

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,670

2
00:00:01,670 --> 00:00:04,160
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:04,160 --> 00:00:07,760
Memorial Museum volunteer
collection with Nesse Godin.

4
00:00:07,760 --> 00:00:12,500
This is tape two
side A. You said

5
00:00:12,500 --> 00:00:16,010
you were able to work when
you came to this country.

6
00:00:16,010 --> 00:00:19,090
What kind of work did you do?

7
00:00:19,090 --> 00:00:25,000
I was lucky enough for some
kind woman to take me in.

8
00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:28,460
She had a dress making
and alteration place.

9
00:00:28,460 --> 00:00:31,010
And she took me in.

10
00:00:31,010 --> 00:00:34,480
And I really didn't
know how to sew.

11
00:00:34,480 --> 00:00:39,190
But eventually, after a year, I
became her manager for business

12

00:00:39,190 --> 00:00:42,850
and I managed the
business for 26 years

13
00:00:42,850 --> 00:00:47,350
right across from Adas Israel
It was called King Needlework

14
00:00:47,350 --> 00:00:50,160
Services.

15
00:00:50,160 --> 00:00:54,080
And I was there
managing her business

16
00:00:54,080 --> 00:00:57,800
until she sold the business.

17
00:00:57,800 --> 00:01:00,670
And my husband also--

18
00:01:00,670 --> 00:01:04,160
we both didn't have
any professions, and he

19
00:01:04,160 --> 00:01:06,380
also very little education.

20
00:01:06,380 --> 00:01:10,280
English was even harder for him.

21
00:01:10,280 --> 00:01:17,210
My cousins found a job for
him to carry crates of glass

22
00:01:17,210 --> 00:01:21,860
because they had a friend
who owned a glass company.

23
00:01:21,860 --> 00:01:26,570
And some salesman there
encouraged my husband

24

00:01:26,570 --> 00:01:30,110

to join the union and
to learn the trade.

25

00:01:30,110 --> 00:01:33,410

So my husband was
a glazier putting

26

00:01:33,410 --> 00:01:39,770

in not houses glass but the
big buildings revolving doors

27

00:01:39,770 --> 00:01:43,430

that all goes into that
part of the building trade.

28

00:01:43,430 --> 00:01:46,850

And he was with the
union for 35 years.

29

00:01:46,850 --> 00:01:51,470

So we both worked, how
do you say, manually.

30

00:01:51,470 --> 00:01:53,540

[LAUGHS]

31

00:01:53,540 --> 00:01:57,950

What happened to your
brothers after the war?

32

00:01:57,950 --> 00:02:02,390

One of my brothers was
liberated from Dachau,

33

00:02:02,390 --> 00:02:05,900

and we very united
with him in Feldafing.

34

00:02:05,900 --> 00:02:11,870

Now, when my mom said that we
should go to America and to--

35

00:02:11,870 --> 00:02:14,840

she wanted to be
with her sister,

36

00:02:14,840 --> 00:02:20,240

my brother stood there
with tears in his eyes

37

00:02:20,240 --> 00:02:23,790

and told my mom that
he could not do that.

38

00:02:23,790 --> 00:02:26,660

He has to go to Israel.

39

00:02:26,660 --> 00:02:33,620

And he went to Israel
in 1949, and he has been

40

00:02:33,620 --> 00:02:36,200

living in the city of Herzliya.

41

00:02:36,200 --> 00:02:40,140

He was the city
manager for many years.

42

00:02:40,140 --> 00:02:45,230

He was one that was involved
in the Zionist underground

43

00:02:45,230 --> 00:02:46,260

in the ghetto.

44

00:02:46,260 --> 00:02:50,370

And then after
liberation in the camp

45

00:02:50,370 --> 00:02:54,110

he was involved in the
displaced persons camp.

46

00:02:54,110 --> 00:02:56,910

He worked with the Bricha.

47

00:02:56,910 --> 00:02:58,850

So he wound up and
lives in Israel.

48

00:02:58,850 --> 00:03:01,800

He thanks god he's still alive.

49

00:03:01,800 --> 00:03:04,820

He has two children.

50

00:03:04,820 --> 00:03:08,930

My younger brother who's
older than me five years

51

00:03:08,930 --> 00:03:10,640

but we call him
the younger brother

52

00:03:10,640 --> 00:03:13,940

because he's the
next in line, he--

53

00:03:13,940 --> 00:03:20,210

in my testimony there is
a young Lithuanian friend

54

00:03:20,210 --> 00:03:23,240

helped him to survive.

55

00:03:23,240 --> 00:03:26,900

But he was liberated
under the Communists.

56

00:03:26,900 --> 00:03:29,230

Could never get out.

57

00:03:29,230 --> 00:03:34,780

Eventually he was
accused of being

58

00:03:34,780 --> 00:03:37,670
a Zionist, sent to Siberia.

59
00:03:37,670 --> 00:03:40,190
He was one of the refuseniks.

60
00:03:40,190 --> 00:03:45,680
And because of what we did for
Russian Jewry he was let go

61
00:03:45,680 --> 00:03:48,900
and he came to
Israel 20 years ago.

62
00:03:48,900 --> 00:03:54,230
He worked in Israel as a
director of an old age home.

63
00:03:54,230 --> 00:03:57,920
Two of his children married
Americans from Baltimore.

64
00:03:57,920 --> 00:04:02,780
And now that he retired he
came to live in Baltimore.

65
00:04:02,780 --> 00:04:03,950
He lives in Baltimore.

66
00:04:03,950 --> 00:04:07,360

67
00:04:07,360 --> 00:04:10,840
Do you feel as a
survivor that you really

68
00:04:10,840 --> 00:04:12,490
are two different persons?

69
00:04:12,490 --> 00:04:15,850
One person on the outside to
others and a different person

70

00:04:15,850 --> 00:04:17,450
on the inside?

71

00:04:17,450 --> 00:04:20,500
You see, Gail, this is
something that nobody ever

72

00:04:20,500 --> 00:04:22,180
asked me before.

73

00:04:22,180 --> 00:04:25,840
But I feel that way.

74

00:04:25,840 --> 00:04:30,850
There is me and the
one that remembers.

75

00:04:30,850 --> 00:04:33,910
In my computer I
write my memoirs,

76

00:04:33,910 --> 00:04:37,020
and that's what I call it.

77

00:04:37,020 --> 00:04:39,390
Me and my memories.

78

00:04:39,390 --> 00:04:42,850
[SPEAKING HEBREW] in Hebrew.

79

00:04:42,850 --> 00:04:45,520
I am like two people.

80

00:04:45,520 --> 00:04:47,920
If I wouldn't be
like two people,

81

00:04:47,920 --> 00:04:52,010
I don't think I could
do what I'm doing.

82

00:04:52,010 --> 00:04:56,950
I don't think I could go out
and speak about Holocaust

83
00:04:56,950 --> 00:05:00,010
and then go to a
restaurant and eat.

84
00:05:00,010 --> 00:05:04,480
I couldn't go to
the Holocaust Museum

85
00:05:04,480 --> 00:05:07,060
and see there and
do what I'm doing

86
00:05:07,060 --> 00:05:09,640
and continue another life.

87
00:05:09,640 --> 00:05:13,900
So some people may
not realize, but most

88
00:05:13,900 --> 00:05:19,300
of us, the ones that survive
the camps or in hiding--

89
00:05:19,300 --> 00:05:21,100
I'm not talking--

90
00:05:21,100 --> 00:05:24,580
I don't minimize the
pain of survivors

91
00:05:24,580 --> 00:05:28,810
that came just before the war
and came with their families.

92
00:05:28,810 --> 00:05:29,650
They had pain.

93
00:05:29,650 --> 00:05:30,820
They left their homes.

94
00:05:30,820 --> 00:05:32,620
They left some family.

95
00:05:32,620 --> 00:05:37,240
But we were the ones that
were during the years

96
00:05:37,240 --> 00:05:40,770
of the Holocaust there.

97
00:05:40,770 --> 00:05:45,540
Whether we admit it or
not, there is two of us.

98
00:05:45,540 --> 00:05:49,610
Otherwise we couldn't
live day by day.

99
00:05:49,610 --> 00:05:52,220
That one that live
the normal life

100
00:05:52,220 --> 00:05:56,090
has to cope with the
person that remembers.

101
00:05:56,090 --> 00:05:59,390
The person that
remembers has to push

102
00:05:59,390 --> 00:06:03,650
the one that lived a normal
life to do this obligation, that

103
00:06:03,650 --> 00:06:05,880
promise.

104
00:06:05,880 --> 00:06:07,680
And I am that way.

105
00:06:07,680 --> 00:06:08,940

I know.

106
00:06:08,940 --> 00:06:09,810
I know.

107
00:06:09,810 --> 00:06:14,430
And people-- like a few
people say to me see,

108
00:06:14,430 --> 00:06:16,130
you're so different now.

109
00:06:16,130 --> 00:06:16,920
You dressed up.

110
00:06:16,920 --> 00:06:18,330
You look so nice.

111
00:06:18,330 --> 00:06:21,390
And I think to myself,
yes, there is two of me.

112
00:06:21,390 --> 00:06:36,110

113
00:06:36,110 --> 00:06:42,860
You were very young when you
went through this experience.

114
00:06:42,860 --> 00:06:46,070
Was that a help or
was that a hindrance?

115
00:06:46,070 --> 00:06:47,895
If you had been older--

116
00:06:47,895 --> 00:06:49,520
a little older, do
you think that would

117
00:06:49,520 --> 00:06:50,478
have made a difference?

118
00:06:50,478 --> 00:06:53,480
Or were you just as
aware of the dangers

119
00:06:53,480 --> 00:06:55,130
even though you were so young.

120
00:06:55,130 --> 00:06:58,310
You see I was young,
but not that young.

121
00:06:58,310 --> 00:06:59,630
I was 13.

122
00:06:59,630 --> 00:07:02,090
At 13 you are aware.

123
00:07:02,090 --> 00:07:03,920
You know what's going on.

124
00:07:03,920 --> 00:07:10,410
But I'm sure many people have
told you children were aware.

