

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,020

2
00:00:05,020 --> 00:00:07,840
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:07,840 --> 00:00:12,220
volunteer collection interview
with Nesse Godin, conducted

4
00:00:12,220 --> 00:00:16,630
by Gail Schwartz
on July 6, 1998,

5
00:00:16,630 --> 00:00:19,440
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

6
00:00:19,440 --> 00:00:22,560
This interview is part
of the museum's project

7
00:00:22,560 --> 00:00:27,270
to interview Holocaust survivors
and witnesses who are also

8
00:00:27,270 --> 00:00:30,670
volunteers with the museum.

9
00:00:30,670 --> 00:00:32,520
This is a follow-up
interview that

10
00:00:32,520 --> 00:00:37,460
will focus on Nesse Godin's
post-Holocaust experience.

11
00:00:37,460 --> 00:00:40,250
In preparation for
this interview,

12

00:00:40,250 --> 00:00:45,410
I read the transcript of the
post-Holocaust audio interview

13
00:00:45,410 --> 00:00:48,680
you conducted for the United
States Holocaust Memorial

14
00:00:48,680 --> 00:00:53,360
Museum on December
14, 1995, and have

15
00:00:53,360 --> 00:00:56,990
read the summaries of the
audio interview you conducted

16
00:00:56,990 --> 00:01:00,500
for the Jewish Community
Council of Greater Washington

17
00:01:00,500 --> 00:01:06,080
on February 27, 1985, and for
the United States Holocaust

18
00:01:06,080 --> 00:01:12,920
Memorial Museum video
interview on May 8, 1988.

19
00:01:12,920 --> 00:01:15,440
I will not ask you
to repeat everything

20
00:01:15,440 --> 00:01:17,750
you said in this interview.

21
00:01:17,750 --> 00:01:19,880
Instead, I will
use this interview

22
00:01:19,880 --> 00:01:23,960
as an opportunity to follow
up on those interviews

23

00:01:23,960 --> 00:01:28,650
and to focus on your
post-Holocaust experiences.

24
00:01:28,650 --> 00:01:36,330
This is tape number one, side
A. What is your full name?

25
00:01:36,330 --> 00:01:38,100
Nesse Godin.

26
00:01:38,100 --> 00:01:41,280
And where were you born
and when were you born?

27
00:01:41,280 --> 00:01:43,470
My maiden name was Galperin.

28
00:01:43,470 --> 00:01:49,740
I was born in Siauliai,
Lithuania, March 28, 1928.

29
00:01:49,740 --> 00:01:52,980
As I said, you've been
interviewed extensively.

30
00:01:52,980 --> 00:01:55,890
But just to put this
interview into a framework,

31
00:01:55,890 --> 00:01:59,130
let's summarize where
you were during the war.

32
00:01:59,130 --> 00:02:03,880
The Russians occupied
Lithuania in June of 1940.

33
00:02:03,880 --> 00:02:10,590
The Germans invaded June 22,
1941 and Siauliai June 23.

34
00:02:10,590 --> 00:02:12,060

Two ghettos were set up.

35

00:02:12,060 --> 00:02:16,290

And by the end of 1942,
there was a single ghetto.

36

00:02:16,290 --> 00:02:21,120

Your father was taken
away November 5, 1943.

37

00:02:21,120 --> 00:02:26,160

And in the spring of 1944, you,
your mother, and older brother

38

00:02:26,160 --> 00:02:29,970

were taken to Stutthof,
where you were separated.

39

00:02:29,970 --> 00:02:34,980

You then went to [? Durbeck ?]
and then later to Malken.

40

00:02:34,980 --> 00:02:38,550

Then you went on a
death march to Praust.

41

00:02:38,550 --> 00:02:44,520

And you were liberated
at Chinow March 10, 1945,

42

00:02:44,520 --> 00:02:45,720

by the Russians.

43

00:02:45,720 --> 00:02:48,180

Can I do a few
corrections on it?

44

00:02:48,180 --> 00:02:48,760

Absolutely.

45

00:02:48,760 --> 00:02:49,260

Yeah.

46

00:02:49,260 --> 00:02:52,680

My father was taken with
the children selection

47

00:02:52,680 --> 00:02:56,610

to Auschwitz November 5, 1943.

48

00:02:56,610 --> 00:02:59,940

Also when we were taken
on the death march,

49

00:02:59,940 --> 00:03:03,810

we stopped in the middle
in Proust for a few days

50

00:03:03,810 --> 00:03:09,320

and continued the death march
until we came to Chinow where

51

00:03:09,320 --> 00:03:13,320

we set up in a barn
for a few weeks

52

00:03:13,320 --> 00:03:15,750

and that's where
we were liberated.

53

00:03:15,750 --> 00:03:16,620

Thank you.

54

00:03:16,620 --> 00:03:19,440

I just also want to
clarify a few other points

55

00:03:19,440 --> 00:03:24,090

before we continued on to your
post-Holocaust experiences.

56

00:03:24,090 --> 00:03:26,730

How would you describe
yourself as a child

57

00:03:26,730 --> 00:03:28,140
before the war began?

58
00:03:28,140 --> 00:03:31,290
Were you very independent?

59
00:03:31,290 --> 00:03:33,720
I was not independent at all.

60
00:03:33,720 --> 00:03:37,560
I was a spoiled,
sickly little child

61
00:03:37,560 --> 00:03:42,990
that had always got a
cold, always was pampered,

62
00:03:42,990 --> 00:03:45,120
never wanted to eat.

63
00:03:45,120 --> 00:03:49,240
I was definitely
not independent.

64
00:03:49,240 --> 00:03:52,840
Did you have a close
relationship with your parents?

65
00:03:52,840 --> 00:03:56,380
I tell you, my parents were
always in the business.

66
00:03:56,380 --> 00:04:01,630
I had a closer relationship with
my nanny than with my parents--

67
00:04:01,630 --> 00:04:03,970
although I loved my
parents very much.

68
00:04:03,970 --> 00:04:08,200
But because they were business
people and in food business,

69

00:04:08,200 --> 00:04:10,420

I didn't see them that much.

70

00:04:10,420 --> 00:04:12,670

Did you like being by
yourself, or did you always

71

00:04:12,670 --> 00:04:14,440

want to be surrounded
with other people?

72

00:04:14,440 --> 00:04:20,660

I was always surrounded with
my friends and my brothers.

73

00:04:20,660 --> 00:04:24,370

Did you have any
favorite childhood songs?

74

00:04:24,370 --> 00:04:29,220

I participated in school plays.

75

00:04:29,220 --> 00:04:32,570

So I definitely had
a childhood song.

76

00:04:32,570 --> 00:04:35,170

Is there any particular one
that you remember that you like?

77

00:04:35,170 --> 00:04:38,380

Well, all kinds of Hebrew songs.

78

00:04:38,380 --> 00:04:42,485

Always loved the song
about the Kinneret and--

79

00:04:42,485 --> 00:04:43,610

Can you sing a few phrases?

80

00:04:43,610 --> 00:04:44,870

No, I'm not a singer.

81

00:04:44,870 --> 00:04:47,840

I'm a talker, but I don't sing.

82

00:04:47,840 --> 00:04:50,450

Did you have a favorite holiday?

83

00:04:50,450 --> 00:04:53,000

My holidays were
always favorite.

84

00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:57,410

But the most favorite
were Hanukkah and Pesach.

85

00:04:57,410 --> 00:05:03,080

Hanukkah, because all got
Hanukkah gelt. In Europe, you

86

00:05:03,080 --> 00:05:04,130

didn't buy presents.

87

00:05:04,130 --> 00:05:05,690

You were getting money.

88

00:05:05,690 --> 00:05:07,010

So I liked that.

89

00:05:07,010 --> 00:05:09,980

And on Passover, because
my birthday was always

90

00:05:09,980 --> 00:05:14,870

close to Passover, we always
celebrated it on Passover

91

00:05:14,870 --> 00:05:19,290

when my parents were
home, when we had time.

92

00:05:19,290 --> 00:05:22,310

As I said, we're just clarifying some points now.

93
00:05:22,310 --> 00:05:25,970

94
00:05:25,970 --> 00:05:27,920
When the war had started, you said

95
00:05:27,920 --> 00:05:29,480
your family, in a previous interview,

96
00:05:29,480 --> 00:05:32,480
had gotten certificates to go into the ghetto.

97
00:05:32,480 --> 00:05:36,110
How did your family specifically get those certificates?

98
00:05:36,110 --> 00:05:40,580
You see, my dear, this is the problem with interviewers

99
00:05:40,580 --> 00:05:42,410
and interviewing.

100
00:05:42,410 --> 00:05:47,450
Each town, each place had a different system.

101
00:05:47,450 --> 00:05:53,540
In Siauliai, every family had to get a certificate.

102
00:05:53,540 --> 00:05:55,550
It was done very orderly.

103
00:05:55,550 --> 00:05:58,580
On every interview, I said it clearly.

104
00:05:58,580 --> 00:06:01,940
Special Commission
came to your home

105
00:06:01,940 --> 00:06:05,570
and assigned you a
place in the ghetto.

106
00:06:05,570 --> 00:06:11,420
My dad signed certificate
just for adult and healthy.

107
00:06:11,420 --> 00:06:16,130
In order for a kid to go
into the ghetto or an elderly

108
00:06:16,130 --> 00:06:19,970
or a sick, you had
to bribe somebody

109
00:06:19,970 --> 00:06:23,720
or somehow sneak them
in into the ghetto.

110
00:06:23,720 --> 00:06:27,860
Now you may wonder,
why would anybody

111
00:06:27,860 --> 00:06:33,380
want to sneak elderly, sick into
a ghetto that's like a jail?

112
00:06:33,380 --> 00:06:36,980
In my testimony each
time, it tells you.

113
00:06:36,980 --> 00:06:40,880
The ones that did not
get into the ghetto

114
00:06:40,880 --> 00:06:46,790
were killed in one night

in a forest off Zager--

115
00:06:46,790 --> 00:06:49,543
not Zaga, but Zager.

116
00:06:49,543 --> 00:06:50,460
How do you spell that?

117
00:06:50,460 --> 00:06:57,500
Z-A-G-E-R. In Lithuanian,
"zhah-gah-ri."

118
00:06:57,500 --> 00:07:08,350
Z-A-G-A-R-I-A-I. And on the Z,
a little head which pronounce it

119
00:07:08,350 --> 00:07:10,600
to "zh," "zh-ah-gah-ri."

120
00:07:10,600 --> 00:07:13,600

121
00:07:13,600 --> 00:07:14,100
OK.

122
00:07:14,100 --> 00:07:18,460
You had mentioned before
that you were a sickly child.

123
00:07:18,460 --> 00:07:20,160
What exactly were your problems?

124
00:07:20,160 --> 00:07:22,080
Well, I didn't
have any problems.

125
00:07:22,080 --> 00:07:25,200
I just was spoiled and
didn't want to school.

126
00:07:25,200 --> 00:07:27,147
So I had a cold,

so I stayed home.

127
00:07:27,147 --> 00:07:31,980
I wasn't sickly, but I was
always spoiled, always--

128
00:07:31,980 --> 00:07:35,310
but the word
kvetching in Yiddish--

129
00:07:35,310 --> 00:07:37,650
always complaining,
this hurts me.

130
00:07:37,650 --> 00:07:39,190
That hurts me.

131
00:07:39,190 --> 00:07:40,380
I didn't want to eat.

132
00:07:40,380 --> 00:07:41,190
I was spoiled.

133
00:07:41,190 --> 00:07:42,090
That's it.

134
00:07:42,090 --> 00:07:43,960
Why didn't you like school?

135
00:07:43,960 --> 00:07:47,610
I loved school, but I
wanted to be pampered.

136
00:07:47,610 --> 00:07:48,640
I loved school.

137
00:07:48,640 --> 00:07:52,050
I was very good in school.

138
00:07:52,050 --> 00:07:53,670
And to move a little
farther forward,

139
00:07:53,670 --> 00:07:57,960
you said your father
was also taken away

140
00:07:57,960 --> 00:07:59,820
at the time of the
children selection

141
00:07:59,820 --> 00:08:02,400
because he was not at
work that particular day.

142
00:08:02,400 --> 00:08:03,270
Correct.

143
00:08:03,270 --> 00:08:08,190
Did you lose any friends of your
own in that children selection?

144
00:08:08,190 --> 00:08:09,090
I tell you.

145
00:08:09,090 --> 00:08:13,230
When the children
selection in 1943,

146
00:08:13,230 --> 00:08:16,530
I was 15-and-a-half-years old.

147
00:08:16,530 --> 00:08:20,820
All the children that
were taken was from birth

148
00:08:20,820 --> 00:08:23,070
to the age of 14.

149
00:08:23,070 --> 00:08:28,770
So my particular age, friends,
did not go in that selection.

150
00:08:28,770 --> 00:08:32,580

They were killed before, before
going into the ghetto, many

151
00:08:32,580 --> 00:08:35,490
of them in other selections.

152
00:08:35,490 --> 00:08:41,809
But in that particular
selection, just elderly, sick,

153
00:08:41,809 --> 00:08:45,080
children, and some
healthy and strong,

154
00:08:45,080 --> 00:08:51,650
including a few men from
our Jewish council--

155
00:08:51,650 --> 00:08:54,200
the Judenrat, as
you would call it--

156
00:08:54,200 --> 00:08:57,520
were taken with that group.

157
00:08:57,520 --> 00:09:00,652
So my personal friends, not.

158
00:09:00,652 --> 00:09:02,860
Did you know any of the
children who were taken away?

159
00:09:02,860 --> 00:09:04,630
Many of the children--

160
00:09:04,630 --> 00:09:08,260
my friends' sisters
and brothers,

161
00:09:08,260 --> 00:09:10,880
my neighbors' children--

162

00:09:10,880 --> 00:09:12,550
many children, sure.

