

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,830

2
00:00:01,830 --> 00:00:04,200
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:04,200 --> 00:00:06,330
Memorial Museum volunteer
collection interview

4
00:00:06,330 --> 00:00:08,070
with Helen Luksenburg.

5
00:00:08,070 --> 00:00:16,610
This is tape three, side
A. I wanted to ask you--

6
00:00:16,610 --> 00:00:20,990
you told me that you
had gone back to Poland.

7
00:00:20,990 --> 00:00:23,120
Wanted to ask you about
your opportunities perhaps

8
00:00:23,120 --> 00:00:25,860
to visit Israel and what that
experience was like for you.

9
00:00:25,860 --> 00:00:29,790

10
00:00:29,790 --> 00:00:31,840
Israel means a lot to us.

11
00:00:31,840 --> 00:00:33,880
The first money we
could afford, we'd

12
00:00:33,880 --> 00:00:37,150

never been any place
in America except New

13
00:00:37,150 --> 00:00:39,490
York, which we could drive.

14
00:00:39,490 --> 00:00:44,350
Our first trip in 1962
we had enough money.

15
00:00:44,350 --> 00:00:49,565
We took the two children and
went for six weeks to Israel.

16
00:00:49,565 --> 00:00:52,370
I was eight times
already in Israel

17
00:00:52,370 --> 00:00:56,480
on three missions from UJA.

18
00:00:56,480 --> 00:01:01,920
So Israel is very dear to me,
and I do everything to help.

19
00:01:01,920 --> 00:01:06,140
I'm going next week to
the Ambassador's Ball.

20
00:01:06,140 --> 00:01:07,320
I buy bonds.

21
00:01:07,320 --> 00:01:09,830
I support Israel.

22
00:01:09,830 --> 00:01:12,140
I'm very involved with
everything what is Jewish.

23
00:01:12,140 --> 00:01:16,680

24

00:01:16,680 --> 00:01:18,960

How has your
Holocaust experience

25

00:01:18,960 --> 00:01:21,660

influenced some of the choices
that you made over the years?

26

00:01:21,660 --> 00:01:24,730

27

00:01:24,730 --> 00:01:28,590

The Holocaust experience made
me much more compassionate.

28

00:01:28,590 --> 00:01:32,530

I have more
compassion for people

29

00:01:32,530 --> 00:01:38,080

because I understand
how people suffer.

30

00:01:38,080 --> 00:01:39,550

It didn't make me much hard.

31

00:01:39,550 --> 00:01:43,810

On the contrary, I
mellowed tremendously.

32

00:01:43,810 --> 00:01:47,040

And I tried to help
less fortunate people.

33

00:01:47,040 --> 00:01:52,330

And I'm always there
giving and helping,

34

00:01:52,330 --> 00:01:54,820

and maybe that's the
experience because I

35

00:01:54,820 --> 00:01:55,845

am a Holocaust survivor.

36
00:01:55,845 --> 00:02:03,220

37
00:02:03,220 --> 00:02:05,480
When you look back at
yourself as a parent,

38
00:02:05,480 --> 00:02:07,510
what influence did the
Holocaust have on the way

39
00:02:07,510 --> 00:02:08,760
that you raised your children?

40
00:02:08,760 --> 00:02:14,650

41
00:02:14,650 --> 00:02:19,010
To make them aware,
again, who they are

42
00:02:19,010 --> 00:02:23,090
and what it means to be Jewish
and to help our own people.

43
00:02:23,090 --> 00:02:29,000
I remember once Rabbi Simon
and Rabbi Siegel at the time

44
00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:35,880
ask to go to demonstrate
for the Soviet Jewry.

45
00:02:35,880 --> 00:02:37,060
Amy was a little girl.

46
00:02:37,060 --> 00:02:38,330
I couldn't get a babysitter.

47
00:02:38,330 --> 00:02:41,200

And Harvey was home,
so I asked him.

48
00:02:41,200 --> 00:02:45,040
I said, Harvey, you go
and represent the family.

49
00:02:45,040 --> 00:02:47,650
He was a teenager
still at the time.

50
00:02:47,650 --> 00:02:49,370
I remember what he said to me.

