

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,270

2
00:00:02,270 --> 00:00:05,090
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:05,090 --> 00:00:07,550
Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

4
00:00:07,550 --> 00:00:10,250
interview with Ruth Greifer.

5
00:00:10,250 --> 00:00:18,760
This is tape number 2, side
A. Are you more comfortable

6
00:00:18,760 --> 00:00:23,230
being around survivors
than non-survivors?

7
00:00:23,230 --> 00:00:28,380

8
00:00:28,380 --> 00:00:30,860
No.

9
00:00:30,860 --> 00:00:33,860
It really doesn't
make any difference.

10
00:00:33,860 --> 00:00:39,350

11
00:00:39,350 --> 00:00:44,630
I am very comfortable
with non-survivors,

12
00:00:44,630 --> 00:00:48,500
and I'm comfortable

with survivors.

13

00:00:48,500 --> 00:00:52,610

We have something in common.

14

00:00:52,610 --> 00:00:57,500

Our backgrounds are in
common, and our backgrounds

15

00:00:57,500 --> 00:00:59,210

are not in common.

16

00:00:59,210 --> 00:01:03,050

Our backgrounds, if I
look at the 40 people that

17

00:01:03,050 --> 00:01:05,720

come to the meeting,
to the survivors'

18

00:01:05,720 --> 00:01:15,210

meeting at the Museum, I say
that we are entirely different.

19

00:01:15,210 --> 00:01:18,500

I think some of them
are so different,

20

00:01:18,500 --> 00:01:21,170

I would say, as
black and white--

21

00:01:21,170 --> 00:01:25,876

not only in their backgrounds,
but in their viewpoints.

22

00:01:25,876 --> 00:01:28,730

23

00:01:28,730 --> 00:01:32,850

Some of us think
very, very different.

24

00:01:32,850 --> 00:01:34,490

It's very interesting.

25

00:01:34,490 --> 00:01:39,920

I like to go to these meetings and see the survivors

26

00:01:39,920 --> 00:01:42,920

and meet with them and talk to them.

27

00:01:42,920 --> 00:01:50,640

But some of them live a different life.

28

00:01:50,640 --> 00:01:54,570

I live an American lifestyle.

29

00:01:54,570 --> 00:01:58,670

I feel that I'm completely Americanized.

30

00:01:58,670 --> 00:02:03,740

Some of these survivors, I think,

31

00:02:03,740 --> 00:02:08,199

live more of a European lifestyle than I do.

32

00:02:08,199 --> 00:02:12,330

And that's what makes us different.

33

00:02:12,330 --> 00:02:15,930

What do you mean they live a European lifestyle?

34

00:02:15,930 --> 00:02:17,535

They speak European language.

35

00:02:17,535 --> 00:02:20,980

36
00:02:20,980 --> 00:02:28,730
Maybe they think more
of where they come from.

37
00:02:28,730 --> 00:02:40,730
I think that I'm so
Americanized that I don't even

38
00:02:40,730 --> 00:02:45,700
think back most of the time.

39
00:02:45,700 --> 00:02:51,010
I just think from day to
day what I have to do here

40
00:02:51,010 --> 00:02:53,390
and where I have to go--

41
00:02:53,390 --> 00:02:56,500
what I have to do for my family.

42
00:02:56,500 --> 00:03:01,360
And I've left Europe
behind a long time ago.

43
00:03:01,360 --> 00:03:08,240
You just said that you don't
think of your background

44
00:03:08,240 --> 00:03:09,590
most of the time.

45
00:03:09,590 --> 00:03:11,240
When do you think of it?

46
00:03:11,240 --> 00:03:12,740
High holidays.

47
00:03:12,740 --> 00:03:15,740
When it comes to

the high holidays,

48

00:03:15,740 --> 00:03:18,605

that's when I miss my family.

49

00:03:18,605 --> 00:03:24,110

50

00:03:24,110 --> 00:03:26,270

I would say, I miss my family--

51

00:03:26,270 --> 00:03:28,070

miss talking to them--

52

00:03:28,070 --> 00:03:30,110

just miss them completely.

53

00:03:30,110 --> 00:03:35,925

And I don't have any
brothers or sisters.

54

00:03:35,925 --> 00:03:39,040

55

00:03:39,040 --> 00:03:40,390

Yes, I have a cousin.

56

00:03:40,390 --> 00:03:44,200

I can make a telephone call,
but it's all very superficial.

57

00:03:44,200 --> 00:03:49,340

It's nothing very deep,
or anything like that.

58

00:03:49,340 --> 00:03:54,250

And that's the only
time I miss them.

59

00:03:54,250 --> 00:03:57,640

But otherwise, no, not at all.

60

00:03:57,640 --> 00:04:00,850

I'm very happy in this country.

61

00:04:00,850 --> 00:04:03,220

And I love it here.

62

00:04:03,220 --> 00:04:04,600

I do as much as I can.

63

00:04:04,600 --> 00:04:07,210

64

00:04:07,210 --> 00:04:15,470

But I just love to be here.

65

00:04:15,470 --> 00:04:20,638

I would not ever go back and,
say, move back to Europe.

66

00:04:20,638 --> 00:04:21,466

No.

67

00:04:21,466 --> 00:04:25,150

When you pick up the newspaper
and you see a truckload,

68

00:04:25,150 --> 00:04:29,920

let's say, of refugees
in another country--

69

00:04:29,920 --> 00:04:33,640

in Kosovo, or in Rwanda--

70

00:04:33,640 --> 00:04:35,510

does that do anything for you?

71

00:04:35,510 --> 00:04:36,960

Oh, absolutely.

72

00:04:36,960 --> 00:04:39,610

My heart goes out to them.

73
00:04:39,610 --> 00:04:42,260
Do you identify,
being a refugee?

74
00:04:42,260 --> 00:04:43,060
Yes.

75
00:04:43,060 --> 00:04:49,910
Because you see them on trucks
and going here and going

76
00:04:49,910 --> 00:04:52,700
there, not having roots.

77
00:04:52,700 --> 00:05:00,810
If you lose your
roots, it's pitiful.

78
00:05:00,810 --> 00:05:02,790
It's pitiful for the families.

79
00:05:02,790 --> 00:05:05,820
It's pitiful for your lifestyle.

80
00:05:05,820 --> 00:05:12,960
It's pitiful for what
you make out of yourself.

81
00:05:12,960 --> 00:05:16,740
I mean, how can you be on
the bottom all the time?

82
00:05:16,740 --> 00:05:19,440
There's a time where
you have to learn,

83
00:05:19,440 --> 00:05:21,000
where you have to go to school.

84
00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:22,560
You have to learn a trade.

85

00:05:22,560 --> 00:05:25,710

You have to do something
with your life.

86

00:05:25,710 --> 00:05:29,260

But being on the
bottom all the time,

87

00:05:29,260 --> 00:05:33,210

my heart goes out
to these people.

88

00:05:33,210 --> 00:05:39,300

If they're in wars all the time,
or if they lose their home--

89

00:05:39,300 --> 00:05:41,820

they lose wherever
they're going--

90

00:05:41,820 --> 00:05:45,330

what becomes of those families?

91

00:05:45,330 --> 00:05:48,810

When you're here, you
raise your children.

92

00:05:48,810 --> 00:05:50,350

You want them to learn.

93

00:05:50,350 --> 00:05:54,630

You want them to make
something out of yourself,

94

00:05:54,630 --> 00:05:58,350

so when you die, you know
that they're taken care of.

95

00:05:58,350 --> 00:06:03,840

But if you go to these
countries, you see dirt.

96
00:06:03,840 --> 00:06:08,820
You see water.

97
00:06:08,820 --> 00:06:12,300
You see they lost everything.

98
00:06:12,300 --> 00:06:14,340
They don't have anywhere to go.

99
00:06:14,340 --> 00:06:15,540
They don't have any clothes.

100
00:06:15,540 --> 00:06:18,420
They don't have any schools.

101
00:06:18,420 --> 00:06:19,710
They don't have anywhere.

102
00:06:19,710 --> 00:06:22,420
What becomes out
of those people?

103
00:06:22,420 --> 00:06:26,430
And it is very sad--

104
00:06:26,430 --> 00:06:28,710
very, very sad

105
00:06:28,710 --> 00:06:30,510
You use the expression,
these people

106
00:06:30,510 --> 00:06:33,640
are on-- when people are
on the bottom of things.

107
00:06:33,640 --> 00:06:38,070
Did you feel, once
Hitler came into power

108
00:06:38,070 --> 00:06:42,300

in 1933 and until 1945,
that you were on the bottom?

109
00:06:42,300 --> 00:06:51,060
Oh, I would think so, because
all our dreams were taken away

110
00:06:51,060 --> 00:06:52,350
from us.

111
00:06:52,350 --> 00:06:55,680
And once you don't
have any dreams,

112
00:06:55,680 --> 00:06:57,840
where are you going to go?

113
00:06:57,840 --> 00:07:04,180
So you don't have anywhere
to better yourself.

114
00:07:04,180 --> 00:07:07,170
There was no place to
better yourself for us.

115
00:07:07,170 --> 00:07:09,840

116
00:07:09,840 --> 00:07:14,370
That's why people asked me at
one time, when I was in hiding,

117
00:07:14,370 --> 00:07:16,960
if I had made plans
for the future.

118
00:07:16,960 --> 00:07:20,730
And I said, no, I had not
make any plans for the future,

119
00:07:20,730 --> 00:07:24,690
because I didn't know if I was
going to live the next day.

120
00:07:24,690 --> 00:07:26,490
They were at awe.

121
00:07:26,490 --> 00:07:28,080
They were absolutely at awe.

122
00:07:28,080 --> 00:07:31,090
How can you live and not make
any plans for the future?

123
00:07:31,090 --> 00:07:33,360
And I said, that's
the way it was.

124
00:07:33,360 --> 00:07:36,470
Because at certain
times in your life,

125
00:07:36,470 --> 00:07:39,660
you are at a place
where you just

126
00:07:39,660 --> 00:07:42,150
don't know if you're going
to live till the next day.

127
00:07:42,150 --> 00:07:44,920

128
00:07:44,920 --> 00:07:50,230
So do you feel that you were
very much aware of the danger

129
00:07:50,230 --> 00:07:51,580
that you lived under?

130
00:07:51,580 --> 00:07:54,700
Oh, absolutely, very
much of the danger--

131
00:07:54,700 --> 00:07:57,910

and deprived everyday
of your freedom--

132
00:07:57,910 --> 00:08:02,200
deprived of what you
expected from life--

133
00:08:02,200 --> 00:08:07,240
to go to school, to
learn, to become somebody,

134
00:08:07,240 --> 00:08:11,260
instead of having to run
away like a wild animal.

135
00:08:11,260 --> 00:08:13,090
And that's what it was.

136
00:08:13,090 --> 00:08:14,420
You had to run away.

137
00:08:14,420 --> 00:08:17,770
And you felt there
was no schooling,

138
00:08:17,770 --> 00:08:19,420
there was no nothing.

139
00:08:19,420 --> 00:08:23,200
And you didn't live
like an animal,

140
00:08:23,200 --> 00:08:25,300
because the people
that you lived with

141
00:08:25,300 --> 00:08:27,100
didn't live like an animal.

142
00:08:27,100 --> 00:08:32,799
But there was no future the
way we lived in those years.

143

00:08:32,799 --> 00:08:34,720

There was absolutely
no future that you

144

00:08:34,720 --> 00:08:39,580

can look forward to and
strive and learn and live

145

00:08:39,580 --> 00:08:42,090

like everybody else.

146

00:08:42,090 --> 00:08:47,760

So you lived like
little animal in a hole.

147

00:08:47,760 --> 00:08:49,710

And you couldn't even peek out.

148

00:08:49,710 --> 00:08:52,860

Because if you would
have peeked out,

149

00:08:52,860 --> 00:08:55,270

you probably would
have been gone.

150

00:08:55,270 --> 00:08:59,490

So you felt like you
lived in a little hole.

151

00:08:59,490 --> 00:09:04,020

And you have to be
quiet and not to be seen

152

00:09:04,020 --> 00:09:07,710

and not to be heard of
until, perhaps, the time will

153

00:09:07,710 --> 00:09:14,010

come that you can come out
like a groundhog and look--

154

00:09:14,010 --> 00:09:18,020
and if there's a world.

155
00:09:18,020 --> 00:09:19,960
That's the way it was.

156
00:09:19,960 --> 00:09:21,850
That's the way you had to live.