125
00:07:10,410 --> 00:07:16,290
Children of two knew how to hide
of the sudden-- of the Nazis,

126
00:07:16,290 --> 00:07:18,180
going let me hide under the bed.

127
00:07:18,180 --> 00:07:19,920
Let me hide there.

128
00:07:19,920 --> 00:07:24,990
When danger comes you know,
somehow there is something--

129
00:07:24,990 --> 00:07:28,800
I always say it's in your
brain that prepares you

130
00:07:28,800 --> 00:07:33,270
for that danger, for
something that's happening,

131
00:07:33,270 --> 00:07:35,870
to know to escape,
to know to hide,

132
00:07:35,870 --> 00:07:40,860
to know to cope with
certain situations.

133
00:07:40,860 --> 00:07:43,770
But I was 13, and I think--

134
00:07:43,770 --> 00:07:47,190
I always say too, I must
have been the right age

135
00:07:47,190 --> 00:07:48,310
at the right time.

136
00:07:48,310 --> 00:07:51,273
If I would have
been 13 when they

137
00:07:51,273 --> 00:07:53,160
would have brought
me to Stutthof,

138
00:07:53,160 --> 00:07:54,840
I would have been dead.

139
00:07:54,840 --> 00:07:57,410
But I was 16.

140
00:07:57,410 --> 00:08:03,830
So there were some
age that, sure,

141
00:08:03,830 --> 00:08:06,370

it maybe would have
been easier if I would

142
00:08:06,370 --> 00:08:09,370
have been just two years older.

143
00:08:09,370 --> 00:08:13,210
I would have been more
adult to begin with.

144
00:08:13,210 --> 00:08:14,840
Or three years older.

145
00:08:14,840 --> 00:08:16,610
I would right away have a job.

146
00:08:16,610 --> 00:08:20,020
I would right away
have that certificate

147
00:08:20,020 --> 00:08:22,690
to go into the ghetto.

148
00:08:22,690 --> 00:08:25,140
So it was destiny.

149
00:08:25,140 --> 00:08:25,800
That's it.

150
00:08:25,800 --> 00:08:28,500

151
00:08:28,500 --> 00:08:32,970
What were your feelings with
the Eichmann Trial in Israel?

152
00:08:32,970 --> 00:08:35,370
My feelings about
the Eichmann Trial

153
00:08:35,370 --> 00:08:38,970
was that finally

at least one man

154
00:08:38,970 --> 00:08:45,150
is getting what he should get by
trial, by the law of the land.

155
00:08:45,150 --> 00:08:47,490
You know, I always
say I wouldn't

156
00:08:47,490 --> 00:08:50,400
drive a Nazi by the neck and
choking because I wouldn't

157
00:08:50,400 --> 00:08:52,170
be any better than him.

158
00:08:52,170 --> 00:08:55,570
But I think if somebody
commits a crime,

159
00:08:55,570 --> 00:08:58,410
they should be punished
by the law of the land

160
00:08:58,410 --> 00:08:59,670
wherever they are.

161
00:08:59,670 --> 00:09:03,000
If the law of the land
requires capital punishment,

162
00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:03,960
they should be killed.

163
00:09:03,960 --> 00:09:07,410
If it requires sitting in
jail, they should sit in jail.

164
00:09:07,410 --> 00:09:10,180
But they shouldn't
go around free.

165

00:09:10,180 --> 00:09:12,880

Somebody said to me
one day, don't you

166

00:09:12,880 --> 00:09:15,340

think it's time to
leave them alone?

167

00:09:15,340 --> 00:09:17,080

They're so old.

168

00:09:17,080 --> 00:09:20,350

And I said-- you know,
in a presentation.

169

00:09:20,350 --> 00:09:23,260

I said, my father
didn't get to be 48.

170

00:09:23,260 --> 00:09:24,850

He was killed when he was 47.

171

00:09:24,850 --> 00:09:31,280

172

00:09:31,280 --> 00:09:34,233

You did allude to
this earlier about

173

00:09:34,233 --> 00:09:35,900

when you first came
to the United States

174

00:09:35,900 --> 00:09:37,870

and you went to sit
in the back of the bus

175

00:09:37,870 --> 00:09:42,230

and the Black people were
sitting there by law.

176

00:09:42,230 --> 00:09:44,800

177
00:09:44,800 --> 00:09:47,140
Because of what you
went through I'm sure

178
00:09:47,140 --> 00:09:50,680
you're more attuned to what
is happening around you.

179
00:09:50,680 --> 00:09:53,440
So were you involved with
the civil rights movement?

180
00:09:53,440 --> 00:09:54,490
I tell you.

181
00:09:54,490 --> 00:09:57,490
At that time with the
civil rights movement

182
00:09:57,490 --> 00:10:04,030
I was so anxious to work hard,
to help my children become

183
00:10:04,030 --> 00:10:06,080
good human beings.

184
00:10:06,080 --> 00:10:15,040
And I was mentally not ready to
step into those demonstrations

185
00:10:15,040 --> 00:10:16,210
and so forth.

186
00:10:16,210 --> 00:10:22,290
But I-- in my own way as I
speak about the Holocaust,

187
00:10:22,290 --> 00:10:26,310
I always speak
although there was--

188

00:10:26,310 --> 00:10:29,670

in my town there
were no Black people.

189

00:10:29,670 --> 00:10:31,200

But if there would
have been there,

190

00:10:31,200 --> 00:10:33,000

they would have been killed.

191

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:39,630

So indirectly I
still preach of love

192

00:10:39,630 --> 00:10:44,130

among human beings regardless
of religion and color

193

00:10:44,130 --> 00:10:48,530

or handicap or way of life.

194

00:10:48,530 --> 00:10:51,620

When you pick up the newspaper
or watch on television

195

00:10:51,620 --> 00:10:54,890

what's happening, let's say,
in the former Yugoslavia

196

00:10:54,890 --> 00:10:58,920

or what's happening in
Kosovo, does this, again,

197

00:10:58,920 --> 00:11:01,020

bring back memories to you?

198

00:11:01,020 --> 00:11:04,230

You see, Gail, that
thing is what's

199

00:11:04,230 --> 00:11:08,730

happening in the former
Yugoslavia, it's a civil war.

200
00:11:08,730 --> 00:11:13,170
Just like when we had the Civil
War before the United States

201
00:11:13,170 --> 00:11:14,820
came into being.

202
00:11:14,820 --> 00:11:20,840
When there is a civil
war people get killed.

203
00:11:20,840 --> 00:11:24,950
And to compare pains to
pains, tragedies to tragedies

204
00:11:24,950 --> 00:11:26,790
is not a good thing.

205
00:11:26,790 --> 00:11:28,730
It's a separate issue.

206
00:11:28,730 --> 00:11:31,730
One can be a heart attack
while you're dying.

207
00:11:31,730 --> 00:11:37,520
The other one can be a bladder
attack or something else

208
00:11:37,520 --> 00:11:41,180
that you can be cured of.

209
00:11:41,180 --> 00:11:47,606
And sure, you feel terrible
when you see a wrong being done.

210
00:11:47,606 --> 00:11:52,310
You know very well
when there was a big--

211
00:11:52,310 --> 00:11:56,990
supposed to be a big
demonstration for Bosnia

212
00:11:56,990 --> 00:11:58,760
near the Holocaust Museum.

213
00:11:58,760 --> 00:12:00,230
Who was there?

214
00:12:00,230 --> 00:12:05,620
Just a few survivors and
[INAUDIBLE] more people.

215
00:12:05,620 --> 00:12:09,490
The majority of the people,
American people will not dare.

216
00:12:09,490 --> 00:12:16,980
Yes, we people that suffer are
sensitive to suffer, to pain.

217
00:12:16,980 --> 00:12:19,020
But to compare
things, you cannot.

218
00:12:19,020 --> 00:12:20,730
You know, I hate
when people start

219
00:12:20,730 --> 00:12:22,410
to say-- they go up to me.

220
00:12:22,410 --> 00:12:24,810
What do you do about Bosnia?

221
00:12:24,810 --> 00:12:26,460
And I say, excuse me.

222
00:12:26,460 --> 00:12:27,930
Did I hear you very well?

223

00:12:27,930 --> 00:12:30,760

Did you say what do I do?

224

00:12:30,760 --> 00:12:32,110

What do we do?

225

00:12:32,110 --> 00:12:34,000

What do you do?

226

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:38,530

Because I'm a Holocaust
survivor I'm supposed to do it?

227

00:12:38,530 --> 00:12:40,920

We're supposed to
do it together.

228

00:12:40,920 --> 00:12:43,260

They know my name
in the White House.

229

00:12:43,260 --> 00:12:46,320

I'm sure they know yours
too because we write letters

230

00:12:46,320 --> 00:12:46,890

all the time.

231

00:12:46,890 --> 00:12:49,770

232

00:12:49,770 --> 00:12:53,220

Are you more comfortable
being around other survivors

233

00:12:53,220 --> 00:12:55,180

than non survivors?

234

00:12:55,180 --> 00:12:55,680

No.

235

00:12:55,680 --> 00:12:57,060
No, for me not.

236
00:12:57,060 --> 00:12:58,620
For me not really.

237
00:12:58,620 --> 00:13:02,940
At the beginning when we
came to the United States

238
00:13:02,940 --> 00:13:05,370
no one wanted to listen to us.

239
00:13:05,370 --> 00:13:08,790
My own family, my
own aunt, she--

240
00:13:08,790 --> 00:13:12,090
I don't know whether she
of guilt or kindness--

241
00:13:12,090 --> 00:13:14,450
she always said,
don't talk about it.

242
00:13:14,450 --> 00:13:16,920
Zip your mouth.

243
00:13:16,920 --> 00:13:19,860
No, but you don't need
to talk about it anymore.

244
00:13:19,860 --> 00:13:23,070
Too painful, too this,
nobody want to listen.

245
00:13:23,070 --> 00:13:26,460
So as I said before, we
reached out to survivors.

246
00:13:26,460 --> 00:13:28,360
We talked among ourselves.