163
00:09:12,550 --> 00:09:17,920
Especially when you grow up and
you live in the same community

164
00:09:17,920 --> 00:09:20,530
and you go to the
same school, you

165
00:09:20,530 --> 00:09:23,710
know kids that are few
years younger than you.

166
00:09:23,710 --> 00:09:26,710
If you also visit
your friend and you

167
00:09:26,710 --> 00:09:31,930
see their sisters and their
brothers, definitely you know.

168
00:09:31,930 --> 00:09:34,860
Did you talk this loss
over with your mother?

169
00:09:34,860 --> 00:09:38,430

170
00:09:38,430 --> 00:09:43,740
I really mourned
very much that loss.

171
00:09:43,740 --> 00:09:46,200
But we had a personal loss--

172
00:09:46,200 --> 00:09:47,490
my father.

173
00:09:47,490 --> 00:09:51,960
So when you have
your personal loss,

174
00:09:51,960 --> 00:09:56,370
the next door neighbor may
have lost two children,

175
00:09:56,370 --> 00:10:00,330
but you worry about
your own, number one.

176
00:10:00,330 --> 00:10:03,180
Then you look around
and you see adults

177
00:10:03,180 --> 00:10:05,900
were gone, not just
with my mother--

178
00:10:05,900 --> 00:10:13,490
our whole family, my brothers,
my uncles, my friends.

179
00:10:13,490 --> 00:10:17,390
Definitely, I talked
to them about it.

180
00:10:17,390 --> 00:10:20,630
Did your mother say anything
especially comforting to you

181
00:10:20,630 --> 00:10:22,070
when your father left?

182
00:10:22,070 --> 00:10:24,380
Which my father didn't leave.

183
00:10:24,380 --> 00:10:26,570
He was taken.

184
00:10:26,570 --> 00:10:27,320
Excuse me.

185
00:10:27,320 --> 00:10:29,960

You're correct.

186
00:10:29,960 --> 00:10:30,770
I tell you.

187
00:10:30,770 --> 00:10:35,430
I had many comforting
words for my brothers.

188
00:10:35,430 --> 00:10:38,900
I'll never forget my
older brother said to me,

189
00:10:38,900 --> 00:10:41,390
I'll be like a father
to you, because he

190
00:10:41,390 --> 00:10:43,250
was seven years older.

191
00:10:43,250 --> 00:10:48,800
My mom, she was so in
mourning for my father.

192
00:10:48,800 --> 00:10:53,870
We, the children, really
comforted her more than she did

193
00:10:53,870 --> 00:10:54,520
to us.

194
00:10:54,520 --> 00:10:58,200

195
00:10:58,200 --> 00:11:00,440
Were you very religious--

196
00:11:00,440 --> 00:11:03,520

197
00:11:03,520 --> 00:11:04,990
well, what I want

to say is, what

198
00:11:04,990 --> 00:11:08,260
were your thoughts about
a God at this time that

199
00:11:08,260 --> 00:11:09,820
does something so devastating?

200
00:11:09,820 --> 00:11:11,830
Again, I have been
friends with you.

201
00:11:11,830 --> 00:11:14,170
You know me well,
and I know you well.

202
00:11:14,170 --> 00:11:17,830
And forgive me for
correcting you for things.

203
00:11:17,830 --> 00:11:19,810
What is religious?

204
00:11:19,810 --> 00:11:26,510
Religious is how you observe
it or how you live your life.

205
00:11:26,510 --> 00:11:29,230
To me, religious,
as a child, my mom

206
00:11:29,230 --> 00:11:33,430
taught me that the most
higher power of religion

207
00:11:33,430 --> 00:11:38,200
is to observe Ten Commandments,
take care of the poor,

208
00:11:38,200 --> 00:11:42,280
take care of the widow and
take care of the orphan.

209
00:11:42,280 --> 00:11:45,880
Naturally, we observed kosher.

210
00:11:45,880 --> 00:11:48,910
We went on Shabbat to synagogue.

211
00:11:48,910 --> 00:11:53,200
And because I went to
a Hebrew day school,

212
00:11:53,200 --> 00:11:57,160
we were taught Psalms,
part of our education.

213
00:11:57,160 --> 00:12:03,630
And I'll never forget there
is a Psalm 118 that it says,

214
00:12:03,630 --> 00:12:05,160
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

215
00:12:05,160 --> 00:12:12,450

216
00:12:12,450 --> 00:12:16,650
The heavens are for the God
and the heavenly bodies.

217
00:12:16,650 --> 00:12:20,730
And the Earth, God gave
to us human beings.

218
00:12:20,730 --> 00:12:25,170
And it's we, the people,
that do it to each other.

219
00:12:25,170 --> 00:12:27,120
Don't blame it on God.

220
00:12:27,120 --> 00:12:33,640
God gave us power to make

a decision, to be good

221
00:12:33,640 --> 00:12:39,420
and to be bad, to be
kind and to be nasty.

222
00:12:39,420 --> 00:12:41,810
So we didn't blame God at all.

223
00:12:41,810 --> 00:12:45,820

224
00:12:45,820 --> 00:12:48,640
What language did
you speak at home?

225
00:12:48,640 --> 00:12:51,490
In the house, we spoke Yiddish.

226
00:12:51,490 --> 00:12:54,430
With the nanny, I
spoke Lithuanian.

227
00:12:54,430 --> 00:12:56,920
In school, I spoke Hebrew.

228
00:12:56,920 --> 00:13:00,430
So as a child, I
spoke three languages

229
00:13:00,430 --> 00:13:04,810
and later learned many more.

230
00:13:04,810 --> 00:13:11,110
In the ghetto, were you aware--
of course, you were a teenager.

231
00:13:11,110 --> 00:13:14,680
Were you aware of any of
the Zionist youth movements

232
00:13:14,680 --> 00:13:16,970

or the underground
newspapers that were there?

233

00:13:16,970 --> 00:13:22,360

I was very much aware because of
having the two older brothers.

234

00:13:22,360 --> 00:13:27,220

One of my brothers, when
the Nazis took over, was 18.

235

00:13:27,220 --> 00:13:29,860

The other one was 20.

236

00:13:29,860 --> 00:13:33,160

Now they have been involved
in Zionist organizations

237

00:13:33,160 --> 00:13:38,800

before the war, and they were
involved in this underground

238

00:13:38,800 --> 00:13:40,360

in the ghetto.

239

00:13:40,360 --> 00:13:47,300

Now at the age of 14, I became
so quickly an adult from

240

00:13:47,300 --> 00:13:51,500

a temperate little girl
that you cannot imagine.

241

00:13:51,500 --> 00:13:54,260

There were times
when my brothers were

242

00:13:54,260 --> 00:13:56,420

afraid to go give a message.

243

00:13:56,420 --> 00:13:59,960

I was the one that had
to go to a friend's house

244
00:13:59,960 --> 00:14:01,730
and bring a message.

245
00:14:01,730 --> 00:14:06,480
I did a lot of responsible
things at the age of 14.

246
00:14:06,480 --> 00:14:10,400
So in the ghetto, we the
kids grew up in a hurry.

247
00:14:10,400 --> 00:14:12,560
We became adults overnight.

248
00:14:12,560 --> 00:14:17,970

249
00:14:17,970 --> 00:14:20,010
Were you physically
mature at that time,

250
00:14:20,010 --> 00:14:22,230
or did you still look
like a little girl?

251
00:14:22,230 --> 00:14:25,320
I was not physically mature.

252
00:14:25,320 --> 00:14:28,710
I never got my period
before the war.

253
00:14:28,710 --> 00:14:31,140
I didn't get it during the war.

254
00:14:31,140 --> 00:14:33,270
I didn't develop at all.

255
00:14:33,270 --> 00:14:37,430
And that was very bad because
I looked younger than my age.

256
00:14:37,430 --> 00:14:40,760

257
00:14:40,760 --> 00:14:43,400
When you were in
Stutthof, you said

258
00:14:43,400 --> 00:14:46,172
you were kind to the
old ladies in the camp.

259
00:14:46,172 --> 00:14:48,005
You had said that in
one of your interviews.

260
00:14:48,005 --> 00:14:51,290
They were kind to me,
not I was kind to them.

261
00:14:51,290 --> 00:14:58,320
My interview states that
women were kind to me.

262
00:14:58,320 --> 00:15:03,110
I survived the Holocaust
because of the Lord above

263
00:15:03,110 --> 00:15:08,000
and the kindness
of Jewish women.

264
00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:11,810
And you do go into detail in
previous interviews in that.

265
00:15:11,810 --> 00:15:14,330
Were your guards at
Stutthof women or men?

266
00:15:14,330 --> 00:15:18,770

267

00:15:18,770 --> 00:15:20,710

There were different guards.

268

00:15:20,710 --> 00:15:23,710

Outside were the Nazis.

269

00:15:23,710 --> 00:15:27,700

Inside there was Polish
criminals called kapos.

270

00:15:27,700 --> 00:15:31,270

In the women's barracks,
we had women guards

271

00:15:31,270 --> 00:15:34,570

that were also Polish
or Ukrainian women

272

00:15:34,570 --> 00:15:36,850

because they spoke--

273

00:15:36,850 --> 00:15:39,685

I could hear Polish
or Ukrainian,

274

00:15:39,685 --> 00:15:40,810

so we had different guards.

275

00:15:40,810 --> 00:15:43,100

But you couldn't understand--
could you understand?

276

00:15:43,100 --> 00:15:46,100

Well, I learned the year
that the Russians were here,

277

00:15:46,100 --> 00:15:47,770

and I learned Russian.

278

00:15:47,770 --> 00:15:51,550

So it was very easy to
understand from Russian

279
00:15:51,550 --> 00:15:55,590
to Polish and Ukrainian.

280
00:15:55,590 --> 00:15:58,410
When you were separated
from your mother,

281
00:15:58,410 --> 00:16:02,520
were you able to say anything
before that separation to her?

282
00:16:02,520 --> 00:16:05,290
Or did you realize what
the separation meant?

283
00:16:05,290 --> 00:16:05,790
No.

284
00:16:05,790 --> 00:16:08,910
We didn't know how to say
anything to each other.

285
00:16:08,910 --> 00:16:12,570
But before we were
separated with my brother,

286
00:16:12,570 --> 00:16:15,660
then we were brought
in to Stutthof.

287
00:16:15,660 --> 00:16:20,580
And we were put in a big area
where there was nothing but--

288
00:16:20,580 --> 00:16:22,770
like sandy area.

289
00:16:22,770 --> 00:16:24,060
And we sat there.

290
00:16:24,060 --> 00:16:28,440

And people said to
bury their valuables

291
00:16:28,440 --> 00:16:30,390
so the Nazis wouldn't have it.

292
00:16:30,390 --> 00:16:34,620
The last thing my brother
said was, in case we

293
00:16:34,620 --> 00:16:37,440
survive the Holocaust--

294
00:16:37,440 --> 00:16:39,330
we didn't call it
Holocaust then.

295
00:16:39,330 --> 00:16:41,440
We call it this hell--

296
00:16:41,440 --> 00:16:46,590
we should try to
reunite in Lithuania.

297
00:16:46,590 --> 00:16:52,180
And after we were picked
up from that area--

298
00:16:52,180 --> 00:16:54,620
the next thing we knew,
one went to the right.

299
00:16:54,620 --> 00:16:56,140
The other one went to the left.

300
00:16:56,140 --> 00:16:57,490
I went in the middle.

301
00:16:57,490 --> 00:17:01,030
My brother was sent one
way, my mom another way.

302

00:17:01,030 --> 00:17:02,590
And they just extinct.

303
00:17:02,590 --> 00:17:05,470
There I was, all alone.

304
00:17:05,470 --> 00:17:08,130
So you didn't have a
chance to say much.

305
00:17:08,130 --> 00:17:10,500
It isn't that the Nazis say, OK.

306
00:17:10,500 --> 00:17:12,656
Say your goodbyes.

307
00:17:12,656 --> 00:17:14,069
It didn't work that way.

308
00:17:14,069 --> 00:17:16,619

309
00:17:16,619 --> 00:17:22,180
At the time of liberation--
which was March 10, 1945,

310
00:17:22,180 --> 00:17:25,280
by the Russians--

311
00:17:25,280 --> 00:17:27,180
you were 17.

312
00:17:27,180 --> 00:17:27,680
Did you--

313
00:17:27,680 --> 00:17:28,490
I was just 17.

314
00:17:28,490 --> 00:17:30,890
Did you feel 17?

315

00:17:30,890 --> 00:17:31,520
No.

316
00:17:31,520 --> 00:17:34,460
I felt like 79.

317
00:17:34,460 --> 00:17:38,690
I was a bundle of bones,
lived through four years

318
00:17:38,690 --> 00:17:47,040
of suffering and pain
all alone, the body

319
00:17:47,040 --> 00:17:53,690
abused from torture and
hunger, the mind abused.

320
00:17:53,690 --> 00:17:56,495
I was like a old little lady.

321
00:17:56,495 --> 00:18:00,110

322
00:18:00,110 --> 00:18:07,260
When you were liberated,
did you feel liberated?

323
00:18:07,260 --> 00:18:13,020
I believe that I gave this
testimony of liberators.

324
00:18:13,020 --> 00:18:17,520
You see, even then,
when the Russians came,

325
00:18:17,520 --> 00:18:20,580
they told us that they
are fighting the war

326
00:18:20,580 --> 00:18:22,740
and they found us there.

327

00:18:22,740 --> 00:18:28,410

They didn't tell us that some
army sent them to liberate us.

328

00:18:28,410 --> 00:18:31,220

So we were free.

329

00:18:31,220 --> 00:18:35,660

Now, once we were
free, where do you go?

330

00:18:35,660 --> 00:18:37,980

What do you do?

331

00:18:37,980 --> 00:18:40,350

I remember the
night of liberation.

332

00:18:40,350 --> 00:18:43,530

And I believe it's in
my testimony somewhere.