51
00:02:49,370 --> 00:02:51,790
He said, why should I?

52
00:02:51,790 --> 00:02:55,960
You didn't help [INAUDIBLE].

53
00:02:55,960 --> 00:03:00,040
I said, Harvey, nobody likes us.

54
00:03:00,040 --> 00:03:01,690
We have to help each other.

55
00:03:01,690 --> 00:03:04,900
When we came to this country,
the Jewish organizations

56
00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:06,070
help us.

57
00:03:06,070 --> 00:03:08,780
Nobody likes us, and we
have to help each other.

58
00:03:08,780 --> 00:03:12,160
At that time were 200
million people in America.

59
00:03:12,160 --> 00:03:15,370

I said, we're just six million.

60

00:03:15,370 --> 00:03:16,990

We have to look out for ours--

61

00:03:16,990 --> 00:03:20,090

I don't say that I don't feel
sorry for the other people.

62

00:03:20,090 --> 00:03:21,940

But we have to help each other.

63

00:03:21,940 --> 00:03:23,470

Look who helped us.

64

00:03:23,470 --> 00:03:26,140

So he's answers,
if any discussion I

65

00:03:26,140 --> 00:03:29,920

had with him about
Black people, he said--

66

00:03:29,920 --> 00:03:33,100

I said, look, we
help each other.

67

00:03:33,100 --> 00:03:36,850

Jews help each other with
organizations and things

68

00:03:36,850 --> 00:03:38,500

for poor people.

69

00:03:38,500 --> 00:03:42,370

And he said, but because you
had a different background

70

00:03:42,370 --> 00:03:43,300

from home.

71

00:03:43,300 --> 00:03:46,520

These people don't have
the background from home.

72
00:03:46,520 --> 00:03:48,840
That was his answer each time.

73
00:03:48,840 --> 00:03:52,420
But I convinced him that time,
and he went to represent.

74
00:03:52,420 --> 00:03:53,980
I went to every demonstration.

75
00:03:53,980 --> 00:03:55,660
I remember once was rainy.

76
00:03:55,660 --> 00:03:57,720
We were walking.

77
00:03:57,720 --> 00:04:00,940
And one woman, a
survivor, said to me--

78
00:04:00,940 --> 00:04:02,260
I said, why weren't you there?

79
00:04:02,260 --> 00:04:04,480
Late in the day, I
saw her someplace.

80
00:04:04,480 --> 00:04:08,200
She said, oh, you like
to go to these things.

81
00:04:08,200 --> 00:04:09,940
What do you answer?

82
00:04:09,940 --> 00:04:11,900
I'm not going for my pleasure.

83
00:04:11,900 --> 00:04:13,945
I'm going to be

there, to protest.

84

00:04:13,945 --> 00:04:20,538

85

00:04:20,538 --> 00:04:22,830

In retrospect, would you have done anything differently

86

00:04:22,830 --> 00:04:26,610

with respect to raising your children?

87

00:04:26,610 --> 00:04:28,060

I don't think so.

88

00:04:28,060 --> 00:04:30,270

I tried to be very--

89

00:04:30,270 --> 00:04:33,570

my husband always said I tell them I always prepare them,

90

00:04:33,570 --> 00:04:35,860

even if they had to go to a doctor.

91

00:04:35,860 --> 00:04:38,910

He said, why do you make them cry because you said maybe

92

00:04:38,910 --> 00:04:40,110

they would get a shot.

93

00:04:40,110 --> 00:04:42,840

I said, I tell them what to expect.

94

00:04:42,840 --> 00:04:45,900

That's how I understood to do it.

95

00:04:45,900 --> 00:04:47,760
I didn't want to
in the last minute

96
00:04:47,760 --> 00:04:49,280
to tell you are getting a shot.

97
00:04:49,280 --> 00:04:51,197
I wanted that they know
and they are prepared.

98
00:04:51,197 --> 00:04:53,040
It's for their own
good and thing.

99
00:04:53,040 --> 00:04:55,020
I always was honest with them.

100
00:04:55,020 --> 00:04:57,900
I told them what I think.

101
00:04:57,900 --> 00:04:59,160
I never lied to them.