247

00:13:28,360 --> 00:13:32,130

But at this point really I
have all kinds of friends.

248

00:13:32,130 --> 00:13:36,150

I have no problem
to walk in a room

249

00:13:36,150 --> 00:13:38,110

where there are a
bunch of strangers,

250

00:13:38,110 --> 00:13:41,372

and they become my friends
if they are kind enough.

251

00:13:41,372 --> 00:13:44,030

So for me it's no problem.

252

00:13:44,030 --> 00:13:45,920

Personally, no.

253

00:13:45,920 --> 00:13:51,670

You had also said before
that your mother had advised

254

00:13:51,670 --> 00:13:54,190

talking about to
your children what

255

00:13:54,190 --> 00:13:57,700

she and you and your
husband had experienced.

256

00:13:57,700 --> 00:14:00,340

How do you do that
with young children

257

00:14:00,340 --> 00:14:03,820

and yet not inflict
too much pain?

258

00:14:03,820 --> 00:14:05,470
It's a very fine line.

259
00:14:05,470 --> 00:14:07,120
How did you resolve that?

260
00:14:07,120 --> 00:14:11,470
OK, when my mother started
to tell to my children

261
00:14:11,470 --> 00:14:16,630
about the Holocaust, she did not
tell them how Jews were killed.

262
00:14:16,630 --> 00:14:20,710
She said how she personally
avoided by miracle

263
00:14:20,710 --> 00:14:24,460
being sent to another camp.

264
00:14:24,460 --> 00:14:27,130
Again, we talk about Hanukkah.

265
00:14:27,130 --> 00:14:28,960
We talk about Purim.

266
00:14:28,960 --> 00:14:32,350
We talk about Passover.

267
00:14:32,350 --> 00:14:37,700
We talk about all the miracles
what happen in the Bible.

268
00:14:37,700 --> 00:14:41,060
We talk about many
things, about Passover,

269
00:14:41,060 --> 00:14:44,180
how the firstborns were
killed and all this.

270

00:14:44,180 --> 00:14:45,800
And we don't even think twice.

271
00:14:45,800 --> 00:14:47,930
We teach it out children.

272
00:14:47,930 --> 00:14:51,670
Why shouldn't we teach
them about the Holocaust?

273
00:14:51,670 --> 00:14:53,710
And especially with my children.

274
00:14:53,710 --> 00:14:57,490
Don't forget my daughter
is 52 years old.

275
00:14:57,490 --> 00:14:59,800
My son is 48.

276
00:14:59,800 --> 00:15:02,920
My younger daughter was just 44.

277
00:15:02,920 --> 00:15:06,430
So that many years ago
when they were little.

278
00:15:06,430 --> 00:15:09,870
But my mother always
said, [? shoo, ?]

279
00:15:09,870 --> 00:15:12,330
you're not going to tell
them they're sticking people

280
00:15:12,330 --> 00:15:15,750
into ovens or gassing them.

281
00:15:15,750 --> 00:15:19,290
But you tell them there was
this time, the Holocaust.

282

00:15:19,290 --> 00:15:25,230
Well, you know, that Nazis
ruled Germany and they were

283
00:15:25,230 --> 00:15:28,050
terrible cruel to
the Jewish people.

284
00:15:28,050 --> 00:15:30,180
Jewish people, many
of them, you know,

285
00:15:30,180 --> 00:15:32,740
were killed during that time.

286
00:15:32,740 --> 00:15:36,880
And as the children got older,
they learned more and more.

287
00:15:36,880 --> 00:15:39,160
And my grandchildren--

288
00:15:39,160 --> 00:15:42,680
Daniella is now 11 years old.

289
00:15:42,680 --> 00:15:46,000
But when she was nine I took
her to the Holocaust Museum.

290
00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:49,150
So I took Josh when he was nine.

291
00:15:49,150 --> 00:15:52,390
Not to the Daniel's Story
but the permanent exhibit.

292
00:15:52,390 --> 00:15:56,430
I did not let them look
behind the privacy wall.

293
00:15:56,430 --> 00:15:57,810
But they were ready.

294

00:15:57,810 --> 00:16:02,050

They were ready to see documentaries and so forth.

295

00:16:02,050 --> 00:16:06,250

I really think there is ways-- there are many books now

296

00:16:06,250 --> 00:16:10,570

especially to introduce children of that time.

297

00:16:10,570 --> 00:16:16,800

Same way like so many years ago was [INAUDIBLE]

298

00:16:16,800 --> 00:16:18,850

50 some years ago it was Hitler.

299

00:16:18,850 --> 00:16:23,780

300

00:16:23,780 --> 00:16:25,820

Let's now talk a little bit about your work

301

00:16:25,820 --> 00:16:27,350

at the Holocaust Museum.

302

00:16:27,350 --> 00:16:30,480

303

00:16:30,480 --> 00:16:33,890

What was your very first encounter with the museum?

304

00:16:33,890 --> 00:16:35,280

How did you first hear about it?

305

00:16:35,280 --> 00:16:38,010

306

00:16:38,010 --> 00:16:43,230
Because I have been involved in
the community for so many years

307

00:16:43,230 --> 00:16:46,950
and because I have been
speaking to so many groups,

308

00:16:46,950 --> 00:16:52,080
when the United States Holocaust
Memorial Council was formed

309

00:16:52,080 --> 00:16:55,440
I was invited by
Mr. [? Strohlitz ?]

310

00:16:55,440 --> 00:17:02,570
to come and participate in
some kind of commemoration.

311

00:17:02,570 --> 00:17:06,380
Then I don't remember who
at that time was in charge.

312

00:17:06,380 --> 00:17:10,130
They invited me to come
and talk to the staff.

313

00:17:10,130 --> 00:17:12,829
So I was in right away.

314

00:17:12,829 --> 00:17:15,530
And then there was
Isaiah Kuperstein,

315

00:17:15,530 --> 00:17:21,500
and there was many people
that prepared the educational.

316

00:17:21,500 --> 00:17:24,680
Eli Pfefferkorn who
was brought from Israel

317

00:17:24,680 --> 00:17:27,770

to work in the education
department at the council.

318

00:17:27,770 --> 00:17:29,930

I'm not talking museum yet.

319

00:17:29,930 --> 00:17:33,920

So I was involved with
that for many, many years.

320

00:17:33,920 --> 00:17:41,700

When the plans started
to be to have--

321

00:17:41,700 --> 00:17:44,700

by Adeline Yates to
have the Remember

322

00:17:44,700 --> 00:17:48,930

the Children, at least the
exhibit in the children's

323

00:17:48,930 --> 00:17:51,930

museum because she thought
she would die of cancer

324

00:17:51,930 --> 00:17:55,080

and she wanted to see
that at least to happen,

325

00:17:55,080 --> 00:18:00,420

the council actually worked
with the Children's Museum

326

00:18:00,420 --> 00:18:02,880

to have that special exhibit.

327

00:18:02,880 --> 00:18:08,130

So right away they called me
to make a tape about my life.

328

00:18:08,130 --> 00:18:10,980
And still in the
children's museum

329
00:18:10,980 --> 00:18:13,800
they still have
this video going,

330
00:18:13,800 --> 00:18:15,780
me talking about my life.

331
00:18:15,780 --> 00:18:20,760
That was done by the Children's
Museum, a different video.

332
00:18:20,760 --> 00:18:25,910
Then when they
started to raise money

333
00:18:25,910 --> 00:18:28,700
they invited a
small group of ours,

334
00:18:28,700 --> 00:18:33,320
the leadership of the
Holocaust organization.

335
00:18:33,320 --> 00:18:36,200
By that time we were called
already Jewish Holocaust

336
00:18:36,200 --> 00:18:37,400
Survivors and Friends.

337
00:18:37,400 --> 00:18:41,240
Previously it's
known as Club Shalom.

338
00:18:41,240 --> 00:18:45,680
And we offered out help
physically and a little bit

339
00:18:45,680 --> 00:18:48,590

monetary to have parallel meetings, you know,

340
00:18:48,590 --> 00:18:50,330
[? on group. ?]

341
00:18:50,330 --> 00:18:55,910
And as I mentioned to you, Linda Kusmack,

342
00:18:55,910 --> 00:18:59,150
when she took over the Department of Oral History,

343
00:18:59,150 --> 00:19:02,880
I knew her from the Jewish community from other places.

344
00:19:02,880 --> 00:19:05,570
She called me and asked me if she could practice on me,

345
00:19:05,570 --> 00:19:07,565
if I could be the guinea pig.

346
00:19:07,565 --> 00:19:10,250
So my tape was really made the first--

347
00:19:10,250 --> 00:19:13,220
one of the first tapes in the museum.

348
00:19:13,220 --> 00:19:16,180
I believe it was the first tape.

349
00:19:16,180 --> 00:19:19,240
And I'm sure they learned a lot after that

350
00:19:19,240 --> 00:19:21,520
what to do different things.

351

00:19:21,520 --> 00:19:23,450

And that's how I was involved.

352

00:19:23,450 --> 00:19:28,670

So I got involved
with the ID program

353

00:19:28,670 --> 00:19:36,200

because they needed desperately
information about people.

354

00:19:36,200 --> 00:19:41,210

Not just people that survived
but people that perished.

355

00:19:41,210 --> 00:19:43,230

And I had that information.

356

00:19:43,230 --> 00:19:46,950

And luckily I had
pictures for my family

357

00:19:46,950 --> 00:19:49,830

because my aunt lived here.

358

00:19:49,830 --> 00:19:54,890

So I went on L Street many a
times to work with ID program,

359

00:19:54,890 --> 00:19:57,290

with the education department.

360

00:19:57,290 --> 00:20:02,520

With communication they needed
people to talk to the media.

361

00:20:02,520 --> 00:20:03,530

They dragged me.

362

00:20:03,530 --> 00:20:06,068

You know, the people
at that time--

363

00:20:06,068 --> 00:20:08,360

I don't know if you were
aware of Naomi [PERSONAL NAME]

364

00:20:08,360 --> 00:20:12,140

and [? Liz ?] [? Rose, ?] they
were all in the communication

365

00:20:12,140 --> 00:20:13,070

department.

