looked at us like we
were from another world.

354
00:18:18,770 --> 00:18:24,400

355
00:18:24,400 --> 00:18:27,100
You had mentioned the
Americanization school,

356
00:18:27,100 --> 00:18:29,890
and I was wondering
if you could tell me

357
00:18:29,890 --> 00:18:33,130
what that experience was like.

358
00:18:33,130 --> 00:18:34,740
They were very kind.

359
00:18:34,740 --> 00:18:38,380
The teachers were very kind,
and they tried very hard.

360
00:18:38,380 --> 00:18:40,390
And the pronunciation was--

361
00:18:40,390 --> 00:18:43,610
I had one year of
English in high school,

362
00:18:43,610 --> 00:18:45,400
and I remember
they were teaching

363

00:18:45,400 --> 00:18:49,420
us the English from England.

364

00:18:49,420 --> 00:18:51,310
Because I remember
the professor--

365

00:18:51,310 --> 00:18:52,780
we call them professors--

366

00:18:52,780 --> 00:18:55,060
said to us, you have
to sound like you have

367

00:18:55,060 --> 00:18:56,550
a hot potato in your mouth.

368

00:18:56,550 --> 00:19:02,160

369

00:19:02,160 --> 00:19:04,440
So it was very hard.

370

00:19:04,440 --> 00:19:05,520
I still have an accent.

371

00:19:05,520 --> 00:19:06,600
I can't help it.

372

00:19:06,600 --> 00:19:08,640
And the pronunciation, the th.

373

00:19:08,640 --> 00:19:11,100
I had a friend whose
mother always corrected me

374

00:19:11,100 --> 00:19:13,320
how I said birthday.

375

00:19:13,320 --> 00:19:16,410
She couldn't get through

that I can't pronounce it.

376
00:19:16,410 --> 00:19:21,550

377
00:19:21,550 --> 00:19:27,730
When you came here
who were your friends?

378
00:19:27,730 --> 00:19:29,800
We didn't have any
friends when we came.

379
00:19:29,800 --> 00:19:32,350
We didn't know a soul here.

380
00:19:32,350 --> 00:19:40,420
But most of our friends were
Americans, because how--

381
00:19:40,420 --> 00:19:42,910
I know.

382
00:19:42,910 --> 00:19:48,430
They gave us tickets for the
first Rosh Hashanah Yom Kippur.

383
00:19:48,430 --> 00:19:51,040
Because we came in
September, it was a week

384
00:19:51,040 --> 00:19:53,200
or so before Rosh Hashanah.

385
00:19:53,200 --> 00:19:55,870
So they gave us tickets
to the old age home, which

386
00:19:55,870 --> 00:19:58,210
was on Spring Road,
too, right next

387

00:19:58,210 --> 00:20:00,730
to the Jewish social center.

388
00:20:00,730 --> 00:20:06,860
So I am sitting there,
and it was Yizkor.

389
00:20:06,860 --> 00:20:11,710
And I cried, so somebody
was watching me.

390
00:20:11,710 --> 00:20:12,970
And the woman said--

391
00:20:12,970 --> 00:20:15,250
she was sitting with
her sister-in-law.

392
00:20:15,250 --> 00:20:20,230
And she said to her, this
woman is not American.

393
00:20:20,230 --> 00:20:22,736
American people
don't cry like that.

394
00:20:22,736 --> 00:20:29,440

395
00:20:29,440 --> 00:20:30,460
She approached me.

396
00:20:30,460 --> 00:20:34,990
We were sitting during a
break outside in the garden,

397
00:20:34,990 --> 00:20:36,970
and I had the number on.

398
00:20:36,970 --> 00:20:37,750
And I spoke.

399

00:20:37,750 --> 00:20:42,220
They were from Vienna, and
we spoke German to them.

400
00:20:42,220 --> 00:20:45,790
So she approached me,
and she right away

401
00:20:45,790 --> 00:20:50,890
they invited us for break
the fast on Yom Kippur.

402
00:20:50,890 --> 00:20:53,140
They were both from Vienna.

403
00:20:53,140 --> 00:20:57,790
And through them we met
five other American couples,

404
00:20:57,790 --> 00:21:00,290
because what happens
in Washington,

405
00:21:00,290 --> 00:21:03,170
they were all graduates
from New York.

406
00:21:03,170 --> 00:21:06,490
And they couldn't find a job
in New York, so they came.

407
00:21:06,490 --> 00:21:09,430
There were two teachers,
two advertising,

408
00:21:09,430 --> 00:21:14,500
one a government worker,
and they were young couples.

409
00:21:14,500 --> 00:21:19,630
And they all belong to the
Jewish Community Center.

410

00:21:19,630 --> 00:21:23,620

So the Rosenblatts
took us once with them,

411

00:21:23,620 --> 00:21:25,510

and we met all these couples.

412

00:21:25,510 --> 00:21:28,480

And they took us
under their wings,

413

00:21:28,480 --> 00:21:30,400

and they started to teach us.

414

00:21:30,400 --> 00:21:35,500

So we Americanized much earlier,
because every Sunday they

415

00:21:35,500 --> 00:21:36,830

used to come pick us up.

416

00:21:36,830 --> 00:21:37,960

We didn't have a car.

417

00:21:37,960 --> 00:21:42,310

And they'd take us to Hains
Point and picnics and so on.

418

00:21:42,310 --> 00:21:45,040

They taught him how
to play baseball,

419

00:21:45,040 --> 00:21:46,630

and they were all our age.

420

00:21:46,630 --> 00:21:56,830

421

00:21:56,830 --> 00:21:58,840

So they picked us up.

422

00:21:58,840 --> 00:22:02,020

They taught us a lot,
English and everything.

423
00:22:02,020 --> 00:22:06,950
We used to get every weekend
together and go Dutch.

424
00:22:06,950 --> 00:22:10,330
Hot dogs and so on during
the summer, and picnics--

425
00:22:10,330 --> 00:22:12,880
so really, they took
us under their wings.

426
00:22:12,880 --> 00:22:15,115
And we still are
friends with them.

427
00:22:15,115 --> 00:22:17,500
One is coming next month here.

428
00:22:17,500 --> 00:22:20,620
On the way from Florida
she's staying with us,

429
00:22:20,620 --> 00:22:22,450
so we keep still in touch.

430
00:22:22,450 --> 00:22:28,870
So I really didn't meet many
of the survivors, because they

431
00:22:28,870 --> 00:22:31,460
always used to pick us
up and do and things.

432
00:22:31,460 --> 00:22:37,570
And so I don't know too
many, really, even today.

433
00:22:37,570 --> 00:22:43,980

434
00:22:43,980 --> 00:22:47,460
I'd like to ask you
about your children.

435
00:22:47,460 --> 00:22:50,580
Specifically, I'd like to
ask when they were born

436
00:22:50,580 --> 00:22:52,620
and how you chose
names for them.

437
00:22:52,620 --> 00:22:56,230

438
00:22:56,230 --> 00:22:58,090
We decided to have a child.

439
00:22:58,090 --> 00:23:00,940
I wanted still to work
and have furniture.

440
00:23:00,940 --> 00:23:04,960
And we went to visit Willy's
cousin in New Jersey,

441
00:23:04,960 --> 00:23:07,750
and they came with a little
boy who was a year old.

442
00:23:07,750 --> 00:23:11,620
After he saw that boy, he
said I don't wait anymore.

443
00:23:11,620 --> 00:23:13,570
So I became pregnant.

444
00:23:13,570 --> 00:23:17,800
And I was throwing
up every day, and I

445

00:23:17,800 --> 00:23:19,990
opened the kitchenette
and the cockroaches

446
00:23:19,990 --> 00:23:21,250
were running around.

447
00:23:21,250 --> 00:23:25,000
So it was very,
very hard in 1950

448
00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:28,900
to find an apartment
in Washington.

449
00:23:28,900 --> 00:23:33,250
We had to get \$200, which
was a lot of money for us,

450
00:23:33,250 --> 00:23:36,070
to save to be able to
get an apartment-- a one

451
00:23:36,070 --> 00:23:39,700
bedroom apartment, Brentwood
Village in those days.

452
00:23:39,700 --> 00:23:48,700
So he was born on
October 20, 1951.

453
00:23:48,700 --> 00:23:53,560
I chose the name after
my father and his father.

454
00:23:53,560 --> 00:23:58,120
His name is Harvey Simon,
after my father's name was Haim

455
00:23:58,120 --> 00:24:00,760
and his is Simon--

456
00:24:00,760 --> 00:24:05,110

[? Shiman, ?] no,
Simcha his father.

457
00:24:05,110 --> 00:24:08,350
So his name is Harvey Simon.

458
00:24:08,350 --> 00:24:09,430
He was very bright.

459
00:24:09,430 --> 00:24:15,130
I lived in a one bedroom
apartment on the third floor.

460
00:24:15,130 --> 00:24:16,990
In the beginning I
had diaper service,

461
00:24:16,990 --> 00:24:19,850
but we wanted to save money,
so I remember we bought at that

462
00:24:19,850 --> 00:24:21,820
time-- it was a small kitchen--

463
00:24:21,820 --> 00:24:28,120
semi-automatic washing
machine for the diapers,

464
00:24:28,120 --> 00:24:31,600
so that we could save.

465
00:24:31,600 --> 00:24:33,440
When I was in labor--

466
00:24:33,440 --> 00:24:35,930
I have to backtrack
a little bit--

467
00:24:35,930 --> 00:24:38,380
I couldn't afford to go
to the Jewish doctors.

468

00:24:38,380 --> 00:24:41,500
They were charging
at that time \$300.

469
00:24:41,500 --> 00:24:44,110
That was a lot of money for us.

470
00:24:44,110 --> 00:24:48,460
So he asked me how
long I was working.

471
00:24:48,460 --> 00:24:51,100
I bought a bedroom set,
because I got a discount

472
00:24:51,100 --> 00:24:52,450
in this department store.

473
00:24:52,450 --> 00:24:55,720
I bought a sewing machine.

474
00:24:55,720 --> 00:25:00,340
And I wanted to work longer,
but we decided to have a baby.

475
00:25:00,340 --> 00:25:05,180
I worked in the night, almost
a week before he was born.

476
00:25:05,180 --> 00:25:06,490
So I found a doctor.

477
00:25:06,490 --> 00:25:09,860
I found I met here
somebody who was American.

478
00:25:09,860 --> 00:25:13,570
She was going to a Seventh Day
Adventist doctor who charged

479
00:25:13,570 --> 00:25:18,010
just-- she was a
gynecologist, obstetrician--

480
00:25:18,010 --> 00:25:19,700
\$75.

481
00:25:19,700 --> 00:25:21,820
So I went to her,
because I couldn't

482
00:25:21,820 --> 00:25:24,940
afford any expensive doctors.

483
00:25:24,940 --> 00:25:27,040
Thank God I didn't
have any complications,

484
00:25:27,040 --> 00:25:29,710
and soon everything
was the bris.

485
00:25:29,710 --> 00:25:31,570
He was born on a Saturday.

486
00:25:31,570 --> 00:25:33,380
This is a funny story.

487
00:25:33,380 --> 00:25:37,510
So my husband calls Rabbi
Williamofsky said I have a son,

488
00:25:37,510 --> 00:25:41,830
and I know it's a mitzvah
to have a bris on Saturday,

489
00:25:41,830 --> 00:25:44,080
and I would like to have
the bris on Saturday.

490
00:25:44,080 --> 00:25:45,940
So he said I don't drive.

491
00:25:45,940 --> 00:25:49,150
So my husband says,

I pick you up.

492

00:25:49,150 --> 00:25:51,280

He was Orthodox man, he
didn't drive on Shabbos.

493

00:25:51,280 --> 00:25:55,310

494

00:25:55,310 --> 00:25:58,210

So I have to tell
that to his son.

495

00:25:58,210 --> 00:26:03,460

I know his son, Ben Williamofsky
to tell him this story.

496

00:26:03,460 --> 00:26:06,790

So there was a neighbor
across the street.