102
00:04:59,160 --> 00:05:01,710

103
00:05:01,710 --> 00:05:04,943
I think that we did a good job.

104
00:05:04,943 --> 00:05:06,360
Do you speak to
your grandchildren

105
00:05:06,360 --> 00:05:08,250
about your experiences?

106
00:05:08,250 --> 00:05:12,780
My grandchild, the oldest one,
will be 13 in three weeks--

107
00:05:12,780 --> 00:05:15,780

2 and 1/2 weeks, she
will be bat mitzvah.

108
00:05:15,780 --> 00:05:18,750
Many times, I try.

109
00:05:18,750 --> 00:05:20,100
Stephanie, it's time.

110
00:05:20,100 --> 00:05:21,450
I want to talk to you.

111
00:05:21,450 --> 00:05:24,600
She doesn't want to hear.

112
00:05:24,600 --> 00:05:29,750
Her brother, who is nine,
he is much more aware.

113
00:05:29,750 --> 00:05:32,100
We went there for Thanksgiving.

114
00:05:32,100 --> 00:05:34,890
And when he was
telling them about he

115
00:05:34,890 --> 00:05:40,260
went to see a movie about
the express something,

116
00:05:40,260 --> 00:05:41,760
the Turkish express or some--

117
00:05:41,760 --> 00:05:43,380
Midnight Express.

118
00:05:43,380 --> 00:05:46,840
And he was telling him that
he had an accident because he

119
00:05:46,840 --> 00:05:50,670
was so taken, so

upset what he saw,

120
00:05:50,670 --> 00:05:54,420
how they treat the prisoners
in Turkish prisons.

121
00:05:54,420 --> 00:05:57,540
So David immediately to
me-- that was in the car--

122
00:05:57,540 --> 00:06:00,130
said, Papa, don't you know why?

123
00:06:00,130 --> 00:06:04,050
Because that reminded
you of the Holocaust.

124
00:06:04,050 --> 00:06:04,860
He knows.

125
00:06:04,860 --> 00:06:08,020
He was watching-- we were
there just for the weekend.

126
00:06:08,020 --> 00:06:12,060
And Pam, his mother,
was telling me there

127
00:06:12,060 --> 00:06:16,440
was a program on television
about the Danish something.

128
00:06:16,440 --> 00:06:19,470
And they said the parents
should watch with the kid,

129
00:06:19,470 --> 00:06:22,260
with their children about
the Holocaust something.

130
00:06:22,260 --> 00:06:25,710
He sat with her, and he
was asking questions.

131
00:06:25,710 --> 00:06:27,772
But she doesn't want
to face up to it,

132
00:06:27,772 --> 00:06:28,980
and the others are too young.

133
00:06:28,980 --> 00:06:33,060

134
00:06:33,060 --> 00:06:34,725
You speak publicly
about the Holocaust.

135
00:06:34,725 --> 00:06:36,600
You mentioned to me that
you did an interview

136
00:06:36,600 --> 00:06:39,180
with CBS, Charlie Rose.

137
00:06:39,180 --> 00:06:42,060
Can you tell me how
that came about?

138
00:06:42,060 --> 00:06:48,000
CBS called us up that they want
to interview us, and we agree.

139
00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:50,340
We went on M Street to a studio.

140
00:06:50,340 --> 00:06:53,010
Charlie Rose interviewed us.

141
00:06:53,010 --> 00:06:55,130
And we were telling stories.

142
00:06:55,130 --> 00:06:56,490
We also was interviewed--

143

00:06:56,490 --> 00:07:00,180

I told you about it--
the Board of Education.

144

00:07:00,180 --> 00:07:03,930

And he asked a story
about how bread--

145

00:07:03,930 --> 00:07:06,930

I guess you watch
the other tapes,

146

00:07:06,930 --> 00:07:09,540

you've heard about
the bread stuff.

147

00:07:09,540 --> 00:07:12,960

So they have the tape someplace.

148

00:07:12,960 --> 00:07:15,810

Somebody else, maybe from the--

149

00:07:15,810 --> 00:07:18,630

Mr. Ashkenazi, who
used to work in the--

150

00:07:18,630 --> 00:07:23,130

before the Museum was open,
he recommended the same,

151

00:07:23,130 --> 00:07:27,540

the book Spirit of Triumph.