157
00:09:21,850 --> 00:09:29,120
There was just no joy
it was all seriousness,

158
00:09:29,120 --> 00:09:32,510
scared, frightened.

159
00:09:32,510 --> 00:09:38,860
And you never know what
the next day would bring.

160
00:09:38,860 --> 00:09:43,230

161
00:09:43,230 --> 00:09:45,370
It's hard.

162
00:09:45,370 --> 00:09:46,590
It's hard to live that way.

163
00:09:46,590 --> 00:09:50,550

164
00:09:50,550 --> 00:09:58,410
The only thing that I did not
have was physical beatings--

165
00:09:58,410 --> 00:10:02,270
physical anything.

166
00:10:02,270 --> 00:10:07,560
I was lucky that I
did not get hurt.

167
00:10:07,560 --> 00:10:12,890

168
00:10:12,890 --> 00:10:13,836
It's hard.

169
00:10:13,836 --> 00:10:18,500

170
00:10:18,500 --> 00:10:21,290
But I didn't bring up my
children with regrets.

171
00:10:21,290 --> 00:10:28,040

172
00:10:28,040 --> 00:10:31,310
I never hang it over their
heads from day to day.

173
00:10:31,310 --> 00:10:34,700
We might have talked about
it when the time came.

174
00:10:34,700 --> 00:10:40,070
But I wanted my children
always to have a joyous time,

175
00:10:40,070 --> 00:10:42,830
and I think I
succeeded with that.

176
00:10:42,830 --> 00:10:45,710

177
00:10:45,710 --> 00:10:49,550
My children are very close--

178
00:10:49,550 --> 00:10:54,137
very supportive of me
and just wonderful.

179
00:10:54,137 --> 00:10:57,340

180
00:10:57,340 --> 00:11:01,240
And I'm looking
forward to the future,

181
00:11:01,240 --> 00:11:03,790
to have my
grandchildren with me,

182
00:11:03,790 --> 00:11:06,730
and that my
grandchildren love me--

183
00:11:06,730 --> 00:11:10,820
like I never had.

184
00:11:10,820 --> 00:11:13,610
My grandparents were
too old at the time.

185
00:11:13,610 --> 00:11:17,480
And I grew up and
I did not have much

186
00:11:17,480 --> 00:11:20,400
in common with my grandparents.

187
00:11:20,400 --> 00:11:23,000
But I hope to have a lot in
common for a little while

188
00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:25,640
with my grandchildren.

189
00:11:25,640 --> 00:11:29,140
That's my pride and joy.

190
00:11:29,140 --> 00:11:32,370
How did you convey your

Judaism to your children?

191
00:11:32,370 --> 00:11:43,040

192
00:11:43,040 --> 00:11:57,560
When we moved here, I got
myself on a telephone committee

193
00:11:57,560 --> 00:11:59,660
in Hadassah.

194
00:11:59,660 --> 00:12:03,310
And I wanted to know
where Jewish people lived

195
00:12:03,310 --> 00:12:04,870
and where there was a synagogue.

196
00:12:04,870 --> 00:12:08,430

197
00:12:08,430 --> 00:12:15,170
As soon as we moved here,
we joined Agudas Achim,

198
00:12:15,170 --> 00:12:22,770
because I always had to have
a place where we belong.

199
00:12:22,770 --> 00:12:28,770
We always celebrated
the holidays.

200
00:12:28,770 --> 00:12:31,840
I joined Sisterhood.

201
00:12:31,840 --> 00:12:35,080
I became active in Sisterhood.

202
00:12:35,080 --> 00:12:38,410
As soon as it was

possible, our children

203
00:12:38,410 --> 00:12:39,970
went to Sunday school--

204
00:12:39,970 --> 00:12:43,240

205
00:12:43,240 --> 00:12:48,380
pre-school, Sunday
school, all the way up.

206
00:12:48,380 --> 00:12:54,790
And this is how they
learned that they were Jews,

207
00:12:54,790 --> 00:12:57,520
that this was their religion--

208
00:12:57,520 --> 00:13:01,210
because I felt this is
what we needed to do.

209
00:13:01,210 --> 00:13:04,680

210
00:13:04,680 --> 00:13:05,910
We went to synagogue.

211
00:13:05,910 --> 00:13:07,920
We took the children.

212
00:13:07,920 --> 00:13:13,620
And this is how I
raised them, because we

213
00:13:13,620 --> 00:13:23,850
have belonged to this synagogue
since we moved here in 1957.

214
00:13:23,850 --> 00:13:26,940
We might not have

liked all the rabbis.

215

00:13:26,940 --> 00:13:29,710

But I've never gone
with the rabbis.

216

00:13:29,710 --> 00:13:31,500

We always stuck
with the building,

217

00:13:31,500 --> 00:13:33,990

which was very important.

218

00:13:33,990 --> 00:13:37,410

We did not move from
synagogue to synagogue.

219

00:13:37,410 --> 00:13:39,960

This was the building
that we belonged.

220

00:13:39,960 --> 00:13:42,420

The building is longer than
the rabbis [INAUDIBLE],,

221

00:13:42,420 --> 00:13:46,980

so this is [? what ?]
[? we do. ?]

222

00:13:46,980 --> 00:13:49,590

You and your family were
deprived of your rights

223

00:13:49,590 --> 00:13:52,260

when Hitler came in.

224

00:13:52,260 --> 00:13:55,020

Did you identify at all with
the civil rights movement

225

00:13:55,020 --> 00:13:56,700

here in this country?

226
00:13:56,700 --> 00:13:57,640
No.

227
00:13:57,640 --> 00:13:58,140
No.

228
00:13:58,140 --> 00:13:59,160
That I've never done.

229
00:13:59,160 --> 00:14:03,720
I've never gotten myself get
involved in any civil rights

230
00:14:03,720 --> 00:14:04,450
movement.

231
00:14:04,450 --> 00:14:07,140
I'm not that outgoing.

232
00:14:07,140 --> 00:14:10,140
I'm not that--

233
00:14:10,140 --> 00:14:12,150
I don't say straightforward.

234
00:14:12,150 --> 00:14:15,280
No, I stay in the background
when it comes to that.

235
00:14:15,280 --> 00:14:19,800
No, that's not me.

236
00:14:19,800 --> 00:14:22,582
I let other people
do that for me.

237
00:14:22,582 --> 00:14:25,560
[LAUGHS] That's not me.

238
00:14:25,560 --> 00:14:29,550
Do you ever feel at times like

you're two different people--

239

00:14:29,550 --> 00:14:32,070

someone on the outside
and another person

240

00:14:32,070 --> 00:14:34,950

on the inside, who
experienced what you did,

241

00:14:34,950 --> 00:14:37,020

whose life was in danger
for so many years?

242

00:14:37,020 --> 00:14:39,750

243

00:14:39,750 --> 00:14:41,260

No, I don't think so.

244

00:14:41,260 --> 00:14:45,150

I think I'm pretty solid
when it comes to that.

245

00:14:45,150 --> 00:14:51,900

I'm the same person
that you see in and out.

246

00:14:51,900 --> 00:14:55,890

No, I'm pretty solid when
it comes to all of that.

247

00:14:55,890 --> 00:14:57,680

No, I'm fine.

248

00:14:57,680 --> 00:14:59,640

I really have grown.

249

00:14:59,640 --> 00:15:01,650

Absolutely, I have grown--

250

00:15:01,650 --> 00:15:02,660

very much so.

251

00:15:02,660 --> 00:15:07,260

252

00:15:07,260 --> 00:15:09,360

Grown in what way?

253

00:15:09,360 --> 00:15:13,080

Well, I was never

so sure of myself.

254

00:15:13,080 --> 00:15:15,660

I was a little

bit more insecure.

255

00:15:15,660 --> 00:15:16,320

With the years.

256

00:15:16,320 --> 00:15:17,190

I have grown.

257

00:15:17,190 --> 00:15:21,780

And I'm pretty

sure of myself now.

258

00:15:21,780 --> 00:15:30,270

I think that the Museum has

helped me an awful lot, knowing

259

00:15:30,270 --> 00:15:34,390

who I am and what I stand for--

260

00:15:34,390 --> 00:15:40,660

and that I can

speak up and really

261

00:15:40,660 --> 00:15:46,020

be the person that

I would like to be.

262

00:15:46,020 --> 00:15:47,850

And I'm fine.

263

00:15:47,850 --> 00:15:52,100

264

00:15:52,100 --> 00:15:56,330

I can live now with
what I went through.

265

00:15:56,330 --> 00:15:59,540

And I think that the
Museum has helped

266

00:15:59,540 --> 00:16:08,350

me a great deal, thinking
about it in a positive way that

267

00:16:08,350 --> 00:16:11,680

has made me a bigger person--

268

00:16:11,680 --> 00:16:19,760

and that I can help others,
probably, with their problems,

269

00:16:19,760 --> 00:16:28,390

if they have problems
that I do not have--

270

00:16:28,390 --> 00:16:31,780

learning to live
with your background.

271

00:16:31,780 --> 00:16:34,600

I've learned to live
with my background.

272

00:16:34,600 --> 00:16:40,510

And I don't mind
talking about it now.

273

00:16:40,510 --> 00:16:44,050

And I'm very proud
of my heritage.

274
00:16:44,050 --> 00:16:47,560

275
00:16:47,560 --> 00:16:52,660
Did that insecurity that you
once felt stem from the fact

276
00:16:52,660 --> 00:16:55,880
that your life was so
insecure for those years?

277
00:16:55,880 --> 00:16:57,940
No.

278
00:16:57,940 --> 00:17:06,319
Some of it stemmed from
that I was in hiding,

279
00:17:06,319 --> 00:17:11,140
and that I was looked
down on me of other people

280
00:17:11,140 --> 00:17:12,660
that had different backgrounds.

281
00:17:12,660 --> 00:17:16,960

282
00:17:16,960 --> 00:17:20,190
I don't want to go into it.

283
00:17:20,190 --> 00:17:21,680
Yes.

284
00:17:21,680 --> 00:17:24,829
I've been hurt many
times with that,

285
00:17:24,829 --> 00:17:28,550
but it hasn't happened
for a long time.

286
00:17:28,550 --> 00:17:30,170
Are you talking
about in Europe, or?

287
00:17:30,170 --> 00:17:30,851
No, here.

288
00:17:30,851 --> 00:17:33,440

289
00:17:33,440 --> 00:17:34,790
Here, absolutely.

290
00:17:34,790 --> 00:17:38,300

291
00:17:38,300 --> 00:17:41,030
And these were Americans
who were born in America?

292
00:17:41,030 --> 00:17:46,580
No, these were people that
went to concentration camps.

293
00:17:46,580 --> 00:17:49,240

294
00:17:49,240 --> 00:17:54,800
And it hasn't happened
for a long time now.

295
00:17:54,800 --> 00:17:57,070
The people who wanted
to compare stories?

296
00:17:57,070 --> 00:17:59,216
Is that what you're
saying [INAUDIBLE]----

297
00:17:59,216 --> 00:18:03,110

298
00:18:03,110 --> 00:18:04,880
who felt that they
suffered more?

299
00:18:04,880 --> 00:18:05,920
Right.

300
00:18:05,920 --> 00:18:06,930
Absolutely.

301
00:18:06,930 --> 00:18:07,670
Yes.

302
00:18:07,670 --> 00:18:11,030
I got deeply hurt many times.

303
00:18:11,030 --> 00:18:14,690
And it's better now.

304
00:18:14,690 --> 00:18:21,670
But I understand this has
happened to other people, also.

305
00:18:21,670 --> 00:18:24,640
Without acknowledgment that
your life too was in danger.

306
00:18:24,640 --> 00:18:27,190
Oh, yes, absolutely right.

307
00:18:27,190 --> 00:18:29,660
Oh, there was a big difference.

308
00:18:29,660 --> 00:18:32,380
Look, I didn't have
the physical abuse.

309
00:18:32,380 --> 00:18:36,490
But the danger was
there 24 hours a day.

310

00:18:36,490 --> 00:18:39,150

And people let me know that.

311

00:18:39,150 --> 00:18:41,730

I got deeply hurt many times.

312

00:18:41,730 --> 00:18:45,750

But it's gotten
better, absolutely.

313

00:18:45,750 --> 00:18:47,400

It's not there anymore.

314

00:18:47,400 --> 00:18:52,750

Because of their
approach or your response

315

00:18:52,750 --> 00:18:53,650

it's gotten better?