333

00:18:43,530 --> 00:18:45,420

Peoples are dancing.

334

00:18:45,420 --> 00:18:47,310

Peoples are jumping.

335

00:18:47,310 --> 00:18:49,560

Peoples are kissing
the Russians.

336

00:18:49,560 --> 00:18:52,620

Peoples are kissing their
hands and their feet.

337

00:18:52,620 --> 00:19:01,460

I was crying because until then,
I try to survive day by day.

338

00:19:01,460 --> 00:19:02,470

It was survival.

339

00:19:02,470 --> 00:19:04,650
Where do I get a piece of bread?

340

00:19:04,650 --> 00:19:06,900
How do I live a extra today?

341

00:19:06,900 --> 00:19:12,360
But once I was free, I
felt very sorry for myself.

342

00:19:12,360 --> 00:19:13,630
What do I do?

343

00:19:13,630 --> 00:19:17,026
Where do I go,
now that I'm free?

344

00:19:17,026 --> 00:19:19,480
So that was my liberation.

345

00:19:19,480 --> 00:19:24,340
Did you have any inside feelings
for retaliation at that time?

346

00:19:24,340 --> 00:19:28,930
Honey, at that point, you
didn't think of retaliation.

347

00:19:28,930 --> 00:19:34,030
If somebody tells you
they wanted to retaliate,

348

00:19:34,030 --> 00:19:35,710
we were bones and skin.

349

00:19:35,710 --> 00:19:37,450
Who could we retaliate?

350

00:19:37,450 --> 00:19:42,010
The Nazis, first of all,
they run away, the guards,

351
00:19:42,010 --> 00:19:43,600
and they left us there.

352
00:19:43,600 --> 00:19:47,620
Second-- and also, I'm sure
I described that incident

353
00:19:47,620 --> 00:19:49,060
in my testimony.

354
00:19:49,060 --> 00:19:51,100
But how could you retaliate?

355
00:19:51,100 --> 00:19:54,610
Here and there you
find immense camps

356
00:19:54,610 --> 00:19:58,240
where some prisoners,
two or three of them,

357
00:19:58,240 --> 00:20:00,580
jumped on the Nazi
and killed him.

358
00:20:00,580 --> 00:20:04,240
But in women's camps, I
don't think you find it.

359
00:20:04,240 --> 00:20:08,310

360
00:20:08,310 --> 00:20:09,360
It was interesting.

361
00:20:09,360 --> 00:20:13,140
You said two different
things in your interviews.

362
00:20:13,140 --> 00:20:16,200
One, you were in

such a weakened state

363
00:20:16,200 --> 00:20:19,410
that you felt death
was welcome but none--

364
00:20:19,410 --> 00:20:20,780
Not after liberation.

365
00:20:20,780 --> 00:20:23,090
Before liberation.

366
00:20:23,090 --> 00:20:27,560
You see, in my interview
there was a time just

367
00:20:27,560 --> 00:20:32,150
before liberation where I
prayed every day to the Lord

368
00:20:32,150 --> 00:20:35,540
to let me live through a day
and sleep through a night.

369
00:20:35,540 --> 00:20:39,050
But it came a time
when I was praying

370
00:20:39,050 --> 00:20:42,020
to be on top of this
mountain of bodies.

371
00:20:42,020 --> 00:20:46,040
I was tired of living
and tired of existing.

372
00:20:46,040 --> 00:20:49,100
You see, my dear,
we in that barn

373
00:20:49,100 --> 00:20:52,430
did not know that
the war is ending.

374
00:20:52,430 --> 00:20:55,490
We did not know that
there was Allied forces.

375
00:20:55,490 --> 00:20:57,950
We didn't know
what was going on.

376
00:20:57,950 --> 00:21:00,890
We thought this will never end.

377
00:21:00,890 --> 00:21:04,980
And that is when I
wished I would be dead.

378
00:21:04,980 --> 00:21:09,620
So the testimony that you read
is in two different places.

379
00:21:09,620 --> 00:21:14,120
Now if you listen to
my tape, you heard it.

380
00:21:14,120 --> 00:21:16,430
If you look through
my transcript,

381
00:21:16,430 --> 00:21:20,320
somebody failed to put it in.

382
00:21:20,320 --> 00:21:22,070
And then you had
mentioned something else,

383
00:21:22,070 --> 00:21:23,730
that you had looked
through the window.

384
00:21:23,730 --> 00:21:24,980
I love the way you phrased it.

385

00:21:24,980 --> 00:21:28,050
You looked through the window
to see what freedom looked like.

386
00:21:28,050 --> 00:21:28,550
Yes.

387
00:21:28,550 --> 00:21:32,810
Well, that was after I was
taken out from the barn.

388
00:21:32,810 --> 00:21:35,600
I was taken into a little house.

389
00:21:35,600 --> 00:21:40,940
I was carried by a Russian
soldier, put on a straw sack.

390
00:21:40,940 --> 00:21:45,920
And they told me that in a few
days, the makeshift hospital--

391
00:21:45,920 --> 00:21:48,920
Now, I better explain now
I have a little more wisdom

392
00:21:48,920 --> 00:21:50,360
about tapings.

393
00:21:50,360 --> 00:21:53,870
Makeshift, I mean, by
the time they took--

394
00:21:53,870 --> 00:21:57,800
it was a school
gymnasium or something

395
00:21:57,800 --> 00:22:01,370
that they converted
into a hospital.

396
00:22:01,370 --> 00:22:04,370
So we had to stay in

those little houses

397

00:22:04,370 --> 00:22:06,500

until they were ready.

398

00:22:06,500 --> 00:22:12,600

And once I was there, it
was like before night time.

399

00:22:12,600 --> 00:22:14,250

It was getting dark.

400

00:22:14,250 --> 00:22:20,730

And I was laying on that straw
sack and thinking, I am free.

401

00:22:20,730 --> 00:22:23,280

Now, how does freedom look?

402

00:22:23,280 --> 00:22:26,280

And I wanted to look
how a free world--

403

00:22:26,280 --> 00:22:28,170

I was very ill.

404

00:22:28,170 --> 00:22:30,690

I had typhoid, dysentery.

405

00:22:30,690 --> 00:22:32,980

I weighed 69 pounds.

406

00:22:32,980 --> 00:22:36,330

I had wounds on my
hands on every finger.

407

00:22:36,330 --> 00:22:39,330

My toes were frozen.

408

00:22:39,330 --> 00:22:42,720

I had a wound here that
my bones stuck out.

409

00:22:42,720 --> 00:22:44,850

I was beaten up on
the death march.

410

00:22:44,850 --> 00:22:46,320

My face was swollen.

411

00:22:46,320 --> 00:22:48,840

And this opened up
and was leaking.

412

00:22:48,840 --> 00:22:51,390

But I wanted to see freedom.

413

00:22:51,390 --> 00:22:59,440

But instead, I saw a monster in
that window pane, a reflection.

414

00:22:59,440 --> 00:23:04,980

And I got scared, and I turned
around to see who was there.

415

00:23:04,980 --> 00:23:08,040

And that's when I
realized no one was there.

416

00:23:08,040 --> 00:23:09,600

That's how I looked.

417

00:23:09,600 --> 00:23:12,780

I have not seen
myself in a mirror.

418

00:23:12,780 --> 00:23:14,280

I did not know.

419

00:23:14,280 --> 00:23:16,470

I looked at the other
women that looked bad,

420

00:23:16,470 --> 00:23:19,880

but I didn't see it on myself.

421
00:23:19,880 --> 00:23:24,870
So this was that
experience that you saw.

422
00:23:24,870 --> 00:23:27,840
Later on, when you were
in the displaced persons

423
00:23:27,840 --> 00:23:29,940
camp at Feldafing--

424
00:23:29,940 --> 00:23:30,590
Feldafing.

425
00:23:30,590 --> 00:23:38,310
--Feldafing, did you want to
go to Palestine at that time?

426
00:23:38,310 --> 00:23:40,890
I tell you, very sincerely.

427
00:23:40,890 --> 00:23:43,620
When we came to
Feldafing, I mean,

428
00:23:43,620 --> 00:23:46,440
I was reunited with
my mom in Lodz.

429
00:23:46,440 --> 00:23:51,450
Then, because my brother was
in Feldafing, in-between Lodz

430
00:23:51,450 --> 00:23:53,775
and Feldafing, I got married.

431
00:23:53,775 --> 00:23:56,310
You have it in my testimony.

432
00:23:56,310 --> 00:23:56,910

OK.

433

00:23:56,910 --> 00:24:01,020

So we came to Feldafing,
Jack, who is my husband--

434

00:24:01,020 --> 00:24:07,140

52 years now-- my mom,
and I. And my brother

435

00:24:07,140 --> 00:24:09,570

was there already.

436

00:24:09,570 --> 00:24:16,220

Now my mom said--

437

00:24:16,220 --> 00:24:17,770

she suffered so much.

438

00:24:17,770 --> 00:24:21,890

439

00:24:21,890 --> 00:24:24,830

She had two brothers
and four sisters,

440

00:24:24,830 --> 00:24:30,340

one of them who immigrated
to the United States the year

441

00:24:30,340 --> 00:24:31,870

I was born.

442

00:24:31,870 --> 00:24:34,670

That's the only
one that was alive.

443

00:24:34,670 --> 00:24:39,100

And she thought that she
wants to be with her sister.

444

00:24:39,100 --> 00:24:41,410

And she turned to
me and she said--

445
00:24:41,410 --> 00:24:44,740
to me and Jack-- and she
said, and where I am going,

446
00:24:44,740 --> 00:24:46,610
you are going.

447
00:24:46,610 --> 00:24:49,810
And I did not make decisions.

448
00:24:49,810 --> 00:24:51,160
Let me tell you again.

449
00:24:51,160 --> 00:24:52,600
You know me now.

450
00:24:52,600 --> 00:24:58,330
But while my mother was alive,
until her death in 1967,

451
00:24:58,330 --> 00:25:01,150
she was the boss of my house.

452
00:25:01,150 --> 00:25:02,620
We respected her.

453
00:25:02,620 --> 00:25:08,140
She made decisions, and
she made that decision

454
00:25:08,140 --> 00:25:12,610
that we suffered so much
during the Holocaust

455
00:25:12,610 --> 00:25:17,050
and we need to go to a country
where there is freedom.

456
00:25:17,050 --> 00:25:20,110

When you did get together
with your mother and then

457
00:25:20,110 --> 00:25:22,210
later on, as the months
and years went by,

458
00:25:22,210 --> 00:25:25,570
did you and she tell each
other what each of you

459
00:25:25,570 --> 00:25:28,210
went through after
you were separated?

460
00:25:28,210 --> 00:25:33,760
I tell you, we talked a lot
about what we went through.

461
00:25:33,760 --> 00:25:36,400
With my mother, we
tried to encourage

462
00:25:36,400 --> 00:25:38,500
Jack to talk about his family.

463
00:25:38,500 --> 00:25:39,880
But he did not.

464
00:25:39,880 --> 00:25:42,760
Jack is my husband.

465
00:25:42,760 --> 00:25:47,650
We did not have much family
here that we socialized with.

466
00:25:47,650 --> 00:25:50,890
We had a lot of family here,
but they were Americans.

467
00:25:50,890 --> 00:25:54,580
So we reached out
to other survivors.

468
00:25:54,580 --> 00:25:55,900
We became friends.

469
00:25:55,900 --> 00:25:57,700
We became like family.

470
00:25:57,700 --> 00:26:00,460
Every time we got
together, that's all we

471
00:26:00,460 --> 00:26:06,370
talked about, how we survived,
how bad it was, where we were.

472
00:26:06,370 --> 00:26:13,030
And as my children started to
grow up, my mom was very wise.

473
00:26:13,030 --> 00:26:18,160
She said, children have to
know, in a children's way,

474
00:26:18,160 --> 00:26:20,930
what happened to our people.

475
00:26:20,930 --> 00:26:25,170
So we talked in our
house all the time.

476
00:26:25,170 --> 00:26:28,500
What I meant though was before
you came to the United States

477
00:26:28,500 --> 00:26:32,130
and when you were
reunited with your mother,

478
00:26:32,130 --> 00:26:36,110
did you tell her all the
things that happened to you?

479

00:26:36,110 --> 00:26:38,910
I really shared with my mother.

480
00:26:38,910 --> 00:26:43,590
We were very close, and we
talked to each other as much

481
00:26:43,590 --> 00:26:45,750
as we could about--

482
00:26:45,750 --> 00:26:50,140
you see, Gail, in those days
there was no therapists.

483
00:26:50,140 --> 00:26:54,960
And it's very important when you
go through a trauma like this

484
00:26:54,960 --> 00:26:59,700
to have a friend or someone
to listen to you, to unload

485
00:26:59,700 --> 00:27:01,410
your problems.

486
00:27:01,410 --> 00:27:05,850
And we really always talked
to each other, how it

487
00:27:05,850 --> 00:27:08,850
was, comparing where we were.

488
00:27:08,850 --> 00:27:13,770
And that was really, in
the long run, very helpful.

489
00:27:13,770 --> 00:27:16,620
Because many people
did not do that,

490
00:27:16,620 --> 00:27:20,760
and they still carry
a very heavy load.

491
00:27:20,760 --> 00:27:22,950
When you were in the
displaced persons camp,

492
00:27:22,950 --> 00:27:24,870
you said you took classes.

493
00:27:24,870 --> 00:27:28,020
Who sponsored these classes,
which organizations?

494
00:27:28,020 --> 00:27:30,720
Many organizations sponsored it.

495
00:27:30,720 --> 00:27:39,000
It was ORT did a lot of skills
by the United Nations Relief

496
00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:44,250
Organizations, called UNRA at
that time, and I don't know.

497
00:27:44,250 --> 00:27:46,980
Maybe other organizations,
maybe the Joint.

498
00:27:46,980 --> 00:27:48,370
I really don't know.