152

00:07:27,540 --> 00:07:29,040

Did you ever see that book?

153

00:07:29,040 --> 00:07:30,830

I am in it.

154

00:07:30,830 --> 00:07:33,890

So that was-- I think
Ashkenazi recommended

155
00:07:33,890 --> 00:07:36,817
that, who is not there anymore.

156
00:07:36,817 --> 00:07:43,290

157
00:07:43,290 --> 00:07:45,600
Are you involved with
any survivor groups?

158
00:07:45,600 --> 00:07:46,740
Yes.

159
00:07:46,740 --> 00:07:50,500
Yes, I belong to the
Friends of the Survivors.

160
00:07:50,500 --> 00:07:51,750
Sure.

161
00:07:51,750 --> 00:08:01,320
Sometimes I go to the
meetings, and people come--

162
00:08:01,320 --> 00:08:04,230
I don't want to make myself
important or anything,

163
00:08:04,230 --> 00:08:05,640
that I'm any better.

164
00:08:05,640 --> 00:08:08,040
But some people there,
all the people come

165
00:08:08,040 --> 00:08:09,390
and they don't know anything.

166
00:08:09,390 --> 00:08:11,520
And they don't
come to the Museum.

167
00:08:11,520 --> 00:08:13,350
One man is still asking--

168
00:08:13,350 --> 00:08:15,660
he lives here so
many years already.

169
00:08:15,660 --> 00:08:17,820
He doesn't know how
to go to the Museum.

170
00:08:17,820 --> 00:08:20,760
Then my husband picks him up.

171
00:08:20,760 --> 00:08:27,960
So I said, even Martin Goldman
ask us many time-- he's

172
00:08:27,960 --> 00:08:30,480
now in charge of the
survivors-- ask us

173
00:08:30,480 --> 00:08:34,900
if it pays if he gets
a bus to bring them,

174
00:08:34,900 --> 00:08:37,650
like from the Jewish
Community Center.

175
00:08:37,650 --> 00:08:40,049
I said, I don't know
how many will come.

176
00:08:40,049 --> 00:08:43,039
It costs money if just three,
four people doesn't pay.

177
00:08:43,039 --> 00:08:45,090
It's too expensive.

178

00:08:45,090 --> 00:08:46,590
So it's a problem.

179
00:08:46,590 --> 00:08:48,150
They ask so many questions.

180
00:08:48,150 --> 00:08:48,840
They don't know.

181
00:08:48,840 --> 00:08:50,700
They don't read
anything, and they

182
00:08:50,700 --> 00:08:53,190
don't know what's going on.

183
00:08:53,190 --> 00:08:53,870
It's sad.

184
00:08:53,870 --> 00:08:58,490

185
00:08:58,490 --> 00:09:01,100
You mentioned that
you had a tattoo,

186
00:09:01,100 --> 00:09:03,530
and you don't have one now.

187
00:09:03,530 --> 00:09:05,600
Can you tell me what
happened to the tattoo?

188
00:09:05,600 --> 00:09:09,950

189
00:09:09,950 --> 00:09:15,250
When I arrived here in the
beginning, I got a earache.

190
00:09:15,250 --> 00:09:17,010
And it was very painful.

191
00:09:17,010 --> 00:09:18,770
I didn't know how
to speak and talk.

192
00:09:18,770 --> 00:09:21,740
Was a woman living
across the street who

193
00:09:21,740 --> 00:09:26,150
was original from Germany, so
we converse with them in German.

194
00:09:26,150 --> 00:09:28,820
And when I got sick that
time with an earache,

195
00:09:28,820 --> 00:09:30,370
she knew a doctor.

196
00:09:30,370 --> 00:09:32,880
And she said she called
him up at that time.

197
00:09:32,880 --> 00:09:34,790
It's 49 years ago.

198
00:09:34,790 --> 00:09:36,760
They came to the
house, the doctor.

199
00:09:36,760 --> 00:09:38,600
So the doctor came.