497

00:26:06,790 --> 00:26:10,030

We had that pidyon haben,
because it was the first born.

498

00:26:10,030 --> 00:26:12,130

And she was a very nice lady.

499

00:26:12,130 --> 00:26:14,810

Mrs. [? Weiner ?] is her name.

500

00:26:14,810 --> 00:26:16,360

I think she's still alive.

501

00:26:16,360 --> 00:26:20,500

They had a liquor store, so they
brought all the liquor for us.

502

00:26:20,500 --> 00:26:23,110

People were very kind
to us, I have to say.

503

00:26:23,110 --> 00:26:27,410
Really everybody
was very helpful.

504
00:26:27,410 --> 00:26:34,060
So after he was born, to
make some extra money,

505
00:26:34,060 --> 00:26:36,670
I used to do alterations
at home a little bit.

506
00:26:36,670 --> 00:26:40,650
He used to play with the spools
of thread and unwind them.

507
00:26:40,650 --> 00:26:45,100

508
00:26:45,100 --> 00:26:48,550
So I wanted to
have another child.

509
00:26:48,550 --> 00:26:50,260
He was very bright.

510
00:26:50,260 --> 00:26:53,620
At 22 months old,
he was reading.

511
00:26:53,620 --> 00:26:56,650
He used to go to the
5 and 10, for 10 cents

512
00:26:56,650 --> 00:26:58,840
or so bring him something.

513
00:26:58,840 --> 00:27:01,630
He worked as a plumber.

514
00:27:01,630 --> 00:27:03,880
He will tell you that story.

515

00:27:03,880 --> 00:27:05,830

And he had the truck,
and eventually we

516

00:27:05,830 --> 00:27:09,910

bought a used car, because
he was always on call,

517

00:27:09,910 --> 00:27:12,440

and I wouldn't have
what to eat or anything.

518

00:27:12,440 --> 00:27:14,590

So I learned how
to, when Harvey was

519

00:27:14,590 --> 00:27:17,260

a year old, we
almost got a divorce,

520

00:27:17,260 --> 00:27:20,380

because he taught
me how to drive.

521

00:27:20,380 --> 00:27:25,120

I remember practicing in
the back of the Catholic

522

00:27:25,120 --> 00:27:28,360

University-- was
a big lot there.

523

00:27:28,360 --> 00:27:30,280

But he couldn't
teach me how to park.

524

00:27:30,280 --> 00:27:36,310

I had to take parking lessons,
because I almost divorced him

525

00:27:36,310 --> 00:27:38,140

with the park--
you know, everybody

526
00:27:38,140 --> 00:27:41,770
goes through that with
the teaching how to drive.

527
00:27:41,770 --> 00:27:51,880

528
00:27:51,880 --> 00:27:54,380
After Harvey was 3 years old--

529
00:27:54,380 --> 00:27:58,350

530
00:27:58,350 --> 00:27:59,323
We're being paged.

531
00:27:59,323 --> 00:28:01,240
We're going to take a
break for just a moment.

532
00:28:01,240 --> 00:28:06,010

533
00:28:06,010 --> 00:28:07,030
OK, we're back.

534
00:28:07,030 --> 00:28:10,450
I had asked you about your
children-- when you had them,

535
00:28:10,450 --> 00:28:12,800
when they were born, and
how you chose their names,

536
00:28:12,800 --> 00:28:14,800
and you told me about
your first born, your son.

537
00:28:14,800 --> 00:28:17,930

538

00:28:17,930 --> 00:28:24,020

When Harvey was about 3 1/2 we
were thinking to have another

539

00:28:24,020 --> 00:28:25,310

child.

540

00:28:25,310 --> 00:28:29,390

And he was very bright, Harvey.

541

00:28:29,390 --> 00:28:32,690

He read-- I remember
he was at thumb sucker,

542

00:28:32,690 --> 00:28:35,672

and he said he
wanted a typewriter.

543

00:28:35,672 --> 00:28:38,250

544

00:28:38,250 --> 00:28:41,580

We couldn't afford
to buy a typewriter,

545

00:28:41,580 --> 00:28:43,770

so we bought him a
toy typewriter where

546

00:28:43,770 --> 00:28:46,290

he could punch the letters.

547

00:28:46,290 --> 00:28:48,990

Harvey started to read.

548

00:28:48,990 --> 00:28:51,540

Willy used to come home and
bring him always something

549

00:28:51,540 --> 00:28:54,660

from the 5 and 10-- for
10 cents, for a quarter.

550
00:28:54,660 --> 00:28:57,270
So he brought him
blocks with alphabet--

551
00:28:57,270 --> 00:28:58,640
little blocks with the alphabet.

552
00:28:58,640 --> 00:29:01,920
He taught him the alphabet,
and he caught on on that.

553
00:29:01,920 --> 00:29:03,210
He was watching television.

554
00:29:03,210 --> 00:29:05,340
Finally we got the
television, because we

555
00:29:05,340 --> 00:29:07,530
had to stay home with the baby.

556
00:29:07,530 --> 00:29:09,510
We couldn't afford babysitters.

557
00:29:09,510 --> 00:29:15,600
So once I heard him
banging against the screen.

558
00:29:15,600 --> 00:29:17,920
I said, Harvey,
what are you doing?

559
00:29:17,920 --> 00:29:22,740
He said he saw a hakenkreuz,
a swastika on a book.

560
00:29:22,740 --> 00:29:26,460
And he knew already
about Hitler.

561
00:29:26,460 --> 00:29:31,070

He was reading when he
was three years old.

562
00:29:31,070 --> 00:29:35,560
So I mentioned that to Dr.
[? Khan, ?] the pediatrician.

563
00:29:35,560 --> 00:29:37,510
I said, I'm surprised
that they have

564
00:29:37,510 --> 00:29:40,240
stories like that in children's
book-- the Golden Books.

565
00:29:40,240 --> 00:29:41,470
He said it's history.

566
00:29:41,470 --> 00:29:43,000
You can't help it.

567
00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:44,770
It was in the child's version.

568
00:29:44,770 --> 00:29:46,010
He was six years old.

569
00:29:46,010 --> 00:29:48,910
He read Exodus.

570
00:29:48,910 --> 00:29:50,170
Dr. Khan once came.

571
00:29:50,170 --> 00:29:54,730
He was sick, and he had
a bed with a bookcase.

572
00:29:54,730 --> 00:29:59,230
And he said to him, Harvey,
is that the latest literature?

573
00:29:59,230 --> 00:30:01,530

Greek mythology he was reading.

574

00:30:01,530 --> 00:30:04,060

Really, I don't exaggerate.

575

00:30:04,060 --> 00:30:06,190

When he started
school kindergarten,

576

00:30:06,190 --> 00:30:08,950

he was reading the newspaper,
and the teacher said my god,

577

00:30:08,950 --> 00:30:10,030

he's reading this?

578

00:30:10,030 --> 00:30:11,920

But he will be bored here.

579

00:30:11,920 --> 00:30:14,560

But as long as he had
something, even comics to read,

580

00:30:14,560 --> 00:30:18,490

it didn't matter what it
was that he was reading.

581

00:30:18,490 --> 00:30:21,130

So I remember he
was, and I wanted

582

00:30:21,130 --> 00:30:23,260

him to stop sucking the thumb.

583

00:30:23,260 --> 00:30:26,500

So the next day,
I went in always

584

00:30:26,500 --> 00:30:28,480

before I went to
bed to check him.

585

00:30:28,480 --> 00:30:30,370

And I said to him
the next morning,

586

00:30:30,370 --> 00:30:34,630

I said you know, Harvey, you
were sucking your tongue again

587

00:30:34,630 --> 00:30:35,320

in your sleep.

588

00:30:35,320 --> 00:30:36,550

You didn't know.

589

00:30:36,550 --> 00:30:41,860

So he said please put a Band-Aid
on that I can't suck the thumb.

590

00:30:41,860 --> 00:30:47,110

He once started Hebrew school,
and the teacher told me.

591

00:30:47,110 --> 00:30:53,180

She said who are the most
history from the Bible?

592

00:30:53,180 --> 00:30:55,030

So he knew Haman.

593

00:30:55,030 --> 00:30:57,130

And they were
talking about Haman.

594

00:30:57,130 --> 00:30:58,840

It was before Purim.

595

00:30:58,840 --> 00:31:00,220

And he said and Hitler.

596

00:31:00,220 --> 00:31:03,170

597

00:31:03,170 --> 00:31:06,310
Yeah, he still is a very, very--

598
00:31:06,310 --> 00:31:08,360
he is a walking encyclopedia.

599
00:31:08,360 --> 00:31:11,280

600
00:31:11,280 --> 00:31:12,930
So Stanley was born.

601
00:31:12,930 --> 00:31:17,225
It was 4 1/2 years
difference between them.

602
00:31:17,225 --> 00:31:20,520
Stanley is a different
completely child.

603
00:31:20,520 --> 00:31:28,470
He wants-- he is happy
go lucky, but he went--

604
00:31:28,470 --> 00:31:31,140
I didn't have any problems
with all three of them.

605
00:31:31,140 --> 00:31:34,090
They never gave me
problems in school.

606
00:31:34,090 --> 00:31:36,340
How did you choose his name?

607
00:31:36,340 --> 00:31:39,570
His name was named after
my husband's brother

608
00:31:39,570 --> 00:31:43,680
and my brother, Shlomo Abram.

609

00:31:43,680 --> 00:31:47,610
And his is Stanley Allen.

610
00:31:47,610 --> 00:31:49,740
And things were
getting better for us.

611
00:31:49,740 --> 00:31:53,940
Stanley-- really, they say every
child brings his own mazel--

612
00:31:53,940 --> 00:31:54,870
luck.

613
00:31:54,870 --> 00:31:59,460
So he went into business.

614
00:31:59,460 --> 00:32:04,980
He worked as a plumber for
six years for Jewish men,

615
00:32:04,980 --> 00:32:07,830
but he was treating him like--

616
00:32:07,830 --> 00:32:10,860
Christmastime, everybody
got a bonus-- a gift.

617
00:32:10,860 --> 00:32:13,710
He never got it, because
it wasn't his holiday.

618
00:32:13,710 --> 00:32:17,250
But he never got it for
his holidays either.

619
00:32:17,250 --> 00:32:19,110
So I wouldn't mention
even the man's name.

620
00:32:19,110 --> 00:32:20,940
Let him rest in peace.

621

00:32:20,940 --> 00:32:28,010

And the first time we got
bought \$2,000 from the Germans--

622

00:32:28,010 --> 00:32:30,750

repairs.

623

00:32:30,750 --> 00:32:31,770

He said, I don't want.

624

00:32:31,770 --> 00:32:35,370

I can never get ahead
working for somebody.

625

00:32:35,370 --> 00:32:36,760

He was very ambitious.

626

00:32:36,760 --> 00:32:38,400

He was working in
people's houses,

627

00:32:38,400 --> 00:32:42,690

and he was dreaming if he
ever would have a house.

628

00:32:42,690 --> 00:32:48,930

And so he went, read the
paper, and bought a station

629

00:32:48,930 --> 00:32:52,230

for \$2,000.

630

00:32:52,230 --> 00:32:54,030

I didn't know what
happened to him.

631

00:32:54,030 --> 00:32:56,790

He was working in a station
before to get acquainted.

632

00:32:56,790 --> 00:32:59,940

The man promised-- wanted

to go away on vacation,

633
00:32:59,940 --> 00:33:01,980
how people take advantage--

634
00:33:01,980 --> 00:33:03,885
and said that he would
take him as a partner.

635
00:33:03,885 --> 00:33:05,385
When he came back
from the vacation,

636
00:33:05,385 --> 00:33:07,890
he said I don't need a partner.

637
00:33:07,890 --> 00:33:09,510
So I didn't know what happened.

638
00:33:09,510 --> 00:33:13,140
He went to work there, and I
didn't see him the whole day,

639
00:33:13,140 --> 00:33:15,040
didn't hear from him.