366

00:20:13,070 --> 00:20:16,250

367

00:20:16,250 --> 00:20:20,000

At that time, we didn't
have a set speakers

368

00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:22,070

bureau in the museum yet.

369

00:20:22,070 --> 00:20:25,880

[PERSONAL NAME] Ashkenazy
schlepped me back and forth.

370

00:20:25,880 --> 00:20:29,240

And quite a few of
us got involved.

371

00:20:29,240 --> 00:20:34,400

But mostly we got involved with
raising money for the museum.

372

00:20:34,400 --> 00:20:36,860

We did many
[? power ?] meetings I

373

00:20:36,860 --> 00:20:40,250

mean [INAUDIBLE] members of
our own Holocaust survivors

374

00:20:40,250 --> 00:20:42,240
organization.

375
00:20:42,240 --> 00:20:45,510
And as the museum
was ready to open

376
00:20:45,510 --> 00:20:50,930
they had a core of volunteers
that were ready to do it,

377
00:20:50,930 --> 00:20:54,960
that knew already exactly
where everything would be.

378
00:20:54,960 --> 00:21:00,060
And now at this point
I'm involved still

379
00:21:00,060 --> 00:21:03,060
the education department.

380
00:21:03,060 --> 00:21:09,480
I speak at teachers conferences,
students if necessary,

381
00:21:09,480 --> 00:21:11,840
groups of students.

382
00:21:11,840 --> 00:21:14,180
I'm involved with communication.

383
00:21:14,180 --> 00:21:16,820
You see what you
saw in the newspaper

384
00:21:16,820 --> 00:21:22,070
where it was written up in
the Baltimore Sun last week.

385
00:21:22,070 --> 00:21:24,170
That comes through
the communication.

386
00:21:24,170 --> 00:21:29,210
When they get a request
they ask a few people

387
00:21:29,210 --> 00:21:31,850
who would participate.

388
00:21:31,850 --> 00:21:35,690
And I'm involved still
with development,

389
00:21:35,690 --> 00:21:39,440
which is the fundraising
organization of the museum,

390
00:21:39,440 --> 00:21:40,490
to raise money.

391
00:21:40,490 --> 00:21:45,240
And I committed myself
once a week for--

392
00:21:45,240 --> 00:21:48,590
I'm at the desk in the
museum on Wednesdays

393
00:21:48,590 --> 00:21:54,230
actually trying to get people
to become members and donors.

394
00:21:54,230 --> 00:21:56,690
And people are generous,
especially when

395
00:21:56,690 --> 00:21:58,850
they meet a survivor.

396
00:21:58,850 --> 00:22:01,190
They're very much so.

397
00:22:01,190 --> 00:22:04,400

I wind up sometimes
three times a week

398
00:22:04,400 --> 00:22:08,660
in the museum and many times
fives times a week on behalf

399
00:22:08,660 --> 00:22:11,420
of the museum somewhere else,

400
00:22:11,420 --> 00:22:15,710
You said you work with
teachers and the education--

401
00:22:15,710 --> 00:22:18,990
through the
education department.

402
00:22:18,990 --> 00:22:22,940
How do you handle with
non-Jewish teachers

403
00:22:22,940 --> 00:22:26,360
the element or the
area of antisemitism

404
00:22:26,360 --> 00:22:28,183
and some of the roots
of antisemitism?

405
00:22:28,183 --> 00:22:34,040
You see, this is not for
us survivors to talk about.

406
00:22:34,040 --> 00:22:36,080
Because I always felt--

407
00:22:36,080 --> 00:22:40,790
I start my talk that I'm not a
scholar, and I'm not a teacher.

408
00:22:40,790 --> 00:22:44,870
I am here to give you a

personal testimony, what

409

00:22:44,870 --> 00:22:49,760
happened in my town, in
my place, with my people.

410

00:22:49,760 --> 00:22:53,000
Somewhere on the tape I
corrected you about something

411

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:54,800
about certificates.

412

00:22:54,800 --> 00:22:59,360
You see, and I make sure
to say my place, my time,

413

00:22:59,360 --> 00:23:01,740
in that time.

414

00:23:01,740 --> 00:23:05,490
Because let's say somebody
came to Stutthof a year

415

00:23:05,490 --> 00:23:06,660
before I did.

416

00:23:06,660 --> 00:23:08,490
May have been different.

417

00:23:08,490 --> 00:23:12,240
So when people ask
me about antisemitism

418

00:23:12,240 --> 00:23:14,370
I tell them this is
a terrible thing,

419

00:23:14,370 --> 00:23:20,100
but I am not an
expert on that issue.

420

00:23:20,100 --> 00:23:22,720
I suffer because of that issue.

421
00:23:22,720 --> 00:23:25,140
But I don't go into politics.

422
00:23:25,140 --> 00:23:27,150
This is not my job.

423
00:23:27,150 --> 00:23:30,690
This is the job of the
educators of the museum,

424
00:23:30,690 --> 00:23:34,560
to get materials, to have
backup, to do research.

425
00:23:34,560 --> 00:23:37,890
That's not my job.

426
00:23:37,890 --> 00:23:42,120
Has working at the
museum and being there

427
00:23:42,120 --> 00:23:46,620
and always seeing what's in the
exhibits affected your memories

428
00:23:46,620 --> 00:23:48,420
of the Holocaust at all?

429
00:23:48,420 --> 00:23:51,690
No, because there
is nothing there

430
00:23:51,690 --> 00:23:56,910
to affect my memory because
there's nothing of Siaulai.

431
00:23:56,910 --> 00:24:01,620
If you will take a tape of
mine before the museum opened,

432

00:24:01,620 --> 00:24:06,210

it will sound exactly like
this tape or each tape

433

00:24:06,210 --> 00:24:07,590

that you will look.

434

00:24:07,590 --> 00:24:10,680

Maybe if you allow me
a little extra time,

435

00:24:10,680 --> 00:24:15,180

I can tell a little
more about the situation

436

00:24:15,180 --> 00:24:17,130

than if somebody
says, well, we just

437

00:24:17,130 --> 00:24:20,040

have one hour or two hours.

438

00:24:20,040 --> 00:24:22,590

But it did not affect at all.

439

00:24:22,590 --> 00:24:27,530

What the museum
did for me is help

440

00:24:27,530 --> 00:24:32,690

fulfill that promise that
I made to those women.

441

00:24:32,690 --> 00:24:37,640

When I sit there at the desk
and I look at our visitors

442

00:24:37,640 --> 00:24:41,510

and there is people of every
race and every religion,

443

00:24:41,510 --> 00:24:46,430

of every size, small and young,
and I sit there and I say,

444

00:24:46,430 --> 00:24:52,540
beautiful ladies, I promised
you to remember you.

445

00:24:52,540 --> 00:24:54,400
I'm doing it here.

446

00:24:54,400 --> 00:24:57,640
You know, I don't
even call it a museum.

447

00:24:57,640 --> 00:25:01,150
I call it the most
wonderful institution

448

00:25:01,150 --> 00:25:04,490
of learning for humanity.

449

00:25:04,490 --> 00:25:08,180
How to behave,
what hatred can do,

450

00:25:08,180 --> 00:25:11,980
to respect each other,
to love each other.

451

00:25:11,980 --> 00:25:15,460
So it has nothing
to do with memory.

452

00:25:15,460 --> 00:25:17,920
I don't go upstairs
in the research--

453

00:25:17,920 --> 00:25:21,100
to research what
I'm going to say.

454

00:25:21,100 --> 00:25:24,920
I don't look at

notes as you can see.

455

00:25:24,920 --> 00:25:34,460

As long as my memory is working,
I will continue to share it.

456

00:25:34,460 --> 00:25:36,140

Good and bad.

457

00:25:36,140 --> 00:25:40,700

Once people will tell me
that my memory's failing,

458

00:25:40,700 --> 00:25:44,570

maybe that will be time to stop.

459

00:25:44,570 --> 00:25:49,510

Once a man asked me how
long do I think at my age

460

00:25:49,510 --> 00:25:52,890

I can go around
speaking at schools.

461

00:25:52,890 --> 00:25:54,540

And I told him--

462

00:25:54,540 --> 00:25:59,520

without mentioning names,
I told the gentleman,

463

00:25:59,520 --> 00:26:02,790

I said, maybe I
won't be able to work

464

00:26:02,790 --> 00:26:05,610

and you'll have to push
me on my wheelchair.

465

00:26:05,610 --> 00:26:10,490

But as long as my memory serves
me, I will continue to do so.

466

00:26:10,490 --> 00:26:13,230

467

00:26:13,230 --> 00:26:16,830

Friends of yours
who are survivors

468

00:26:16,830 --> 00:26:19,830

but who are not
volunteers at the museum,

469

00:26:19,830 --> 00:26:23,220

do you try to encourage
them to become volunteers?

470

00:26:23,220 --> 00:26:25,950

We encourage--
every single meeting

471

00:26:25,950 --> 00:26:29,610

we encourage people
to come and give

472

00:26:29,610 --> 00:26:34,170

their testimony so
the whole picture

473

00:26:34,170 --> 00:26:40,680

of every little town and every
place would come together.

474

00:26:40,680 --> 00:26:44,730

We encourage people
to come to help out.

475

00:26:44,730 --> 00:26:48,220

There's so many people
that speak many languages.

476

00:26:48,220 --> 00:26:52,380

Some of the men that had to
work and couldn't up to now do

477

00:26:52,380 --> 00:26:56,670

so, we encourage
them to get involved.

478

00:26:56,670 --> 00:27:02,370

We think it's very important
for give testimony, help

479

00:27:02,370 --> 00:27:04,050

in every which way they can.

480

00:27:04,050 --> 00:27:07,600

481

00:27:07,600 --> 00:27:11,920

Do most of them agree
to do it, do you find?

482

00:27:11,920 --> 00:27:17,400

I tell you, Gail, you
have to understand.

483

00:27:17,400 --> 00:27:20,730

Let's say a young
guy like me that

484

00:27:20,730 --> 00:27:24,600

survived the Holocaust
came here, worked hard,

485

00:27:24,600 --> 00:27:28,080

now he's retired,
it's fine for him

486

00:27:28,080 --> 00:27:30,600

to go and to help and to do.