200
00:09:38,600 --> 00:09:41,390
And he was a special
doctor, Simon Bartov.

201
00:09:41,390 --> 00:09:43,640
I don't know if
he's still alive.

202

00:09:43,640 --> 00:09:46,910
And he examined me.

203
00:09:46,910 --> 00:09:49,760
And how did we converse?

204
00:09:49,760 --> 00:09:54,260
We didn't know how to read
English and didn't understand.

205
00:09:54,260 --> 00:09:56,840
So I used to go to
the laundry room,

206
00:09:56,840 --> 00:09:59,030
and somebody was
leaving The Forward.

207
00:09:59,030 --> 00:10:00,320
So I knew the alphabet.

208
00:10:00,320 --> 00:10:02,450
I know how to read
Hebrew, but I didn't

209
00:10:02,450 --> 00:10:04,130
know how to read Yiddish.

210
00:10:04,130 --> 00:10:07,460
But I taught myself how
to read The Forward.

211
00:10:07,460 --> 00:10:10,550
I couldn't live without
reading a newspaper.

212
00:10:10,550 --> 00:10:13,100
So he came in, and he saw
The Forward on the floor.

213
00:10:13,100 --> 00:10:15,390
So he started to
talk Yiddish to us,

214
00:10:15,390 --> 00:10:18,200
and that's how we
got communicated.

215
00:10:18,200 --> 00:10:19,400
And he noticed that--

216
00:10:19,400 --> 00:10:22,680
he was a nose and throat
specialist and also

217
00:10:22,680 --> 00:10:24,500
a plastic surgeon.

218
00:10:24,500 --> 00:10:26,810
He noticed the number.

219
00:10:26,810 --> 00:10:28,880
So he said, after--

220
00:10:28,880 --> 00:10:30,560
he was very kind to us.

221
00:10:30,560 --> 00:10:32,600
He came a few times I came.

222
00:10:32,600 --> 00:10:33,940
He gave me shots.

223
00:10:33,940 --> 00:10:37,100
And each time, I learn how
to say how much of this?

224
00:10:37,100 --> 00:10:38,060
What do I owe you?

225
00:10:38,060 --> 00:10:38,940
He said, next time.

226
00:10:38,940 --> 00:10:39,440

Next time.

227

00:10:39,440 --> 00:10:41,140

He never charged me.

228

00:10:41,140 --> 00:10:45,170

And he wanted to
remove the tattoo.

229

00:10:45,170 --> 00:10:46,730

I wasn't ready for it.

230

00:10:46,730 --> 00:10:52,170

During the Korean War, I
read about sandpapering,

231

00:10:52,170 --> 00:10:55,640

that they are removing
burns from soldiers.

232

00:10:55,640 --> 00:10:59,900

And Harvey already knew
and he kept asking--

233

00:10:59,900 --> 00:11:01,670

he was two years old or so--

234

00:11:01,670 --> 00:11:03,920

when he will have a number.

235

00:11:03,920 --> 00:11:07,310

So that really turned me.

236

00:11:07,310 --> 00:11:10,880

So I went to him, and he
couldn't-- it was too deep

237

00:11:10,880 --> 00:11:11,870

in the muscle.

238

00:11:11,870 --> 00:11:15,020

They couldn't remove

it by sandpapering.

239

00:11:15,020 --> 00:11:17,990

I think in 1953

I had it removed.

240

00:11:17,990 --> 00:11:20,570

And I told you before,
people were asking me

241

00:11:20,570 --> 00:11:22,940

such stupid question.

242

00:11:22,940 --> 00:11:24,890

So they gave me
a local, and they

243

00:11:24,890 --> 00:11:29,060

were like with the little
dots, taking out the ink.

244

00:11:29,060 --> 00:11:30,910

Twice, he did it.

245

00:11:30,910 --> 00:11:31,960

And I'm glad I did it.

246

00:11:31,960 --> 00:11:39,890

247

00:11:39,890 --> 00:11:44,650

Have you had any recurring
dream since the war?

248

00:11:44,650 --> 00:11:49,270

The amazing thing is that
I don't have any as often.

249

00:11:49,270 --> 00:11:54,500

But after many years, my dreams
turned to my personal thing.