640
00:33:15,040 --> 00:33:17,735
So at 11:00, he comes home.

641
00:33:17,735 --> 00:33:18,860
He said I bought a station.

642
00:33:18,860 --> 00:33:23,070
Looked at the paper on Blair
Road, a Sinclair station.

643
00:33:23,070 --> 00:33:28,980
Had \$2,000-- he didn't want
to touch my part in case

644
00:33:28,980 --> 00:33:34,650
it doesn't work out, that we

have something to fall back.

645

00:33:34,650 --> 00:33:40,950

And he had enough money
to pay for a lot of gas,

646

00:33:40,950 --> 00:33:43,420

and he was in business.

647

00:33:43,420 --> 00:33:48,570

He was there for 1 1/2 years,
worked very hard from 6:00

648

00:33:48,570 --> 00:33:51,120

in the morning until
11:00 at night.

649

00:33:51,120 --> 00:33:55,110

I used to wait and make him
dinner at 11:00 at night.

650

00:33:55,110 --> 00:33:56,640

It was hard.

651

00:33:56,640 --> 00:33:58,922

The hardest part was
when we came here

652

00:33:58,922 --> 00:34:00,255

it was not knowing the language.

653

00:34:00,255 --> 00:34:03,320

654

00:34:03,320 --> 00:34:05,240

There are funny stories.

655

00:34:05,240 --> 00:34:06,830

I tell that a story.

656

00:34:06,830 --> 00:34:07,860

We used to walk.

657
00:34:07,860 --> 00:34:10,250
It was the Jewish
section on 14th Street.

658
00:34:10,250 --> 00:34:13,040
We used to walk on 14th Street.

659
00:34:13,040 --> 00:34:18,380
And I saw a building with
stained glass and black limos

660
00:34:18,380 --> 00:34:20,179
in front, and I didn't know.

661
00:34:20,179 --> 00:34:23,210
I read funeral home.

662
00:34:23,210 --> 00:34:24,440
I didn't know what it means.

663
00:34:24,440 --> 00:34:26,540
I thought it's a nightclub.

664
00:34:26,540 --> 00:34:29,719
It was a Danzansky funeral home.

665
00:34:29,719 --> 00:34:33,710
That's how green we were.

666
00:34:33,710 --> 00:34:36,949
How many items I bought
and didn't know just

667
00:34:36,949 --> 00:34:37,880
from the labels--

668
00:34:37,880 --> 00:34:38,659
and cans.

669
00:34:38,659 --> 00:34:40,730

Didn't know what it is
and then threw it out

670
00:34:40,730 --> 00:34:44,840
when we couldn't afford it even.

671
00:34:44,840 --> 00:34:48,989
So it was very difficult. The
beginnings were very difficult.

672
00:34:48,989 --> 00:34:50,870
We were walking, we
didn't know anybody

673
00:34:50,870 --> 00:34:55,250
until we met these people, and
they were nice to us, kind.

674
00:34:55,250 --> 00:34:58,580
We met a few survivors.

675
00:34:58,580 --> 00:35:01,430
But we didn't have a car
we didn't know how to.

676
00:35:01,430 --> 00:35:04,280
Everybody lives in
a different section.

677
00:35:04,280 --> 00:35:06,620
But he finally bought a car--

678
00:35:06,620 --> 00:35:11,040
a used car in
1950, a year later.

679
00:35:11,040 --> 00:35:13,340
He registered to
buy a new Chevrolet.

680
00:35:13,340 --> 00:35:15,992
Our friend Sam talked to
him that it's a good value

681
00:35:15,992 --> 00:35:16,700
to buy Chevrolet.

682
00:35:16,700 --> 00:35:19,215
It has a good
resell price, thing.

683
00:35:19,215 --> 00:35:22,220

684
00:35:22,220 --> 00:35:25,970
But he was draft age,
and Korean War broke out.

685
00:35:25,970 --> 00:35:29,330
They wouldn't give
him a loan for a car.

686
00:35:29,330 --> 00:35:32,570
So eventually after
a year we bought

687
00:35:32,570 --> 00:35:37,010
a car, a used car from a
Seventh Day Adventist man,

688
00:35:37,010 --> 00:35:39,260
and he was a very decent man.

689
00:35:39,260 --> 00:35:41,570
We used that car for many years.

690
00:35:41,570 --> 00:35:43,490
I learned on that car--

691
00:35:43,490 --> 00:35:46,130
how come?

692
00:35:46,130 --> 00:35:46,760
Let's stop.

693

00:35:46,760 --> 00:35:48,200

We'll stop for one moment.

694

00:35:48,200 --> 00:35:54,920

695

00:35:54,920 --> 00:35:58,400

OK, we're back now,
and all of the phones

696

00:35:58,400 --> 00:35:59,750

are now off the hook.

697

00:35:59,750 --> 00:36:02,840

You were telling me about
the car that you purchased.

698

00:36:02,840 --> 00:36:06,950

We purchased a used
car, and having a car--

699

00:36:06,950 --> 00:36:09,840

we used to go, even Harvey--

700

00:36:09,840 --> 00:36:13,310

we used to build up
the back of the car.

701

00:36:13,310 --> 00:36:15,050

We used to go often to New York.

702

00:36:15,050 --> 00:36:16,520

That was our outing.

703

00:36:16,520 --> 00:36:18,200

We couldn't afford
to go anyplace

704

00:36:18,200 --> 00:36:19,790

on vacation or anything.

705

00:36:19,790 --> 00:36:23,370
We used to go visit
Etta to New York.

706
00:36:23,370 --> 00:36:25,580
And today, we really wanted--

707
00:36:25,580 --> 00:36:30,080
we put boxes, and he had like a
playpen in the back of the car.

708
00:36:30,080 --> 00:36:32,690
Today on the plane
even, my daughter

709
00:36:32,690 --> 00:36:36,350
has to come with the seats
and things-- the car seats.

710
00:36:36,350 --> 00:36:40,200
We didn't know better, so
everybody was doing it.

711
00:36:40,200 --> 00:36:43,580
And so we bought the car.

712
00:36:43,580 --> 00:36:46,430
And after Stanley was
born, and I named him

713
00:36:46,430 --> 00:36:51,350
after Willy's brother
and my brother,

714
00:36:51,350 --> 00:36:53,180
things were getting better.

715
00:36:53,180 --> 00:36:56,460
He went into business,
like I said before.

716
00:36:56,460 --> 00:36:59,720
Every child brings

its own good luck.

717

00:36:59,720 --> 00:37:03,410
Things were getting better, and
I could afford to send Harvey.

718

00:37:03,410 --> 00:37:05,810
I never could afford to
send-- he was so bright,

719

00:37:05,810 --> 00:37:09,610
but I couldn't afford to
send him to a nursery.

720

00:37:09,610 --> 00:37:13,550
Stanley went already to
Town & Country Nursery,

721

00:37:13,550 --> 00:37:16,100
and we decided to
have another child.

722

00:37:16,100 --> 00:37:18,590
Things were getting better.

723

00:37:18,590 --> 00:37:19,590
I have to interrupt you.

724

00:37:19,590 --> 00:37:20,450
We have change the tape.

725

00:37:20,450 --> 00:37:23,075
Just one moment, and we'll start
talking about the other child.

726

00:37:23,075 --> 00:37:29,050

727

00:37:29,050 --> 00:37:31,480
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

728

00:37:31,480 --> 00:37:33,940
Memorial Museum volunteer
collection interview

729
00:37:33,940 --> 00:37:35,380
with Helen Luksenburg.

730
00:37:35,380 --> 00:37:37,900
This is tape 2, side
B. And you were just

731
00:37:37,900 --> 00:37:41,590
about to tell me about the
birth of your third child.

732
00:37:41,590 --> 00:37:44,370
We decided to have
another child.

733
00:37:44,370 --> 00:37:46,150
We could afford it.

734
00:37:46,150 --> 00:37:49,510
Because if things
would be better before,

735
00:37:49,510 --> 00:37:53,620
we would have more children, but
I was getting too old already.

736
00:37:53,620 --> 00:37:55,840
Unfortunately, it
took me a long time,

737
00:37:55,840 --> 00:37:58,930
because it's 15 years
difference between my oldest

738
00:37:58,930 --> 00:38:02,710
child, Harvey, and Amy,
and 10 years difference

739
00:38:02,710 --> 00:38:05,320

between Stanley and Amy.

740
00:38:05,320 --> 00:38:08,710
Because I had a few
miscarriages after.

741
00:38:08,710 --> 00:38:13,030
But the doctor
told me forget it.

742
00:38:13,030 --> 00:38:14,260
You have two normal children.

743
00:38:14,260 --> 00:38:15,140
Forget about it.

744
00:38:15,140 --> 00:38:18,100
So my husband said
who's he to tell me?

745
00:38:18,100 --> 00:38:22,540
And I didn't have any problems
afterward becoming pregnant

746
00:38:22,540 --> 00:38:23,910
with Amy or anything.

747
00:38:23,910 --> 00:38:26,830
It was like sunshine
came to her.

748
00:38:26,830 --> 00:38:29,320
When the doctor told
him in the hospital

749
00:38:29,320 --> 00:38:32,910
that it looks just like daddy,
he thought it's another boy.

750
00:38:32,910 --> 00:38:34,790
He said no, it's a girl.

751

00:38:34,790 --> 00:38:37,340

I started to cry when
they told me it's a girl.

752

00:38:37,340 --> 00:38:39,280

I really expected a boy.

753

00:38:39,280 --> 00:38:41,350

So she was really the--

754

00:38:41,350 --> 00:38:42,760

but people were so--

755

00:38:42,760 --> 00:38:44,360

today it's a different time.

756

00:38:44,360 --> 00:38:48,190

She's 31 years old now,
but 30 years ago, people

757

00:38:48,190 --> 00:38:51,660

were asking me if
she's my grandchild.

758

00:38:51,660 --> 00:38:55,520

Today women at 40 have
their first child--

759

00:38:55,520 --> 00:38:56,860

older.

760

00:38:56,860 --> 00:38:59,290

But that's how the times were.

761

00:38:59,290 --> 00:39:03,310

So she was really a joy
to us, and still is.

762

00:39:03,310 --> 00:39:06,580

And it's unfortunate that
she lives so far away.

763

00:39:06,580 --> 00:39:09,940
Maybe in a way it's better.

764
00:39:09,940 --> 00:39:12,200
How did you pick her name?

765
00:39:12,200 --> 00:39:16,550
Her name is after my
mother and Willy's mother.

766
00:39:16,550 --> 00:39:20,200
We have plenty of names
that we don't run out.

767
00:39:20,200 --> 00:39:22,810
Because I wasn't even angry
that my daughter didn't

768
00:39:22,810 --> 00:39:25,900
pick the name she couldn't
and can't understand.

769
00:39:25,900 --> 00:39:30,170
I wanted her to name
after my father.

770
00:39:30,170 --> 00:39:32,260
And she said she doesn't
want to have a brother

771
00:39:32,260 --> 00:39:33,490
and a son the same name.

772
00:39:33,490 --> 00:39:34,480
She doesn't understand.

773
00:39:34,480 --> 00:39:37,450
In Jewish religion,
it's allowed to do that.

774
00:39:37,450 --> 00:39:40,750
I have many aunts who had
the same name that I have.

775
00:39:40,750 --> 00:39:44,133
We were named after
grandmother, great grandmothers.

776
00:39:44,133 --> 00:39:45,550
But I couldn't get
through to her.

777
00:39:45,550 --> 00:39:46,750
She couldn't.

778
00:39:46,750 --> 00:39:50,140
So she named after
his grandfather,

779
00:39:50,140 --> 00:39:54,520
and the middle name has
a name after [? Yair ?]..

780
00:39:54,520 --> 00:39:57,730
They picked just a Hebrew name.

781
00:39:57,730 --> 00:40:01,510
And the last one she named
after my sister, Benjamin.

782
00:40:01,510 --> 00:40:06,150
Her name was Bluma, so she
picked the B after my sister.