316

00:18:53,650 --> 00:18:56,400

317

00:18:56,400 --> 00:18:58,580

In other words, they
don't talk like that,

318

00:18:58,580 --> 00:19:01,020

or you know how to respond?

319

00:19:01,020 --> 00:19:03,330

They don't talk
like that anymore.

320

00:19:03,330 --> 00:19:08,240

They have gotten used to
me, and they know who I am.

321

00:19:08,240 --> 00:19:10,920

322

00:19:10,920 --> 00:19:14,210
This was years ago.

323
00:19:14,210 --> 00:19:17,090
No, I don't feel it.

324
00:19:17,090 --> 00:19:20,210
There were times that I
was deeply hurt by them,

325
00:19:20,210 --> 00:19:22,060
but I don't feel it anymore.

326
00:19:22,060 --> 00:19:27,340

327
00:19:27,340 --> 00:19:29,335
Let's talk a little bit
about the Museum now.

328
00:19:29,335 --> 00:19:32,010

329
00:19:32,010 --> 00:19:35,020
How did you learn
about the Museum?

330
00:19:35,020 --> 00:19:38,110

331
00:19:38,110 --> 00:19:42,820
My dear friend Nesse
Godin is the one.

332
00:19:42,820 --> 00:19:46,000
Once we got acquainted
with Nesse--

333
00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:48,590

334
00:19:48,590 --> 00:19:50,990

through Amy, of course.

335
00:19:50,990 --> 00:19:51,995
Amy is your daughter.

336
00:19:51,995 --> 00:19:55,940
Amy is our daughter, and
Eddie is our son-in-law.

337
00:19:55,940 --> 00:19:57,180
Nesse's son, Eddie.

338
00:19:57,180 --> 00:19:58,330
Nesse's son.

339
00:19:58,330 --> 00:20:00,530
She approached me.

340
00:20:00,530 --> 00:20:03,950
And she mentioned
to me if I would

341
00:20:03,950 --> 00:20:09,170
like to be a volunteer
at the Museum.

342
00:20:09,170 --> 00:20:12,110
And I had retired.

343
00:20:12,110 --> 00:20:14,950

344
00:20:14,950 --> 00:20:16,510
I don't know.

345
00:20:16,510 --> 00:20:20,590
I said, of course, I
would love, love to do it.

346
00:20:20,590 --> 00:20:23,530
She is my guide.

347

00:20:23,530 --> 00:20:28,270

She got me involved.

348

00:20:28,270 --> 00:20:33,790

And it's the best thing
that has happened to me.

349

00:20:33,790 --> 00:20:40,490

She introduced me to the Museum.

350

00:20:40,490 --> 00:20:46,670

She asked me if I would
like to participate,

351

00:20:46,670 --> 00:20:50,450

to sit at the donor desk.

352

00:20:50,450 --> 00:20:54,560

And I was introduced.

353

00:20:54,560 --> 00:20:57,040

I was trained.

354

00:20:57,040 --> 00:21:01,150

And I love every minute of it.

355

00:21:01,150 --> 00:21:10,840

It's just wonderful-- not only
to raise funds for the Museum,

356

00:21:10,840 --> 00:21:15,565

but to meet all these
different people, daily--

357

00:21:15,565 --> 00:21:22,100

358

00:21:22,100 --> 00:21:24,830

just everyday people.

359

00:21:24,830 --> 00:21:31,800

I met people that were
involved with my family.

360
00:21:31,800 --> 00:21:39,070
And it's just been a wonderful,
wonderful experience.

361
00:21:39,070 --> 00:21:40,660
When did you first
become involved?

362
00:21:40,660 --> 00:21:43,088
Had the building gone up
yet, or was this preceding

363
00:21:43,088 --> 00:21:43,630
the building?

364
00:21:43,630 --> 00:21:46,900
The building had gone up, yes.

365
00:21:46,900 --> 00:21:51,670
I was not involved
with the office.

366
00:21:51,670 --> 00:21:56,590
But I got involved after
the building was up.

367
00:21:56,590 --> 00:22:05,320
And I really enjoyed
being trained

368
00:22:05,320 --> 00:22:10,030
and have wonderful supervisors.

369
00:22:10,030 --> 00:22:18,670
And I've gone now for, I
think, five years on Mondays.

370
00:22:18,670 --> 00:22:20,590
And I just wouldn't miss it.

371

00:22:20,590 --> 00:22:22,405

I absolutely love that.

372

00:22:22,405 --> 00:22:24,340

What kind of training
did you have?

373

00:22:24,340 --> 00:22:36,700

Oh, we had a meeting a week
with Dr. Bob Abramowitz

374

00:22:36,700 --> 00:22:39,220

was the leader at the time.

375

00:22:39,220 --> 00:22:44,950

And Jackie North
was in charge of us.

376

00:22:44,950 --> 00:22:49,450

And we had a meeting a week.

377

00:22:49,450 --> 00:22:55,420

We would be introduced to all
different phases concerning

378

00:22:55,420 --> 00:23:01,360

the building, the
history, the locations.

379

00:23:01,360 --> 00:23:05,770

I mean, they taught us
everything and anything that we

380

00:23:05,770 --> 00:23:07,750

need to know about
the building--

381

00:23:07,750 --> 00:23:13,090

so we would be at ease if
people would ask us questions,

382

00:23:13,090 --> 00:23:16,570

or that we could tell people
what this building is all

383
00:23:16,570 --> 00:23:17,410
about--

384
00:23:17,410 --> 00:23:30,490
and about the building itself
and about the history--

385
00:23:30,490 --> 00:23:37,000
why it was build, or who
gave us the donations.

386
00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:39,430
Every week we had a
different speaker,

387
00:23:39,430 --> 00:23:43,300
to make us feel comfortable
to answer questions

388
00:23:43,300 --> 00:23:45,010
about the building.

389
00:23:45,010 --> 00:23:52,900
And not only was it
wonderful to work with Dr.

390
00:23:52,900 --> 00:23:56,650
Abramowitz and Jackie North.

391
00:23:56,650 --> 00:23:59,050
We used to have meetings
more often than we

392
00:23:59,050 --> 00:24:03,820
have now about meeting
with our coworkers.

393
00:24:03,820 --> 00:24:09,640
We exchanged thoughts, and
we talked to each other.

394
00:24:09,640 --> 00:24:12,040
We got to know each other.

395
00:24:12,040 --> 00:24:17,740
And it's just a wonderful group
who do the same kind of work.

396
00:24:17,740 --> 00:24:20,300
You said Nesse had asked you
to come work at the Museum.

397
00:24:20,300 --> 00:24:21,820
Oh, yes.

398
00:24:21,820 --> 00:24:23,680
This is the one
that introduced me.

399
00:24:23,680 --> 00:24:26,110
Why did you say yes?

400
00:24:26,110 --> 00:24:29,320
Because, first of all,
I already was retired.

401
00:24:29,320 --> 00:24:34,510
And I thought it would
be wonderful to work

402
00:24:34,510 --> 00:24:38,570
with the Museum, because
this is where I want to be.

403
00:24:38,570 --> 00:24:44,800
This is where I want to
pay back what I've lost.

404
00:24:44,800 --> 00:24:50,070

405
00:24:50,070 --> 00:24:54,810

And it gives me a
feeling of gratitude

406
00:24:54,810 --> 00:24:57,010
that I have to be alive.

407
00:24:57,010 --> 00:25:00,400

408
00:25:00,400 --> 00:25:03,400
So this is what I like.

409
00:25:03,400 --> 00:25:06,360
And I'm there every Monday.

410
00:25:06,360 --> 00:25:10,470
It's wonderful--
absolutely wonderful.

411
00:25:10,470 --> 00:25:14,880
Did I ever tell you the
story about the Dutch people

412
00:25:14,880 --> 00:25:15,570
that came?

413
00:25:15,570 --> 00:25:19,590

414
00:25:19,590 --> 00:25:25,170
People came to the desk,
and they had a Dutch accent.

415
00:25:25,170 --> 00:25:27,180
I said, you're from Holland.

416
00:25:27,180 --> 00:25:28,570
Where are you from?

417
00:25:28,570 --> 00:25:30,180
They're are from Amsterdam.

418

00:25:30,180 --> 00:25:33,810

Nobody else comes from
Maastricht or Valkenburg.

419

00:25:33,810 --> 00:25:35,760

I said, well, I come
from Maastricht.

420

00:25:35,760 --> 00:25:40,230

And the woman says, well,
I'm a nurse in Amsterdam--

421

00:25:40,230 --> 00:25:43,530

I'll just Amsterdam--
and my best girlfriend's

422

00:25:43,530 --> 00:25:46,920

father lives in Maastricht.

423

00:25:46,920 --> 00:25:51,780

And I said to him,
what is his name?

424

00:25:51,780 --> 00:25:56,370

And he she said, it is Mr.
[? Somo. ?] Well, I said,

425

00:25:56,370 --> 00:25:59,220

I know a Mr. [? Somo ?]
from Germany--

426

00:25:59,220 --> 00:26:01,650

from JÃ¼lich in Germany.

427

00:26:01,650 --> 00:26:05,325

And she says, yes,
that's her father.

428

00:26:05,325 --> 00:26:08,560

429

00:26:08,560 --> 00:26:11,700

They gave me her
telephone number.

430
00:26:11,700 --> 00:26:14,640

431
00:26:14,640 --> 00:26:15,900
Oh, we had a long talk.

432
00:26:15,900 --> 00:26:17,760
I mean, it was unbelievable.

433
00:26:17,760 --> 00:26:19,740
Here this woman is from Holland.

434
00:26:19,740 --> 00:26:23,640
Her best girlfriend's father,
I know from when I grew up.

435
00:26:23,640 --> 00:26:26,550

436
00:26:26,550 --> 00:26:32,850
I tried to get the
daughter in Holland,

437
00:26:32,850 --> 00:26:34,830
and I could not reach her.

438
00:26:34,830 --> 00:26:35,940
But I tried.

439
00:26:35,940 --> 00:26:43,920
So when we went back two years
ago, I said to the girls,

440
00:26:43,920 --> 00:26:48,060
as soon as we get to Maastricht,
we have to call this gentleman

441
00:26:48,060 --> 00:26:52,210
and tell him who we are.

442
00:26:52,210 --> 00:27:00,430
We got to the hotel,
and we called--

443
00:27:00,430 --> 00:27:03,250
in the telephone book,
we saw his name--

444
00:27:03,250 --> 00:27:07,120
and explained to him who I was.

445
00:27:07,120 --> 00:27:11,530
Well, see, he was
not a friend of mine.

446
00:27:11,530 --> 00:27:15,370
He was a friend of my sister's.

447
00:27:15,370 --> 00:27:18,400
And my mother would
play the piano.

448
00:27:18,400 --> 00:27:22,930
And these young people
would come to our house,

449
00:27:22,930 --> 00:27:25,000
and they would dance.

450
00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:28,090
And I remember him.

451
00:27:28,090 --> 00:27:30,190
And he had a twin sister.

452
00:27:30,190 --> 00:27:35,380
And he remembered my sister,
but he did not remember me.

453
00:27:35,380 --> 00:27:38,860
See, I was eight years

younger than him.

454

00:27:38,860 --> 00:27:43,945

Well, I called him up and
I told them who I was.

455

00:27:43,945 --> 00:27:47,290

456

00:27:47,290 --> 00:27:50,830

He hurried to the hotel.

457

00:27:50,830 --> 00:27:56,290

It was 9 o'clock at night when
he arrived there with his wife.

458

00:27:56,290 --> 00:28:00,490

We talked about my
sister and his sister.

459

00:28:00,490 --> 00:28:03,370

But like I said, he
did not remember me.

460

00:28:03,370 --> 00:28:07,360

He was very grateful
that I had called him.

461

00:28:07,360 --> 00:28:10,300

And we were sitting
there for hours

462

00:28:10,300 --> 00:28:15,310

talking about his
childhood, about our house.

463

00:28:15,310 --> 00:28:19,570

And not only that he
remembered my sister

464

00:28:19,570 --> 00:28:24,280

and he remembered my parents,
but his wife was, I think,

465
00:28:24,280 --> 00:28:26,500
born and raised in
Maastricht-- and she

466
00:28:26,500 --> 00:28:29,470
knew my whole Dutch family.

467
00:28:29,470 --> 00:28:34,000
It was an unbelievable
evening, that

468
00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:41,380
ended up in Maastricht, starting
out at the desk at the Museum.