499
00:27:48,370 --> 00:27:53,940
But there were classes in
the displaced person camp.

500
00:27:53,940 --> 00:27:56,520
You could go to learn.

501
00:27:56,520 --> 00:27:59,250
I went to bookkeeping classes.

502
00:27:59,250 --> 00:28:02,220
I took design classes.

503

00:28:02,220 --> 00:28:07,260

At one time, I took a class how
to make brassieres and girdles.

504

00:28:07,260 --> 00:28:11,130

Because I had my mom and
then I had my children,

505

00:28:11,130 --> 00:28:13,170

two of my children were born.

506

00:28:13,170 --> 00:28:14,910

So I didn't have to worry.

507

00:28:14,910 --> 00:28:18,070

I could go to school.

508

00:28:18,070 --> 00:28:21,130

While you were in the
displaced persons camp,

509

00:28:21,130 --> 00:28:27,020

did you ever have fears
that war could start again?

510

00:28:27,020 --> 00:28:31,550

Gail, I wasn't as
much afraid of the war

511

00:28:31,550 --> 00:28:35,210

as I was afraid of
the German Nazis.

512

00:28:35,210 --> 00:28:39,530

When I walked out of the
displaced person camp

513

00:28:39,530 --> 00:28:42,890

into the village,
into Feldafing,

514

00:28:42,890 --> 00:28:46,160
I always thought,
what will happen

515
00:28:46,160 --> 00:28:51,560
if the Nazi is there
that hit me over the head

516
00:28:51,560 --> 00:28:56,020
and he'll be afraid
that I'll recognize him?

517
00:28:56,020 --> 00:28:59,100
So if he recognize me,
he'll kill me, right?

518
00:28:59,100 --> 00:29:01,020
He'll do something to me.

519
00:29:01,020 --> 00:29:09,610
It was not easy to live five
years among your murderers.

520
00:29:09,610 --> 00:29:14,380
It was very difficult, although
it looked like a little bit

521
00:29:14,380 --> 00:29:16,900
normalized life.

522
00:29:16,900 --> 00:29:24,240
But still, you had this in your
back, what if he recognizes me?

523
00:29:24,240 --> 00:29:26,260
What if I recognize a Nazi?

524
00:29:26,260 --> 00:29:28,650
What am I going to do?

525
00:29:28,650 --> 00:29:34,420
Was very difficult,
very difficult.

526
00:29:34,420 --> 00:29:38,740
President Truman
had sent an envoy

527
00:29:38,740 --> 00:29:42,220
over to look into
the displaced persons

528
00:29:42,220 --> 00:29:45,490
camp conditions, a gentleman
named Earl Harrison.

529
00:29:45,490 --> 00:29:48,100
And he then published a report.

530
00:29:48,100 --> 00:29:51,580
Were you and the other
people are aware of this--

531
00:29:51,580 --> 00:29:53,380
at the summer of '45?

532
00:29:53,380 --> 00:30:02,480
I tell you, Gail, summer of
'45, I was still in Lodz.

533
00:30:02,480 --> 00:30:07,870
I didn't get to
Feldafing until October.

534
00:30:07,870 --> 00:30:10,890
So I was somewhere the summer--

535
00:30:10,890 --> 00:30:14,430
I didn't get to Lodz
until maybe May.

536
00:30:14,430 --> 00:30:17,980
And then by the time I found
my mother, back and forth.

537

00:30:17,980 --> 00:30:20,190
So I don't know.

538
00:30:20,190 --> 00:30:24,320
I've heard of that, from
other people afterwards.

539
00:30:24,320 --> 00:30:26,300
But I did not know about that.

540
00:30:26,300 --> 00:30:28,430
I was there then.

541
00:30:28,430 --> 00:30:33,260
You did say that your husband
Jack is also a survivor.

542
00:30:33,260 --> 00:30:35,150
And you also said
that he doesn't like

543
00:30:35,150 --> 00:30:36,410
to talk about his experience.

544
00:30:36,410 --> 00:30:38,347
But just generally,
where was he born

545
00:30:38,347 --> 00:30:39,680
and where was he during the war?

546
00:30:39,680 --> 00:30:40,700
Well, I tell you.

547
00:30:40,700 --> 00:30:42,980
Jack is from Vilna.

548
00:30:42,980 --> 00:30:46,880
He was born in
Vilna in 1921, where

549
00:30:46,880 --> 00:30:50,660

he lived with his parents,
a brother and a sister,

550
00:30:50,660 --> 00:30:56,470
and uncles and aunts and
cousins and grandparents.

551
00:30:56,470 --> 00:31:05,470
And when the Germans took over,
Vilna belonged at that point

552
00:31:05,470 --> 00:31:06,900
already to Lithuania.

553
00:31:06,900 --> 00:31:10,690

554
00:31:10,690 --> 00:31:15,040
Jack was visiting a friend on
his bicycle and the friend--

555
00:31:15,040 --> 00:31:18,130
so he was at that
time 20 years old.

556
00:31:18,130 --> 00:31:20,020
They said, let's run.

557
00:31:20,020 --> 00:31:23,290
So they got on the
bike, started to run.

558
00:31:23,290 --> 00:31:27,280
They were overcome
by the German forces.

559
00:31:27,280 --> 00:31:30,070
And about a week
or 10 days later--

560
00:31:30,070 --> 00:31:32,750
he doesn't remember exactly--

561

00:31:32,750 --> 00:31:35,230
they got sent back to Vilna.

562

00:31:35,230 --> 00:31:39,110
When they came to Vilna,
Jack's whole family

563

00:31:39,110 --> 00:31:41,120
was killed in Ponar.

564

00:31:41,120 --> 00:31:44,780
I'm going now to go on
Ponar to pay respect

565

00:31:44,780 --> 00:31:48,650
for his family and
my father's family.

566

00:31:48,650 --> 00:31:51,140
They came from Vilna
[INAUDIBLE] Ponar--

567

00:31:51,140 --> 00:31:55,310
my grandma, my uncles,
my aunts, my cousins.

568

00:31:55,310 --> 00:32:00,270
Now Jack was in the
ghetto until 1944--

569

00:32:00,270 --> 00:32:02,550
1944.

570

00:32:02,550 --> 00:32:06,750
Now you hear a lot of
partisans of Vilna.

571

00:32:06,750 --> 00:32:09,840
But Jack doesn't consider
himself a partisan.

572

00:32:09,840 --> 00:32:12,990

He and a few guys
succeeded to get a gun

573
00:32:12,990 --> 00:32:17,495
and escaped from a war
detail into the forest.

574
00:32:17,495 --> 00:32:19,890
See, around Vilna,
there were a lot

575
00:32:19,890 --> 00:32:24,610
of forests, lot of partisans--

576
00:32:24,610 --> 00:32:30,100
Polish, Ukrainian,
Russian, all kind.

577
00:32:30,100 --> 00:32:33,040
So you could blend
in there, and that's

578
00:32:33,040 --> 00:32:40,660
how he was liberated in
that forest around Vilna.

579
00:32:40,660 --> 00:32:44,230

580
00:32:44,230 --> 00:32:46,390
Just to move back in
time a little bit,

581
00:32:46,390 --> 00:32:48,430
I had read in one
of your interviews

582
00:32:48,430 --> 00:32:50,350
how some of the
people in the ghetto

583
00:32:50,350 --> 00:32:54,390
would sit around a

special table, almost

584

00:32:54,390 --> 00:32:59,010
like a mystical experience, and
ask questions to this table.

585

00:32:59,010 --> 00:33:01,200
And I read that
about another ghetto

586

00:33:01,200 --> 00:33:03,750
and that this was something
that people turned to

587

00:33:03,750 --> 00:33:05,820
for hope, to give them hope.

588

00:33:05,820 --> 00:33:07,120
Can you give us any other--

589

00:33:07,120 --> 00:33:07,620
I can.

590

00:33:07,620 --> 00:33:11,790
This was exactly after
the children selection.

591

00:33:11,790 --> 00:33:16,530
After the children
selection, the families--

592

00:33:16,530 --> 00:33:20,010
every family lost members,
whether it was children,

593

00:33:20,010 --> 00:33:23,130
whether it was parents,
whether it was brothers,

594

00:33:23,130 --> 00:33:25,230
whether it was sisters.

595

00:33:25,230 --> 00:33:29,610

And when you are in despair, you
start to believe in everything.

596

00:33:29,610 --> 00:33:33,030

So people started
to make sacrifices.

597

00:33:33,030 --> 00:33:36,390

I remember seeing my
parents and some neighbor

598

00:33:36,390 --> 00:33:41,340

sitting on the little table
holding hands and saying,

599

00:33:41,340 --> 00:33:47,130

table, table, if the children
are alive, knock two.

600

00:33:47,130 --> 00:33:49,890

And you know the
table knock two.

601

00:33:49,890 --> 00:33:51,900

And I stood there and I looked.

602

00:33:51,900 --> 00:33:56,770

I was thinking to myself,
how can a table knock?

603

00:33:56,770 --> 00:34:02,380

But when you are desperate,
when you're drowning,

604

00:34:02,380 --> 00:34:04,450

you hold to a straw.

605

00:34:04,450 --> 00:34:09,565

This was the straw to still make
you believe that they're alive.

606

00:34:09,565 --> 00:34:12,639

607

00:34:12,639 --> 00:34:17,734

Some people still believe in
this extra-whatever sense.

608

00:34:17,734 --> 00:34:21,840

609

00:34:21,840 --> 00:34:26,130

When you were on the boat
going to the United States,

610

00:34:26,130 --> 00:34:29,940

you were separated from your
mother and your husband.

611

00:34:29,940 --> 00:34:32,460

Did that bring back
memories for you?

612

00:34:32,460 --> 00:34:33,900

Was that especially painful?

613

00:34:33,900 --> 00:34:35,650

And if so, how
did you handle it?

614

00:34:35,650 --> 00:34:41,100

You see, Gail, the United States
government meant very well.

615

00:34:41,100 --> 00:34:44,730

They meant if you have children,
you should have comfort.

616

00:34:44,730 --> 00:34:48,179

So if you're mothers and
the children had a cabin.

617

00:34:48,179 --> 00:34:53,219

But in the meantime, for
Holocaust survivors to be,

618
00:34:53,219 --> 00:34:55,110
you came on the boat.

619
00:34:55,110 --> 00:34:59,520
And all of a sudden, your
husband is in this hold

620
00:34:59,520 --> 00:35:01,980
and your mother is
in another hold.

621
00:35:01,980 --> 00:35:07,350
And you are there with your two
kids, and you cannot help it,

622
00:35:07,350 --> 00:35:10,140
to shudder and say, what's now?

623
00:35:10,140 --> 00:35:13,140
Who is going to be
thrown into the water?

624
00:35:13,140 --> 00:35:17,520
Until we got settled
and we could see them--

625
00:35:17,520 --> 00:35:21,000
we even ate in
different areas, even

626
00:35:21,000 --> 00:35:25,810
the mess hall, what you call
it, was in a different area.

627
00:35:25,810 --> 00:35:27,460
So it wasn't easy.

628
00:35:27,460 --> 00:35:29,090
We don't talk about it.

629
00:35:29,090 --> 00:35:34,640

But when you start to think
about it, it was not easy.

630
00:35:34,640 --> 00:35:38,050
Gail, when I come somewhere--

631
00:35:38,050 --> 00:35:42,045
and there's a few lines
in Florida especially.

632
00:35:42,045 --> 00:35:45,670
There's a restaurant that
they have separate lines to go

633
00:35:45,670 --> 00:35:49,000
into it-- if you're two people
or three people or four people,

634
00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:51,010
a party of--

635
00:35:51,010 --> 00:35:53,360
and they say, how many people?

636
00:35:53,360 --> 00:35:53,860
Two?

637
00:35:53,860 --> 00:35:55,900
Go in this line.

638
00:35:55,900 --> 00:35:56,710
I shudder.

639
00:35:56,710 --> 00:35:59,480
I go, but I shudder.

640
00:35:59,480 --> 00:36:01,850
When I come to an
event yesterday

641
00:36:01,850 --> 00:36:06,260
for somebody's 95th

birthday party and they

642

00:36:06,260 --> 00:36:07,920

get a lot of people
in the house.

643

00:36:07,920 --> 00:36:10,730

They were cooking hot
dogs and hamburgers.

644

00:36:10,730 --> 00:36:12,350

And I said, where
are the hot dog?

645

00:36:12,350 --> 00:36:15,110

They say, you have to
go outside with a plate

646

00:36:15,110 --> 00:36:17,360

and stand there
until it's finished.

647

00:36:17,360 --> 00:36:19,010

I didn't go for my food.

648

00:36:19,010 --> 00:36:20,000

I didn't.

649

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:23,510

And somebody realized
that I couldn't do that,

650

00:36:23,510 --> 00:36:25,310

and they brought me the food.

651

00:36:25,310 --> 00:36:32,700

You see, Gail, we survivors, we
survived, but with so much pain

652

00:36:32,700 --> 00:36:38,120

the rest of our lives, with
so many hang-ups. You see me.

653

00:36:38,120 --> 00:36:39,300

I always look good.

654

00:36:39,300 --> 00:36:41,370

I always try to look nice.

655

00:36:41,370 --> 00:36:43,590

But I'm always looking.

656

00:36:43,590 --> 00:36:44,850

What's this?

657

00:36:44,850 --> 00:36:46,190

Is this person nice?

658

00:36:46,190 --> 00:36:48,070

Is he going to punch me?

659

00:36:48,070 --> 00:36:50,910

Is somebody doing
something wrong?

660

00:36:50,910 --> 00:36:56,140

Is somebody instigating
to have Nazis come again?

661

00:36:56,140 --> 00:36:59,470

If I get a telephone call
and somebody hangs up

662

00:36:59,470 --> 00:37:01,690

on the other side,
I say, oh, that

663

00:37:01,690 --> 00:37:05,140

must be a prank call,
which I get many.