250

00:11:54,500 --> 00:12:00,010
It's not my parents and
my brother and sister

251
00:12:00,010 --> 00:12:01,720
and the rest the family.

252
00:12:01,720 --> 00:12:05,275
I saw my immediate
family, my children in it.

253
00:12:05,275 --> 00:12:09,820
And I used to get up,
scream middle of the night.

254
00:12:09,820 --> 00:12:11,830
But lately, I
don't have as many.

255
00:12:11,830 --> 00:12:14,200
I guess time is a healer.

256
00:12:14,200 --> 00:12:17,650
And the dreams-- very
seldom, I have another dream.

257
00:12:17,650 --> 00:12:20,180
But this is almost
50 some years.

258
00:12:20,180 --> 00:12:21,460
It's about time.

259
00:12:21,460 --> 00:12:24,078
Maybe my brain doesn't
work as good anymore.

260
00:12:24,078 --> 00:12:30,252

261
00:12:30,252 --> 00:12:31,960
There must have been
some things that you

262
00:12:31,960 --> 00:12:35,920
had to learn to do to
survive the Holocaust.

263
00:12:35,920 --> 00:12:37,720
Were there some things
you had to unlearn

264
00:12:37,720 --> 00:12:43,160
when the war was over to help
get back into a normal life?

265
00:12:43,160 --> 00:12:43,810
No.

266
00:12:43,810 --> 00:12:44,650
I tell you why.

267
00:12:44,650 --> 00:12:46,730
Because I wasn't
aggressive enough.

268
00:12:46,730 --> 00:12:50,330
If wouldn't be for my friend, I
don't know if I would survive.

269
00:12:50,330 --> 00:12:51,710
She was helping me.

270
00:12:51,710 --> 00:12:54,820
There was expression-- I don't
know if you heard it before--

271
00:12:54,820 --> 00:12:58,820
you had to learn how to
organize, how to help yourself.

272
00:12:58,820 --> 00:13:00,820
Who didn't, died.

273
00:13:00,820 --> 00:13:02,920

I was her little maid.

274

00:13:02,920 --> 00:13:05,500

I was washing for her.

275

00:13:05,500 --> 00:13:08,260

Sometimes she got that
powder to make a soup,

276

00:13:08,260 --> 00:13:12,010

so I cooked it on the iron
thing, what we had in the room

277

00:13:12,010 --> 00:13:13,600

to warm the room.

278

00:13:13,600 --> 00:13:16,780

And if wouldn't be for
[? Gucha, ?] I don't know.

279

00:13:16,780 --> 00:13:21,940

Because she really sustained me.

280

00:13:21,940 --> 00:13:23,980

And after I met
Willy by the fence,

281

00:13:23,980 --> 00:13:25,930

he sometimes gave me something.

282

00:13:25,930 --> 00:13:29,200

He tried to organize
and think to do things,

283

00:13:29,200 --> 00:13:31,720

gave me something
over the fence.

284

00:13:31,720 --> 00:13:34,270

And again, I wasn't
such a big eater.

285

00:13:34,270 --> 00:13:36,760

So I was satisfied,
and I kept clean.

286

00:13:36,760 --> 00:13:39,520

It was very important
to keep clean.

287

00:13:39,520 --> 00:13:42,640

Otherwise, the lice
and everything else

288

00:13:42,640 --> 00:13:45,540

was eating you up
and disease spread.

289

00:13:45,540 --> 00:13:49,000

290

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:52,476

But I don't think that I--

291

00:13:52,476 --> 00:13:56,850

I never did anything,
steal or do something

292

00:13:56,850 --> 00:13:58,900

or be dishonest or something.

293

00:13:58,900 --> 00:14:00,260

So I still am the same.

294

00:14:00,260 --> 00:14:03,910

295

00:14:03,910 --> 00:14:06,160

What has been your biggest
surprise about your life

296

00:14:06,160 --> 00:14:07,138

in America?

297

00:14:07,138 --> 00:14:10,345

298

00:14:10,345 --> 00:14:11,970

You know what I'm
the biggest surprise?