469
00:28:41,380 --> 00:28:47,140
It was unbelievable-- an
unbelievable experience.

470
00:28:47,140 --> 00:28:49,720
So he didn't remember me.

471
00:28:49,720 --> 00:28:53,590
You know, you come to
see a young, pretty girl,

472
00:28:53,590 --> 00:28:56,560
you don't look at an
eight-year-younger-old sister.

473
00:28:56,560 --> 00:28:58,330
I mean, they don't exist.

474
00:28:58,330 --> 00:29:01,780
But I remembered him very well.

475
00:29:01,780 --> 00:29:05,350
And this all started at
the desk at the Museum.

476
00:29:05,350 --> 00:29:07,330

Unbelievable story.

477

00:29:07,330 --> 00:29:10,120

Any other special stories
you want to mention?

478

00:29:10,120 --> 00:29:12,550

Oh, what other stories?

479

00:29:12,550 --> 00:29:14,950

Well, on and off--

480

00:29:14,950 --> 00:29:17,650

it's a long time ago.

481

00:29:17,650 --> 00:29:19,570

Somebody had a German accent.

482

00:29:19,570 --> 00:29:22,210

I always ask them
where they're from.

483

00:29:22,210 --> 00:29:24,940

The woman said,
I'm from Dortmund.

484

00:29:24,940 --> 00:29:28,600

And I said, well, do you know
[? Rosine ?] [? Bayer, ?] which

485

00:29:28,600 --> 00:29:29,650

was my aunt.

486

00:29:29,650 --> 00:29:33,490

And of course, she knew my
aunt and knew my whole family.

487

00:29:33,490 --> 00:29:40,360

These are the things that
make the desk so important.

488

00:29:40,360 --> 00:29:42,385

I always ask them
where they're from.

489
00:29:42,385 --> 00:29:48,490

490
00:29:48,490 --> 00:29:50,920
The desk draws me, really.

491
00:29:50,920 --> 00:29:53,710
I don't want to work
more than one day a week.

492
00:29:53,710 --> 00:29:56,890
But the people that I meet--

493
00:29:56,890 --> 00:30:00,130
even so they might
not be related to me

494
00:30:00,130 --> 00:30:05,620
or close to me, just the
people that come and want

495
00:30:05,620 --> 00:30:09,340
to know about the Museum--

496
00:30:09,340 --> 00:30:10,360
want to know me.

497
00:30:10,360 --> 00:30:13,450
I tell them my
story all the time.

498
00:30:13,450 --> 00:30:15,700
I tell them, I'm a survivor.

499
00:30:15,700 --> 00:30:20,140
And well, I tell them, I've
lived the life of Anne Frank.

500
00:30:20,140 --> 00:30:23,350

And people sit down
and they listen to it.

501
00:30:23,350 --> 00:30:24,730
It's unbelievable.

502
00:30:24,730 --> 00:30:26,210
Yes, I love it--

503
00:30:26,210 --> 00:30:27,250
absolutely love it.

504
00:30:27,250 --> 00:30:30,260

505
00:30:30,260 --> 00:30:33,380
When you walk into the
building on Mondays.

506
00:30:33,380 --> 00:30:35,780
It's like old hometown,
because you know everybody

507
00:30:35,780 --> 00:30:37,310
that works on Mondays.

508
00:30:37,310 --> 00:30:42,710
If you miss a day, they say,
where have you been last week?

509
00:30:42,710 --> 00:30:44,630
They miss you, if
you're not there.

510
00:30:44,630 --> 00:30:46,760
It's wonderful.

511
00:30:46,760 --> 00:30:50,710
If I walk in on a Tuesday,
it's like a strange place.

512
00:30:50,710 --> 00:30:52,130

It's different.

513

00:30:52,130 --> 00:30:54,140

I know some people
that work on Tuesdays,

514

00:30:54,140 --> 00:30:56,150

but it's not the same.

515

00:30:56,150 --> 00:30:58,190

And the people that
work there on Monday,

516

00:30:58,190 --> 00:30:59,690

you know them very well.

517

00:30:59,690 --> 00:31:01,310

It's wonderful.

518

00:31:01,310 --> 00:31:02,990

What about the structure itself?

519

00:31:02,990 --> 00:31:05,840

Does it do anything for
you when you walk in?

520

00:31:05,840 --> 00:31:07,810

Well, that will never go away.

521

00:31:07,810 --> 00:31:11,320

522

00:31:11,320 --> 00:31:18,020

The Hall of Witnesses
will never change.

523

00:31:18,020 --> 00:31:20,960

It will always be
the Hall of Witnesses

524

00:31:20,960 --> 00:31:22,250

and what it stands for.

525
00:31:22,250 --> 00:31:29,180
It reminds you, from
the bricks down,

526
00:31:29,180 --> 00:31:31,490
about the concentration camp.

527
00:31:31,490 --> 00:31:38,210
And that will never go away.

528
00:31:38,210 --> 00:31:40,340
And I feel I need to be there.

529
00:31:40,340 --> 00:31:43,580
I need to be there
not only for me.

530
00:31:43,580 --> 00:31:47,690
I need to be there to tell
other people about the building

531
00:31:47,690 --> 00:31:49,850
and what it stands for--

532
00:31:49,850 --> 00:31:53,660
and about myself, absolutely.

533
00:31:53,660 --> 00:31:55,830
I tell them all the time.

534
00:31:55,830 --> 00:31:57,260
You see a survivor.

535
00:31:57,260 --> 00:31:59,150
Just think, there
are many people

536
00:31:59,150 --> 00:32:01,220
that have never met a survivor.

537

00:32:01,220 --> 00:32:02,960
I said, I want you
to know, you have

538
00:32:02,960 --> 00:32:06,200
to tell people later
on that we're not

539
00:32:06,200 --> 00:32:08,060
going to be here all our lives.

540
00:32:08,060 --> 00:32:11,390
You will have to tell them
that you met a survivor.

541
00:32:11,390 --> 00:32:14,180
And maybe you heard a
story of a survivor.

542
00:32:14,180 --> 00:32:17,300
And you have to carry it
on, because we're not going

543
00:32:17,300 --> 00:32:19,340
to be here that much longer.

544
00:32:19,340 --> 00:32:23,630
And it's very important
for me to tell my story

545
00:32:23,630 --> 00:32:28,400
and to have people know
what the building means.

546
00:32:28,400 --> 00:32:30,455
It means a lot to me.

547
00:32:30,455 --> 00:32:33,740
It means everything to
me and it means a lot

548
00:32:33,740 --> 00:32:35,330
to all those

people, really, that

549
00:32:35,330 --> 00:32:39,960
come-- all those millions
that have been coming through.

550
00:32:39,960 --> 00:32:44,130
In five years, 10 million
people-- and more right now.

551
00:32:44,130 --> 00:32:47,670
It's an unbelievable story.

552
00:32:47,670 --> 00:32:49,770
There are not many
there not many buildings

553
00:32:49,770 --> 00:32:52,230
that have a story like that--

554
00:32:52,230 --> 00:32:54,520
at least not to me.

555
00:32:54,520 --> 00:32:58,240
I've never been in Israel, and
I don't think I'll ever go.

556
00:32:58,240 --> 00:33:00,960
But this is fine.

557
00:33:00,960 --> 00:33:05,120
I'm perfectly happy
with what I have here.

558
00:33:05,120 --> 00:33:07,150
It's very good.

559
00:33:07,150 --> 00:33:09,140
Why haven't you gone to Israel.

560
00:33:09,140 --> 00:33:12,410
Bernie doesn't want

to travel, and I

561

00:33:12,410 --> 00:33:14,696

don't want to go by myself.

562

00:33:14,696 --> 00:33:19,100

If anything would happen to him,

I would never forgive myself.

563

00:33:19,100 --> 00:33:22,210

It's more important

for me to be here.

564

00:33:22,210 --> 00:33:24,810

You say you tell the people

what the building means.

565

00:33:24,810 --> 00:33:25,780

Oh, absolutely.

566

00:33:25,780 --> 00:33:27,720

What do you say to them?

567

00:33:27,720 --> 00:33:36,130

Well, what it means, it

reminds them of the years

568

00:33:36,130 --> 00:33:40,700

that Hitler was in Germany--

569

00:33:40,700 --> 00:33:43,720

what it did to the

six million Jews.

570

00:33:43,720 --> 00:33:47,690

I tell them that the first

time that I went upstairs

571

00:33:47,690 --> 00:33:50,050

that I couldn't

get past the shoes,

572

00:33:50,050 --> 00:33:57,500
because each pair of shoes
belonged to a human being.

573
00:33:57,500 --> 00:33:59,770
And each human
being-- each child--

574
00:33:59,770 --> 00:34:04,280
had a mother, father, brothers,
sisters, parents, aunts,

575
00:34:04,280 --> 00:34:06,430
uncles, cousins.

576
00:34:06,430 --> 00:34:15,710
And it just has to be told.

577
00:34:15,710 --> 00:34:19,280
And this is what the
building stands for it.

578
00:34:19,280 --> 00:34:20,300
It needs to be known.

579
00:34:20,300 --> 00:34:25,150

580
00:34:25,150 --> 00:34:29,409
Thank goodness they can
go and see in person.

581
00:34:29,409 --> 00:34:31,510
But we have to tell them.

582
00:34:31,510 --> 00:34:35,949
And that's what we do when
we're sitting at the desk.

583
00:34:35,949 --> 00:34:38,429
We have to be in close
contact with these people.

584

00:34:38,429 --> 00:34:42,070

If they have the time, if
they're willing to listen,

585

00:34:42,070 --> 00:34:43,480

this is what we do.

586

00:34:43,480 --> 00:34:45,810

It's wonderful.

587

00:34:45,810 --> 00:34:47,929

It's absolutely
wonderful to be there.

588

00:34:47,929 --> 00:34:52,270

589

00:34:52,270 --> 00:34:58,270

Do you think you bring
any special insights

590

00:34:58,270 --> 00:34:59,830

as a staff member?

591

00:34:59,830 --> 00:35:01,630

I hope I do.

592

00:35:01,630 --> 00:35:02,500

I hope I do.

593

00:35:02,500 --> 00:35:11,560

I hope that I am as valuable
as the other survivors.

594

00:35:11,560 --> 00:35:16,360

I respect them, and I
hope they respect me.

595

00:35:16,360 --> 00:35:20,690

596

00:35:20,690 --> 00:35:25,460
We survivors belong
there, if we can--

597
00:35:25,460 --> 00:35:31,280
not only to give out
time, but to let the world

598
00:35:31,280 --> 00:35:39,550
know who we are and why
we come to the Museum.

599
00:35:39,550 --> 00:35:42,440
Some people will learn.

600
00:35:42,440 --> 00:35:44,090
Some people will never learn.

601
00:35:44,090 --> 00:35:47,300
Maybe they'll think back,
like those students.

602
00:35:47,300 --> 00:35:48,830
I don't know.

603
00:35:48,830 --> 00:35:50,810
I hope they'll think
back what they have

604
00:35:50,810 --> 00:35:52,265
learned coming to the Museum.

605
00:35:52,265 --> 00:35:55,100

606
00:35:55,100 --> 00:35:58,760
I don't always get that
feeling, but I hope they do.

607
00:35:58,760 --> 00:36:01,630

608

00:36:01,630 --> 00:36:06,550
Maybe when they get
older and read more

609
00:36:06,550 --> 00:36:15,130
about it, that they wake up
and think what they have seen.

610
00:36:15,130 --> 00:36:19,960
Because I have learned,
also, from some of them,

611
00:36:19,960 --> 00:36:24,460
many of the people that
come in, in many places,

612
00:36:24,460 --> 00:36:30,380
that the schools don't
teach the Holocaust.

613
00:36:30,380 --> 00:36:33,110
Not every school
teaches the Holocaust.

614
00:36:33,110 --> 00:36:36,020

615
00:36:36,020 --> 00:36:40,280
People live where
there are no survivors.

616
00:36:40,280 --> 00:36:43,220
I ask them if they have
speakers in their schools.

617
00:36:43,220 --> 00:36:45,230
No, never.

618
00:36:45,230 --> 00:36:57,510
And they have the opportunity
to meet survivors, like I said.

619
00:36:57,510 --> 00:37:00,990

We don't live here
that much longer.

620
00:37:00,990 --> 00:37:01,620
I don't know.

621
00:37:01,620 --> 00:37:04,440
How much do you
think the youngest

622
00:37:04,440 --> 00:37:06,820
survivor is at this point?