664

00:37:05,140 --> 00:37:09,240

But I'm public
with my testimony.

665

00:37:09,240 --> 00:37:11,700

So you find me on the internet.

666

00:37:11,700 --> 00:37:12,510

You find me here.

667

00:37:12,510 --> 00:37:13,590

You find me there.

668

00:37:13,590 --> 00:37:14,420

They find me.

669

00:37:14,420 --> 00:37:23,530

670

00:37:23,530 --> 00:37:25,930

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

671

00:37:25,930 --> 00:37:28,000

Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

672

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:30,590

interview with Nesse Godin.

673

00:37:30,590 --> 00:37:34,335

And you were talking
about your feelings

674

00:37:34,335 --> 00:37:35,960

when you were asked
to stand on a line.

675

00:37:35,960 --> 00:37:37,090

Yeah.

676

00:37:37,090 --> 00:37:40,960

Well, I just believe it's on
the other side of the tape.

677

00:37:40,960 --> 00:37:45,670
For us survivors, to stand in
line for food is a torture.

678
00:37:45,670 --> 00:37:48,220
To take a plate
and go out-- it may

679
00:37:48,220 --> 00:37:51,880
be the nicest restaurant,
the nicest party,

680
00:37:51,880 --> 00:37:54,160
the most beautiful affair.

681
00:37:54,160 --> 00:37:55,750
And I crash those lines.

682
00:37:55,750 --> 00:37:58,480
[INAUDIBLE] always people
some time look at me.

683
00:37:58,480 --> 00:38:01,630
But some of the people know me,
and they'll always know that I

684
00:38:01,630 --> 00:38:03,760
cannot stay in line for food.

685
00:38:03,760 --> 00:38:06,220
Or I don't go, or
I crash the line.

686
00:38:06,220 --> 00:38:10,870

687
00:38:10,870 --> 00:38:13,690
When the boat
landed, what was it

688
00:38:13,690 --> 00:38:18,190
like for you to put your
foot on American soil?

689

00:38:18,190 --> 00:38:22,870

When I put my foot
on American soil,

690

00:38:22,870 --> 00:38:30,460

I felt like I came to a place
of freedom, of security,

691

00:38:30,460 --> 00:38:34,440

a place where I'm
going to be able to be

692

00:38:34,440 --> 00:38:38,400

no more stateless, no
more displaced person,

693

00:38:38,400 --> 00:38:42,520

but equal to every human
being that lives here,

694

00:38:42,520 --> 00:38:47,610

especially when we got off the
boat and my aunt and my cousin

695

00:38:47,610 --> 00:38:51,600

and another friend of my
mother's were standing there

696

00:38:51,600 --> 00:38:54,600

with open arms, waiting for us.

697

00:38:54,600 --> 00:38:57,660

And all of a sudden,
we had family.

698

00:38:57,660 --> 00:39:02,800

And so we really felt
welcome and secure.

699

00:39:02,800 --> 00:39:05,810

700

00:39:05,810 --> 00:39:08,600

What were your very
first impressions

701

00:39:08,600 --> 00:39:09,475

of the United States?

702

00:39:09,475 --> 00:39:12,210

703

00:39:12,210 --> 00:39:18,090

My first impression was really
not when I got off the boat--

704

00:39:18,090 --> 00:39:20,430

because we were still
sitting in a big room

705

00:39:20,430 --> 00:39:25,260

with a lot of commotion, a lot
of paperwork, bureaucracy--

706

00:39:25,260 --> 00:39:28,500

but when we were traveling
in the car from New York

707

00:39:28,500 --> 00:39:30,570

to Washington.

708

00:39:30,570 --> 00:39:33,030

And I'll never forget it.

709

00:39:33,030 --> 00:39:38,070

At one point, my cousin
asked me if I'm hungry,

710

00:39:38,070 --> 00:39:40,470

if I would like
to eat something.

711

00:39:40,470 --> 00:39:43,560

I thought he was going to

take out some sandwiches

712
00:39:43,560 --> 00:39:44,820
and give it to me.

713
00:39:44,820 --> 00:39:49,220
But next thing I knew,
he got out of the car.

714
00:39:49,220 --> 00:39:52,880
And he went out and he
bought me some sandwiches,

715
00:39:52,880 --> 00:39:56,420
and I couldn't understand
how could he do that.

716
00:39:56,420 --> 00:40:01,300
We were moving, and he was
bringing me sandwiches.

717
00:40:01,300 --> 00:40:05,930
We got on the ferry crossing
the Delaware, so that--

718
00:40:05,930 --> 00:40:08,560
I said, look, in
America, you can

719
00:40:08,560 --> 00:40:13,100
travel and get out of the car.

720
00:40:13,100 --> 00:40:18,430
So that was one of my
really first experiences.

721
00:40:18,430 --> 00:40:26,660
And my other experience
that was very negative

722
00:40:26,660 --> 00:40:30,530
is when I signed
up right away to go

723
00:40:30,530 --> 00:40:32,960
to Americanization school.

724
00:40:32,960 --> 00:40:37,970
And I lived on Lamont
Street in Washington,

725
00:40:37,970 --> 00:40:40,880
and I went on the streetcar.

726
00:40:40,880 --> 00:40:44,330
And I don't know if
it's still a law or not,

727
00:40:44,330 --> 00:40:48,550
but all the Black people
were sitting in the back.

728
00:40:48,550 --> 00:40:50,830
And I didn't know that.

729
00:40:50,830 --> 00:40:54,550
And I always got on in
front of the streetcar,

730
00:40:54,550 --> 00:40:57,340
and I sat down in
the back to get off

731
00:40:57,340 --> 00:41:01,540
the back door, which
was a custom in Germany

732
00:41:01,540 --> 00:41:02,680
when I lived--

733
00:41:02,680 --> 00:41:04,420
if you went on the
bus, you got on.

734
00:41:04,420 --> 00:41:06,250

You got off the back door.

735

00:41:06,250 --> 00:41:09,670

And people looked at me,
why I sat in the back.

736

00:41:09,670 --> 00:41:14,780

And I always thought, can they
tell that I am not American?

737

00:41:14,780 --> 00:41:19,750

And when I found out that this
country that I blessed when

738

00:41:19,750 --> 00:41:22,810

I walked in for freedom
still did not have

739

00:41:22,810 --> 00:41:25,710

freedom for all the people.

740

00:41:25,710 --> 00:41:30,600

So that was the second
impression that I had,

741

00:41:30,600 --> 00:41:34,700

which things got changed
in all those years.

742

00:41:34,700 --> 00:41:37,310

How was your English
when you arrived?

743

00:41:37,310 --> 00:41:39,730

You said you had taken
lessons in Feldafing.

744

00:41:39,730 --> 00:41:42,830

Now I took English
lessons in school

745

00:41:42,830 --> 00:41:44,810

while the Russians

were occupied.

746
00:41:44,810 --> 00:41:49,430
I knew how to say
pencil, pen, notebook,

747
00:41:49,430 --> 00:41:55,730
teacher, write, read, drink,
eat, maybe a few more words.

748
00:41:55,730 --> 00:41:58,850
In Feldafing, I filled
in a little bit more

749
00:41:58,850 --> 00:42:01,020
to that vocabulary.

750
00:42:01,020 --> 00:42:06,770
But my English was very,
very poor, very poor,

751
00:42:06,770 --> 00:42:11,510
especially when you try to
use the words that you know

752
00:42:11,510 --> 00:42:15,260
and translate from your
own language, from Yiddish,

753
00:42:15,260 --> 00:42:18,980
it comes out very different.

754
00:42:18,980 --> 00:42:25,070
Even on the boat at
one point, some sailor

755
00:42:25,070 --> 00:42:28,820
used to help me with the
kids to go down the steps

756
00:42:28,820 --> 00:42:31,040
to go to the dining room.

757

00:42:31,040 --> 00:42:34,070

And one day, there
was such a big storm.

758

00:42:34,070 --> 00:42:37,130

And water was coming
over the deck.

759

00:42:37,130 --> 00:42:40,160

And I wanted to ask him
if we'll get drowned.

760

00:42:40,160 --> 00:42:46,510

And I said, can we get
drunk, drinking from Yiddish.

761

00:42:46,510 --> 00:42:50,270

Drinking and drinking, in
Yiddish it sounds the same.

762

00:42:50,270 --> 00:42:54,110

And it was Christmastime,
and he thought I want a date.

763

00:42:54,110 --> 00:42:56,180

And he said, yeah, yeah.

764

00:42:56,180 --> 00:42:57,930

We'll get drunk.

765

00:42:57,930 --> 00:43:02,870

And I started to cry, and that's
when he realized what I meant.

766

00:43:02,870 --> 00:43:08,510

So although many of us knew
a few words of English,

767

00:43:08,510 --> 00:43:11,660

it was very
difficult. Really not

768

00:43:11,660 --> 00:43:15,980
until I went to Americanization
school, which I attended

769
00:43:15,980 --> 00:43:17,600
three times a week at night--

770
00:43:17,600 --> 00:43:21,200
I went to work, because
of my mom living with us,

771
00:43:21,200 --> 00:43:22,490
I could do so.

772
00:43:22,490 --> 00:43:26,420
And then Jack and I went at
night to learn, to write,

773
00:43:26,420 --> 00:43:31,860
to read, and to American
history or whatever we needed.

774
00:43:31,860 --> 00:43:34,550
And in five years,
we became citizens.

775
00:43:34,550 --> 00:43:38,120
Can you tell me what that
was like to become a citizen?

776
00:43:38,120 --> 00:43:42,610
To become a citizen was
something very special

777
00:43:42,610 --> 00:43:44,650
to all survivors.

778
00:43:44,650 --> 00:43:48,860
To me personally,
because as a child

779
00:43:48,860 --> 00:43:55,790
I was not yet a voting member

of the Lithuanian society,

780

00:43:55,790 --> 00:44:01,000

then all of a sudden I was
a prisoner in a ghetto.

781

00:44:01,000 --> 00:44:04,060

Then I was a prisoner
in a concentration camp,

782

00:44:04,060 --> 00:44:08,080

then in a labor camp,
then on a death march.

783

00:44:08,080 --> 00:44:10,090

Then I became stateless.

784

00:44:10,090 --> 00:44:12,620

Then I became a
displaced person.

785

00:44:12,620 --> 00:44:17,680

So from all those things,
to come to the United States

786

00:44:17,680 --> 00:44:21,970

and finally become a
citizen of this country,

787

00:44:21,970 --> 00:44:25,090

was very emotional,
very emotional.

788

00:44:25,090 --> 00:44:30,130

I really felt like at
least now I belong.

789

00:44:30,130 --> 00:44:36,490

I belong to a country that
believes in freedom, that

790

00:44:36,490 --> 00:44:39,280

believes in rights of people.

791
00:44:39,280 --> 00:44:42,700
So it was really very positive.

792
00:44:42,700 --> 00:44:45,100
Did your husband and your
mother become citizens

793
00:44:45,100 --> 00:44:46,300
at the same time?

794
00:44:46,300 --> 00:44:48,730
My husband did
but not my mother,

795
00:44:48,730 --> 00:44:52,870
because she was so kind
to let us go in school.

796
00:44:52,870 --> 00:44:56,330
It took care then--
once we became citizens,

797
00:44:56,330 --> 00:45:00,310
she went to school,
at the age of 55.

798
00:45:00,310 --> 00:45:04,090
And she became a citizen
at the age of 60.

799
00:45:04,090 --> 00:45:07,780
And also, she knew
many, many languages.

800
00:45:07,780 --> 00:45:12,100
She spoke Polish and Russian
and German and Lithuanian

801
00:45:12,100 --> 00:45:13,690
and Yiddish and Hebrew.

802

00:45:13,690 --> 00:45:15,520
She was very well educated.

803
00:45:15,520 --> 00:45:21,460
But somehow, English was hard
for her because the letters,

804
00:45:21,460 --> 00:45:22,880
you pronounce differently.

805
00:45:22,880 --> 00:45:24,480
The ABC was different.

806
00:45:24,480 --> 00:45:26,650
We knew "ah", "bey,"
"say," "day," "eh."

807
00:45:26,650 --> 00:45:31,765
And all of a sudden, your
I is a E and your E is a--

808
00:45:31,765 --> 00:45:33,980
so it was difficult.
But she made it.

809
00:45:33,980 --> 00:45:36,100
She became a citizen.

810
00:45:36,100 --> 00:45:37,810
How did you celebrate that?

811
00:45:37,810 --> 00:45:41,530
Oh, we celebrated,
definitely, especially when

812
00:45:41,530 --> 00:45:43,090
my mom became a citizen.

813
00:45:43,090 --> 00:45:45,670
The kids were already
a little bigger,

814

00:45:45,670 --> 00:45:49,060
and we really had
something special.

815
00:45:49,060 --> 00:45:53,340

816
00:45:53,340 --> 00:45:58,680
Before we now go on to talking
about the actual post-war

817
00:45:58,680 --> 00:46:03,330
experiences, are there any other
clarifications or corrections

818
00:46:03,330 --> 00:46:05,750
that you wanted to make to
your previous interviews?

819
00:46:05,750 --> 00:46:12,780
Well, I tell you, as I look
through many interviews,

820
00:46:12,780 --> 00:46:15,690
there is some corrections
needed to be done.

821
00:46:15,690 --> 00:46:18,810
At this point, I don't
see it in front of me.

822
00:46:18,810 --> 00:46:24,420
But there are names of cities
that need to be corrected.

823
00:46:24,420 --> 00:46:29,280
At one point where I mentioned
that I needed a quarter

824
00:46:29,280 --> 00:46:33,780
to come to the
Lithuanian quarter,

825

00:46:33,780 --> 00:46:37,040
in one of my testimonies it
said I didn't have a quarter.

826
00:46:37,040 --> 00:46:42,300

827
00:46:42,300 --> 00:46:45,930
When I said I was
liberated in Chinow,

828
00:46:45,930 --> 00:46:50,710
somehow somebody wrote down
[? Fenovitsa ?] in the Ukraine.