487

00:27:30,600 --> 00:27:35,280

Take another guy that had
a family before the war.

488

00:27:35,280 --> 00:27:38,070

Have wife, three, four children.

489

00:27:38,070 --> 00:27:39,690

They were all killed.

490

00:27:39,690 --> 00:27:42,720

After the war he
built a new family.

491

00:27:42,720 --> 00:27:45,540

Can you expect him
really to come?

492

00:27:45,540 --> 00:27:49,170

Can you-- I wouldn't even
encourage a person like this

493

00:27:49,170 --> 00:27:50,190

to come.

494

00:27:50,190 --> 00:27:54,210

Maybe I would say, do you feel
like doing some translation

495

00:27:54,210 --> 00:27:56,470

for the museum?

496

00:27:56,470 --> 00:27:58,010

You think you want to do it?

497

00:27:58,010 --> 00:28:01,200

Can you do it?

498

00:28:01,200 --> 00:28:06,270

It's not across the board
that everyone is the same

499

00:28:06,270 --> 00:28:07,020

and can do it.

500

00:28:07,020 --> 00:28:09,650

501
00:28:09,650 --> 00:28:14,510
Yes, maybe, I can do what I'm
doing because I did survive.

502
00:28:14,510 --> 00:28:15,590
I was a kid.

503
00:28:15,590 --> 00:28:18,170
I wasn't yet part--

504
00:28:18,170 --> 00:28:20,110
I didn't have yet
my own children,

505
00:28:20,110 --> 00:28:23,970
own husband before the war.

506
00:28:23,970 --> 00:28:26,310
So you have to understand that.

507
00:28:26,310 --> 00:28:31,440
You cannot compare why can
she do it, why can't he do it?

508
00:28:31,440 --> 00:28:33,760
Cannot do that.

509
00:28:33,760 --> 00:28:39,660
What is your relationship
with the other volunteers

510
00:28:39,660 --> 00:28:43,980
at the museum who are also
survivors or witnesses?

511
00:28:43,980 --> 00:28:48,000
I tell you, I find
all the volunteers,

512
00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:51,900
whether survivors or not

survivors, and even staff,

513

00:28:51,900 --> 00:28:54,210

we are like a big family.

514

00:28:54,210 --> 00:28:58,440

Sometimes we agree, sometimes we disagree with your own sisters

515

00:28:58,440 --> 00:28:59,760

and brothers.

516

00:28:59,760 --> 00:29:04,180

But in general I think it's a beautiful relationship.

517

00:29:04,180 --> 00:29:10,040

It's a beautiful-- although it's a difficult place to work in,

518

00:29:10,040 --> 00:29:13,740

we always love to see each other.

519

00:29:13,740 --> 00:29:16,020

We have a lot in common.

520

00:29:16,020 --> 00:29:20,150

Especially I feel that they are all doing my job.

521

00:29:20,150 --> 00:29:22,940

They're helping me to fulfill my promise

522

00:29:22,940 --> 00:29:25,810

to remember those people.

523

00:29:25,810 --> 00:29:28,840

Does that also hold true for the non-Jewish staff?

524

00:29:28,840 --> 00:29:29,740
Definitely.

525
00:29:29,740 --> 00:29:30,490
Definitely.

526
00:29:30,490 --> 00:29:34,630
I tell you, we survivors
are asked many a times

527
00:29:34,630 --> 00:29:42,380
to come and speak to new staff
and to like introduce them

528
00:29:42,380 --> 00:29:44,990
what this museum means to us.

529
00:29:44,990 --> 00:29:48,620
And every time they do it
myself or other survivors,

530
00:29:48,620 --> 00:29:54,470
my friends do that, those people
come over and they will say,

531
00:29:54,470 --> 00:29:56,070
you need your hug today?

532
00:29:56,070 --> 00:29:57,620
Let me give you a hug.

533
00:29:57,620 --> 00:29:59,510
They will-- it's different.

534
00:29:59,510 --> 00:30:01,842
They become different people.

535
00:30:01,842 --> 00:30:06,300
You know, many of these
staff apply for a job.

536
00:30:06,300 --> 00:30:08,010

They need the job.

537

00:30:08,010 --> 00:30:09,150

They are not there--

538

00:30:09,150 --> 00:30:11,730

they don't come through
the door because they

539

00:30:11,730 --> 00:30:14,400

promised to remember somebody.

540

00:30:14,400 --> 00:30:17,730

But once they meet
the survivors,

541

00:30:17,730 --> 00:30:19,890

the whole thing
becomes different.

542

00:30:19,890 --> 00:30:22,590

Their feeling becomes different.

543

00:30:22,590 --> 00:30:24,750

You know, some kids
that worked there

544

00:30:24,750 --> 00:30:27,990

from the beginning,
wonderful young man,

545

00:30:27,990 --> 00:30:30,060

and they got the
better opportunity

546

00:30:30,060 --> 00:30:31,400

to found a better job.

547

00:30:31,400 --> 00:30:33,040

You know, they can't move on.

548

00:30:33,040 --> 00:30:35,040

They feel like they're
guilty that they

549
00:30:35,040 --> 00:30:36,780
are leaving the museum.

550
00:30:36,780 --> 00:30:39,570
You are the first
one I have to tell.

551
00:30:39,570 --> 00:30:43,080
I feel bad, but you know, I
need the money and so forth.

552
00:30:43,080 --> 00:30:44,700
I understand that.

553
00:30:44,700 --> 00:30:47,570
And it also makes me
feel good that they

554
00:30:47,570 --> 00:30:50,350
are so compassionate about it.

555
00:30:50,350 --> 00:30:56,680
So sure, we are all
different-natured human beings.

556
00:30:56,680 --> 00:30:59,200
We all have our good
days and our bad days.

557
00:30:59,200 --> 00:31:01,250
I'm sure many days
maybe I come in,

558
00:31:01,250 --> 00:31:04,690
I'm not that nice
as I should be.

559
00:31:04,690 --> 00:31:06,440
So is everybody else.

560

00:31:06,440 --> 00:31:11,390

But in general we are a
wonderful family there.

561

00:31:11,390 --> 00:31:16,680

That's my feeling
really deep in my heart.

562

00:31:16,680 --> 00:31:20,340

Are there any particular
parts or exhibits at the

563

00:31:20,340 --> 00:31:24,000

museum that you identify with?

564

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:27,900

I can identify with
every part of that museum

565

00:31:27,900 --> 00:31:31,890

because I went
through every phase

566

00:31:31,890 --> 00:31:35,190

when you start upstairs
on the fourth floor.

567

00:31:35,190 --> 00:31:37,770

See, some people were just,
let's say, in the ghettos.

568

00:31:37,770 --> 00:31:39,930

Some people, they
were just in hiding.

569

00:31:39,930 --> 00:31:45,030

Some people just can tell
prewar or Kristallnacht.

570

00:31:45,030 --> 00:31:48,360

But I went through
the whole business.

571

00:31:48,360 --> 00:31:53,950

Prewar, during, the ghetto,
the concentration camp,

572

00:31:53,950 --> 00:31:57,340

the labor camps, the death
march, the whole thing.

573

00:31:57,340 --> 00:31:59,520

So every place.

574

00:31:59,520 --> 00:32:01,440

We had a program--

575

00:32:01,440 --> 00:32:04,140

I don't know if you were
there-- a family event

576

00:32:04,140 --> 00:32:07,030

that we did as a fundraiser.

577

00:32:07,030 --> 00:32:12,420

And I worked with Shari Werb
from the education department.

578

00:32:12,420 --> 00:32:16,590

And we used my family
picture how everybody

579

00:32:16,590 --> 00:32:20,460

is remembered in that museum.

580

00:32:20,460 --> 00:32:23,160

And there was every place.

581

00:32:23,160 --> 00:32:26,520

When I see the
train I was there.

582

00:32:26,520 --> 00:32:30,690

When I see the
ghetto I was there.

583
00:32:30,690 --> 00:32:32,950
When I look at
the Kovno ghetto--

584
00:32:32,950 --> 00:32:38,880
you see the Kovno ghetto is very
similar to the Siauliai ghetto

585
00:32:38,880 --> 00:32:44,730
because it was the same
einsatzgruppen, battalion,

586
00:32:44,730 --> 00:32:45,840
that did all this.

587
00:32:45,840 --> 00:32:49,464

588
00:32:49,464 --> 00:32:54,000
Can you enlarge on that a little
more about the similarities?

589
00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:55,710
Similarities in the Siauliai.

590
00:32:55,710 --> 00:32:56,460
Very similarities.

591
00:32:56,460 --> 00:32:58,710
When you see-- when
I talk to someone

592
00:32:58,710 --> 00:33:03,990
one time that in
Siauliai at one point

593
00:33:03,990 --> 00:33:05,910
the ghetto wasn't
called a ghetto.

594
00:33:05,910 --> 00:33:08,610

It was called a
concentration camp.

595
00:33:08,610 --> 00:33:11,670
And some teacher criticized me.

596
00:33:11,670 --> 00:33:14,370
Now, when you go to
the Kovno exhibit

597
00:33:14,370 --> 00:33:18,420
you see exactly that that's
what happened in Kovno too.

598
00:33:18,420 --> 00:33:21,780
It was called at one
time a concentration camp

599
00:33:21,780 --> 00:33:24,750
because the system changed.

600
00:33:24,750 --> 00:33:29,490
So a lot of things as
you go through the life--

601
00:33:29,490 --> 00:33:32,720
there were more Jews in the
Kovno ghetto than in ours.

602
00:33:32,720 --> 00:33:35,400
It was a little different.

603
00:33:35,400 --> 00:33:38,370
In our ghetto also
we tried very hard

604
00:33:38,370 --> 00:33:40,680
at the beginning
to have a school.

605
00:33:40,680 --> 00:33:44,520
But then the Germans found
out that if you have a school,

606
00:33:44,520 --> 00:33:45,210
you have kids.