623
00:37:06,820 --> 00:37:08,460
I have no idea--

624
00:37:08,460 --> 00:37:09,630
how old they are, I mean.

625
00:37:09,630 --> 00:37:13,480

626
00:37:13,480 --> 00:37:15,070
I know I'm in the middle.

627
00:37:15,070 --> 00:37:17,320
I'm not the oldest, and
I'm not the youngest.

628
00:37:17,320 --> 00:37:23,140
But I just wonder how young
the youngest survivor is.

629
00:37:23,140 --> 00:37:26,530
I would like to know.

630
00:37:26,530 --> 00:37:29,110
But the building
means a lot to me.

631
00:37:29,110 --> 00:37:33,670
The people in the

building mean a lot to me.

632
00:37:33,670 --> 00:37:38,230
Celeste Maier has
been wonderful.

633
00:37:38,230 --> 00:37:40,750
She's a wonderful guide to us.

634
00:37:40,750 --> 00:37:48,940
We need her and Tina is in
charge of our donor desk--

635
00:37:48,940 --> 00:37:57,320
very, very supportive and very
good with us and very nice.

636
00:37:57,320 --> 00:38:11,270

637
00:38:11,270 --> 00:38:13,880
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

638
00:38:13,880 --> 00:38:16,160
Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

639
00:38:16,160 --> 00:38:18,470
interview with Ruth Greifer.

640
00:38:18,470 --> 00:38:22,400
This is tape number 2, side B.

641
00:38:22,400 --> 00:38:27,890
And we were talking about
your work at the Museum.

642
00:38:27,890 --> 00:38:34,760
You did talk before about how
the Museum affected your life.

643

00:38:34,760 --> 00:38:38,930
Has it affected your memories
of what you went through at all?

644
00:38:38,930 --> 00:38:41,960

645
00:38:41,960 --> 00:38:44,000
Well, just entering
the building,

646
00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:46,490
you can never forget
what you went through--

647
00:38:46,490 --> 00:38:50,960
otherwise you wouldn't be there.

648
00:38:50,960 --> 00:38:52,130
No, I can't say that.

649
00:38:52,130 --> 00:38:54,500
There are a lot of volunteers
that are not survivors.

650
00:38:54,500 --> 00:39:01,530

651
00:39:01,530 --> 00:39:03,450
I'm proud.

652
00:39:03,450 --> 00:39:09,210
It gives me such pride
to be at the Museum--

653
00:39:09,210 --> 00:39:18,420
that they accept me to be a
volunteer, to be working there,

654
00:39:18,420 --> 00:39:26,010
and to just be part of
what the Museum stands for.

655

00:39:26,010 --> 00:39:27,405

I'll give you another example.

656

00:39:27,405 --> 00:39:30,040

657

00:39:30,040 --> 00:39:38,040

When Bob Abramowitz and
Jackie North were in charge,

658

00:39:38,040 --> 00:39:49,350

I'll never forget when
I met Mr Spielberg--

659

00:39:49,350 --> 00:39:52,650

when Mrs. Schindler
got her award.

660

00:39:52,650 --> 00:39:55,050

She got a medal.

661

00:39:55,050 --> 00:40:06,590

And Jackie North asking us
to be part of that meeting.

662

00:40:06,590 --> 00:40:08,360

She asked us to help.

663

00:40:08,360 --> 00:40:16,430

Not only did she ask us to help,
but we helped seating people.

664

00:40:16,430 --> 00:40:23,540

And I felt so much part
of what went on that day,

665

00:40:23,540 --> 00:40:26,360

because she included us.

666

00:40:26,360 --> 00:40:30,860

She helped us to not
only participate,

667
00:40:30,860 --> 00:40:36,870
but verify what was going on.

668
00:40:36,870 --> 00:40:40,790
We saw the Spielberg family.

669
00:40:40,790 --> 00:40:45,155
In fact, I spoke with
Mrs. Schindler in German.

670
00:40:45,155 --> 00:40:48,140

671
00:40:48,140 --> 00:40:56,090
It was an absolute
wonderful, wonderful time--

672
00:40:56,090 --> 00:40:57,090
very exciting.

673
00:40:57,090 --> 00:41:02,660

674
00:41:02,660 --> 00:41:04,400
It was unbelievable.

675
00:41:04,400 --> 00:41:10,610
In fact, it excited
me so much that we

676
00:41:10,610 --> 00:41:13,970
were given tickets
for the opening

677
00:41:13,970 --> 00:41:21,260
night to see Schindler's
List-- the movie.

678
00:41:21,260 --> 00:41:24,680
We were asked.

679

00:41:24,680 --> 00:41:29,660

It that included the president
of the United States.

680

00:41:29,660 --> 00:41:38,180

But it affected me so much, that
instead of going to the movies

681

00:41:38,180 --> 00:41:42,710

with the president and
everybody else, I went home.

682

00:41:42,710 --> 00:41:46,010

I just could not go.

683

00:41:46,010 --> 00:41:50,780

I did not have the strength
that night to participate.

684

00:41:50,780 --> 00:41:53,550

I went home.

685

00:41:53,550 --> 00:41:55,750

It was unbelievable.

686

00:41:55,750 --> 00:41:58,330

But I was so involved.

687

00:41:58,330 --> 00:42:02,100

688

00:42:02,100 --> 00:42:05,490

They asked us to help out.

689

00:42:05,490 --> 00:42:07,530

They asked us to be there.

690

00:42:07,530 --> 00:42:10,290

They asked us to join in there.

691

00:42:10,290 --> 00:42:14,650

And it just took
so much out of me.

692
00:42:14,650 --> 00:42:17,730
I think I still
have the tickets.

693
00:42:17,730 --> 00:42:18,808
I just couldn't go.

694
00:42:18,808 --> 00:42:20,850
You're talking about you
didn't have the strength

695
00:42:20,850 --> 00:42:22,160
physically, or emotionally?

696
00:42:22,160 --> 00:42:23,580
Both.

697
00:42:23,580 --> 00:42:24,150
Both.

698
00:42:24,150 --> 00:42:26,670
I just could not go.

699
00:42:26,670 --> 00:42:30,840
And in fact, I never
saw Schindler's List

700
00:42:30,840 --> 00:42:32,430
until about last year.

701
00:42:32,430 --> 00:42:35,580
I think Bernie and I sat
together and watched it

702
00:42:35,580 --> 00:42:36,750
on television.

703
00:42:36,750 --> 00:42:38,700
I just cannot do that.

704
00:42:38,700 --> 00:42:41,880
I cannot see things like that.

705
00:42:41,880 --> 00:42:43,830
And I just could not.

706
00:42:43,830 --> 00:42:49,530
But I was so thrilled that
they asked us to participate

707
00:42:49,530 --> 00:42:51,580
in that momentous event.

708
00:42:51,580 --> 00:42:52,900
And it was wonderful.

709
00:42:52,900 --> 00:42:54,960

710
00:42:54,960 --> 00:42:56,990
The Museum has
done a lot for me.

711
00:42:56,990 --> 00:42:58,050
I've learned a lot.

712
00:42:58,050 --> 00:43:02,390

713
00:43:02,390 --> 00:43:08,990
It's an absolute marvelous
place for me to go.

714
00:43:08,990 --> 00:43:11,840
Love it-- absolutely love it.

715
00:43:11,840 --> 00:43:15,680
And now we have a meeting.

716
00:43:15,680 --> 00:43:22,670

We have a group that meets
every two months with--

717
00:43:22,670 --> 00:43:24,050
what's his name?

718
00:43:24,050 --> 00:43:25,250
Marty Goldman?

719
00:43:25,250 --> 00:43:26,810
With Marty Goldman.

720
00:43:26,810 --> 00:43:27,830
He's wonderful.

721
00:43:27,830 --> 00:43:30,620
He's very understanding.

722
00:43:30,620 --> 00:43:38,120
And it's an eye-opener to
see other people's opinions.

723
00:43:38,120 --> 00:43:39,740
Some I like.

724
00:43:39,740 --> 00:43:43,370
Some I don't like.

725
00:43:43,370 --> 00:43:46,080
I usually do not
say a whole lot.

726
00:43:46,080 --> 00:43:47,660
I like to just listen.

727
00:43:47,660 --> 00:43:52,250

728
00:43:52,250 --> 00:43:57,020
It's good that he is the
right person, absolutely,

729

00:43:57,020 --> 00:43:59,000
to lead us--

730

00:43:59,000 --> 00:44:03,110
and gets us involved.

731

00:44:03,110 --> 00:44:08,040
And I really
enjoyed being there.

732

00:44:08,040 --> 00:44:08,822
[INAUDIBLE]?

733

00:44:08,822 --> 00:44:10,280
In what other ways
are you involved

734

00:44:10,280 --> 00:44:11,560
besides the donor desk?

735

00:44:11,560 --> 00:44:12,920
He said he gets you involved.

736

00:44:12,920 --> 00:44:25,710
Oh, I don't go in
very much otherwise.

737

00:44:25,710 --> 00:44:29,356
I know there are a
lot of good speakers.

738

00:44:29,356 --> 00:44:31,200
There are wonderful concerts.

739

00:44:31,200 --> 00:44:33,750
There are probably plays.

740

00:44:33,750 --> 00:44:38,100
But I don't go in that much.

741

00:44:38,100 --> 00:44:40,110

I'm sitting back, more or less.

742
00:44:40,110 --> 00:44:43,600

743
00:44:43,600 --> 00:44:47,350
I speak sometimes at the Museum.

744
00:44:47,350 --> 00:44:50,350
I'm asked speak at schools.

745
00:44:50,350 --> 00:44:53,125
And that is through
the Speakers Bureau.

746
00:44:53,125 --> 00:44:57,700

747
00:44:57,700 --> 00:45:00,940
Who do you speak
to at the Museum?

748
00:45:00,940 --> 00:45:01,640
What's his name?

749
00:45:01,640 --> 00:45:04,790

750
00:45:04,790 --> 00:45:07,240
I can't remember the names.

751
00:45:07,240 --> 00:45:09,880
Do you speak to school
groups at the Museum?

752
00:45:09,880 --> 00:45:11,870
Yeah, but not very often--

753
00:45:11,870 --> 00:45:13,410
very, very little.

754

00:45:13,410 --> 00:45:17,120
But if they asked
for me, I will speak.

755
00:45:17,120 --> 00:45:26,720
I speak to high schools
here, and I enjoy doing that.

756
00:45:26,720 --> 00:45:35,260
But don't forget, my
background is exciting.

757
00:45:35,260 --> 00:45:37,540
But most of the
times, they do ask

758
00:45:37,540 --> 00:45:40,780
for people that have
through concentration camps.

759
00:45:40,780 --> 00:45:46,060
They ask for people that
have numbers on their arms.

760
00:45:46,060 --> 00:45:49,300
And I understand.

761
00:45:49,300 --> 00:45:53,620
So I sit back.

762
00:45:53,620 --> 00:45:56,690
If people ask for me, fine.

763
00:45:56,690 --> 00:45:58,570
If not, this is fine.

764
00:45:58,570 --> 00:46:01,090

765
00:46:01,090 --> 00:46:08,110
Because like I said, I
came out of it alive.

766
00:46:08,110 --> 00:46:13,250
And if people want to know
how I survived is fine.

767
00:46:13,250 --> 00:46:17,450
And if not, then that's OK too.

768
00:46:17,450 --> 00:46:20,190

769
00:46:20,190 --> 00:46:22,890
If you have friends
who are survivors

770
00:46:22,890 --> 00:46:25,230
and who have not
worked at the Museum,

771
00:46:25,230 --> 00:46:31,470
do you try to get them to
volunteer at the Museum?

772
00:46:31,470 --> 00:46:34,150
I do that.

773
00:46:34,150 --> 00:46:40,920
But most people-- it
takes a certain person

774
00:46:40,920 --> 00:46:45,540
that is not only-- no.

775
00:46:45,540 --> 00:46:47,790
I was going to say it's
interest in the Museum.

776
00:46:47,790 --> 00:46:50,190
Everybody is interested
in the Museum.

777
00:46:50,190 --> 00:46:55,690
But not everybody is a person

that makes a commitment.

778

00:46:55,690 --> 00:46:59,910

And if you want to work
[? aid ?] at the Museum,

779

00:46:59,910 --> 00:47:03,690

you are supposed to make
a commitment of working

780

00:47:03,690 --> 00:47:07,860

at least four hours a week--

781

00:47:07,860 --> 00:47:12,750

or possibly eight
hours every other week.