299

00:14:11,970 --> 00:14:14,880

I have a lot of
respect and admiration

300

00:14:14,880 --> 00:14:19,350

for people in general,
Americans that are so generous.

301

00:14:19,350 --> 00:14:22,350

And they give so much,
philanthropy, they

302

00:14:22,350 --> 00:14:25,250

support many organizations.

303

00:14:25,250 --> 00:14:28,170

Because my first experience
when I was in Israel,

304

00:14:28,170 --> 00:14:32,220

I was very annoyed because
the Israelis were making fun.

305

00:14:32,220 --> 00:14:35,310

A group of Americans
came, and they showed them

306

00:14:35,310 --> 00:14:37,020

so many trees they planted.

307

00:14:37,020 --> 00:14:38,790

After they left, they
took out their names

308

00:14:38,790 --> 00:14:40,670

and put somebody else name.

309
00:14:40,670 --> 00:14:42,660
And I was annoyed with it.

310
00:14:42,660 --> 00:14:44,610
I said, I know Americans.

311
00:14:44,610 --> 00:14:47,860
They work very hard, and
they are very generous.

312
00:14:47,860 --> 00:14:52,000
It's not fair to
treat them like that.

313
00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:54,040
So I always stuck
out for people.

314
00:14:54,040 --> 00:14:57,180
And I admire the people,
even maybe they are not--

315
00:14:57,180 --> 00:15:00,400
it's everybody made
it the honest way.

316
00:15:00,400 --> 00:15:04,160
It's none of my business,
but they are very generous.

317
00:15:04,160 --> 00:15:07,010
They help a lot, and that's
why we are here because

318
00:15:07,010 --> 00:15:09,410
of the American who helped us.

319
00:15:09,410 --> 00:15:14,240
America was very good to us,
and we had the opportunities

320

00:15:14,240 --> 00:15:17,900
to educate our children.

321
00:15:17,900 --> 00:15:18,930
We worked hard.

322
00:15:18,930 --> 00:15:20,420
Nothing came easy.

323
00:15:20,420 --> 00:15:24,670
Nobody gave-- I'm not obligated
to anybody, because we did it

324
00:15:24,670 --> 00:15:26,390
all on our own.

325
00:15:26,390 --> 00:15:27,680
We didn't come to family.

326
00:15:27,680 --> 00:15:30,530
Nobody helped us.

327
00:15:30,530 --> 00:15:35,410
On our own two feet, we
did it, my husband and I.

328
00:15:35,410 --> 00:15:39,030
I was always behind
him, helping him.

329
00:15:39,030 --> 00:15:41,950
I still do all the bookkeeping
and everything for him.

330
00:15:41,950 --> 00:15:43,550
Otherwise, we work hand-in-hand.

331
00:15:43,550 --> 00:15:45,680
Otherwise, you can
achieve anything.

332
00:15:45,680 --> 00:15:48,270

333

00:15:48,270 --> 00:15:51,270

What's been your biggest
disappointment with respect

334

00:15:51,270 --> 00:15:54,620

to your life in
the United States?

335

00:15:54,620 --> 00:16:00,170

My biggest disappointment
is that some Jews don't

336

00:16:00,170 --> 00:16:02,900

feel strong about Judaism.

337

00:16:02,900 --> 00:16:04,850

I don't mean Judaism so much.

338

00:16:04,850 --> 00:16:07,000

I mean to be 100%.

339

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:12,560

And I'm worried that in another
25, 30 years, we'll be poor--

340

00:16:12,560 --> 00:16:17,510

because I see it now with
UJA because I always--

341

00:16:17,510 --> 00:16:21,140

we used to collect much
more money than we do today.

342

00:16:21,140 --> 00:16:24,110

The younger generation
doesn't feel the same way

343

00:16:24,110 --> 00:16:29,450

like their parents in giving in
philanthropy for Jewish causes.

344

00:16:29,450 --> 00:16:32,240

345

00:16:32,240 --> 00:16:36,950

And I'm worried about
it, what we'll become.

346

00:16:36,950 --> 00:16:38,750

What's next in store for you?

347

00:16:38,750 --> 00:16:44,050

What would you yet
like to accomplish?