607
00:33:45,210 --> 00:33:47,850
The kids are not
supposed to be there.

608
00:33:47,850 --> 00:33:51,180
But when I go to
the Kovno exhibit

609
00:33:51,180 --> 00:33:55,930
I can identify a
lot with our ghetto.

610
00:33:55,930 --> 00:33:57,640
How do you keep your
emotions in check

611
00:33:57,640 --> 00:33:59,560
when you go through
the Kovno ghetto?

612
00:33:59,560 --> 00:34:03,350
Well, this is where I
become the second person.

613
00:34:03,350 --> 00:34:06,160
How do I keep my emotions
in check right here?

614
00:34:06,160 --> 00:34:09,100
How do I keep it when
I speak to a group?

615
00:34:09,100 --> 00:34:12,219
Many times I feel like
I'm going to break down.

616
00:34:12,219 --> 00:34:16,690
And then I say, Nesse,
you cannot break down.

617
00:34:16,690 --> 00:34:19,179
Because if you will
cry, you are not

618
00:34:19,179 --> 00:34:21,909
going to bring that
message that you promised

619
00:34:21,909 --> 00:34:26,139
those ladies a long time ago.

620
00:34:26,139 --> 00:34:32,260
And you know, many times my
heart cries, my neck chokes up,

621
00:34:32,260 --> 00:34:35,080
my eyes may become glassy.

622
00:34:35,080 --> 00:34:38,380
But I try very hard
not to break down.

623
00:34:38,380 --> 00:34:40,239
I may come home and cry.

624
00:34:40,239 --> 00:34:44,080
I might drive my car home
and cry all the way home.

625
00:34:44,080 --> 00:34:47,020
I may not sleep the night after.

626
00:34:47,020 --> 00:34:52,270
But I try very hard, very
hard not to break down.

627
00:34:52,270 --> 00:34:53,290
This is me, you know.

628
00:34:53,290 --> 00:34:55,840
We all have our own makeups.

629
00:34:55,840 --> 00:34:56,770
Some can do it.

630
00:34:56,770 --> 00:34:58,330
Some cannot.

631
00:34:58,330 --> 00:35:02,300
So what do you attribute
your inner strength to?

632
00:35:02,300 --> 00:35:06,640
To a commitment to my people.

633
00:35:06,640 --> 00:35:09,940
To a commitment to humanity.

634
00:35:09,940 --> 00:35:13,980
To a commitment and a promise.

635
00:35:13,980 --> 00:35:18,300
I hate to repeat
myself, but how is

636
00:35:18,300 --> 00:35:22,320
this world going to get better
if they don't know really

637
00:35:22,320 --> 00:35:23,480
how bad it was?

638
00:35:23,480 --> 00:35:26,730

639
00:35:26,730 --> 00:35:30,600
If we cook a cake--
bake a cake, how

640
00:35:30,600 --> 00:35:34,610
can we improve it if we don't
make it and taste it and see

641

00:35:34,610 --> 00:35:35,235

what's missing?

642

00:35:35,235 --> 00:35:40,490

643

00:35:40,490 --> 00:35:43,970

You know, it's a comparison.

644

00:35:43,970 --> 00:35:54,830

You really have to know what's wrong, what messes things up.

645

00:35:54,830 --> 00:35:58,180

Now, if you don't know that hatred messes things up.

646

00:35:58,180 --> 00:35:59,670

How would you know?

647

00:35:59,670 --> 00:36:05,830

Many times I ask kids, let's say,

648

00:36:05,830 --> 00:36:07,980

if you don't like something, what do you say?

649

00:36:07,980 --> 00:36:09,600

I hate spaghetti.

650

00:36:09,600 --> 00:36:12,360

My grandson Josh used to say he hates spaghetti.

651

00:36:12,360 --> 00:36:14,490

I'd say, Josh, you want spaghetti?

652

00:36:14,490 --> 00:36:16,470

You know baba hates spaghetti.

653

00:36:16,470 --> 00:36:19,290

Now, how can you
hate a spaghetti?

654

00:36:19,290 --> 00:36:21,860

Throw it out from your language.

655

00:36:21,860 --> 00:36:23,630

I dislike it.

656

00:36:23,630 --> 00:36:25,310

I hate the way she looks.

657

00:36:25,310 --> 00:36:27,020

I hate her hairdo.

658

00:36:27,020 --> 00:36:27,860

I hate this.

659

00:36:27,860 --> 00:36:29,780

I hate that.

660

00:36:29,780 --> 00:36:31,620

Do we use it?

661

00:36:31,620 --> 00:36:33,400

No.

662

00:36:33,400 --> 00:36:37,660

And this is through really
commitment and thinking

663

00:36:37,660 --> 00:36:42,660

about it what you want
to do in your lifetime.

664

00:36:42,660 --> 00:36:43,730

That's how you do it.

665

00:36:43,730 --> 00:36:56,440

666
00:36:56,440 --> 00:36:58,770
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

667
00:36:58,770 --> 00:37:02,550
Memorial Museum Volunteer
Collection with Nesse Godin.

668
00:37:02,550 --> 00:37:06,630
This is tape number
two side B. And you

669
00:37:06,630 --> 00:37:12,960
were talking before about using
the word hate with children.

670
00:37:12,960 --> 00:37:18,390
You see, the most important
now is to teach children,

671
00:37:18,390 --> 00:37:25,450
if we can do it somehow, to
learn a little bit to change

672
00:37:25,450 --> 00:37:28,190
the way of language too.

673
00:37:28,190 --> 00:37:32,030
Because you know, when you hate,
when you say the word hate you

674
00:37:32,030 --> 00:37:34,640
get angry.

675
00:37:34,640 --> 00:37:36,890
And then if I
don't like it, it's

676
00:37:36,890 --> 00:37:40,040
already-- you have
a different mood.

677

00:37:40,040 --> 00:37:43,460

And if we can teach
kids a little bit more

678

00:37:43,460 --> 00:37:48,215

to use more positive language,
I think they would change.

679

00:37:48,215 --> 00:37:51,950

680

00:37:51,950 --> 00:37:54,350

I really do.

681

00:37:54,350 --> 00:37:56,030

Language is powerful.

682

00:37:56,030 --> 00:37:57,740

Yes.

683

00:37:57,740 --> 00:38:04,470

As you've gotten older do you
think more about the Holocaust

684

00:38:04,470 --> 00:38:08,400

than you did, or did you
always think of it all the time

685

00:38:08,400 --> 00:38:11,603

and there's no such
thing as more or as--

686

00:38:11,603 --> 00:38:13,020

do you understand
what I'm saying?

687

00:38:13,020 --> 00:38:16,440

As you've gotten older is it
occupying more of your thoughts

688

00:38:16,440 --> 00:38:17,850

each day or night?

689
00:38:17,850 --> 00:38:20,020
OK, Gail.

690
00:38:20,020 --> 00:38:25,250
If I would say to you that
I think of it every minute,

691
00:38:25,250 --> 00:38:29,410
it is not true because as I'm
doing the interview with you

692
00:38:29,410 --> 00:38:32,290
I turned around, and
I looked at the door,

693
00:38:32,290 --> 00:38:36,210
and I said, gee, I hope
that door is clean.

694
00:38:36,210 --> 00:38:39,210
So if I would say I
think of it all the time,

695
00:38:39,210 --> 00:38:43,590
every minute of the day,
I would be lying to you.

696
00:38:43,590 --> 00:38:46,860
But from my heart
and my soul there

697
00:38:46,860 --> 00:38:52,740
is not a day going by that I
don't remember the Holocaust

698
00:38:52,740 --> 00:38:54,450
one way or another.

699
00:38:54,450 --> 00:38:59,430
Not a day going by that I
forget those children that

700

00:38:59,430 --> 00:39:01,740
were taken in that selection.

701

00:39:01,740 --> 00:39:07,020
There's not a day going by
that I don't hear in my ears

702

00:39:07,020 --> 00:39:10,140
the cry of their mothers.

703

00:39:10,140 --> 00:39:14,340
Not a day goes by
that I don't remember

704

00:39:14,340 --> 00:39:18,300
whether I passed by a factory
or something that reminds me

705

00:39:18,300 --> 00:39:23,010
of this crematoria chimney
that consumed their bodies.

706

00:39:23,010 --> 00:39:27,015
And not one day goes by,
Gail, for my heart and my soul

707

00:39:27,015 --> 00:39:31,170
that I forget the
promise that I made

708

00:39:31,170 --> 00:39:36,470
to those women, those women
that maybe helped me survive,

709

00:39:36,470 --> 00:39:38,820
to remember them.

710

00:39:38,820 --> 00:39:41,150
So you live your day.

711

00:39:41,150 --> 00:39:42,560
You go shopping.

712
00:39:42,560 --> 00:39:45,470
You worry what you eat.

713
00:39:45,470 --> 00:39:48,380
But something in
between is there.

714
00:39:48,380 --> 00:39:50,150
I sit down to watch television.

715
00:39:50,150 --> 00:39:54,910
What do I look in the TV guide?

716
00:39:54,910 --> 00:39:56,630
What do you look
in the TV guide?

717
00:39:56,630 --> 00:40:00,160
Tell me, when you go
to watch television?

718
00:40:00,160 --> 00:40:01,360
This is your interview.

719
00:40:01,360 --> 00:40:02,320
[LAUGHTER]

720
00:40:02,320 --> 00:40:03,400
My interview.

721
00:40:03,400 --> 00:40:06,690
You see, the first thing I
look is is there a special

722
00:40:06,690 --> 00:40:08,720
on the Holocaust?

723
00:40:08,720 --> 00:40:11,170
Is there something
about the Nazis?

724

00:40:11,170 --> 00:40:13,450

Why do I look for it?

725

00:40:13,450 --> 00:40:17,920

I keep on thinking was
there a reason to it?

726

00:40:17,920 --> 00:40:20,980

Maybe somewhere in
between the lines

727

00:40:20,980 --> 00:40:24,280

I will understand why
all these young people

728

00:40:24,280 --> 00:40:29,260

joined the wrong crowd
and became SS men.