782

00:47:12,750 --> 00:47:17,610

I find that there are
not that many people that

783

00:47:17,610 --> 00:47:22,860

are willing to make a
definite commitment.

784

00:47:22,860 --> 00:47:27,120

And when I make a
commitment that I'm

785

00:47:27,120 --> 00:47:32,010

going to work there on Monday,
then that is my commitment day.

786

00:47:32,010 --> 00:47:35,850

And there is barely--

787

00:47:35,850 --> 00:47:41,550

I mean, I would say 99%
that I'm going to be there.

788

00:47:41,550 --> 00:47:45,330

A lot of people, I
find, do not have

789
00:47:45,330 --> 00:47:48,510
that feeling of commitment.

790
00:47:48,510 --> 00:47:55,320
And I've asked people, and they
said they would not do that.

791
00:47:55,320 --> 00:48:02,790
I have a lot of friends, but
they are not ready to give up.

792
00:48:02,790 --> 00:48:06,750
And you give up of your time.

793
00:48:06,750 --> 00:48:10,320
And I don't say I give up.

794
00:48:10,320 --> 00:48:12,720
I say, I gain from it.

795
00:48:12,720 --> 00:48:16,530
I stand way above that.

796
00:48:16,530 --> 00:48:21,720
And I really don't
have a personal friend

797
00:48:21,720 --> 00:48:27,630
that I could have convinced
to go and volunteer

798
00:48:27,630 --> 00:48:29,430
for the Museum.

799
00:48:29,430 --> 00:48:36,330
There are some people
that volunteer.

800
00:48:36,330 --> 00:48:40,830
But you have to be very
committed to do that,

801
00:48:40,830 --> 00:48:43,390
to give up of your time.

802
00:48:43,390 --> 00:48:46,230
You're talking about
other friends of yours

803
00:48:46,230 --> 00:48:47,250
who are survivors.

804
00:48:47,250 --> 00:48:48,690
Not survivors.

805
00:48:48,690 --> 00:48:49,190
Cut it.

806
00:48:49,190 --> 00:48:52,990

807
00:48:52,990 --> 00:48:56,410
Was it survivor friends
that you were talking about,

808
00:48:56,410 --> 00:48:59,020
about asking them to
work in the Museum?

809
00:48:59,020 --> 00:49:01,160
No, just friends.

810
00:49:01,160 --> 00:49:07,030
And like I said, you have to
be very committed to do that.

811
00:49:07,030 --> 00:49:12,800
You have to be committed
to give up of your day.

812
00:49:12,800 --> 00:49:18,280
Why would you not ask other
survivor friends to come work?

813
00:49:18,280 --> 00:49:19,945
We don't have any
survivor friends.

814
00:49:19,945 --> 00:49:24,880

815
00:49:24,880 --> 00:49:26,440
I'm married to an American.

816
00:49:26,440 --> 00:49:29,260

817
00:49:29,260 --> 00:49:35,630
Completely, we just don't
have any survivor friends.

818
00:49:35,630 --> 00:49:39,790
I know of some survivors, but
I wouldn't call them friends.

819
00:49:39,790 --> 00:49:45,100
And because most
people that I meet

820
00:49:45,100 --> 00:49:54,480
at the Museum that
belong to the group,

821
00:49:54,480 --> 00:49:57,590
I just met through the group.

822
00:49:57,590 --> 00:50:00,840
Even if they live here in
the area, I didn't know them.

823
00:50:00,840 --> 00:50:08,940

824
00:50:08,940 --> 00:50:09,570
I don't know.

825
00:50:09,570 --> 00:50:12,120

826
00:50:12,120 --> 00:50:18,840
What is your impression of the
Museum's volunteers and staff

827
00:50:18,840 --> 00:50:20,260
who are non-survivors?

828
00:50:20,260 --> 00:50:22,938

829
00:50:22,938 --> 00:50:24,480
And if you want to
make a distinction

830
00:50:24,480 --> 00:50:28,780
between Jewish and
non-Jewish, that's fine.

831
00:50:28,780 --> 00:50:29,280
OK.

832
00:50:29,280 --> 00:50:32,050

833
00:50:32,050 --> 00:50:33,970
Volunteers--

834
00:50:33,970 --> 00:50:35,050
And staff.

835
00:50:35,050 --> 00:50:35,810
--and staff.

836
00:50:35,810 --> 00:50:39,280

837
00:50:39,280 --> 00:50:40,600

Who are non-survivors.

838
00:50:40,600 --> 00:50:43,310
Well, there's pros and cons.

839
00:50:43,310 --> 00:50:46,720
There are people that
are very friendly,

840
00:50:46,720 --> 00:50:51,700
and there are people that walk
by you like you don't exist.

841
00:50:51,700 --> 00:50:56,630

842
00:50:56,630 --> 00:51:00,330
Some of the upper
echelon just whiz by--

843
00:51:00,330 --> 00:51:04,000
even so when they talk to us.

844
00:51:04,000 --> 00:51:07,150
I said, of course,
we have to say hello,

845
00:51:07,150 --> 00:51:09,820
and other people
have to say hello.

846
00:51:09,820 --> 00:51:13,120
They know that most of the
people that sit at the desk

847
00:51:13,120 --> 00:51:15,730
are survivors-- not all.

848
00:51:15,730 --> 00:51:18,890
But not everybody does.

849
00:51:18,890 --> 00:51:21,640

And I take it with
a grain of salt.

850
00:51:21,640 --> 00:51:27,820
Either they are in a hurry,
or they can't be bothered.

851
00:51:27,820 --> 00:51:29,590
And I don't push myself.

852
00:51:29,590 --> 00:51:32,050
If somebody doesn't
want to say hello to me,

853
00:51:32,050 --> 00:51:33,940
I just leave well enough alone.

854
00:51:33,940 --> 00:51:35,020
I'm beyond that.

855
00:51:35,020 --> 00:51:37,180
I'm above that.

856
00:51:37,180 --> 00:51:43,360
But otherwise, the Monday people
that I know are very nice.

857
00:51:43,360 --> 00:51:46,130
Most people are nice--

858
00:51:46,130 --> 00:51:48,340
very kind to say hello.

859
00:51:48,340 --> 00:51:50,770
And if they don't want
to, it doesn't bother me.

860
00:51:50,770 --> 00:51:53,520
I'm still Ruth
Greifer, the survivor.

861
00:51:53,520 --> 00:51:56,690

862

00:51:56,690 --> 00:52:01,130

Are there any other memorable experiences that you've had

863

00:52:01,130 --> 00:52:04,475

while you've been working at the Museum, besides the ones

864

00:52:04,475 --> 00:52:07,590

you've already talked about.

865

00:52:07,590 --> 00:52:13,490

In many cases, we met people from South Africa.

866

00:52:13,490 --> 00:52:17,310

We met Jewish people from Australia.

867

00:52:17,310 --> 00:52:23,510

They are so excited to meet survivors.

868

00:52:23,510 --> 00:52:29,390

And many times they want to have their pictures taken with us.

869

00:52:29,390 --> 00:52:33,230

And in fact, I think I have a letter over there

870

00:52:33,230 --> 00:52:39,500

that they sent back to us-- pictures with us and them.

871

00:52:39,500 --> 00:52:43,340

I guess they don't find that in Australia, or in South Africa.

872

00:52:43,340 --> 00:52:50,540

Yes, nothing really personal.

873

00:52:50,540 --> 00:52:54,090

Because, I tell you
the truth, there

874

00:52:54,090 --> 00:53:01,590

are not that many German Jews
or Dutch Jews that have survived

875

00:53:01,590 --> 00:53:05,660

and that can talk
about my family.

876

00:53:05,660 --> 00:53:14,580

I find very few of those
countries that have survived.

877

00:53:14,580 --> 00:53:20,090

And due to that, I don't
know that many people.

878

00:53:20,090 --> 00:53:29,310

So no, just those few
personal experiences.

879

00:53:29,310 --> 00:53:33,090

For the rest, everybody's
just been wonderful.

880

00:53:33,090 --> 00:53:36,930

Are there any particular
exhibits at the Museum

881

00:53:36,930 --> 00:53:40,350

that you identify with?

882

00:53:40,350 --> 00:53:47,250

Well, I would say number
one would be the Anne Frank

883

00:53:47,250 --> 00:53:48,390

exhibit.

884

00:53:48,390 --> 00:53:55,200

I mean, that is absolutely the number one to my estimation.

885

00:53:55,200 --> 00:53:55,860

I'm sorry.

886

00:53:55,860 --> 00:53:57,570

It's very small.

887

00:53:57,570 --> 00:53:59,570

It's pushed in a corner somewhere.

888

00:53:59,570 --> 00:54:02,400

889

00:54:02,400 --> 00:54:05,892

Some people don't even see it, but that's fine.

890

00:54:05,892 --> 00:54:10,350

I identify-- not with my personal experience.

891

00:54:10,350 --> 00:54:13,870

I identify with the shoes.

892

00:54:13,870 --> 00:54:20,550

I identify because of all the people that we've lost.

893

00:54:20,550 --> 00:54:27,870

I identify with the rusty blue bolts,

894

00:54:27,870 --> 00:54:29,430

or sifts-- whatever it is.

895

00:54:29,430 --> 00:54:31,800

And I asked what they were for.

896

00:54:31,800 --> 00:54:36,690

And they mentioned to me
this was from Auschwitz.

897

00:54:36,690 --> 00:54:41,820

And I said to myself, I'm so
glad that my aunts were gassed

898

00:54:41,820 --> 00:54:44,580

within a few days
of arrival, so they

899

00:54:44,580 --> 00:54:53,540

didn't have to suffer the
filth, the dirt, the thousands

900

00:54:53,540 --> 00:54:58,560

of people that they're with,
knowing what kind of lifestyle

901

00:54:58,560 --> 00:54:59,180

they led.

902

00:54:59,180 --> 00:55:09,450

There let a very pristine,
quiet lifestyle--

903

00:55:09,450 --> 00:55:22,405

lady-like, having friends,
cleanliness, warm, and loving.

904

00:55:22,405 --> 00:55:25,060

905

00:55:25,060 --> 00:55:26,590

What else?

906

00:55:26,590 --> 00:55:34,960

I mean, if I look at all
the things, like pictures,

907

00:55:34,960 --> 00:55:39,640

I can compare some of the girls that I grew up with.

908
00:55:39,640 --> 00:55:45,540
I can compare some of it with eight-year-old Anita

909
00:55:45,540 --> 00:55:52,590
Lichtenstein, who was taken out of her house because she was

910
00:55:52,590 --> 00:55:53,640
Jewish--

911
00:55:53,640 --> 00:55:58,680
beautiful girl, gorgeous girl.

912
00:55:58,680 --> 00:56:04,080
Now the German government in my little town has built a school

913
00:56:04,080 --> 00:56:06,345
and named it Anita.

914
00:56:06,345 --> 00:56:10,310

915
00:56:10,310 --> 00:56:20,540
Yes, I would say going up there and looking, everything--

916
00:56:20,540 --> 00:56:23,180

917
00:56:23,180 --> 00:56:27,580
the [? torn-- ?]
not only everything

918
00:56:27,580 --> 00:56:31,450
that pertains to the concentration camps.

919

00:56:31,450 --> 00:56:36,480
But looking at the Torahs--

920
00:56:36,480 --> 00:56:41,580
the burned Torahs-- our
synagogue in my little town

921
00:56:41,580 --> 00:56:46,770
was set afire and
burned to the ground.

922
00:56:46,770 --> 00:56:51,930
Everything up there
in one way or another,

923
00:56:51,930 --> 00:56:56,340
if it doesn't pertain to me,
it pertains to my friends.

924
00:56:56,340 --> 00:56:58,680
It pertains to my family.

925
00:56:58,680 --> 00:57:01,270
It pertains to my brother.

926
00:57:01,270 --> 00:57:06,740
It pertains to
just being Jewish.

927
00:57:06,740 --> 00:57:11,690
Just having been born
in Germany and had

928
00:57:11,690 --> 00:57:14,210
the German and the
Dutch family, I

929
00:57:14,210 --> 00:57:19,340
would say everything
hits you hard.

930
00:57:19,340 --> 00:57:21,500
You look at these pictures--

931
00:57:21,500 --> 00:57:22,820
just the pictures.

932
00:57:22,820 --> 00:57:25,830
They look like they could
belong to my family.