348

00:16:44,050 --> 00:16:47,740

First of all, I like to see my
children happy and successful,

349

00:16:47,740 --> 00:16:51,100

what are-- in a way, they are.

350

00:16:51,100 --> 00:16:53,320

I'm most concerned
now about health,

351

00:16:53,320 --> 00:16:59,200

as we get older, not to be
a burden to our children

352

00:16:59,200 --> 00:17:04,284

and to help as much as I can,
to be involved, to help others.

353

00:17:04,284 --> 00:17:07,119

354

00:17:07,119 --> 00:17:14,000

And I'm going tomorrow,
after tomorrow, Sunday,

355

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:18,650

to the Jewish Council

affair for the old people.

356

00:17:18,650 --> 00:17:21,250

I am going to the
[? GSA ?] affair

357

00:17:21,250 --> 00:17:23,290

because I feel obligated.

358

00:17:23,290 --> 00:17:28,220

They helped us, and I'm giving
a return many times back.

359

00:17:28,220 --> 00:17:30,550

I'm going to the
Israeli bomb thing

360

00:17:30,550 --> 00:17:35,748

because I strongly believe
in helping the Jewish people.

361

00:17:35,748 --> 00:17:38,298

362

00:17:38,298 --> 00:17:40,840

Is there anything you'd like to
add before we conclude today?

363

00:17:40,840 --> 00:17:43,600

364

00:17:43,600 --> 00:17:47,770

What I like to add is, as I
said before, I'm very concerned

365

00:17:47,770 --> 00:17:48,950

about Israel.

366

00:17:48,950 --> 00:17:53,230

And I hope they arrive at
peace because somehow they

367

00:17:53,230 --> 00:17:53,900
have to settle.

368
00:17:53,900 --> 00:17:55,360
It can't go on like this.

369
00:17:55,360 --> 00:17:57,650
They are losing too many
people on both sides.

370
00:17:57,650 --> 00:18:00,180

371
00:18:00,180 --> 00:18:05,840
And to have peace in the
world and good health

372
00:18:05,840 --> 00:18:10,890
and to see my children healthy
and everybody should be happy.

373
00:18:10,890 --> 00:18:12,100
That's the most important.

374
00:18:12,100 --> 00:18:13,750
We've paid a high price.

375
00:18:13,750 --> 00:18:17,280
One thing I do want to say,
what I didn't mention before,

376
00:18:17,280 --> 00:18:19,560
when I was in Auschwitz--

377
00:18:19,560 --> 00:18:22,760
I have a picture of my
children, Harvey and Amy--

378
00:18:22,760 --> 00:18:25,650
Stanley didn't want to go--

379
00:18:25,650 --> 00:18:29,970

standing under the
sign arbeit macht frei.

380
00:18:29,970 --> 00:18:35,880
And we paid a high price,
but some of us survived.

381
00:18:35,880 --> 00:18:40,200
And now, at least we live
to see our grandchildren,

382
00:18:40,200 --> 00:18:41,990
that [INAUDIBLE] is alive.

383
00:18:41,990 --> 00:18:44,570
We have life--
Jews have to go on.

384
00:18:44,570 --> 00:18:48,660
And I hope that they are for
many, many years to come.

385
00:18:48,660 --> 00:18:53,130
How the situation looks
now, I'm worried about it.

386
00:18:53,130 --> 00:18:57,150
Too much intermarriage, that
we can be just disappear

387
00:18:57,150 --> 00:19:01,380
from the [? group. ?]
Sometimes I

388
00:19:01,380 --> 00:19:04,260
think maybe the
orthodox are right.

389
00:19:04,260 --> 00:19:05,670
They multiply.

390
00:19:05,670 --> 00:19:08,430
They have a lot of children.

391

00:19:08,430 --> 00:19:12,570

They will be the only one who
will keep up the Jewish race.

392

00:19:12,570 --> 00:19:14,610

At this point, how
I see it right now.

393

00:19:14,610 --> 00:19:18,130

394

00:19:18,130 --> 00:19:20,380

Thank you, and this
concludes our interview today

395

00:19:20,380 --> 00:19:23,140

with Helen Luksenburg.

396

00:19:23,140 --> 00:19:27,000