783
00:40:06,150 --> 00:40:09,242

784
00:40:09,242 --> 00:40:10,700
When your children
were growing up,

785
00:40:10,700 --> 00:40:13,380
what did you tell them
about your life in Europe?

786

00:40:13,380 --> 00:40:17,240
We were telling them always
how much they could understand.

787
00:40:17,240 --> 00:40:19,670
We never went overboard.

788
00:40:19,670 --> 00:40:23,540
And I would have to tell you
when my oldest son Harvey--

789
00:40:23,540 --> 00:40:26,060
I'll never forget it--

790
00:40:26,060 --> 00:40:28,140
was a freshman
and Johns Hopkins.

791
00:40:28,140 --> 00:40:32,840
He came home for a weekend, and
I happened to have at the time

792
00:40:32,840 --> 00:40:38,000
Helen Epstein, who wrote the
book Children of Survivors.

793
00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:42,290
Before the book was
published, there

794
00:40:42,290 --> 00:40:46,715
were excerpts and
in the magazine

795
00:40:46,715 --> 00:40:49,400
section of the New York Times.

796
00:40:49,400 --> 00:40:53,030
So I remember Harvey
came home for the Sunday,

797
00:40:53,030 --> 00:40:56,210
and I said, Harvey, I

want to talk to you.

798

00:40:56,210 --> 00:41:00,570

I sat with him in his room on
the bed, and I said to him,

799

00:41:00,570 --> 00:41:02,120

I want you to read this.

800

00:41:02,120 --> 00:41:05,900

Because in that article,
she was describing

801

00:41:05,900 --> 00:41:10,410

how some parents told the
stories to the children,

802

00:41:10,410 --> 00:41:13,400

and one girl was afraid
to take the subway--

803

00:41:13,400 --> 00:41:17,510

that the train would
take her to Auschwitz.

804

00:41:17,510 --> 00:41:19,520

So I said, Harvey,
I'm not perfect.

805

00:41:19,520 --> 00:41:21,110

Tell me.

806

00:41:21,110 --> 00:41:23,340

I'm sure I made many mistakes.

807

00:41:23,340 --> 00:41:24,980

But tell me how you feel.

808

00:41:24,980 --> 00:41:26,970

He was already 18 years old.

809

00:41:26,970 --> 00:41:30,920

He said we know about
it, we talked about it,

810
00:41:30,920 --> 00:41:33,040
but we don't live
with it every day.

811
00:41:33,040 --> 00:41:35,890

812
00:41:35,890 --> 00:41:37,452
That's how we
raised the children.

813
00:41:37,452 --> 00:41:43,240

814
00:41:43,240 --> 00:41:46,780
Tell me about your
children's education.

815
00:41:46,780 --> 00:41:48,740
As I said before,
Harvey was very bright.

816
00:41:48,740 --> 00:41:53,440
I remember his third grade
teacher sent me a note home

817
00:41:53,440 --> 00:41:56,740
that I'm wasting his
time, if I could send him

818
00:41:56,740 --> 00:41:59,710
to Sidwell Friends School.

819
00:41:59,710 --> 00:42:01,730
I told her I can't afford it.

820
00:42:01,730 --> 00:42:05,050
I didn't have a car
even to drive him.

821

00:42:05,050 --> 00:42:07,620

Who could afford to send
him to private school?

822

00:42:07,620 --> 00:42:10,210

823

00:42:10,210 --> 00:42:12,970

He always was-- he was
reading constantly.

824

00:42:12,970 --> 00:42:14,950

He still is reading.

825

00:42:14,950 --> 00:42:16,660

We try to give them.

826

00:42:16,660 --> 00:42:18,580

My husband worked
very hard, and we

827

00:42:18,580 --> 00:42:20,800

tried to give them
the education,

828

00:42:20,800 --> 00:42:22,990

if they were capable.

829

00:42:22,990 --> 00:42:25,630

So Harvey started
with Johns Hopkins.

830

00:42:25,630 --> 00:42:29,050

After two years, he transferred.

831

00:42:29,050 --> 00:42:31,960

And he was accepted
to Columbia, but I

832

00:42:31,960 --> 00:42:35,570

was glad he didn't go to
Columbia, because at the time

833
00:42:35,570 --> 00:42:38,470
they had the riots-- the
time with the Vienna War.

834
00:42:38,470 --> 00:42:42,340
So he went to University
of Chicago, undergraduate.

835
00:42:42,340 --> 00:42:47,620
Graduated, was the dean's
list, and he always

836
00:42:47,620 --> 00:42:49,330
was a very good student.

837
00:42:49,330 --> 00:42:52,690
He's not ambitious enough.

838
00:42:52,690 --> 00:42:54,880
He's not a showoff.

839
00:42:54,880 --> 00:42:58,630
I remember once in classroom
was for parents visiting,

840
00:42:58,630 --> 00:43:01,660
and the boy's name was Joel.

841
00:43:01,660 --> 00:43:03,040
I don't remember his last name.

842
00:43:03,040 --> 00:43:06,310
Was sitting with him at
the bench, at the thing.

843
00:43:06,310 --> 00:43:08,470
And he the teacher
asked a question.

844
00:43:08,470 --> 00:43:11,560
Joel leans over to Harvey,

asked Harvey the question,

845

00:43:11,560 --> 00:43:12,570
and raises his arm.

846

00:43:12,570 --> 00:43:15,430

847

00:43:15,430 --> 00:43:16,587
And here's the answer.

848

00:43:16,587 --> 00:43:17,170
That's Harvey.

849

00:43:17,170 --> 00:43:22,300

850

00:43:22,300 --> 00:43:26,230
He graduated, applied
to medical school--

851

00:43:26,230 --> 00:43:31,270
Pritzker Medical School-- was
accepted on early acceptance.

852

00:43:31,270 --> 00:43:35,200
He is going this weekend
for the 25th anniversary

853

00:43:35,200 --> 00:43:38,650
of undergraduate
school to Chicago.

854

00:43:38,650 --> 00:43:43,060
He did a residency,
and he was six months

855

00:43:43,060 --> 00:43:47,300
in London in a hospital.

856

00:43:47,300 --> 00:43:52,760
And when he came back, they

didn't match him to any place.

857

00:43:52,760 --> 00:43:56,120

So he is the dean of the
medical school-- asked him.

858

00:43:56,120 --> 00:43:57,640

There was an opening in Oregon--

859

00:43:57,640 --> 00:44:02,930

in Portland, Oregon--
in the health something.

860

00:44:02,930 --> 00:44:05,380

It's a government,
I guess a military--

861

00:44:05,380 --> 00:44:07,690

what was a very good
experience for him,

862

00:44:07,690 --> 00:44:12,370

because in private
hospitals, the intern doesn't

863

00:44:12,370 --> 00:44:14,470

have much to say or do.

864

00:44:14,470 --> 00:44:17,890

But over there he had to
make the decisions already,

865

00:44:17,890 --> 00:44:20,110

so it was a good experience.

866

00:44:20,110 --> 00:44:22,750

He did the internship
and residency

867

00:44:22,750 --> 00:44:24,880

and decided to come back.

868

00:44:24,880 --> 00:44:30,560
He was missing-- it wasn't
intellectually enough for him

869
00:44:30,560 --> 00:44:37,660
in Portland, because mostly
it's basketball and skiing.

870
00:44:37,660 --> 00:44:39,490
And he is not in sports at all.

871
00:44:39,490 --> 00:44:42,170
He doesn't know
much about sports.

872
00:44:42,170 --> 00:44:44,860
So they didn't have a symphony.

873
00:44:44,860 --> 00:44:46,690
They didn't have an
orchestra and things,

874
00:44:46,690 --> 00:44:49,270
so he came back to Washington.

875
00:44:49,270 --> 00:44:53,860
So we bought him-- at that
time a building on 16th Street

876
00:44:53,860 --> 00:44:57,100
was going co-op, so we
put down a down payment

877
00:44:57,100 --> 00:45:01,960
and bought him a condo, what
he paid out later himself.

878
00:45:01,960 --> 00:45:10,920
He still owns it, and he's
renting it out and working.

879
00:45:10,920 --> 00:45:15,640
And he actually

is in Georgetown,

880
00:45:15,640 --> 00:45:19,090
but DC General
lost accreditation.

881
00:45:19,090 --> 00:45:25,430
So he used to be in DC
General under the Georgetown

882
00:45:25,430 --> 00:45:27,370
Hematology.

883
00:45:27,370 --> 00:45:31,510
A few years ago, they recognized
his ability, and they took him.

884
00:45:31,510 --> 00:45:40,720
He is in Georgetown now in the
Oncology, Hematology Clinic.

885
00:45:40,720 --> 00:45:45,010

886
00:45:45,010 --> 00:45:46,810
Stanley is very short.

887
00:45:46,810 --> 00:45:48,520
None of my children are tall.

888
00:45:48,520 --> 00:45:51,950
They say every generation is
taller, but it didn't happen.

889
00:45:51,950 --> 00:45:56,780
Stanley is just 5'2", and he
had a complex with it really.

890
00:45:56,780 --> 00:45:58,900
And he wasn't as good a student.

891
00:45:58,900 --> 00:46:00,950

He was all right,
but not as Harvey.

892
00:46:00,950 --> 00:46:03,400
So it was competition here.

893
00:46:03,400 --> 00:46:08,380
And he decided that he
wants to go for podiatry,

894
00:46:08,380 --> 00:46:11,770
so he got into
podiatry in Cleveland.

895
00:46:11,770 --> 00:46:14,590

896
00:46:14,590 --> 00:46:21,130
He met the girl and in
Cleveland, and he married her.

897
00:46:21,130 --> 00:46:22,360
She was from Cleveland.

898
00:46:22,360 --> 00:46:25,570
After he graduated and got
married, we brought them here.

899
00:46:25,570 --> 00:46:27,070
We thought maybe
we could help him

900
00:46:27,070 --> 00:46:29,140
to open a practice and things.

901
00:46:29,140 --> 00:46:30,700
But she was homesick.

902
00:46:30,700 --> 00:46:35,260
She is-- autistic
children, she's trained.

903

00:46:35,260 --> 00:46:37,690
So now she went back
to school and took

904
00:46:37,690 --> 00:46:40,630
courses, and she's
special education

905
00:46:40,630 --> 00:46:42,100
in the school system--

906
00:46:42,100 --> 00:46:44,020
the Shaker Heights.

907
00:46:44,020 --> 00:46:48,400
Because she's so petite-- she's
4'6" or 4'8", and the kids were

908
00:46:48,400 --> 00:46:49,630
much bigger.

909
00:46:49,630 --> 00:46:52,300
And I think it was very
hard with autistic children

910
00:46:52,300 --> 00:46:53,590
to teach.

911
00:46:53,590 --> 00:46:55,840
And so they live in Cleveland.

912
00:46:55,840 --> 00:46:59,180
They have two children,
Stephanie and David.

913
00:46:59,180 --> 00:47:02,480
Harvey doesn't
have any children.

914
00:47:02,480 --> 00:47:09,530
He got married in Chicago,
and the faculty dining room

915

00:47:09,530 --> 00:47:13,140

was the wedding, the
dinner, and so on.

916

00:47:13,140 --> 00:47:16,310

So he's the only
one who lives here.

917

00:47:16,310 --> 00:47:20,930

Amy was a very good
student, very conscientious.

918

00:47:20,930 --> 00:47:26,300

She was used to come home and
cry if she didn't get an A.

919

00:47:26,300 --> 00:47:30,180

And her brother said,
what's the big deal?

920

00:47:30,180 --> 00:47:31,460

So she applied.

921

00:47:31,460 --> 00:47:37,040

She went to Brandeis and
met her future husband right

922

00:47:37,040 --> 00:47:39,770

at the freshman year.

923

00:47:39,770 --> 00:47:42,680

And he's two years
older than she is.

924

00:47:42,680 --> 00:47:45,020

He went to law school
at Boston University.

925

00:47:45,020 --> 00:47:47,030

She followed him to
Boston University.