829
00:46:50,710 --> 00:46:52,920
I was never in the Ukraine.

830
00:46:52,920 --> 00:46:58,080
So I really feel
that I need again

831
00:46:58,080 --> 00:47:00,330
to look through the testimony.

832
00:47:00,330 --> 00:47:04,150
I really think-- and I have
been saying it for many years,

833
00:47:04,150 --> 00:47:08,520
even to you, Gail,
I think from 1993--

834
00:47:08,520 --> 00:47:13,050
while we are still alive
send to each survivor

835
00:47:13,050 --> 00:47:16,110
that gave testimony
their transcript.

836
00:47:16,110 --> 00:47:21,300
Have them read it,

just minor things.

837

00:47:21,300 --> 00:47:25,500

Now I said the
Jews were supposed

838

00:47:25,500 --> 00:47:30,040

to be taken to town
by the name of Zager.

839

00:47:30,040 --> 00:47:33,060

We've talked about it before.

840

00:47:33,060 --> 00:47:36,820

I found it said, [? Zaga. ?]
Now you look for [? Zaga, ?]

841

00:47:36,820 --> 00:47:38,830

there's no such place.

842

00:47:38,830 --> 00:47:40,750

What is she talking about?

843

00:47:40,750 --> 00:47:42,910

There is no such place.

844

00:47:42,910 --> 00:47:47,520

Also, you have to
understand like many times,

845

00:47:47,520 --> 00:47:53,985

we survivors say, well, this
and this town was in Bessarabia,

846

00:47:53,985 --> 00:47:55,230

let's say.

847

00:47:55,230 --> 00:47:57,180

Now it may be Ukraine.

848

00:47:57,180 --> 00:47:59,010

It may be Hungary.

849
00:47:59,010 --> 00:48:01,560
So same thing in Lithuania.

850
00:48:01,560 --> 00:48:05,160
Some parts of Lithuania,
they're occupied

851
00:48:05,160 --> 00:48:08,040
by the Germans pre-war.

852
00:48:08,040 --> 00:48:09,840
Some areas were Poland.

853
00:48:09,840 --> 00:48:13,980
Like Vilna was Poland.

854
00:48:13,980 --> 00:48:17,640
After the war, now
again, it's Lithuania.

855
00:48:17,640 --> 00:48:24,210
So it's very important for
verifying with the survivors

856
00:48:24,210 --> 00:48:26,655
what time was it?

857
00:48:26,655 --> 00:48:28,680
How was it called
before the war?

858
00:48:28,680 --> 00:48:32,060
Is there another name for it?

859
00:48:32,060 --> 00:48:34,920
Especially now with
the Soviet Union

860
00:48:34,920 --> 00:48:37,460
no more, all the
names in the towns

861
00:48:37,460 --> 00:48:44,810
are changed now again, no
more these communist names.

862
00:48:44,810 --> 00:48:49,100
Do you feel that you would
have been a different adult

863
00:48:49,100 --> 00:48:52,580
if you hadn't gone through
what you did go through?

864
00:48:52,580 --> 00:48:55,960

865
00:48:55,960 --> 00:48:57,970
I could say it easily to you.

866
00:48:57,970 --> 00:48:59,920
It's always nice
to say, oh, I would

867
00:48:59,920 --> 00:49:01,900
have been a different
person if I wouldn't have

868
00:49:01,900 --> 00:49:03,220
lived through the Holocaust.

869
00:49:03,220 --> 00:49:05,590
Yes, I would have been
a different person.

870
00:49:05,590 --> 00:49:09,790
Because when you live
through a trauma,

871
00:49:09,790 --> 00:49:13,930
you are more sensitive
to other people's needs.

872

00:49:13,930 --> 00:49:16,750
Naturally, I would have
had more education.

873
00:49:16,750 --> 00:49:19,870
I missed out on a education.

874
00:49:19,870 --> 00:49:23,470
Maybe I would have
been a scholar.

875
00:49:23,470 --> 00:49:27,610
As you all know me well, with
the little education that I

876
00:49:27,610 --> 00:49:32,260
have, I did quite a bit
for my own community,

877
00:49:32,260 --> 00:49:36,950
for my Jewish community,
for the school system.

878
00:49:36,950 --> 00:49:41,720
So maybe I would have
been more educated.

879
00:49:41,720 --> 00:49:44,390
Maybe I would be
less compassionate.

880
00:49:44,390 --> 00:49:46,090
Who knows.

881
00:49:46,090 --> 00:49:48,190
It's easy to make a statement.

882
00:49:48,190 --> 00:49:51,670
But this is something
that no person can really

883
00:49:51,670 --> 00:49:54,460
say what would I have been?

884
00:49:54,460 --> 00:49:55,090
Would I?

885
00:49:55,090 --> 00:49:56,560
Should I?

886
00:49:56,560 --> 00:49:57,490
I don't know.

887
00:49:57,490 --> 00:50:01,620
Maybe I would have been
the same Nesse as I'm now.

888
00:50:01,620 --> 00:50:06,450
You had said earlier that you
grew up very quickly when times

889
00:50:06,450 --> 00:50:11,960
were very difficult. So you
lost part of your teenage years,

890
00:50:11,960 --> 00:50:13,220
your early life.

891
00:50:13,220 --> 00:50:16,520
Did you feel you ever
got part of that back?

892
00:50:16,520 --> 00:50:23,570
Gail, I never got back my
teenage years, from 13 to 17.

893
00:50:23,570 --> 00:50:30,180
I missed out on school dances,
on dating, on having fun.

894
00:50:30,180 --> 00:50:35,600
I'm sure you are aware that just
last year, one of the schools

895
00:50:35,600 --> 00:50:37,650

where I can come to speak to--

896

00:50:37,650 --> 00:50:39,590

I don't even call it lecture.

897

00:50:39,590 --> 00:50:41,690

I call it sharing memories--

898

00:50:41,690 --> 00:50:44,030

gave me an honorary
high school degree.

899

00:50:44,030 --> 00:50:47,000

You know of that, or you don't.

900

00:50:47,000 --> 00:50:48,050

Tell it on the tape.

901

00:50:48,050 --> 00:50:48,890

OK.

902

00:50:48,890 --> 00:50:51,890

You see, I have been
coming to Madison High

903

00:50:51,890 --> 00:50:54,800

School in Virginia
for 15 years to speak

904

00:50:54,800 --> 00:50:57,410

for this particular teacher.

905

00:50:57,410 --> 00:51:01,070

And Lynn [? Dubin, ?] who
is a wonderful person.

906

00:51:01,070 --> 00:51:05,200

And one day I said
to her, how many

907

00:51:05,200 --> 00:51:08,110

years do you keep

one in a high school?

908

00:51:08,110 --> 00:51:11,680

She said, you are not going
to quit and not come again?

909

00:51:11,680 --> 00:51:17,160

I say, no, but I envy
those kids that graduate.

910

00:51:17,160 --> 00:51:20,700

And she arranged with
the Board of Education,

911

00:51:20,700 --> 00:51:26,300

and I had a honorary
high school graduation.

912

00:51:26,300 --> 00:51:30,620

Now for me just to walk in
with those kids with my robe

913

00:51:30,620 --> 00:51:35,900

on and to the music, it
was some little piece

914

00:51:35,900 --> 00:51:39,830

in that puzzle that was
missing for so many years was

915

00:51:39,830 --> 00:51:41,450

right there.

916

00:51:41,450 --> 00:51:42,410

Now, imagine.

917

00:51:42,410 --> 00:51:44,480

I married my husband.

918

00:51:44,480 --> 00:51:46,340

He's a wonderful man.

919

00:51:46,340 --> 00:51:48,320
But did I date him?

920
00:51:48,320 --> 00:51:51,290
Did we really fall in
love and got married?

921
00:51:51,290 --> 00:51:53,750
Did we make plans for a wedding?

922
00:51:53,750 --> 00:51:57,890
My mom said it would be a
good idea that I get married

923
00:51:57,890 --> 00:52:01,430
so we have a man with us.

924
00:52:01,430 --> 00:52:03,480
It worked out.

925
00:52:03,480 --> 00:52:09,780
But many of us survivors
married because of need, because

926
00:52:09,780 --> 00:52:14,770
of needing a friend, because
of needing material things.

927
00:52:14,770 --> 00:52:18,650
So every one of
us-- not just me.

928
00:52:18,650 --> 00:52:24,910
I just happened to be at
that age where 13 to 17--

929
00:52:24,910 --> 00:52:29,440
no junior high school,
no high school, no--

930
00:52:29,440 --> 00:52:31,320
where was I?

931

00:52:31,320 --> 00:52:34,470

When a child at
that age has fun,

932

00:52:34,470 --> 00:52:37,410

gets into trouble a
little bit sometime.

933

00:52:37,410 --> 00:52:40,410

I missed out on that.

934

00:52:40,410 --> 00:52:41,750

You cannot get it back.

935

00:52:41,750 --> 00:52:45,730

936

00:52:45,730 --> 00:52:49,360

You had also said that you
really hadn't physically

937

00:52:49,360 --> 00:52:52,150

matured until liberation and
you got your menstrual period.

938

00:52:52,150 --> 00:52:54,640

What was that like for
you as a young woman?

939

00:52:54,640 --> 00:52:57,280

I did not get my
menstrual period

940

00:52:57,280 --> 00:52:59,980

until I got a little healthier.

941

00:52:59,980 --> 00:53:02,950

You see, people don't realize--

942

00:53:02,950 --> 00:53:06,520

when someone is anorexic,
they lose their period.

943

00:53:06,520 --> 00:53:12,540

So because we were so skinny
and lost so much weight,

944

00:53:12,540 --> 00:53:14,760

we didn't get our
periods during--

945

00:53:14,760 --> 00:53:17,220

somebody said that they
put something in the food.

946

00:53:17,220 --> 00:53:19,200

I don't know how
correct that is.

947

00:53:19,200 --> 00:53:23,250

I don't like to make statements
what I don't know myself.

948

00:53:23,250 --> 00:53:30,920

But as life started
to become normal,

949

00:53:30,920 --> 00:53:32,810

we all gained a little weight.

950

00:53:32,810 --> 00:53:34,490

Some of us developed.

951

00:53:34,490 --> 00:53:36,740

Some of us got a period.

952

00:53:36,740 --> 00:53:38,540

Some of us got taller.

953

00:53:38,540 --> 00:53:41,750

I think I grew
after the Holocaust.

954

00:53:41,750 --> 00:53:47,630

Because as I look at pictures,
I was much shorter than Jack.

955
00:53:47,630 --> 00:53:48,650
And I was 18.

956
00:53:48,650 --> 00:53:52,490
And now, I'm not that
much shorter than him.

957
00:53:52,490 --> 00:53:55,850
Where there many other young
girls your age in your group?

958
00:53:55,850 --> 00:53:59,460

959
00:53:59,460 --> 00:54:00,360
I tell you.

960
00:54:00,360 --> 00:54:02,730
At the beginning, there were.

961
00:54:02,730 --> 00:54:08,730
But at the very end
in my particular camp,

962
00:54:08,730 --> 00:54:11,970
I was the youngest
in that crowd.

963
00:54:11,970 --> 00:54:16,740
There were girls that were a few
years older from my hometown.

964
00:54:16,740 --> 00:54:23,730
There was not one friend of mine
that was with me at that point,

965
00:54:23,730 --> 00:54:29,500
although about five people
from my class, from my age,

966
00:54:29,500 --> 00:54:31,150
survived the Holocaust.

967
00:54:31,150 --> 00:54:33,010
But we were in different places.

968
00:54:33,010 --> 00:54:35,500
I wasn't really
with any of them.

969
00:54:35,500 --> 00:54:37,960
Some of my friends, I was with.

970
00:54:37,960 --> 00:54:39,460
Some of them were taken--

971
00:54:39,460 --> 00:54:42,830
in the labor camp,
we had selections--

972
00:54:42,830 --> 00:54:45,820
taken back to the
concentration camp.

973
00:54:45,820 --> 00:54:50,680
Some of them died in Stutthof
of a typhoid epidemic.

974
00:54:50,680 --> 00:54:54,190
There was a gigantic
typhoid epidemic just

975
00:54:54,190 --> 00:54:55,840
before liberation Stutthof.

976
00:54:55,840 --> 00:54:56,620
I read that.

977
00:54:56,620 --> 00:54:57,560
I wasn't there.

978

00:54:57,560 --> 00:55:03,280
So many of them came to Proust
also from different camps.

979
00:55:03,280 --> 00:55:04,090
What happened?

980
00:55:04,090 --> 00:55:09,010
Proust was a place, when we
started the death marches--

981
00:55:09,010 --> 00:55:10,810
I found that out now.

982
00:55:10,810 --> 00:55:12,530
I didn't know it then.

983
00:55:12,530 --> 00:55:15,610
But now and when
I came to Proust,

984
00:55:15,610 --> 00:55:18,340
some people had come there.

985
00:55:18,340 --> 00:55:21,220
What they did, they picked
the little bit healthier

986
00:55:21,220 --> 00:55:23,800
to continue on death marches.

987
00:55:23,800 --> 00:55:28,150
And the ones that were--
they left them to die there.

988
00:55:28,150 --> 00:55:32,420
So many of my friends
died in Proust.

989
00:55:32,420 --> 00:55:34,430
Some went back to Stutthof.

990

00:55:34,430 --> 00:55:36,950

991

00:55:36,950 --> 00:55:38,830

Some I don't know
what happened to them.

992

00:55:38,830 --> 00:55:46,130

993

00:55:46,130 --> 00:55:49,040

Was there ever any
opportunity for you

994

00:55:49,040 --> 00:55:51,920

to make any choices
during this time,

995

00:55:51,920 --> 00:55:56,140

or were you always
being acted on?