933
00:57:25,830 --> 00:57:30,460

934
00:57:30,460 --> 00:57:36,100
You go upstairs to
the fourth floor.

935
00:57:36,100 --> 00:57:39,690
You look at the cattle car.

936
00:57:39,690 --> 00:57:41,790
All the family has been in it.

937
00:57:41,790 --> 00:57:45,450
There is not one
thing more or less

938
00:57:45,450 --> 00:57:48,870
that would not
pertain to my family.

939
00:57:48,870 --> 00:57:51,840
If it's not to me--

940
00:57:51,840 --> 00:57:58,140
they're for this body, but it
is for everybody surrounded

941
00:57:58,140 --> 00:58:04,290
that is involved with my
family that reminds me

942
00:58:04,290 --> 00:58:10,470
of everything that is up there.

943
00:58:10,470 --> 00:58:12,720
There is not one
thing that I can

944
00:58:12,720 --> 00:58:20,550
say that did not pertain
to either family, friends,

945
00:58:20,550 --> 00:58:25,410
and all the loved ones.

946
00:58:25,410 --> 00:58:28,910
It's very difficult
to go up there--

947
00:58:28,910 --> 00:58:32,640
very, very hard.

948
00:58:32,640 --> 00:58:43,370
And that's why I wonder
sometimes why I am still here

949
00:58:43,370 --> 00:58:45,200
and what the reason is.

950
00:58:45,200 --> 00:58:47,630
So I have to make
the best of it.

951
00:58:47,630 --> 00:58:50,720
I have to be very positive.

952
00:58:50,720 --> 00:58:53,960
I have to let the world know.

953
00:58:53,960 --> 00:58:58,970
And the demands
they want from me,

954
00:58:58,970 --> 00:59:04,850
I will be glad to participate

at the Museum as much as I can.

955

00:59:04,850 --> 00:59:07,910

956

00:59:07,910 --> 00:59:10,490

I will give the time
as much as I can give,

957

00:59:10,490 --> 00:59:13,320

between Bernie and me.

958

00:59:13,320 --> 00:59:17,900

There might be a time that I
can't give that much anymore.

959

00:59:17,900 --> 00:59:25,610

But it means everything
to Bernie and me.

960

00:59:25,610 --> 00:59:28,460

He doesn't show it.

961

00:59:28,460 --> 00:59:32,600

I'm the one that shows it, but
it means just as much to him

962

00:59:32,600 --> 00:59:35,000

as it does to me.

963

00:59:35,000 --> 00:59:41,210

He's very, very
supportive, whatever I do,

964

00:59:41,210 --> 00:59:43,280

and he wants me to be there.

965

00:59:43,280 --> 00:59:47,440

966

00:59:47,440 --> 00:59:52,020

I mean, going back--

967
00:59:52,020 --> 00:59:54,000
it just brings back everything.

968
00:59:54,000 --> 00:59:56,800
You just can't throw it off.

969
00:59:56,800 --> 01:00:04,420
It's a story that
will never go away.

970
01:00:04,420 --> 01:00:06,300
It hurts.

971
01:00:06,300 --> 01:00:08,970
It hurts.

972
01:00:08,970 --> 01:00:11,550
But I can't make
myself sick about it.

973
01:00:11,550 --> 01:00:24,962
I have to be strong and just
live from day to day and roll

974
01:00:24,962 --> 01:00:25,670
with the punches.

975
01:00:25,670 --> 01:00:28,770

976
01:00:28,770 --> 01:00:29,270
That's it.

977
01:00:29,270 --> 01:00:33,530

978
01:00:33,530 --> 01:00:36,080
Are you a member of
the survivors group

979

01:00:36,080 --> 01:00:37,290
here in Washington?

980
01:00:37,290 --> 01:00:39,180
Yes.

981
01:00:39,180 --> 01:00:41,450
I'm a member of the
Survivors Group,

982
01:00:41,450 --> 01:00:45,500
and I'm a member of
the Generation After--

983
01:00:45,500 --> 01:00:49,460
because my parents
were survivors.

984
01:00:49,460 --> 01:00:52,040
So I belong to both of them.

985
01:00:52,040 --> 01:00:55,250
I have a job.

986
01:00:55,250 --> 01:00:58,640
I'm the head of the
Telephone Committee.

987
01:00:58,640 --> 01:01:02,240
And I have wonderful people.

988
01:01:02,240 --> 01:01:04,340
I make my telephone
calls to them,

989
01:01:04,340 --> 01:01:06,650
and they make their
telephone calls.

990
01:01:06,650 --> 01:01:10,100
And we try to get
as many members

991

01:01:10,100 --> 01:01:12,830
to come to the meetings.

992

01:01:12,830 --> 01:01:16,400
Of course, I got this
through my dear friend

993

01:01:16,400 --> 01:01:19,570
and Amy's mother-in-law--

994

01:01:19,570 --> 01:01:23,630
the most wonderful
person, Nesse Godin.

995

01:01:23,630 --> 01:01:25,130
And I'm grateful for that.

996

01:01:25,130 --> 01:01:28,430

997

01:01:28,430 --> 01:01:35,690
I go to a lot of meetings,
but I have a drawback--

998

01:01:35,690 --> 01:01:37,340
I don't drive at night.

999

01:01:37,340 --> 01:01:40,730
Any meetings that are
at 7 o'clock at night.

1000

01:01:40,730 --> 01:01:43,100
I cannot go.

1001

01:01:43,100 --> 01:01:46,880
Bernie and I will go to the
meetings that are at 3 o'clock.

1002

01:01:46,880 --> 01:01:48,470
We go to brunches.

1003

01:01:48,470 --> 01:01:51,590
We go to meetings that are at
3 o'clock in the afternoon.

1004
01:01:51,590 --> 01:01:55,730
But when it's at 7 o'clock
at night, that's not for me.

1005
01:01:55,730 --> 01:02:00,800
I just don't drive
the highway at night.

1006
01:02:00,800 --> 01:02:03,050
I don't mind driving to
highway during the day.

1007
01:02:03,050 --> 01:02:04,430
That doesn't bother me.

1008
01:02:04,430 --> 01:02:07,580
I drive Beltway, Shirley
Highway-- anything.

1009
01:02:07,580 --> 01:02:09,260
But at night, no.

1010
01:02:09,260 --> 01:02:12,110
Are your children involved
in the Generation After?

1011
01:02:12,110 --> 01:02:13,550
Amy is the only one.

1012
01:02:13,550 --> 01:02:15,050
Yes.

1013
01:02:15,050 --> 01:02:19,490
Amy and Eddie-- in fact,
Eddie is past president

1014
01:02:19,490 --> 01:02:20,600
and so is Amy.

1015

01:02:20,600 --> 01:02:22,460

Amy is a past president.

1016

01:02:22,460 --> 01:02:30,290

And both of them were very active in the Generation After.

1017

01:02:30,290 --> 01:02:33,860

I know that she is not on board anymore,

1018

01:02:33,860 --> 01:02:38,330

but she'll have something else to keep her busy.

1019

01:02:38,330 --> 01:02:40,910

Yes, I think they're wonderful organizations.

1020

01:02:40,910 --> 01:02:41,810

Absolutely.

1021

01:02:41,810 --> 01:02:45,950

1022

01:02:45,950 --> 01:02:48,470

But Bernie and I go to most of the meetings that

1023

01:02:48,470 --> 01:02:49,850

are in the afternoon.

1024

01:02:49,850 --> 01:02:51,140

It's very nice.

1025

01:02:51,140 --> 01:02:53,570

You meet your friends.

1026

01:02:53,570 --> 01:02:55,400

It's always the same group that usually

1027

01:02:55,400 --> 01:02:57,080

comes to these meetings.

1028

01:02:57,080 --> 01:03:00,275

And they have wonderful
speakers and wonderful programs.

1029

01:03:00,275 --> 01:03:06,260

1030

01:03:06,260 --> 01:03:08,540

There's nothing like
this here in Alexandria.

1031

01:03:08,540 --> 01:03:14,000

For anything that like that, we
have to go to Washington, DC,

1032

01:03:14,000 --> 01:03:15,440

to Maryland.

1033

01:03:15,440 --> 01:03:17,610

Are you more comfortable
with these people

1034

01:03:17,610 --> 01:03:21,320

than a group of not survivors?

1035

01:03:21,320 --> 01:03:21,950

No.

1036

01:03:21,950 --> 01:03:26,300

I am not that particular.

1037

01:03:26,300 --> 01:03:29,300

I'm very comfortable
with the survivors,

1038

01:03:29,300 --> 01:03:31,550

and I'm comfortable
with non-survivors.

1039

01:03:31,550 --> 01:03:40,000

1040

01:03:40,000 --> 01:03:42,850

It doesn't bother me.

1041

01:03:42,850 --> 01:03:47,470

I'm very comfortable
being with survivors.

1042

01:03:47,470 --> 01:03:52,610

And I'm easy to get along with.

1043

01:03:52,610 --> 01:03:57,050

You said you've changed
in the last few years,

1044

01:03:57,050 --> 01:03:58,550

since we did our last interview.

1045

01:03:58,550 --> 01:04:00,110

In what way have you changed?

1046

01:04:00,110 --> 01:04:02,240

Well, I think I've grown.

1047

01:04:02,240 --> 01:04:10,690

I think that the Museum has
had a lot of influence on me.

1048

01:04:10,690 --> 01:04:12,700

I'm much more at ease.

1049

01:04:12,700 --> 01:04:15,335

I'm much more at
ease to go and speak.

1050

01:04:15,335 --> 01:04:19,740

1051

01:04:19,740 --> 01:04:27,000

I think that I have grown having been involved with the Museum.

1052
01:04:27,000 --> 01:04:28,470
I really have.

1053
01:04:28,470 --> 01:04:30,480
Why did that do it for you?

1054
01:04:30,480 --> 01:04:31,600
I don't know.

1055
01:04:31,600 --> 01:04:32,250
I don't know.

1056
01:04:32,250 --> 01:04:35,430
I just feel that
I've learned so much.

1057
01:04:35,430 --> 01:04:38,310

1058
01:04:38,310 --> 01:04:42,900
Learned historically,
or emotionally?

1059
01:04:42,900 --> 01:04:48,180
Emotionally, a
lot-- an awful lot.

1060
01:04:48,180 --> 01:04:51,450
Historically, no.

1061
01:04:51,450 --> 01:04:56,280
Yes, I've learned a
lot what happened more

1062
01:04:56,280 --> 01:04:59,640
in detail to other people--

1063
01:04:59,640 --> 01:05:01,180
what happened in the ghettos--

1064
01:05:01,180 --> 01:05:03,840

1065
01:05:03,840 --> 01:05:08,010
yes, more than I ever
would if I wouldn't

1066
01:05:08,010 --> 01:05:10,080
have gone to the Museum.

1067
01:05:10,080 --> 01:05:13,450
Because I still
don't read books.

1068
01:05:13,450 --> 01:05:15,770
No, I don't.

1069
01:05:15,770 --> 01:05:16,520
I can't.

1070
01:05:16,520 --> 01:05:19,220
I absolutely cannot read books.

1071
01:05:19,220 --> 01:05:23,980
And I still don't
watch television

1072
01:05:23,980 --> 01:05:30,790
if there's anything
pertaining to the Holocaust.

1073
01:05:30,790 --> 01:05:33,870
It's still very hard
for me to do that.

1074
01:05:33,870 --> 01:05:36,030
And I'm sorry that
I don't read books.

1075
01:05:36,030 --> 01:05:38,780
I know I miss a whole lot,

but I just cannot do it.

1076

01:05:38,780 --> 01:05:42,490

1077

01:05:42,490 --> 01:05:44,370

I just cannot do it.

1078

01:05:44,370 --> 01:05:47,760

And I don't force
myself, either.

1079

01:05:47,760 --> 01:05:51,000

I know I should, but I'm not.

1080

01:05:51,000 --> 01:05:55,580

So that's the way it is.

1081

01:05:55,580 --> 01:05:56,720

Why do you say you should?

1082

01:05:56,720 --> 01:05:59,585

Here, you yourself have
experienced it firsthand.

1083

01:05:59,585 --> 01:06:08,710

Well, I think that
each book is different,

1084

01:06:08,710 --> 01:06:11,320

and each book has
a different story,

1085

01:06:11,320 --> 01:06:14,050

and each book has a
different history.