926

00:47:47,030 --> 00:47:48,740
She's a lawyer also.

927
00:47:48,740 --> 00:47:51,290
They settled in New
England, because he's

928
00:47:51,290 --> 00:47:55,460
from Framingham, Massachusetts.

929
00:47:55,460 --> 00:47:59,660
| they live now in
Providence, Rhode Island.

930
00:47:59,660 --> 00:48:01,400
She has three children.

931
00:48:01,400 --> 00:48:04,620
She became very Orthodox.

932
00:48:04,620 --> 00:48:07,820
It's a little bit of a
problem here and there,

933
00:48:07,820 --> 00:48:11,450
but I try my best.

934
00:48:11,450 --> 00:48:13,820
And so they're good kids.

935
00:48:13,820 --> 00:48:15,560
They never gave us any problems.

936
00:48:15,560 --> 00:48:17,420
We tried to educate them.

937
00:48:17,420 --> 00:48:20,240
We tried-- we paid
for the education.

938
00:48:20,240 --> 00:48:22,625
They didn't have anything, no--

939
00:48:22,625 --> 00:48:26,990

940
00:48:26,990 --> 00:48:31,280
we felt if we did for one,
we have to do for the others.

941
00:48:31,280 --> 00:48:33,534
And they're on their own now.

942
00:48:33,534 --> 00:48:36,520

943
00:48:36,520 --> 00:48:39,610
I'd like to go back over
the years in this country

944
00:48:39,610 --> 00:48:41,800
and ask you what
your thoughts were

945
00:48:41,800 --> 00:48:43,480
about various historical events.

946
00:48:43,480 --> 00:48:46,030
And I want to start
with the Eichmann trial.

947
00:48:46,030 --> 00:48:47,650
Did you follow the
Eichmann trial,

948
00:48:47,650 --> 00:48:50,450
and what were your thoughts?

949
00:48:50,450 --> 00:48:53,020
Yes, I followed very
closely the Eichmann trial.

950
00:48:53,020 --> 00:48:56,240
And I remember being

upset with the Israelis,

951
00:48:56,240 --> 00:49:01,730
because during the trial, the
young Israelis were blaming us

952
00:49:01,730 --> 00:49:06,750
that we went like
sheep to slaughter.

953
00:49:06,750 --> 00:49:08,870
And they could not understand.

954
00:49:08,870 --> 00:49:13,080
We didn't have anything
to protect ourselves,

955
00:49:13,080 --> 00:49:14,550
to fight back.

956
00:49:14,550 --> 00:49:18,060
In Warsaw ghetto, the
little bit of what

957
00:49:18,060 --> 00:49:21,390
they were buying from the
Poles, so most of the arms

958
00:49:21,390 --> 00:49:24,750
what they gave them, they
didn't give them bullets even.

959
00:49:24,750 --> 00:49:29,340
We didn't have the condition
to be able to fight.

960
00:49:29,340 --> 00:49:32,790
We were too young, some of us.

961
00:49:32,790 --> 00:49:34,680
Some people were fighting.

962

00:49:34,680 --> 00:49:39,210
It's a miracle how for one
month they could fight, exist--

963
00:49:39,210 --> 00:49:42,180
the Warsaw ghetto fighters.

964
00:49:42,180 --> 00:49:46,450
And some organizations--
I belonged during the war

965
00:49:46,450 --> 00:49:50,970
to a Zionist organization, youth
organization, HaNoar HaTzioni.

966
00:49:50,970 --> 00:49:53,640
And after the war, I found
out that some of them

967
00:49:53,640 --> 00:49:57,150
helped and they got
them to Romania.

968
00:49:57,150 --> 00:49:59,410
One friend who still
lives in Germany,

969
00:49:59,410 --> 00:50:01,650
I spoke to him recently.

970
00:50:01,650 --> 00:50:06,330
And he said, you know how
hard it was to live among--

971
00:50:06,330 --> 00:50:10,140
he was working in
Germany as a Pole.

972
00:50:10,140 --> 00:50:12,720
He said I wasn't
afraid of the Germans.

973
00:50:12,720 --> 00:50:14,430

The Germans treated
me very well.

974
00:50:14,430 --> 00:50:16,350
I was working on the farm.

975
00:50:16,350 --> 00:50:19,590
I was afraid the weekend,
Sunday, when it comes--

976
00:50:19,590 --> 00:50:20,700
how to behave.

977
00:50:20,700 --> 00:50:24,960
I had to learn how to swear and
how to behave among the Poles,

978
00:50:24,960 --> 00:50:28,810
because they could
recognize me that I'm a Jew.

979
00:50:28,810 --> 00:50:30,270
It was much harder.

980
00:50:30,270 --> 00:50:31,740
It was very difficult.

981
00:50:31,740 --> 00:50:34,050
And I was very
angry that time, how

982
00:50:34,050 --> 00:50:35,750
they were thinking about us.

983
00:50:35,750 --> 00:50:40,090
They didn't realize really what
hard times we had to survive,

984
00:50:40,090 --> 00:50:42,530
and how they were murdering
and slaughtering them.

985

00:50:42,530 --> 00:50:46,740

So I was angry at
the time, because how

986

00:50:46,740 --> 00:50:51,540

they felt the young Israelis
that we didn't fight back.

987

00:50:51,540 --> 00:50:52,140

With what?

988

00:50:52,140 --> 00:50:55,140

989

00:50:55,140 --> 00:51:00,330

We didn't have the
things with what to do.

990

00:51:00,330 --> 00:51:02,310

And I was 13, 14 years old.

991

00:51:02,310 --> 00:51:04,830

What did I know?

992

00:51:04,830 --> 00:51:07,650

I think that for that
age, I was very involved.

993

00:51:07,650 --> 00:51:08,520

I used to be.

994

00:51:08,520 --> 00:51:12,570

My father was afraid to
go out, and I used to go

995

00:51:12,570 --> 00:51:15,870

and one relative had a
restaurant during the war.

996

00:51:15,870 --> 00:51:17,850

I used to go and
listen to politics

997

00:51:17,850 --> 00:51:19,860
and bring the news to him.

998

00:51:19,860 --> 00:51:20,910
We didn't have radios.

999

00:51:20,910 --> 00:51:21,910
We didn't have anything.

1000

00:51:21,910 --> 00:51:24,940

1001

00:51:24,940 --> 00:51:27,550
You were in this country
during the Eichmann trial.

1002

00:51:27,550 --> 00:51:33,010
What was the reaction of your
American friends to the trial?

1003

00:51:33,010 --> 00:51:37,480
Some of my friends,
one particular one,

1004

00:51:37,480 --> 00:51:39,700
told us a few years ago.

1005

00:51:39,700 --> 00:51:41,290
He said, it's about time.

1006

00:51:41,290 --> 00:51:42,540
It's 25 years.

1007

00:51:42,540 --> 00:51:44,350
That was a long time ago--

1008

00:51:44,350 --> 00:51:45,880
25, 30 years.

1009

00:51:45,880 --> 00:51:47,980
Stop talking about it.

1010
00:51:47,980 --> 00:51:49,630
I got very angry at him.

1011
00:51:49,630 --> 00:51:51,280
This is our life.

1012
00:51:51,280 --> 00:51:54,170
You can't wipe out a whole life.

1013
00:51:54,170 --> 00:51:58,360
That's the only thing we
have is the memories left.

1014
00:51:58,360 --> 00:52:01,360
When the Holocaust
Museum was open,

1015
00:52:01,360 --> 00:52:04,452
he gave in our honor
\$1,000 to the museum.

1016
00:52:04,452 --> 00:52:06,140
He realized.

1017
00:52:06,140 --> 00:52:08,300
Now each time he sees
me on television,

1018
00:52:08,300 --> 00:52:11,170
because the Board of
Education keeps repeating,

1019
00:52:11,170 --> 00:52:12,110
he calls me up.

1020
00:52:12,110 --> 00:52:14,620
Helen, I just saw
you on television.

1021
00:52:14,620 --> 00:52:16,150
And his wife gave him--

1022
00:52:16,150 --> 00:52:18,750
she called him up when
he said that to us.

1023
00:52:18,750 --> 00:52:20,598
And said how can you stop?

1024
00:52:20,598 --> 00:52:21,640
You don't have to listen.

1025
00:52:21,640 --> 00:52:23,390
You don't have to
ask me questions

1026
00:52:23,390 --> 00:52:26,320
if you don't want to hear,
but we can't wipe it out.

1027
00:52:26,320 --> 00:52:28,270
That will remain
with us the rest

1028
00:52:28,270 --> 00:52:33,760
of our lives, because that's
memories of our parents, what

1029
00:52:33,760 --> 00:52:34,550
happened to them.

1030
00:52:34,550 --> 00:52:38,890

1031
00:52:38,890 --> 00:52:40,720
The only one who really--

1032
00:52:40,720 --> 00:52:43,330
oh, one couple,
the one from Vienna

1033
00:52:43,330 --> 00:52:47,680
that I mentioned before,

one year they went to--

1034
00:52:47,680 --> 00:52:49,360
they didn't want
to listen either.

1035
00:52:49,360 --> 00:52:49,990
Oh, no.

1036
00:52:49,990 --> 00:52:51,740
She came in 1940.

1037
00:52:51,740 --> 00:52:53,740
He came through China.

1038
00:52:53,740 --> 00:52:56,050
And her parents, she
lost her parents.

1039
00:52:56,050 --> 00:52:59,830
They lived in Vienna, and
they were Polish born.

1040
00:52:59,830 --> 00:53:04,300
So they sent them out when
Hitler came out to Auschwitz.

1041
00:53:04,300 --> 00:53:10,870
And she came to America, but her
parents never made it anymore.

1042
00:53:10,870 --> 00:53:14,920
One day she tells me that
they used to go to Europe

1043
00:53:14,920 --> 00:53:16,960
and bought a car, and
they were driving.

1044
00:53:16,960 --> 00:53:20,980
And she drove, went
by, and saw Dachau.

1045

00:53:20,980 --> 00:53:22,240

So they went to Dachau.

1046

00:53:22,240 --> 00:53:25,630

When she came back, she
cried and apologized

1047

00:53:25,630 --> 00:53:28,150

that she didn't realize
what we were going through.

1048

00:53:28,150 --> 00:53:32,530

And these are people who
suffered from the Nazis, too.

1049

00:53:32,530 --> 00:53:35,950

So most of them
they listen, listen,

1050

00:53:35,950 --> 00:53:37,330

enough that they
say it's enough.

1051

00:53:37,330 --> 00:53:42,797

1052

00:53:42,797 --> 00:53:44,880

I wanted to ask you about
some of the other events

1053

00:53:44,880 --> 00:53:47,398

that you experienced
in this country.

1054

00:53:47,398 --> 00:53:49,440

After you came to this
country, the United States

1055

00:53:49,440 --> 00:53:53,760

became involved with wars
in Korea and Vietnam.

1056

00:53:53,760 --> 00:53:56,890

Did you react in any way to those conflicts?

1057

00:53:56,890 --> 00:53:59,980

First of all, Korean War, I got very upset.

1058

00:53:59,980 --> 00:54:02,610

I was afraid that they would draft my husband.

1059

00:54:02,610 --> 00:54:04,410

He was draft age.

1060

00:54:04,410 --> 00:54:07,650

If he wouldn't married, he would be-- across the street

1061

00:54:07,650 --> 00:54:11,370

from me was a guy who came to this country who was single.

1062

00:54:11,370 --> 00:54:12,900

He was drafted.

1063

00:54:12,900 --> 00:54:14,550

He was in Korea.

1064

00:54:14,550 --> 00:54:18,660

So he was lucky that he was married, that they

1065

00:54:18,660 --> 00:54:20,340

didn't draft him.

1066

00:54:20,340 --> 00:54:24,510

Even the Cuban crisis, I was very upset.

1067

00:54:24,510 --> 00:54:28,170

Because I was afraid.

1068

00:54:28,170 --> 00:54:32,760

I don't go to 4th
of July fireworks.