996

00:55:56,140 --> 00:55:59,620

What do you mean by choices?

997

00:55:59,620 --> 00:56:05,770

What were the choices for
youth in camps, in ghettos,

998

00:56:05,770 --> 00:56:07,450

in places?

999

00:56:07,450 --> 00:56:08,470

For adults?

1000

00:56:08,470 --> 00:56:10,450

I'm not talking-- I was a kid.

1001

00:56:10,450 --> 00:56:11,590

Don't forget.

1002

00:56:11,590 --> 00:56:14,170

I was a kid.

1003
00:56:14,170 --> 00:56:15,620
But what were the choices?

1004
00:56:15,620 --> 00:56:20,220
The choice was, let's say in
the ghetto, if you ran away,

1005
00:56:20,220 --> 00:56:22,680
you needed a place to run to.

1006
00:56:22,680 --> 00:56:26,880
Around Siauliai, there
were not places to run to.

1007
00:56:26,880 --> 00:56:29,970
The Lithuanians, when
they saw a Jew running,

1008
00:56:29,970 --> 00:56:32,070
they right away
said, here's the Jew.

1009
00:56:32,070 --> 00:56:33,870
Kill him.

1010
00:56:33,870 --> 00:56:37,170
When you came to the
concentration camp,

1011
00:56:37,170 --> 00:56:39,750
to the right and the left
and the right and the left,

1012
00:56:39,750 --> 00:56:40,920
did you have a choice?

1013
00:56:40,920 --> 00:56:42,480
No.

1014
00:56:42,480 --> 00:56:46,490

The only choice
that I get was when

1015
00:56:46,490 --> 00:56:52,220
the woman told me to try to
get out to labor because they

1016
00:56:52,220 --> 00:56:54,350
would kill me in the
concentration camp,

1017
00:56:54,350 --> 00:56:56,120
because I was little.

1018
00:56:56,120 --> 00:57:00,740
And that was the choice, that
I listened to this woman.

1019
00:57:00,740 --> 00:57:06,050
And I snuck into that group
that was being taken for work

1020
00:57:06,050 --> 00:57:09,110
and somehow
succeeded to get out.

1021
00:57:09,110 --> 00:57:11,040
How did you know to
make that decision?

1022
00:57:11,040 --> 00:57:12,920
I did not know.

1023
00:57:12,920 --> 00:57:18,820
In my testimony, if you
read it, in Stutthof,

1024
00:57:18,820 --> 00:57:23,110
there were an old
camp and a new camp.

1025
00:57:23,110 --> 00:57:26,350
When we were put

into the new camp,

1026
00:57:26,350 --> 00:57:29,110
the kitchen was not ready.

1027
00:57:29,110 --> 00:57:34,720
So they brought in meal cans
the food from the old camp

1028
00:57:34,720 --> 00:57:36,430
to the new camp.

1029
00:57:36,430 --> 00:57:42,760
And we stood in roll call in
the women's area, and we went up

1030
00:57:42,760 --> 00:57:48,660
and we were given amount
of food, a soup, soup.

1031
00:57:48,660 --> 00:57:50,700
Now if there was
a little bit left

1032
00:57:50,700 --> 00:57:56,080
in that meal can, this man that
was in charge of the camp--

1033
00:57:56,080 --> 00:57:58,230
his name was Max--

1034
00:57:58,230 --> 00:58:02,710
he used to say, children
can get extra food.

1035
00:58:02,710 --> 00:58:06,370
Now all the children
were afraid to go out.

1036
00:58:06,370 --> 00:58:09,170
Children were not
supposed to be there.

1037

00:58:09,170 --> 00:58:12,440

And I was 16, but

I looked like 13

1038

00:58:12,440 --> 00:58:16,380

because three years in the
ghetto with malnutrition.

1039

00:58:16,380 --> 00:58:20,540

So he and the kapos used
to run among the women

1040

00:58:20,540 --> 00:58:24,320

and pull out the younger kids
and tell them, you're a kid.

1041

00:58:24,320 --> 00:58:26,090

Go get extra food.

1042

00:58:26,090 --> 00:58:32,350

Now I got pulled out many
times, and I did get extra food.

1043

00:58:32,350 --> 00:58:35,190

So one day, we were
standing in roll call.

1044

00:58:35,190 --> 00:58:38,230

And a woman that I
never knew her name,

1045

00:58:38,230 --> 00:58:40,890

she said to me, little girl.

1046

00:58:40,890 --> 00:58:42,720

They'll kill you here.

1047

00:58:42,720 --> 00:58:46,500

They have pulled you out too
many times for extra food.

1048

00:58:46,500 --> 00:58:49,970

Next time, they'll know
exactly where you are.

1049
00:58:49,970 --> 00:58:51,160
And I was scared.

1050
00:58:51,160 --> 00:58:52,420
And I looked at her.

1051
00:58:52,420 --> 00:58:54,580
I said, why are you scaring me?

1052
00:58:54,580 --> 00:58:57,850
And she said, I'm trying
to save your life.

1053
00:58:57,850 --> 00:59:02,740
Maybe if you could get out
to work, you could survive.

1054
00:59:02,740 --> 00:59:05,980
I said, why aren't
you going to work?

1055
00:59:05,980 --> 00:59:07,960
I was not that stupid.

1056
00:59:07,960 --> 00:59:13,520
She said she has a child on
the other side in the old camp.

1057
00:59:13,520 --> 00:59:17,840
And she said, as long as
I see my child's face,

1058
00:59:17,840 --> 00:59:20,630
I don't want to leave that camp.

1059
00:59:20,630 --> 00:59:23,580
And she told me, she says,
there in the corner of the line

1060

00:59:23,580 --> 00:59:24,710
are women.

1061
00:59:24,710 --> 00:59:27,800
But make sure you
stand on your tiptoes

1062
00:59:27,800 --> 00:59:32,263
and you pinch your cheeks
to look nice and healthy.

1063
00:59:32,263 --> 00:59:33,180
And I listened to her.

1064
00:59:33,180 --> 00:59:35,720
So I made that choice to listen.

1065
00:59:35,720 --> 00:59:39,170
But otherwise, was
no choices to make.

1066
00:59:39,170 --> 00:59:40,310
It wasn't.

1067
00:59:40,310 --> 00:59:44,240
Somebody said, my
family had the foresight

1068
00:59:44,240 --> 00:59:47,840
to leave Germany
and come to America.

1069
00:59:47,840 --> 00:59:49,580
People didn't have
the foresight.

1070
00:59:49,580 --> 00:59:50,900
They had the money.

1071
00:59:50,900 --> 00:59:52,520
They had the document.

1072

00:59:52,520 --> 00:59:55,460
They had something
but no foresight.

1073
00:59:55,460 --> 01:00:01,680
Foresight-- after the fact,
you can say foresight.

1074
01:00:01,680 --> 01:00:02,370
Right, Gail?

1075
01:00:02,370 --> 01:00:06,410

1076
01:00:06,410 --> 01:00:10,460
When your children
were 13 and 14,

1077
01:00:10,460 --> 01:00:12,750
was that especially
painful for you

1078
01:00:12,750 --> 01:00:14,990
that they became the
age that you were

1079
01:00:14,990 --> 01:00:17,810
when the difficulties began?

1080
01:00:17,810 --> 01:00:20,240
Gail, it was not painful.

1081
01:00:20,240 --> 01:00:23,770
It was victory over the Nazis.

1082
01:00:23,770 --> 01:00:25,600
It was victory.

1083
01:00:25,600 --> 01:00:30,370
With every child that I had
was victory over the Nazis.

1084

01:00:30,370 --> 01:00:34,930
With every celebration,
with every simcha

1085
01:00:34,930 --> 01:00:37,960
is a victory over the Nazis.

1086
01:00:37,960 --> 01:00:42,460
Every day that I lived in
the camps, women told me,

1087
01:00:42,460 --> 01:00:43,510
don't give up.

1088
01:00:43,510 --> 01:00:46,450
In spite of them,
we live day by day.

1089
01:00:46,450 --> 01:00:49,250
It was a spiritual
resistance to them.

1090
01:00:49,250 --> 01:00:52,520
Now it's victory.

1091
01:00:52,520 --> 01:00:53,800
Everything is victory.

1092
01:00:53,800 --> 01:00:55,520
They wanted us dead.

1093
01:00:55,520 --> 01:00:58,070
My children had
that bar mitzvah.

1094
01:00:58,070 --> 01:01:00,260
My children went on that date.

1095
01:01:00,260 --> 01:01:04,620
My granddaughters now who
are much older already,

1096

01:01:04,620 --> 01:01:07,790
they enjoyed their life.

1097
01:01:07,790 --> 01:01:11,810
And I really wanted my
children, our children,

1098
01:01:11,810 --> 01:01:16,620
Jack's and my children to
have what I missed out on.

1099
01:01:16,620 --> 01:01:21,900
Now many times I can go live
through them what I missed out.

1100
01:01:21,900 --> 01:01:26,380

1101
01:01:26,380 --> 01:01:31,640
How did you convey
your religious feelings

1102
01:01:31,640 --> 01:01:36,050
and the Jewish culture
to your children?

1103
01:01:36,050 --> 01:01:42,000
Gail, you see, my parents
believed very much--

1104
01:01:42,000 --> 01:01:45,180
you OK-- in Jewish education.

1105
01:01:45,180 --> 01:01:48,210
And I was brought up that way.

1106
01:01:48,210 --> 01:01:52,770
When I came to the United States
and we made very little money,

1107
01:01:52,770 --> 01:01:54,960
I looked yesterday
through a drawer,

1108
01:01:54,960 --> 01:02:00,660
I found that I paid \$59
to the Hebrew Academy.

1109
01:02:00,660 --> 01:02:04,500
Now I don't know if maybe it
was for a few months' tuition.

1110
01:02:04,500 --> 01:02:09,390
But my children went to the
Hebrew Academy from day one.

1111
01:02:09,390 --> 01:02:11,280
I worked for it.

1112
01:02:11,280 --> 01:02:16,830
You can see we have a nice home.

1113
01:02:16,830 --> 01:02:21,370
We don't have any luxurious
things, but we have millions.

1114
01:02:21,370 --> 01:02:26,550
We have three children
that we brought up

1115
01:02:26,550 --> 01:02:32,290
in the best of
education, secular

1116
01:02:32,290 --> 01:02:34,420
and religious education.

1117
01:02:34,420 --> 01:02:38,890
All our three children
graduated the Hebrew Academy.

1118
01:02:38,890 --> 01:02:41,650
They all went to colleges.

1119
01:02:41,650 --> 01:02:43,150

They didn't take loans.

1120
01:02:43,150 --> 01:02:45,130
We paid for them
because we did not

1121
01:02:45,130 --> 01:02:51,550
want them to have bills
after they finished.

1122
01:02:51,550 --> 01:02:57,970
So was very important
for me to have

1123
01:02:57,970 --> 01:03:00,910
this education for my children.

1124
01:03:00,910 --> 01:03:06,020
Now for my mother, who was the
head of the household, for her

1125
01:03:06,020 --> 01:03:09,220
the most important
thing was to teach them

1126
01:03:09,220 --> 01:03:12,420
in the ways of our Torah.

1127
01:03:12,420 --> 01:03:16,590
When they were very tiny,
she taught them the Shema.

1128
01:03:16,590 --> 01:03:18,930
She taught them the Modeh Ani.

1129
01:03:18,930 --> 01:03:24,690
She taught them the importance
of Hashem, of kindness,

1130
01:03:24,690 --> 01:03:27,960
of Mitzvot, of doing charity.

1131

01:03:27,960 --> 01:03:32,850
And I'm very proud to say
that all of her three children

1132
01:03:32,850 --> 01:03:40,190
continue to do this
Tzedakah, study the Torah,

1133
01:03:40,190 --> 01:03:42,195
and be wonderful human beings.

1134
01:03:42,195 --> 01:03:48,390

1135
01:03:48,390 --> 01:03:51,750
Are you angry that
you were forced

1136
01:03:51,750 --> 01:03:57,855
to go through the Holocaust and
others in this country did not?

1137
01:03:57,855 --> 01:03:59,250
Sure, I'm angry.

1138
01:03:59,250 --> 01:04:00,990
What do you think,
I'm not angry?

1139
01:04:00,990 --> 01:04:03,690
I could tell you all
kinds of stories.

1140
01:04:03,690 --> 01:04:05,970
Definitely, we are angry.

1141
01:04:05,970 --> 01:04:07,410
I'm angry.

1142
01:04:07,410 --> 01:04:15,390
But I learned to take my anger
and use it in a useful way.

1143

01:04:15,390 --> 01:04:19,550

Instead of being
angry, sitting home,

1144

01:04:19,550 --> 01:04:23,300

cursing the Germans or
the Nazis or whoever

1145

01:04:23,300 --> 01:04:26,110

and not doing anything
about it and being angry

1146

01:04:26,110 --> 01:04:33,520

and making myself miserable, I
took my anger for positive way,

1147

01:04:33,520 --> 01:04:37,870

to do what I was taught as
a little girl by my mom--

1148

01:04:37,870 --> 01:04:42,040

tikkun olam--
mending this world.

1149

01:04:42,040 --> 01:04:44,030

You know me well.

1150

01:04:44,030 --> 01:04:45,520

You know what I do.

1151

01:04:45,520 --> 01:04:49,480

You know how involved I am
with the Jewish community,

1152

01:04:49,480 --> 01:04:53,910

with children, most important
to teach a little more love.

1153

01:04:53,910 --> 01:04:56,650

Why don't you tell us a
little bit about what you do?

1154

01:04:56,650 --> 01:04:58,910
Right now?

1155
01:04:58,910 --> 01:04:59,640
OK.

1156
01:04:59,640 --> 01:05:01,300
What do I do?

1157
01:05:01,300 --> 01:05:11,750
As you know, many,
many years ago I always

1158
01:05:11,750 --> 01:05:15,860
felt that I owe it to the dead.