1086

01:06:14,050 --> 01:06:16,300

And it wouldn't
hurt me to learn,

1087

01:06:16,300 --> 01:06:17,770

and it wouldn't hurt me to know.

1088

01:06:17,770 --> 01:06:19,840

I just cannot do it.

1089

01:06:19,840 --> 01:06:22,720

And I'm just not forcing myself.

1090

01:06:22,720 --> 01:06:24,370

I know I miss a lot.

1091

01:06:24,370 --> 01:06:27,880

I buy the books from
the book luncheon,

1092

01:06:27,880 --> 01:06:29,278

and I never look at them.

1093

01:06:29,278 --> 01:06:31,900

1094

01:06:31,900 --> 01:06:37,034

And all these books
that I'm exposed to

1095

01:06:37,034 --> 01:06:40,970

are at the bookstore.

1096

01:06:40,970 --> 01:06:44,590

And it's not me--

1097

01:06:44,590 --> 01:06:47,230

absolutely not me.

1098

01:06:47,230 --> 01:06:49,450

Why do you think your
daughter is involved in this,

1099

01:06:49,450 --> 01:06:52,060

or was so strongly involved
in the organization?

1100

01:06:52,060 --> 01:06:55,240

I think it has a lot to
do with having gotten

1101

01:06:55,240 --> 01:06:58,840

married into the Godin family.

1102

01:06:58,840 --> 01:07:06,480

I think that Eddie has
made an impact on Amy--

1103

01:07:06,480 --> 01:07:11,520

not Eddie, but the
whole Godin family.

1104

01:07:11,520 --> 01:07:20,160

And since Amy is also a
daughter of a survivor,

1105

01:07:20,160 --> 01:07:29,700

she feels the same way, and she
felt good about participating--

1106

01:07:29,700 --> 01:07:32,710

and be part of the
Generation After,

1107

01:07:32,710 --> 01:07:41,720

and even becoming a leader
and a president of the group.

1108

01:07:41,720 --> 01:07:44,460

And I'm very proud of her.

1109

01:07:44,460 --> 01:07:47,840

I'm very proud that she
felt that way I felt very

1110

01:07:47,840 --> 01:07:53,210

close to the Generation After--

1111

01:07:53,210 --> 01:08:01,250

and that Amy did
what she liked to do.

1112
01:08:01,250 --> 01:08:07,300
And she felt very close to it.

1113
01:08:07,300 --> 01:08:10,060
Yes, I think that
the Godin family

1114
01:08:10,060 --> 01:08:12,700
made a big impact on her.

1115
01:08:12,700 --> 01:08:16,540
The Godin family has made a big
impact on this family, also.

1116
01:08:16,540 --> 01:08:20,529
If it wouldn't have
been for Nesse,

1117
01:08:20,529 --> 01:08:23,260
I don't think anybody
would have asked me.

1118
01:08:23,260 --> 01:08:25,450
And I didn't even know.

1119
01:08:25,450 --> 01:08:27,790
Look, I live in Alexandria.

1120
01:08:27,790 --> 01:08:31,660
I didn't know about
the Club Shalom.

1121
01:08:31,660 --> 01:08:35,180
Nobody ever told me that
there was a Club Shalom.

1122
01:08:35,180 --> 01:08:38,140
I could have belonged
for many years,

1123

01:08:38,140 --> 01:08:40,210
but nobody told me anything.

1124

01:08:40,210 --> 01:08:45,160
And having lived here in
Virginia, I wasn't aware.

1125

01:08:45,160 --> 01:08:48,520
And even so, maybe
people knew about me.

1126

01:08:48,520 --> 01:08:51,189
Nobody ever asked me to join.

1127

01:08:51,189 --> 01:08:52,819
How did you first hear about it?

1128

01:08:52,819 --> 01:08:54,479
From Nesse.

1129

01:08:54,479 --> 01:08:56,729
How did you first meet her?

1130

01:08:56,729 --> 01:08:57,420
Through Amy.

1131

01:08:57,420 --> 01:09:00,160

1132

01:09:00,160 --> 01:09:05,290
This all began
when Amy met Eddie.

1133

01:09:05,290 --> 01:09:07,540
And that's how we met.

1134

01:09:07,540 --> 01:09:12,399
And if Amy wouldn't have met
Eddie, I probably would never--

1135

01:09:12,399 --> 01:09:14,770

I don't say I would have
never been to the Museum,

1136
01:09:14,770 --> 01:09:18,420
but I don't know who
would have asked me.

1137
01:09:18,420 --> 01:09:22,710
No, this is all through
the Godin family--

1138
01:09:22,710 --> 01:09:26,399
Nesse and Jack and Eddie.

1139
01:09:26,399 --> 01:09:32,460
And if Amy wouldn't have
met Eddie, I don't know.

1140
01:09:32,460 --> 01:09:34,920
This is a big
question mark I have--

1141
01:09:34,920 --> 01:09:37,620
no idea.

1142
01:09:37,620 --> 01:09:40,830
Is there anything else
we haven't covered today?

1143
01:09:40,830 --> 01:09:43,960
I think we've covered
pretty much of my life.

1144
01:09:43,960 --> 01:09:46,020
What do you think?

1145
01:09:46,020 --> 01:09:51,899
I think we haven't left
anything untouched.

1146
01:09:51,899 --> 01:09:59,310
And I have to say that the other
two children are interested,

1147
01:09:59,310 --> 01:10:05,400
but not the way that Amy does.

1148
01:10:05,400 --> 01:10:10,410
Amy has really helped me a lot.

1149
01:10:10,410 --> 01:10:13,408
And so has Nesse.

1150
01:10:13,408 --> 01:10:14,450
Helped you in what sense?

1151
01:10:14,450 --> 01:10:19,470
Well, supportive--
very supportive of me.

1152
01:10:19,470 --> 01:10:24,530

1153
01:10:24,530 --> 01:10:28,190
Supportive of you in dealing
with your [INAUDIBLE]??

1154
01:10:28,190 --> 01:10:31,670
[INAUDIBLE] me and
brought me out--

1155
01:10:31,670 --> 01:10:44,000
like, I've lit the
candles [INAUDIBLE] Shoah.

1156
01:10:44,000 --> 01:10:52,110
I walked down the aisle with Amy
and lit the candles in memory

1157
01:10:52,110 --> 01:10:52,610
of.

1158
01:10:52,610 --> 01:10:56,020

1159

01:10:56,020 --> 01:10:58,660

So all these good
things has happened

1160

01:10:58,660 --> 01:11:01,420

through the Godin family.

1161

01:11:01,420 --> 01:11:06,100

And I really am grateful
for their support

1162

01:11:06,100 --> 01:11:13,400

and helping me becoming
active in something

1163

01:11:13,400 --> 01:11:17,570

that I absolutely
love and need to do.

1164

01:11:17,570 --> 01:11:20,990

1165

01:11:20,990 --> 01:11:22,850

Why do you need to do it?

1166

01:11:22,850 --> 01:11:25,410

To satisfy myself.

1167

01:11:25,410 --> 01:11:33,090

I have to, because I want to
keep all the memories alive--

1168

01:11:33,090 --> 01:11:37,440

not only of my family,
but about the six million.

1169

01:11:37,440 --> 01:11:41,700

1170

01:11:41,700 --> 01:11:47,000

It's very important
to all of us.

1171
01:11:47,000 --> 01:11:51,600

1172
01:11:51,600 --> 01:11:53,345
That's my brother.

1173
01:11:53,345 --> 01:11:54,720
That's a picture
of your brother?

1174
01:11:54,720 --> 01:11:59,770

1175
01:11:59,770 --> 01:12:00,270
Right.

1176
01:12:00,270 --> 01:12:02,960

1177
01:12:02,960 --> 01:12:04,250
How often do you think of him?

1178
01:12:04,250 --> 01:12:07,610

1179
01:12:07,610 --> 01:12:08,750
How can you forget?

1180
01:12:08,750 --> 01:12:12,410

1181
01:12:12,410 --> 01:12:14,040
How can you forget?

1182
01:12:14,040 --> 01:12:17,110
You can't forget.

1183
01:12:17,110 --> 01:12:21,180
Did you find out
what camp he was in?

1184
01:12:21,180 --> 01:12:25,430
Oh, and I had written it down.

1185
01:12:25,430 --> 01:12:25,930
No.

1186
01:12:25,930 --> 01:12:28,150
He probably was in
a small work camp.

1187
01:12:28,150 --> 01:12:32,410

1188
01:12:32,410 --> 01:12:35,270
I have it written
down somewhere.

1189
01:12:35,270 --> 01:12:39,410
But look, he's gone.

1190
01:12:39,410 --> 01:12:44,500
There are no signs
of him anywhere--

1191
01:12:44,500 --> 01:12:45,640
nothing.

1192
01:12:45,640 --> 01:12:48,280
Did you and your sister
talk about him a lot,

1193
01:12:48,280 --> 01:12:50,950
when you first came over?

1194
01:12:50,950 --> 01:12:52,240
Oh, of course.

1195
01:12:52,240 --> 01:12:54,290
Of course.

1196

01:12:54,290 --> 01:12:59,990

My sister, she was
closer to him than me,

1197

01:12:59,990 --> 01:13:03,110

because there were only
three-years difference

1198

01:13:03,110 --> 01:13:06,020

between the two of them.

1199

01:13:06,020 --> 01:13:14,650

But we could not
come to America,

1200

01:13:14,650 --> 01:13:18,070

because we didn't have
any blood relatives.

1201

01:13:18,070 --> 01:13:22,090

So there was just no
way for him to get away.

1202

01:13:22,090 --> 01:13:28,150

And like I said, the
first transport went

1203

01:13:28,150 --> 01:13:32,260

and the second transport went.

1204

01:13:32,260 --> 01:13:34,570

And we had time.

1205

01:13:34,570 --> 01:13:40,940

God give us time to
find places to hide.

1206

01:13:40,940 --> 01:13:44,850

That's all I can tell you.

1207

01:13:44,850 --> 01:13:49,970

What happened to the families
happened to so many of us.

1208
01:13:49,970 --> 01:13:53,060
Families are gone.

1209
01:13:53,060 --> 01:13:54,530
I don't have much family.

1210
01:13:54,530 --> 01:13:58,130
I have-- how many
cousins do I have?

1211
01:13:58,130 --> 01:14:03,790
Two, four-- two, four--

1212
01:14:03,790 --> 01:14:05,750
I think I have
five cousins left.

1213
01:14:05,750 --> 01:14:08,310
That's it.

1214
01:14:08,310 --> 01:14:10,240
That's the rest of the family.

1215
01:14:10,240 --> 01:14:12,900
And we're all getting older.

1216
01:14:12,900 --> 01:14:17,400
My oldest cousin is going to
be 90 in Brazil this month.

1217
01:14:17,400 --> 01:14:19,710
He's the oldest one.

1218
01:14:19,710 --> 01:14:24,510
And once we're gone, the family
is not going to be together.

1219
01:14:24,510 --> 01:14:26,400
Because they speak Portuguese.

1220

01:14:26,400 --> 01:14:28,500
I don't even know
where they live.

1221
01:14:28,500 --> 01:14:31,120
I correspond with them.

1222
01:14:31,120 --> 01:14:35,950
And once we're gone,
it's different.

1223
01:14:35,950 --> 01:14:38,710

1224
01:14:38,710 --> 01:14:42,280
I don't know if they're
interested, or not interested.

1225
01:14:42,280 --> 01:14:45,290
But I have no idea.

1226
01:14:45,290 --> 01:14:46,950
I don't know what's
going to happen.

1227
01:14:46,950 --> 01:14:49,480

1228
01:14:49,480 --> 01:14:53,040
I would say, as long as my
three children get along

1229
01:14:53,040 --> 01:14:58,740
and they love each
other, that's all I want.

1230
01:14:58,740 --> 01:15:00,510
That's all I hope for.

1231
01:15:00,510 --> 01:15:02,770
Wow, that's a beautiful
note to end on.

1232

01:15:02,770 --> 01:15:03,270

Thank you.

1233

01:15:03,270 --> 01:15:05,370

That's a lovely note.

1234

01:15:05,370 --> 01:15:08,910

This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1235

01:15:08,910 --> 01:15:12,060

interview with Ruth Greifer.

1236

01:15:12,060 --> 01:15:13,390

Thank you.

1237

01:15:13,390 --> 01:15:15,520

Thank you for doing
the interview.

1238

01:15:15,520 --> 01:15:17,300

Thank you.

1239

01:15:17,300 --> 01:15:19,000