1069

00:54:32,760 --> 00:54:33,930

Once I went.

1070

00:54:33,930 --> 00:54:37,800

Because it reminds
me of the war--

1071

00:54:37,800 --> 00:54:40,470

the thunders and the
shooting and everything.

1072

00:54:40,470 --> 00:54:41,820

I can't get rid of it.

1073

00:54:41,820 --> 00:54:46,310

After so many years,
it still haunts me.

1074

00:54:46,310 --> 00:54:50,510

So I was always very
upset about if they talked

1075

00:54:50,510 --> 00:54:52,580

about war broke out and things.

1076

00:54:52,580 --> 00:54:55,160

I get very upset.

1077

00:54:55,160 --> 00:54:57,650

I don't want to live
through another war.

1078

00:54:57,650 --> 00:54:59,660

And if something like
that would happen again,

1079

00:54:59,660 --> 00:55:01,760

I would commit suicide.

1080
00:55:01,760 --> 00:55:03,220
I wouldn't go through it again.

1081
00:55:03,220 --> 00:55:05,990

1082
00:55:05,990 --> 00:55:07,550
The same for my children.

1083
00:55:07,550 --> 00:55:16,670
My son, when he transferred
from Johns Hopkins to Chicago,

1084
00:55:16,670 --> 00:55:19,670
he had a student deferment.

1085
00:55:19,670 --> 00:55:22,990
But with transferring,
they didn't apply.

1086
00:55:22,990 --> 00:55:26,760
He became class A. When
I got that in the mail,

1087
00:55:26,760 --> 00:55:31,260
I got hysterical, and
luckily he had a high number,

1088
00:55:31,260 --> 00:55:34,710
but I didn't know until
the end of December.

1089
00:55:34,710 --> 00:55:38,048
125, and they
didn't call the 125.

1090
00:55:38,048 --> 00:55:38,840
But you should see.

1091
00:55:38,840 --> 00:55:40,550
I went to lawyers

and everything,

1092

00:55:40,550 --> 00:55:44,434

because I would move if he
would have to go to war.

1093

00:55:44,434 --> 00:55:47,360

That's how frightened
I am of wars.

1094

00:55:47,360 --> 00:55:49,451

It left a deep mark on me.

1095

00:55:49,451 --> 00:55:52,540

1096

00:55:52,540 --> 00:55:54,677

Israel fought several wars.

1097

00:55:54,677 --> 00:55:56,260

What was that
experience like for you,

1098

00:55:56,260 --> 00:55:58,060

knowing the visuals of war?

1099

00:55:58,060 --> 00:56:00,520

That's why I didn't
go to Israel,

1100

00:56:00,520 --> 00:56:03,370

because I was afraid he
was draft age-- that he

1101

00:56:03,370 --> 00:56:05,950

would be in the war.

1102

00:56:05,950 --> 00:56:07,420

That's why I waited.

1103

00:56:07,420 --> 00:56:10,070

I didn't want to go.

1104
00:56:10,070 --> 00:56:13,660
I told you before that I knew
we just got out from one hell.

1105
00:56:13,660 --> 00:56:15,590
I didn't want him to
be, and I don't know

1106
00:56:15,590 --> 00:56:18,490
if today he would be alive.

1107
00:56:18,490 --> 00:56:21,040
But sitting here in
this country and knowing

1108
00:56:21,040 --> 00:56:24,850
that in Israel there's a war,
what was your reaction to that?

1109
00:56:24,850 --> 00:56:29,260
Oh, I remember 1967 war.

1110
00:56:29,260 --> 00:56:30,190
They called me.

1111
00:56:30,190 --> 00:56:33,610
They were collecting money,
and somebody called me up

1112
00:56:33,610 --> 00:56:35,590
if I would give some money.

1113
00:56:35,590 --> 00:56:37,480
I said yes.

1114
00:56:37,480 --> 00:56:39,250
Come in a man, he
said you didn't know

1115
00:56:39,250 --> 00:56:40,480
who would come to the door.

1116
00:56:40,480 --> 00:56:42,760
I gave him \$1,000.

1117
00:56:42,760 --> 00:56:44,630
He said, you didn't even know.

1118
00:56:44,630 --> 00:56:46,510
It happened that
I knew the guy--

1119
00:56:46,510 --> 00:56:49,900
Bernie Rosenberg-- when he
came to the door to collect.

1120
00:56:49,900 --> 00:56:51,520
We did everything possible.

1121
00:56:51,520 --> 00:56:54,610
We were sitting where I have
a friend in the neighborhood--

1122
00:56:54,610 --> 00:56:58,090
middle of the night, we were
talking, going back and forth,

1123
00:56:58,090 --> 00:57:00,680
listening to radio
and discussions.

1124
00:57:00,680 --> 00:57:03,880
The same man just two
weeks ago, he got upset.

1125
00:57:03,880 --> 00:57:05,680
I came home, there
was a message.

1126
00:57:05,680 --> 00:57:07,820
And Henry it sounded so bad.

1127
00:57:07,820 --> 00:57:09,850

I called, I said
what's the matter.

1128
00:57:09,850 --> 00:57:15,940
Because how could Albright
give an ultimatum to Israel

1129
00:57:15,940 --> 00:57:17,290
to Netanyahu?

1130
00:57:17,290 --> 00:57:18,680
They are country.

1131
00:57:18,680 --> 00:57:19,870
He was so upset.

1132
00:57:19,870 --> 00:57:23,380
He called three different
reporters in Israel

1133
00:57:23,380 --> 00:57:25,820
to find out.

1134
00:57:25,820 --> 00:57:28,400
So we take it very,
very seriously.

1135
00:57:28,400 --> 00:57:30,880
We had a friend who worked
in the State Department

1136
00:57:30,880 --> 00:57:34,600
during the '97 war,
and he assured us

1137
00:57:34,600 --> 00:57:37,930
that Nixon already sent the
planes and everything-- was

1138
00:57:37,930 --> 00:57:39,010
on the way to Israel.

1139

00:57:39,010 --> 00:57:40,030
He knew.

1140
00:57:40,030 --> 00:57:41,530
He worked in the
State Department

1141
00:57:41,530 --> 00:57:43,960
at a very high
position, unfortunately

1142
00:57:43,960 --> 00:57:46,750
died many years ago.

1143
00:57:46,750 --> 00:57:49,120
But he was calming us down.

1144
00:57:49,120 --> 00:57:52,510
Said help is coming,
not to worry.

1145
00:57:52,510 --> 00:57:56,110
Was that for the Yom Kippur War?

1146
00:57:56,110 --> 00:57:57,920
Nixon] did a lot for Israel.

1147
00:57:57,920 --> 00:58:03,068

1148
00:58:03,068 --> 00:58:05,610
You mentioned that you were also
upset with the Cuban Missile

1149
00:58:05,610 --> 00:58:06,110
Crisis.

1150
00:58:06,110 --> 00:58:08,610
What were your thoughts
when the United

1151
00:58:08,610 --> 00:58:11,910

States had such a conflict with
the Soviet Union in general?

1152
00:58:11,910 --> 00:58:14,010
I was always afraid before.

1153
00:58:14,010 --> 00:58:15,810
I really did.

1154
00:58:15,810 --> 00:58:19,140
I read two newspapers a
day-- the New York Times

1155
00:58:19,140 --> 00:58:20,310
and Washington Post.

1156
00:58:20,310 --> 00:58:22,540
I know every day
what's going on.

1157
00:58:22,540 --> 00:58:25,800
I don't understand-- I
play cards with some women.

1158
00:58:25,800 --> 00:58:28,830
I don't understand how
they don't know anything.

1159
00:58:28,830 --> 00:58:32,940
One's stupid-- said to me,
sometimes I can't make it.

1160
00:58:32,940 --> 00:58:35,010
And she said, you know,
we'll miss you Helen.

1161
00:58:35,010 --> 00:58:38,370
You always have such
interesting stories.

1162
00:58:38,370 --> 00:58:41,730
They don't know anything
that's going on.

1163
00:58:41,730 --> 00:58:44,160
You were in this country during
the Civil Rights movement

1164
00:58:44,160 --> 00:58:44,880
in the '60s.

1165
00:58:44,880 --> 00:58:49,320
Can you tell me as a Jew
with your background,

1166
00:58:49,320 --> 00:58:51,870
what was your reaction to what
was going on in this country?

1167
00:58:51,870 --> 00:58:54,840
I felt that they have
the right to be equal.

1168
00:58:54,840 --> 00:58:57,330
They are human beings.

1169
00:58:57,330 --> 00:58:59,040
My husband doesn't
feel the same way.

1170
00:58:59,040 --> 00:59:01,350
I feel that way.

1171
00:59:01,350 --> 00:59:03,390
I always fight with
him about this.

1172
00:59:03,390 --> 00:59:05,100
I said, they're human beings.

1173
00:59:05,100 --> 00:59:06,300
They have rights.

1174
00:59:06,300 --> 00:59:08,160
He works with them, everything.

1175
00:59:08,160 --> 00:59:13,080
Sometimes how they behave,
he goes on [INAUDIBLE]..

1176
00:59:13,080 --> 00:59:15,810
But I said not
everybody is like that.

1177
00:59:15,810 --> 00:59:17,610
There are some very nice.

1178
00:59:17,610 --> 00:59:19,050
I remember having a maid.

1179
00:59:19,050 --> 00:59:22,830
She never would sit with
me at the table to eat.

1180
00:59:22,830 --> 00:59:24,630
I insisted.

1181
00:59:24,630 --> 00:59:27,580
I said no, you sit
and eat with me.

1182
00:59:27,580 --> 00:59:29,290
I solve it.

1183
00:59:29,290 --> 00:59:37,850
I know what it means
to be pointed out.

1184
00:59:37,850 --> 00:59:39,440
I forgot the expression.

1185
00:59:39,440 --> 00:59:41,120
And it's prejudice.

1186
00:59:41,120 --> 00:59:42,650
I am not prejudiced.

1187
00:59:42,650 --> 00:59:44,900
I consider everybody.

1188
00:59:44,900 --> 00:59:48,800
When I talk to kids, I tell them
we are God's given children,

1189
00:59:48,800 --> 00:59:53,740
and everybody has a right
to be treated right.

1190
00:59:53,740 --> 00:59:58,540

1191
00:59:58,540 --> 01:00:00,980
You were also here for the
Women's Rights Movement.

1192
01:00:00,980 --> 01:00:02,530
What did you think of that?

1193
01:00:02,530 --> 01:00:05,830
Oh, once I went to
march with them.

1194
01:00:05,830 --> 01:00:11,620
Yes, I consider that women
are much brighter than men.

1195
01:00:11,620 --> 01:00:14,590
My daughter-in-law,
everything, every time.

1196
01:00:14,590 --> 01:00:15,550
She's a feminist.

1197
01:00:15,550 --> 01:00:16,660
She goes, oh.

1198
01:00:16,660 --> 01:00:19,460

1199

01:00:19,460 --> 01:00:23,420
We have sometimes discussions,
and we mention something.

1200

01:00:23,420 --> 01:00:28,535
She gets so upset and things
because she's a big feminist.

1201

01:00:28,535 --> 01:00:31,850

1202

01:00:31,850 --> 01:00:35,270
You were also in this
country during the turbulence

1203

01:00:35,270 --> 01:00:37,370
when the Kennedys
were assassinated

1204

01:00:37,370 --> 01:00:39,860
and King was assassinated.

1205

01:00:39,860 --> 01:00:41,642
Again, with your
background, what

1206

01:00:41,642 --> 01:00:43,100
was your reaction
to what was going

1207

01:00:43,100 --> 01:00:44,433
on in this country at that time?

1208

01:00:44,433 --> 01:00:46,910

1209

01:00:46,910 --> 01:00:50,810
I just don't believe how
people murdering and things.

1210

01:00:50,810 --> 01:00:54,410
A Kennedy-- I have the

records and the books.

1211
01:00:54,410 --> 01:00:58,400
I can't bring myself even
today to listen to it.