729

00:40:29,260 --> 00:40:33,880

How could a man that goes to
church go out the next day

730

00:40:33,880 --> 00:40:37,280

and kill human beings?

731

00:40:37,280 --> 00:40:41,110

So this is how my life--

732

00:40:41,110 --> 00:40:43,480

again, the two of me.

733

00:40:43,480 --> 00:40:47,170

The one that wants to leave,
that wants to go shopping,

734

00:40:47,170 --> 00:40:49,870

wants to go to social,
wants to go out,

735

00:40:49,870 --> 00:40:53,530

wants to enjoy the children,

and the other of me that

736
00:40:53,530 --> 00:40:56,110
is still every single day.

737
00:40:56,110 --> 00:41:00,110

738
00:41:00,110 --> 00:41:02,390
When you look in the
mirror what do you see?

739
00:41:02,390 --> 00:41:04,700
What face do you see?

740
00:41:04,700 --> 00:41:10,250
When I look in the mirror
I see my own face now

741
00:41:10,250 --> 00:41:18,640
because I learned to
be happy with my face.

742
00:41:18,640 --> 00:41:21,780
You know, and I look in
the mirror and I say,

743
00:41:21,780 --> 00:41:26,340
thanks God I don't see
anymore that person that

744
00:41:26,340 --> 00:41:28,590
survived the Holocaust.

745
00:41:28,590 --> 00:41:32,550
Thanks God that
those eyes look--

746
00:41:32,550 --> 00:41:35,040
eyes and the face
is a little chubby.

747

00:41:35,040 --> 00:41:38,880

748

00:41:38,880 --> 00:41:45,690

And then I look again in the
mirror, and I see my scar.

749

00:41:45,690 --> 00:41:49,120

750

00:41:49,120 --> 00:41:52,590

And I say, wait a minute.

751

00:41:52,590 --> 00:41:55,980

It's not just your face
that looks the way it looks.

752

00:41:55,980 --> 00:41:57,930

There is more to it.

753

00:41:57,930 --> 00:42:00,060

There are the scars
of the Holocaust.

754

00:42:00,060 --> 00:42:03,040

755

00:42:03,040 --> 00:42:05,230

This is what I see.

756

00:42:05,230 --> 00:42:08,500

And I'm telling you sincerely.

757

00:42:08,500 --> 00:42:12,010

You know how many times I rush,
I put on my makeup, I look.

758

00:42:12,010 --> 00:42:12,580

I look.

759

00:42:12,580 --> 00:42:13,150

It this good?

760
00:42:13,150 --> 00:42:14,680
Is that good?

761
00:42:14,680 --> 00:42:17,720
And I'm happy with what I see.

762
00:42:17,720 --> 00:42:21,260
But I also see that
scar of the Holocaust.

763
00:42:21,260 --> 00:42:25,000

764
00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:32,320
And that scar maybe
helps me to do

765
00:42:32,320 --> 00:42:36,130
what I need to do for humanity.

766
00:42:36,130 --> 00:42:42,310
That scar maybe helps me to make
sure that no children like me

767
00:42:42,310 --> 00:42:44,010
that would be scarred for life.

768
00:42:44,010 --> 00:42:46,600

769
00:42:46,600 --> 00:42:55,770
That scar helps me to go out and
share and teach and spread love

770
00:42:55,770 --> 00:43:02,850
and give that hug and ask
for that hug with a hope

771
00:43:02,850 --> 00:43:04,650
that this world will
do more hugging.

772
00:43:04,650 --> 00:43:08,520

773
00:43:08,520 --> 00:43:10,710
What did you tell your
children about your scar?

774
00:43:10,710 --> 00:43:12,480
How did you present it to them?

775
00:43:12,480 --> 00:43:14,820
When they were little I
used to say it's a boo boo.

776
00:43:14,820 --> 00:43:16,515
We called it a boo boo.

777
00:43:16,515 --> 00:43:17,015
A hurt.

778
00:43:17,015 --> 00:43:20,320
You know, a little
hurt, a boo boo.

779
00:43:20,320 --> 00:43:23,610
And as they got older I
said it's from the war.

780
00:43:23,610 --> 00:43:27,420
And then they could
understand I told them

781
00:43:27,420 --> 00:43:31,910
I was hit over the head with
the other side of the gun.

782
00:43:31,910 --> 00:43:36,590
And luckily that it didn't
become an open wound

783
00:43:36,590 --> 00:43:37,280

at that time.

784
00:43:37,280 --> 00:43:41,480
The scar is really
the after effect

785
00:43:41,480 --> 00:43:44,270
because I had a
terrible infection.

786
00:43:44,270 --> 00:43:46,220
If I would have
been an open wound,

787
00:43:46,220 --> 00:43:48,050
maybe they would have shot me.

788
00:43:48,050 --> 00:43:48,890
They hit me.

789
00:43:48,890 --> 00:43:50,780
I had a slight concussion.

790
00:43:50,780 --> 00:43:52,890
I couldn't hear for some--

791
00:43:52,890 --> 00:43:54,590
I don't know how many days.

792
00:43:54,590 --> 00:43:58,490
And my eyesight was blurry.

793
00:43:58,490 --> 00:44:00,950
It wasn't a death march.

794
00:44:00,950 --> 00:44:07,550
And in the barn my face swell
up like this, like a balloon.

795
00:44:07,550 --> 00:44:10,850
And then a little hole
opened up and some puss

796
00:44:10,850 --> 00:44:12,650
started to come out.

797
00:44:12,650 --> 00:44:14,190
The stench was terrible.

798
00:44:14,190 --> 00:44:18,080
You could smell the stench was
terrible in that barn anyway.

799
00:44:18,080 --> 00:44:22,880
And after liberation, you know,
for a whole year they cut it

800
00:44:22,880 --> 00:44:26,990
and they did it and, and I told
them I was hit on the head.

801
00:44:26,990 --> 00:44:29,210
And in Munich in
the hospital they

802
00:44:29,210 --> 00:44:31,550
didn't want to put
down in the records.

803
00:44:31,550 --> 00:44:35,740
Because now in the record says
that I had TB of the glands.

804
00:44:35,740 --> 00:44:37,430
It's not true.

805
00:44:37,430 --> 00:44:39,740
I was hit on the head.

806
00:44:39,740 --> 00:44:41,750
That's what the records say.

807
00:44:41,750 --> 00:44:44,270
So you see even

after the war when

808

00:44:44,270 --> 00:44:47,410

we were in those
German hospitals

809

00:44:47,410 --> 00:44:50,050

did we trust those doctors?

810

00:44:50,050 --> 00:44:53,650

Could we have
confidence in them?

811

00:44:53,650 --> 00:44:59,242

When they gave us a shot for
something what did we think?

812

00:44:59,242 --> 00:45:03,520

You know, when my
mom was in the camp

813

00:45:03,520 --> 00:45:07,540

just before liberation to give
shots to the people to die,

814

00:45:07,540 --> 00:45:10,180

they told them they're
giving them flu shots.

815

00:45:10,180 --> 00:45:12,730

And they were given--

816

00:45:12,730 --> 00:45:17,830

so lucky that some of the
guards gave those shots

817

00:45:17,830 --> 00:45:20,350

and they didn't know
exactly where to give it.

818

00:45:20,350 --> 00:45:23,220

A piece of flesh came out.

819

00:45:23,220 --> 00:45:28,050

So when we get the shot right
after liberation in a hospital,

820

00:45:28,050 --> 00:45:30,900

in a German hospital
when I came to Munich.

821

00:45:30,900 --> 00:45:33,740

822

00:45:33,740 --> 00:45:36,800

When I was delivering
my baby did I think,

823

00:45:36,800 --> 00:45:39,600

is he going to choke my
baby, the German doctor?

824

00:45:39,600 --> 00:45:42,660

825

00:45:42,660 --> 00:45:48,830

You know, people don't
realize what happened after.

826

00:45:48,830 --> 00:45:53,180

See, now, so many years later
it's a different generation.

827

00:45:53,180 --> 00:46:00,020

But then when we had to live
among our murderers for so long

828

00:46:00,020 --> 00:46:02,960

your country opened the gates
and said, come on, you people.

829

00:46:02,960 --> 00:46:05,810

Come in.

830

00:46:05,810 --> 00:46:06,540

That's it.

831
00:46:06,540 --> 00:46:09,320

832
00:46:09,320 --> 00:46:17,160
How did you regain confidence
as the years went on in others?

833
00:46:17,160 --> 00:46:19,560
You know what?

834
00:46:19,560 --> 00:46:21,360
I'm don't trust people.

835
00:46:21,360 --> 00:46:24,510
[LAUGHS] I still don't.

836
00:46:24,510 --> 00:46:27,180
I'm not going to
pretend that I do.

837
00:46:27,180 --> 00:46:31,650
I need a person to come and say
to me I'm a good human being.

838
00:46:31,650 --> 00:46:34,650
I met some teacher
that came up to me

839
00:46:34,650 --> 00:46:37,950
in the museum a few
years ago when we still

840
00:46:37,950 --> 00:46:40,440
had Marcia [? Sobell, ?]
the adult education

841
00:46:40,440 --> 00:46:42,000
with the education department.

842
00:46:42,000 --> 00:46:46,080

And teacher said to me,
my father was an SS man.

843
00:46:46,080 --> 00:46:48,400
I said, why are you
telling me that?

844
00:46:48,400 --> 00:46:50,970
What are you doing?

845
00:46:50,970 --> 00:46:52,590
Are you an SS man?

846
00:46:52,590 --> 00:46:54,660
She said, no, I
teach the Holocaust,

847
00:46:54,660 --> 00:46:57,240
and I teach people
how wrong it was.

848
00:46:57,240 --> 00:46:58,260
I said, sure.

849
00:46:58,260 --> 00:46:59,800
So you are just like me.

850
00:46:59,800 --> 00:47:05,250
I teach the Holocaust, and I
tell people how wrong it was.

851
00:47:05,250 --> 00:47:14,020
But if I see an old guy that is
arrogant and that says, how do

852
00:47:14,020 --> 00:47:15,790
you know that it
happened, and where

853
00:47:15,790 --> 00:47:19,710
did you get those documents, and
where this, I don't trust them.