1159
01:05:15,860 --> 01:05:21,900
I survived the Holocaust by
the kindness of Jewish women

1160
01:05:21,900 --> 01:05:26,520
that shared a bite of bread with
me, that told me where to stand

1161
01:05:26,520 --> 01:05:31,860
and how to go, that held my
hand and didn't leave me behind,

1162
01:05:31,860 --> 01:05:35,910
that wrapped my body
in straw to keep warm.

1163
01:05:35,910 --> 01:05:40,320
But they always said, if
you survive, little girl,

1164
01:05:40,320 --> 01:05:44,286
don't let us be forgotten,
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

1165
01:05:44,286 --> 01:05:49,980

1166

01:05:49,980 --> 01:05:54,750

Tell the world what was
done to our Jewish people.

1167

01:05:54,750 --> 01:05:58,530

Tell what happened in this
Holocaust, in this hell.

1168

01:05:58,530 --> 01:06:03,510

And in those days, I
said, why would I survive?

1169

01:06:03,510 --> 01:06:05,010

We'll all die.

1170

01:06:05,010 --> 01:06:12,130

But I did survive somehow,
and I felt like I owe it.

1171

01:06:12,130 --> 01:06:16,600

And the first opportunity I
had was when I was liberated

1172

01:06:16,600 --> 01:06:19,480

and the soldier
carried me in his arms.

1173

01:06:19,480 --> 01:06:21,790

I started to tell him
what happened there,

1174

01:06:21,790 --> 01:06:24,510

in my broken Russian.

1175

01:06:24,510 --> 01:06:28,510

And I always continue to tell.

1176

01:06:28,510 --> 01:06:32,560

Years ago, when I appeared
the first time on television--

1177

01:06:32,560 --> 01:06:36,910

I think it was in 1970
something, maybe '78.

1178
01:06:36,910 --> 01:06:40,030
A Holocaust movie
was being shown.

1179
01:06:40,030 --> 01:06:42,070
A woman called me on the phone.

1180
01:06:42,070 --> 01:06:45,000
And she said, I don't
know if you remember me.

1181
01:06:45,000 --> 01:06:49,180
We gave birth in
1954 to children

1182
01:06:49,180 --> 01:06:51,880
in Columbia Hospital for Women.

1183
01:06:51,880 --> 01:06:54,490
And she said, I'll
never forgot you

1184
01:06:54,490 --> 01:06:58,341
because you told me
what hatred can do.

1185
01:06:58,341 --> 01:07:00,380
We correspond now and then.

1186
01:07:00,380 --> 01:07:02,220
She lives in Virginia.

1187
01:07:02,220 --> 01:07:05,180
So when I look back
through the years,

1188
01:07:05,180 --> 01:07:10,470
I always try to
fulfill this promise.

1189

01:07:10,470 --> 01:07:16,240
But it came a time when I gave
up a job to do what I'm doing--

1190

01:07:16,240 --> 01:07:17,290
not just me.

1191

01:07:17,290 --> 01:07:18,820
Many of the survivors.

1192

01:07:18,820 --> 01:07:21,370
I mean leadership of
a Holocaust survivors

1193

01:07:21,370 --> 01:07:24,670
organization for many years.

1194

01:07:24,670 --> 01:07:27,760
We pushed ourselves
into the school system.

1195

01:07:27,760 --> 01:07:32,940
Schools didn't ask in those
days for Holocaust studies.

1196

01:07:32,940 --> 01:07:34,500
We pushed ourselves in.

1197

01:07:34,500 --> 01:07:35,920
We said, we'll come.

1198

01:07:35,920 --> 01:07:37,800
We'll give testimony.

1199

01:07:37,800 --> 01:07:43,780
We were embarrassed with our
accent, with the way we spoke.

1200

01:07:43,780 --> 01:07:45,600
If we wrote something
out, we were

1201

01:07:45,600 --> 01:07:49,980

embarrassed to hand it to them
because it was misspelled.

1202

01:07:49,980 --> 01:07:51,790

But we did it.

1203

01:07:51,790 --> 01:07:58,570

So I have been sharing memories
with schools, organizations,

1204

01:07:58,570 --> 01:08:02,610

churches, synagogues
for many years.

1205

01:08:02,610 --> 01:08:04,590

True, I have been recognized.

1206

01:08:04,590 --> 01:08:08,190

I've been honored many
times by different places.

1207

01:08:08,190 --> 01:08:12,270

I'm very much involved in our
own Jewish community, United

1208

01:08:12,270 --> 01:08:16,350

Jewish Appeal, Jewish
Community Council.

1209

01:08:16,350 --> 01:08:20,130

Every organization
that helps people,

1210

01:08:20,130 --> 01:08:25,859

I'm a member of, a board
member of, every organization,

1211

01:08:25,859 --> 01:08:30,939

like Anti-Defamation, B'nai
B'rith that will help--

1212

01:08:30,939 --> 01:08:35,040
we hope that it will
change people's opinions

1213
01:08:35,040 --> 01:08:40,279
about hatred, indifference.

1214
01:08:40,279 --> 01:08:46,319
And I hope that by the time
I die, somebody will say,

1215
01:08:46,319 --> 01:08:48,479
yes, Nesse survived.

1216
01:08:48,479 --> 01:08:52,380
But she did fulfill the promise
she made to those women,

1217
01:08:52,380 --> 01:08:55,680
and she made that little
mark in this world

1218
01:08:55,680 --> 01:08:57,600
that a human being
needs to make.

1219
01:08:57,600 --> 01:09:04,370

1220
01:09:04,370 --> 01:09:07,220
What are your feelings about
Germany and the Germans?

1221
01:09:07,220 --> 01:09:11,013
Have they changed since
the end of the war?

1222
01:09:11,013 --> 01:09:15,595
Gail, it is very wrong to
put the blames of the fathers

1223
01:09:15,595 --> 01:09:16,345
on their children.

1224
01:09:16,345 --> 01:09:19,170

1225
01:09:19,170 --> 01:09:23,720
Yes, I feel terrible
that many of those Nazis

1226
01:09:23,720 --> 01:09:27,680
are going around free, that
they are getting pensions

1227
01:09:27,680 --> 01:09:34,240
from the German government
without any questions.

1228
01:09:34,240 --> 01:09:38,020
But I don't put this blame
on the young people that

1229
01:09:38,020 --> 01:09:41,500
are trying to live a
Democratic life, that

1230
01:09:41,500 --> 01:09:46,720
are trying to teach their
own children about what

1231
01:09:46,720 --> 01:09:49,890
happened in the Holocaust.

1232
01:09:49,890 --> 01:09:53,790
Yes, sure, I'm not
happy when I read

1233
01:09:53,790 --> 01:09:56,280
about skinheads in Germany.

1234
01:09:56,280 --> 01:10:00,120
And I'm not happy when I read
about skinheads in Washington

1235

01:10:00,120 --> 01:10:03,440
D.C. or elsewhere in the world.

1236
01:10:03,440 --> 01:10:09,420

1237
01:10:09,420 --> 01:10:12,930
Do you still feel any
connection to Lithuania?

1238
01:10:12,930 --> 01:10:14,190
I do.

1239
01:10:14,190 --> 01:10:18,870
I tell you why I feel
connection to Lithuania.

1240
01:10:18,870 --> 01:10:24,270
After all, until the age of
13, I lived a normal life.

1241
01:10:24,270 --> 01:10:29,580
When I walk in the mall here,
people don't remember my name.

1242
01:10:29,580 --> 01:10:32,940
But it's, aren't you
the Holocaust lady?

1243
01:10:32,940 --> 01:10:35,160
I wasn't born in the Holocaust.

1244
01:10:35,160 --> 01:10:37,230
I had a life before.

1245
01:10:37,230 --> 01:10:38,970
And you see, many times--

1246
01:10:38,970 --> 01:10:42,990
you touched something
about talking to my mother,

1247

01:10:42,990 --> 01:10:45,840
about talking to each other.

1248
01:10:45,840 --> 01:10:48,030
In those days when
we were liberated,

1249
01:10:48,030 --> 01:10:51,930
there was no such
thing as counseling.

1250
01:10:51,930 --> 01:10:58,350
I feel that maybe if I go
to Lithuania where I once

1251
01:10:58,350 --> 01:10:59,850
had a normal life--

1252
01:10:59,850 --> 01:11:02,040
and I do have a
normal life now--

1253
01:11:02,040 --> 01:11:03,525
maybe it will connect somehow.

1254
01:11:03,525 --> 01:11:06,130

1255
01:11:06,130 --> 01:11:09,500
So I really feel that
this is important

1256
01:11:09,500 --> 01:11:12,020
for my own human being.

1257
01:11:12,020 --> 01:11:15,940
Also, this is the
last chance I think.

1258
01:11:15,940 --> 01:11:17,950
I'm 70 years old, Gail.

1259

01:11:17,950 --> 01:11:19,660
I'm not that young.

1260
01:11:19,660 --> 01:11:23,450
And I think that it
is important for me

1261
01:11:23,450 --> 01:11:29,600
to go back to those graves where
I left many of my friends, many

1262
01:11:29,600 --> 01:11:31,130
of my relatives.

1263
01:11:31,130 --> 01:11:34,880
I hope to go to Auschwitz
where my father was killed.

1264
01:11:34,880 --> 01:11:38,480
And if possible, I
may go to Stutthof.

1265
01:11:38,480 --> 01:11:42,590
I'm not too sure yet how
accommodations could be

1266
01:11:42,590 --> 01:11:43,800
or whatever.

1267
01:11:43,800 --> 01:11:47,150
But I really feel
this is important.

1268
01:11:47,150 --> 01:11:52,250
In Lithuania, there are
still some relatives

1269
01:11:52,250 --> 01:11:56,120
of the people that saved my
brother, my younger brother's

1270
01:11:56,120 --> 01:11:57,170
life.

1271

01:11:57,170 --> 01:12:02,300
And they are waiting anxiously--
although they never met me--

1272

01:12:02,300 --> 01:12:05,540
they are waiting anxiously
like a member of the family

1273

01:12:05,540 --> 01:12:08,660
to come and visit.

1274

01:12:08,660 --> 01:12:10,310
Are you going by yourself?

1275

01:12:10,310 --> 01:12:12,080
I'm going with Carolyn Keeber.

1276

01:12:12,080 --> 01:12:14,930
Carolyn Keeber
became my dear friend

1277

01:12:14,930 --> 01:12:16,880
through the Holocaust Museum.

1278

01:12:16,880 --> 01:12:21,290
I met her years ago when we
had the gathering of Holocaust

1279

01:12:21,290 --> 01:12:24,440
survivors in Washington in 1983.

1280

01:12:24,440 --> 01:12:26,930
She was a volunteer,
and I believe maybe I

1281

01:12:26,930 --> 01:12:29,420
met you at that time too.

1282

01:12:29,420 --> 01:12:32,510
And we kind of kept a
little bit in touch.

1283
01:12:32,510 --> 01:12:35,390
But I got to know her
better as a wonderful human

1284
01:12:35,390 --> 01:12:39,500
being while she
was as a volunteer,

1285
01:12:39,500 --> 01:12:42,170
coordinating the
speakers bureau.

1286
01:12:42,170 --> 01:12:45,630
She was there for
us emotionally,

1287
01:12:45,630 --> 01:12:49,070
physically helping us,
doing everything possible.

1288
01:12:49,070 --> 01:12:52,050
And because she
heard so many times

1289
01:12:52,050 --> 01:12:54,380
when she went with me
people saying to me,

1290
01:12:54,380 --> 01:12:56,330
did you ever go back--

1291
01:12:56,330 --> 01:12:58,580
and I always said
the same thing.

1292
01:12:58,580 --> 01:13:00,870
I didn't go back
for two reasons.

1293
01:13:00,870 --> 01:13:03,560
Number one, it was communism.

1294

01:13:03,560 --> 01:13:07,040

And once the country
became independent,

1295

01:13:07,040 --> 01:13:09,140

Jack and I gave our money--

1296

01:13:09,140 --> 01:13:10,250

we worked hard.

1297

01:13:10,250 --> 01:13:11,660

We raised our children.

1298

01:13:11,660 --> 01:13:13,640

We gave a lot of charity.

1299

01:13:13,640 --> 01:13:16,490

I have a lot of
awards on my wall--

1300

01:13:16,490 --> 01:13:18,290

I'll have to show
it to you later--

1301

01:13:18,290 --> 01:13:20,450

but not really money.

1302

01:13:20,450 --> 01:13:24,170

So she wrote some
letters on my behalf.

1303

01:13:24,170 --> 01:13:26,090

And one gentleman
was kind enough

1304

01:13:26,090 --> 01:13:29,240

to give us frequent
flyer points.

1305

01:13:29,240 --> 01:13:31,670

And that's how we're
going to Lithuania.

1306
01:13:31,670 --> 01:13:33,080
So just you and she together?

1307
01:13:33,080 --> 01:13:35,040
Just the two of us.

1308
01:13:35,040 --> 01:13:41,400
Her family come from Lithuania,
from a place called Å ilalÄ—.

1309
01:13:41,400 --> 01:13:42,930
And how long will you be there?

1310
01:13:42,930 --> 01:13:44,470
We don't know quite yet.

1311
01:13:44,470 --> 01:13:47,280
We have to finalize our plans.

1312
01:13:47,280 --> 01:13:52,020
We have not deciphered yet how
long we staying in Lithuania,

1313
01:13:52,020 --> 01:13:53,340
how long in Poland.

1314
01:13:53,340 --> 01:13:54,270
It depends.

1315
01:13:54,270 --> 01:13:56,160
If we can get to
Stutthof, we like

1316
01:13:56,160 --> 01:13:58,500
to be a little longer in Poland.

1317
01:13:58,500 --> 01:14:04,070
Because Stutthof is called now
Sztutowo, and it's in Poland.

1318

01:14:04,070 --> 01:14:06,000