1212
01:00:58,400 --> 01:01:00,145
I remember what I
did at the moment.

1213
01:01:00,145 --> 01:01:03,350
It was Friday, and I was
cleaning the Venetian blinds.

1214
01:01:03,350 --> 01:01:04,890
And the neighbor
came in and said,

1215
01:01:04,890 --> 01:01:08,700
did you hear that what happened?

1216
01:01:08,700 --> 01:01:11,400
And I couldn't get over it.

1217
01:01:11,400 --> 01:01:15,000
I have Jackie's
stories and everything.

1218
01:01:15,000 --> 01:01:16,560
I keep it.

1219
01:01:16,560 --> 01:01:23,220
And it just-- and Martin
Luther King the same.

1220
01:01:23,220 --> 01:01:24,660
We were the ones who tried.

1221
01:01:24,660 --> 01:01:27,720
We were always involved,
I mean, as Jews.

1222

01:01:27,720 --> 01:01:29,850
Goldstein-- what was
his name, Goldstein?

1223
01:01:29,850 --> 01:01:33,750
The boy who was killed
marching for the civil rights?

1224
01:01:33,750 --> 01:01:36,330
So I agree that they
have the same rights.

1225
01:01:36,330 --> 01:01:40,970

1226
01:01:40,970 --> 01:01:42,695
Have you experienced
any antisemitism

1227
01:01:42,695 --> 01:01:43,570
in the United States?

1228
01:01:43,570 --> 01:01:47,060

1229
01:01:47,060 --> 01:01:50,360
Once when somebody said--

1230
01:01:50,360 --> 01:01:53,270
my beautician once said to me--

1231
01:01:53,270 --> 01:01:55,730
some day she asked me
about if I know somebody.

1232
01:01:55,730 --> 01:01:56,350
I said no.

1233
01:01:56,350 --> 01:02:00,050
Oh, I knew that you
people know everybody.

1234

01:02:00,050 --> 01:02:02,330

I didn't like how she
said that you people.

1235

01:02:02,330 --> 01:02:05,140

1236

01:02:05,140 --> 01:02:12,250

Except that not specifics
that I could pinpoint,

1237

01:02:12,250 --> 01:02:15,720

just what I read and
I know it's going on.

1238

01:02:15,720 --> 01:02:18,290

But my kids had friends
what they would know.

1239

01:02:18,290 --> 01:02:23,170

I never grew up with
having no Jewish friends,

1240

01:02:23,170 --> 01:02:25,540

but that was Poland.

1241

01:02:25,540 --> 01:02:28,600

And here I don't have too many
friends non-Jewish either.

1242

01:02:28,600 --> 01:02:32,410

I try to be nice and
friendly to everybody

1243

01:02:32,410 --> 01:02:37,310

when I worked in the museum and
in the beauty parlor and places

1244

01:02:37,310 --> 01:02:37,810

like that.

1245

01:02:37,810 --> 01:02:41,260

I try be kind and nice

and understanding,

1246

01:02:41,260 --> 01:02:43,210
and I treat everybody the same.

1247

01:02:43,210 --> 01:02:47,470

1248

01:02:47,470 --> 01:02:51,280

In the years since the
war, did you actively

1249

01:02:51,280 --> 01:02:55,490

try to learn more
about the Holocaust?

1250

01:02:55,490 --> 01:02:58,970

Yes, I didn't know much.

1251

01:02:58,970 --> 01:03:02,180

Talking to people, listening
I learned much more,

1252

01:03:02,180 --> 01:03:05,160

because I didn't know
everything about every camp.

1253

01:03:05,160 --> 01:03:07,820

And so I tell you how I feel.

1254

01:03:07,820 --> 01:03:11,060

Just last week I made
something, a child calling

1255

01:03:11,060 --> 01:03:14,900

from Memphis, Tennessee.

1256

01:03:14,900 --> 01:03:17,990

The mother used to live
next door, so they know me.

1257

01:03:17,990 --> 01:03:21,800

And he was doing-- he read a book, something about Sweden.

1258
01:03:21,800 --> 01:03:24,260
And he had to do a project on the Holocaust.

1259
01:03:24,260 --> 01:03:27,680
So he called me if I had something personal

1260
01:03:27,680 --> 01:03:29,120
that I could send to him.

1261
01:03:29,120 --> 01:03:32,060
I said Jason, I don't have anything personal,

1262
01:03:32,060 --> 01:03:33,500
but I will try to give you.

1263
01:03:33,500 --> 01:03:39,400
So I sent him a picture of my husband holding the jacket,

1264
01:03:39,400 --> 01:03:42,650
because you know the story about she gave the jacket.

1265
01:03:42,650 --> 01:03:43,150
No?

1266
01:03:43,150 --> 01:03:46,990
He will tell you about it--

1267
01:03:46,990 --> 01:03:49,990
this striped jacket, his prison jacket.

1268
01:03:49,990 --> 01:03:52,210
So I sent him the picture.

1269

01:03:52,210 --> 01:03:56,680
I went in the museum to
the education department,

1270
01:03:56,680 --> 01:03:59,890
sent him all the
brochures about it.

1271
01:03:59,890 --> 01:04:03,160
And some day he called
me that he received it,

1272
01:04:03,160 --> 01:04:04,030
and how grateful.

1273
01:04:04,030 --> 01:04:05,720
The mother got on the phone.

1274
01:04:05,720 --> 01:04:08,860
And I said, when she
mentioned Denmark,

1275
01:04:08,860 --> 01:04:12,130
I said, I have a
letter from Denmark.

1276
01:04:12,130 --> 01:04:19,010
When King Frederick died, I
planted trees in his memory,

1277
01:04:19,010 --> 01:04:20,510
because I was so
grateful that there

1278
01:04:20,510 --> 01:04:25,870
was one man who protected us.

1279
01:04:25,870 --> 01:04:29,210
He saved 7,000 people
that were Jews.

1280
01:04:29,210 --> 01:04:33,670
And I got back a response

from the Queen Margarethe.

1281

01:04:33,670 --> 01:04:35,410

I'll show it to you.

1282

01:04:35,410 --> 01:04:38,230

The Queen Margarethe's
secretary sent me

1283

01:04:38,230 --> 01:04:41,830

a letter thanking me
for sending condolence

1284

01:04:41,830 --> 01:04:44,890

in the memory of the King.

1285

01:04:44,890 --> 01:04:48,780

I planted trees in his name.

1286

01:04:48,780 --> 01:04:51,630

And I faxed him a copy of it.

1287

01:04:51,630 --> 01:04:55,232

I made a copy and I faxed it
to him for showing at school.

1288

01:04:55,232 --> 01:04:58,373

1289

01:04:58,373 --> 01:05:00,540

I'd like to ask you to
please tell me about the work

1290

01:05:00,540 --> 01:05:03,660

that you do with the Holocaust
Museum here in Washington.

1291

01:05:03,660 --> 01:05:04,560

I'm in general.

1292

01:05:04,560 --> 01:05:06,600

When my children

started to go to school,

1293

01:05:06,600 --> 01:05:10,590

I had more time on my hands,
and I am involved in everything.

1294

01:05:10,590 --> 01:05:14,220

I am involved in UJA.

1295

01:05:14,220 --> 01:05:17,220

For the last 25 years or so.

1296

01:05:17,220 --> 01:05:18,810

And when the Museum--

1297

01:05:18,810 --> 01:05:21,120

they talked about Museum.

1298

01:05:21,120 --> 01:05:22,730

I told Mark.

1299

01:05:22,730 --> 01:05:25,800

I was once-- so Mark
Talisman, and I told him

1300

01:05:25,800 --> 01:05:29,940

about the jacket with my husband
and the prison jacket, years

1301

01:05:29,940 --> 01:05:31,650

before they opened.

1302

01:05:31,650 --> 01:05:32,550

And he gave it.

1303

01:05:32,550 --> 01:05:35,030

Maybe he's the only one alive.

1304

01:05:35,030 --> 01:05:39,570

Are many jackets, but we don't
know if the people were alive.

1305

01:05:39,570 --> 01:05:43,620

Maybe they got them from
Auschwitz and other places.

1306

01:05:43,620 --> 01:05:47,430

And before the museum
was open, I was involved.

1307

01:05:47,430 --> 01:05:51,240

I worked on L Street in
the temporary offices.

1308

01:05:51,240 --> 01:05:54,120

They used to have a
model there of the museum

1309

01:05:54,120 --> 01:05:56,610

and a picture of
my husband there.

1310

01:05:56,610 --> 01:05:57,600

And I used to--

1311

01:05:57,600 --> 01:06:00,870

Rita Segerman, every
time she brought a group,

1312

01:06:00,870 --> 01:06:04,140

she wanted me to be
there and explain.

1313

01:06:04,140 --> 01:06:07,110

[? I ?] [? had ?] [? doubts. ?]
Always I belong to Hadassah.

1314

01:06:07,110 --> 01:06:09,570

I belong to every
Jewish organization.

1315

01:06:09,570 --> 01:06:12,270

I've been a life
member of Hadassah.

1316

01:06:12,270 --> 01:06:17,340

I belong to B'nai B'rith
Women, Zionist organization.

1317

01:06:17,340 --> 01:06:20,850

AKIM I support.

1318

01:06:20,850 --> 01:06:22,710

You know what is AKIM in Israel?

1319

01:06:22,710 --> 01:06:27,070

An organization that
helps retarded children.

1320

01:06:27,070 --> 01:06:28,770

And what else--

1321

01:06:28,770 --> 01:06:31,470

I think everyone
to the synagogue,

1322

01:06:31,470 --> 01:06:34,170

sisterhood, every place.

1323

01:06:34,170 --> 01:06:35,380

Are you a member of ORT?

1324

01:06:35,380 --> 01:06:35,880

Oh, yes.

1325

01:06:35,880 --> 01:06:37,530

I'm a member of ORT.

1326

01:06:37,530 --> 01:06:39,430

I'm a member of everything.

1327

01:06:39,430 --> 01:06:41,280

I'm telling you.

1328

01:06:41,280 --> 01:06:44,130

What do you do for

the Museum now?

1329
01:06:44,130 --> 01:06:50,450
Actually, I like to do more,
but they don't call on me.

1330
01:06:50,450 --> 01:06:55,980
I promised to go
with Fannie Mae.

1331
01:06:55,980 --> 01:06:58,570
I would go for three
months to Florida.

1332
01:06:58,570 --> 01:07:00,210
So I guess that interferes.

1333
01:07:00,210 --> 01:07:04,320

1334
01:07:04,320 --> 01:07:07,710
And I am sitting
at the donor desk--

1335
01:07:07,710 --> 01:07:11,430
collect membership and donors.

1336
01:07:11,430 --> 01:07:14,520
Yesterday was a slow
day, and I made \$300.

1337
01:07:14,520 --> 01:07:17,190
I feel I contribute something.

1338
01:07:17,190 --> 01:07:21,510
And whenever they
need me, I'm there.

1339
01:07:21,510 --> 01:07:24,498
They can call on me.

1340
01:07:24,498 --> 01:07:26,915

What has the experience been
like for you to be a survivor

1341
01:07:26,915 --> 01:07:29,870
working in this museum?

1342
01:07:29,870 --> 01:07:34,320
Some of my friend survivors
say how can I do it.

1343
01:07:34,320 --> 01:07:35,840
On the contrary--

1344
01:07:35,840 --> 01:07:40,070
I feel is maybe I
was left for purpose.

1345
01:07:40,070 --> 01:07:47,000
Maybe I'm naive, because I
feel through education maybe

1346
01:07:47,000 --> 01:07:49,340
we can wipe out
sometimes ignorance.

1347
01:07:49,340 --> 01:07:53,510
Because antisemitism, the only
thing what it is is ignorance.

1348
01:07:53,510 --> 01:07:56,060
Yesterday I spoke just
to a group of kids,

1349
01:07:56,060 --> 01:07:58,460
and I feel I
contribute something

1350
01:07:58,460 --> 01:08:02,450
for the next generation--
that we can educate them.

1351
01:08:02,450 --> 01:08:05,750
A young boy came over

yesterday, maybe 15 years old--

1352

01:08:05,750 --> 01:08:10,250
became a member, gave me \$25.

1353

01:08:10,250 --> 01:08:13,250
And I feel that I
get across to people,

1354

01:08:13,250 --> 01:08:15,400
that I can educate them.

1355

01:08:15,400 --> 01:08:19,550
A young woman once came in
with twins-- seven-year-olds.

1356

01:08:19,550 --> 01:08:20,330
She cried.

1357

01:08:20,330 --> 01:08:24,170
I told her many people when
they come over to the desk,

1358

01:08:24,170 --> 01:08:27,290
I said, usually they come
after they see the exhibit--

1359

01:08:27,290 --> 01:08:28,640
the permanent exhibit.

1360

01:08:28,640 --> 01:08:31,189
I said, so how do
you feel about it?

1361

01:08:31,189 --> 01:08:32,689
What did you learn?

1362

01:08:32,689 --> 01:08:35,090
And they said, oh--
they start to talk.

1363

01:08:35,090 --> 01:08:35,899

I said, I know.

1364
01:08:35,899 --> 01:08:36,920
I was there.

1365
01:08:36,920 --> 01:08:38,810
So they take pictures of me.

1366
01:08:38,810 --> 01:08:39,529
They hug me.

1367
01:08:39,529 --> 01:08:41,630
They kiss me.

1368
01:08:41,630 --> 01:08:46,609
And she came and went to the
bookstore, bought two books.

1369
01:08:46,609 --> 01:08:51,290
I had to write in something
for the seven-year-old kids.

1370
01:08:51,290 --> 01:08:54,350
And she wanted for the kids--
each one she bought the book.

1371
01:08:54,350 --> 01:08:57,020
And I had to write something
and what it means for me

1372
01:08:57,020 --> 01:08:59,090
to be a Holocaust survivor--

1373
01:08:59,090 --> 01:09:00,050
that they know.

1374
01:09:00,050 --> 01:09:06,010
So this is really a lot of
gratification that I can get--

1375
01:09:06,010 --> 01:09:11,479
if it's 1 in 100, it's worth

the effort to be there.

1376
01:09:11,479 --> 01:09:14,750
I hope I can
continue a long time.

1377
01:09:14,750 --> 01:09:17,495
How do you respond when you hear
about the Holocaust deniers?

1378
01:09:17,495 --> 01:09:20,270

1379
01:09:20,270 --> 01:09:26,840
Oh, Farrakhan was there when I
was there, and I was so angry,

1380
01:09:26,840 --> 01:09:29,210
but after I was
told I was giving

1381
01:09:29,210 --> 01:09:32,189
an interview to a reporter
who recognized me and said

1382
01:09:32,189 --> 01:09:33,380
how I feel about it.

1383
01:09:33,380 --> 01:09:35,870
Later I found out
that I'm not supposed

1384
01:09:35,870 --> 01:09:38,930
to do that on the
grounds of the Holocaust.

1385
01:09:38,930 --> 01:09:40,200
I was very angry.

1386
01:09:40,200 --> 01:09:43,670
I was ready to
scrape his eyes out.

1387

01:09:43,670 --> 01:09:47,270

But it's a free
country-- free speech.

1388

01:09:47,270 --> 01:09:49,520

When we were sitting
at the dedication,

1389

01:09:49,520 --> 01:09:56,090

we heard a certain amount
of yards or meters, whatever

1390

01:09:56,090 --> 01:09:59,570

they were allowed to be
there-- the skinheads.

1391

01:09:59,570 --> 01:10:04,880

And I heard them denying
it, but what could I do?

1392

01:10:04,880 --> 01:10:08,150

In America it's free speech.

1393

01:10:08,150 --> 01:10:12,020

I get angry, and I
respond very angrily,

1394

01:10:12,020 --> 01:10:15,950

but we can do nothing about it.

1395

01:10:15,950 --> 01:10:17,000

I don't support it.

1396

01:10:17,000 --> 01:10:24,230

1397

01:10:24,230 --> 01:10:26,150

Have you ever gone
back to your hometown

1398

01:10:26,150 --> 01:10:29,750

since you came to

the United States?

1399

01:10:29,750 --> 01:10:36,060

I was right after the war seven years ago, eight years ago.

1400

01:10:36,060 --> 01:10:43,460

Rabbi Simon, our rabbi, was leading a group from UJA.

1401

01:10:43,460 --> 01:10:45,830

And he said I wasn't ready to go.

1402

01:10:45,830 --> 01:10:50,310

He said, Helen, I think it's time for you to go.

1403

01:10:50,310 --> 01:10:53,090

And when you go to Poland, you need a spiritual leader

1404

01:10:53,090 --> 01:10:53,995

with you.

1405

01:10:53,995 --> 01:10:59,180

So I was the only survivor in a group of 25 people.

1406

01:10:59,180 --> 01:11:04,040

And when my son heard it, he said, maybe being a doctor--

1407

01:11:04,040 --> 01:11:05,720

he was if I have high blood pressure,

1408

01:11:05,720 --> 01:11:08,480

that he wanted to be with me.

1409

01:11:08,480 --> 01:11:12,510

He came, and Amy was a junior at that time and Brandheis.

1410
01:11:12,510 --> 01:11:15,440
So she said she would take off.

1411
01:11:15,440 --> 01:11:18,890
It was Thanksgiving time,
so she was four days off

1412
01:11:18,890 --> 01:11:20,600
and took off another
couple of days.

1413
01:11:20,600 --> 01:11:24,020
She didn't continue to
Israel, but she came with me

1414
01:11:24,020 --> 01:11:27,620
to Auschwitz, to Poland.

1415
01:11:27,620 --> 01:11:29,330
Rabbi Simon talked
to me that I should

1416
01:11:29,330 --> 01:11:36,710
go a week before to see my
home and things with the kids.

1417
01:11:36,710 --> 01:11:39,770
I said, Rabbi, a week is
too much, too long for me.

1418
01:11:39,770 --> 01:11:41,670
It's too painful.

1419
01:11:41,670 --> 01:11:43,130
So I went four days before.

1420
01:11:43,130 --> 01:11:47,870
I arrived in Warsaw, stayed
in a hotel with the kids.

1421
01:11:47,870 --> 01:11:51,920

After I took the train, went
to their father's place,

1422
01:11:51,920 --> 01:11:56,060
because it's just by streetcar
6 kilometers, or 8 kilometers.

1423
01:11:56,060 --> 01:11:59,580
Went to my hometown,
showed them where I live.

1424
01:11:59,580 --> 01:12:00,630
I have pictures.

1425
01:12:00,630 --> 01:12:02,990
I have all the
pictures from Poland.

1426
01:12:02,990 --> 01:12:10,010
After, I met the group in
Krakow and went to Auschwitz.

1427
01:12:10,010 --> 01:12:14,330
And Auschwitz was
I really was afraid

1428
01:12:14,330 --> 01:12:17,270
that I opened my big mouth
and they will arrest me,

1429
01:12:17,270 --> 01:12:18,560
because I didn't let them.

1430
01:12:18,560 --> 01:12:19,580
Oh, yes.

1431
01:12:19,580 --> 01:12:22,730
Went at the mass grave--

1432
01:12:22,730 --> 01:12:26,780
not grave, the
monument in Birkenau.

1433

01:12:26,780 --> 01:12:31,280

It says 6 million
Poles died here.

1434

01:12:31,280 --> 01:12:35,150

I got so angry, and
I started to scream.

1435

01:12:35,150 --> 01:12:38,840

And I said, on the my
parents' birth certificates,

1436

01:12:38,840 --> 01:12:41,480

says [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

1437

01:12:41,480 --> 01:12:44,330

That means they were
Moses' religion.

1438

01:12:44,330 --> 01:12:47,660

And here they became Poles?

1439

01:12:47,660 --> 01:12:51,380

They were never recognized
as Poles before.

1440

01:12:51,380 --> 01:12:53,000

She didn't know what to say.

1441

01:12:53,000 --> 01:12:55,760

After the friend,
Seymour [? Evanson ?]

1442

01:12:55,760 --> 01:12:58,340

was the president
at that time of UJA.

1443

01:12:58,340 --> 01:13:00,560

He calls me over, and
he said come on, Helen.

1444

01:13:00,560 --> 01:13:03,470

Let's go with a group
of students standing

1445
01:13:03,470 --> 01:13:06,320
in Auschwitz and Birkenau.

1446
01:13:06,320 --> 01:13:08,780
Because we walked,
you know, the tracks.

1447
01:13:08,780 --> 01:13:12,440
And then we walked
the two kilometers.

1448
01:13:12,440 --> 01:13:14,420
And I listened to
what that teacher

1449
01:13:14,420 --> 01:13:15,590
was telling the students.

1450
01:13:15,590 --> 01:13:17,120
They were high school kids.

1451
01:13:17,120 --> 01:13:21,110
And I burst out, and
I said, that's a lie.

1452
01:13:21,110 --> 01:13:23,390
He was telling them
about the prison,

1453
01:13:23,390 --> 01:13:27,380
that only Pole lost their
life there-- political Poles.

1454
01:13:27,380 --> 01:13:28,460
I said, that's not true.

1455
01:13:28,460 --> 01:13:30,250
I had an uncle who lost a life.

1456

01:13:30,250 --> 01:13:32,150
Mostly Jews were there.

1457
01:13:32,150 --> 01:13:38,480
They were punishing them,
and after they killed them.

1458
01:13:38,480 --> 01:13:41,180
So I spoke up.

1459
01:13:41,180 --> 01:13:43,790
I didn't let them get
away with anything.

1460
01:13:43,790 --> 01:13:45,620
The same was in Warsaw.

1461
01:13:45,620 --> 01:13:48,110
In the synagogue, a
man comes over to me

1462
01:13:48,110 --> 01:13:53,240
and says that and
somebody said he is a Jew

1463
01:13:53,240 --> 01:13:55,040
and we had dinner with them.

1464
01:13:55,040 --> 01:13:58,610
So she switched seats with
me that I can talk to him,

1465
01:13:58,610 --> 01:14:03,590
and he said to me that he's
Jewish and said he has a son.

1466
01:14:03,590 --> 01:14:04,910
He lives in Warsaw.

1467
01:14:04,910 --> 01:14:08,270
I said, how much do you
support the [? Jew? ?]

1468

01:14:08,270 --> 01:14:13,640

He said he takes out his ID
that it doesn't say on his ID

1469

01:14:13,640 --> 01:14:14,570

that he's Jewish.

1470

01:14:14,570 --> 01:14:17,570

He doesn't have to admit
today that he's Jewish.

1471

01:14:17,570 --> 01:14:21,150

I said, but you want the support
from the Jews from America?

1472

01:14:21,150 --> 01:14:23,990

They all stood there
to give them money.

1473

01:14:23,990 --> 01:14:25,020

I said, why didn't you?

1474

01:14:25,020 --> 01:14:28,010

Oh, I am lucky one said
to me, because I left.

1475

01:14:28,010 --> 01:14:29,720

I said you had the
same opportunity

1476

01:14:29,720 --> 01:14:31,490

to leave like I did.

1477

01:14:31,490 --> 01:14:33,200

Nobody kept you.

1478

01:14:33,200 --> 01:14:36,020

Oh, I intermarried and
I had a non-Jewish--

1479

01:14:36,020 --> 01:14:37,940

I said, that's your problem.

1480

01:14:37,940 --> 01:14:39,680

You caused the problem yourself.

1481

01:14:39,680 --> 01:14:42,550

You had the same opportunity
to leave like I did.

1482

01:14:42,550 --> 01:14:45,597

So I didn't feel
sorry for them at all.

1483

01:14:45,597 --> 01:14:47,930

I'm going to pause now and
I'm going to change the tape.

1484

01:14:47,930 --> 01:14:50,020

Just one moment.

1485

01:14:50,020 --> 01:14:53,000