854

00:47:19,710 --> 00:47:22,890

855

00:47:22,890 --> 00:47:26,400

So you know, it's
fancy to say things--

856

00:47:26,400 --> 00:47:28,830

sometimes people
say what looks good.

857

00:47:28,830 --> 00:47:31,640

I say it the way it is.

858

00:47:31,640 --> 00:47:36,230

Sure, because I survived the
Holocaust, because I was there

859

00:47:36,230 --> 00:47:40,860

I am suspicious of
people that do wrong.

860

00:47:40,860 --> 00:47:43,710

Are you suspicious of
doctors today still?

861

00:47:43,710 --> 00:47:45,330

Not really my doctors.

862

00:47:45,330 --> 00:47:47,790

But in Germany after the war?

863

00:47:47,790 --> 00:47:49,020

But I meant later on.

864

00:47:49,020 --> 00:47:49,620

No.

865

00:47:49,620 --> 00:47:50,160

No.

866

00:47:50,160 --> 00:47:50,660
No.

867
00:47:50,660 --> 00:47:53,850
But in Germany,
right after the war,

868
00:47:53,850 --> 00:47:57,660
when I had to go to
give birth to my child

869
00:47:57,660 --> 00:47:59,580
or when I was put
in the hospital

870
00:47:59,580 --> 00:48:05,840
after I came to Bavaria and I
had all these surgeries I told

871
00:48:05,840 --> 00:48:07,760
them I was hit on the head.

872
00:48:07,760 --> 00:48:13,010
So why now when we look it
says I have TB of the glands?

873
00:48:13,010 --> 00:48:14,840
I didn't have any
TB of the glands.

874
00:48:14,840 --> 00:48:18,920
I was hit on the head on
the other side of the gun.

875
00:48:18,920 --> 00:48:21,360
So they could still
write what they wanted.

876
00:48:21,360 --> 00:48:23,405
They could still do
what they wanted.

877
00:48:23,405 --> 00:48:28,400

It was difficult for victims
to be among their murderers

878
00:48:28,400 --> 00:48:30,830
at that time.

879
00:48:30,830 --> 00:48:36,030
What do you attribute the inner
strength that you do have?

880
00:48:36,030 --> 00:48:39,700
Was it to the way you
were raised do you think?

881
00:48:39,700 --> 00:48:44,090
I was-- I told you I was a
spoiled little kvetch, what

882
00:48:44,090 --> 00:48:46,510
we call little kid.

883
00:48:46,510 --> 00:48:49,020
I don't know if I have
such inner strength.

884
00:48:49,020 --> 00:48:56,460
The only thing is I really
was brought up to have faith,

885
00:48:56,460 --> 00:49:02,550
to have human kindness,
to be charitable,

886
00:49:02,550 --> 00:49:05,850
that if you make a vow,
you should keep it.

887
00:49:05,850 --> 00:49:07,310
And that's what I'm doing.

888
00:49:07,310 --> 00:49:11,640
I'm not any stronger or
any wiser or anything else

889
00:49:11,640 --> 00:49:12,750
than anybody else.

890
00:49:12,750 --> 00:49:16,840
I just am doing
what I need to do,

891
00:49:16,840 --> 00:49:20,860
what I promised to
do with the hope

892
00:49:20,860 --> 00:49:24,220
that we'll make
it a better world,

893
00:49:24,220 --> 00:49:30,430
that by knowing the truth, by
knowing exactly what happened.

894
00:49:30,430 --> 00:49:33,220
Not hearsay, we were there.

895
00:49:33,220 --> 00:49:36,160
We still remember it.

896
00:49:36,160 --> 00:49:39,980
And with the hope that it
would never repeat itself.

897
00:49:39,980 --> 00:49:42,840

898
00:49:42,840 --> 00:49:45,950
What do you think the response
should be to Holocaust deniers?

899
00:49:45,950 --> 00:49:49,000

900
00:49:49,000 --> 00:49:54,730
You know very well people that

want to do evil will do evil.

901
00:49:54,730 --> 00:49:58,270
Holocaust deniers
pick up everything

902
00:49:58,270 --> 00:50:04,210
that they can to make
them credible, yeah?

903
00:50:04,210 --> 00:50:10,120
For instance,
somebody in the museum

904
00:50:10,120 --> 00:50:23,570
told me that he saw on the
internet on a denial page

905
00:50:23,570 --> 00:50:24,800
my name.

906
00:50:24,800 --> 00:50:26,790
What was my name
connected there?

907
00:50:26,790 --> 00:50:30,380

908
00:50:30,380 --> 00:50:32,840
I was in Stutthof, right?

909
00:50:32,840 --> 00:50:37,190
In the documents of
Stutthof there is a recipe

910
00:50:37,190 --> 00:50:43,660
how to make soap from human fat
from Stutthof in documentation.

911
00:50:43,660 --> 00:50:47,985
And one time somebody may
have said to me, you know,

912

00:50:47,985 --> 00:50:52,110

on public everywhere
somebody must have asked me

913

00:50:52,110 --> 00:50:53,740

what do you think about this?

914

00:50:53,740 --> 00:50:57,570

Is that true that they
make soap of human fat?

915

00:50:57,570 --> 00:50:59,340

And I didn't say
yes, and I didn't

916

00:50:59,340 --> 00:51:02,970

say no because I'm very
careful what I say.

917

00:51:02,970 --> 00:51:06,630

I just said, how
would I feel if they

918

00:51:06,630 --> 00:51:09,360

did make soap of human fat.

919

00:51:09,360 --> 00:51:13,380

How would I feel if
I bathed at one time

920

00:51:13,380 --> 00:51:15,810

in the concentration camp?

921

00:51:15,810 --> 00:51:19,410

Could have been soap
of my father's fat.

922

00:51:19,410 --> 00:51:21,210

And that's what they put in.

923

00:51:21,210 --> 00:51:24,360

They have put in all

kinds of [? mindsets. ?]

924

00:51:24,360 --> 00:51:28,450

So deniers, there's no
use arguing with them.

925

00:51:28,450 --> 00:51:34,750

The only important thing
is to tell the truth,

926

00:51:34,750 --> 00:51:38,930

to have as much testimony
like this as possible.

927

00:51:38,930 --> 00:51:40,960

Not just from survivors.

928

00:51:40,960 --> 00:51:45,820

From liberators, from people
that were there, and even

929

00:51:45,820 --> 00:51:48,760

from SS men that are
willing before they

930

00:51:48,760 --> 00:51:53,900

die to tell the
truth what they did.

931

00:51:53,900 --> 00:51:55,070

And that's the only way.

932

00:51:55,070 --> 00:51:57,620

You know, when people
start asking me, I said,

933

00:51:57,620 --> 00:52:00,670

where do you think we have
all these documents from?

934

00:52:00,670 --> 00:52:03,670

The survivors didn't
take pictures.

935
00:52:03,670 --> 00:52:05,320
It was the Nazis.

936
00:52:05,320 --> 00:52:12,820
Germany was very obsessed about
taking documentation, keeping

937
00:52:12,820 --> 00:52:13,660
them.

938
00:52:13,660 --> 00:52:16,540
If I would have been
a German leader,

939
00:52:16,540 --> 00:52:19,390
I would shred all
this documents.

940
00:52:19,390 --> 00:52:22,450
They didn't shred it
[INAUDIBLE] They gave it to us.

941
00:52:22,450 --> 00:52:24,790
I always say, the most
wonderful government

942
00:52:24,790 --> 00:52:31,300
of Germany [? of now ?] supplies
us with all this documentation.

943
00:52:31,300 --> 00:52:37,470
So I don't believe in
arguing with deniers.

944
00:52:37,470 --> 00:52:39,210
Go learn for yourself.

945
00:52:39,210 --> 00:52:41,470
Go find out the truth.

946
00:52:41,470 --> 00:52:46,380

Go in archives, go in
universities, go study,

947
00:52:46,380 --> 00:52:48,900
and you'll see the
truth what happened.

948
00:52:48,900 --> 00:52:52,090
The Germans don't
deny the Holocaust.

949
00:52:52,090 --> 00:52:52,690
They don't.

950
00:52:52,690 --> 00:52:56,890

951
00:52:56,890 --> 00:53:00,370
Do you think you'll
ever visit Germany?

952
00:53:00,370 --> 00:53:02,780
I don't think I
could visit Germany.

953
00:53:02,780 --> 00:53:05,020
I don't know, Gail.

954
00:53:05,020 --> 00:53:10,060
It may be very difficult
for me now in Lithuania too.

955
00:53:10,060 --> 00:53:19,010
But somehow I had
once an experience.

956
00:53:19,010 --> 00:53:23,820
I was supposed to go for
Passover to Israel many years

957
00:53:23,820 --> 00:53:24,320
ago.

958

00:53:24,320 --> 00:53:27,710

I don't remember now
how many years ago.

959

00:53:27,710 --> 00:53:32,930

And El Al airline the last
minute went on strike.

960

00:53:32,930 --> 00:53:36,110

And my travel agent
called me, and she

961

00:53:36,110 --> 00:53:42,050

said the only way you
can go is on Lufthansa.

962

00:53:42,050 --> 00:53:44,310

And I said, no problem.

963

00:53:44,310 --> 00:53:50,300

But when I came to Frankfurt
and I hear the word aussteigen,

964

00:53:50,300 --> 00:53:53,010

disembark, I lost it.

965

00:53:53,010 --> 00:53:54,860

I lost it, I tell you.

966

00:53:54,860 --> 00:53:59,540

And it was the year
that there was so much

967

00:53:59,540 --> 00:54:03,620

terrorism and shooting
in [INAUDIBLE] airport.

968

00:54:03,620 --> 00:54:06,320

So the Germans meant very well.

969

00:54:06,320 --> 00:54:09,290

They had a special room that

they took all the Jews that

970
00:54:09,290 --> 00:54:10,730
were traveling.

971
00:54:10,730 --> 00:54:11,900
[INAUDIBLE] the Jews.

972
00:54:11,900 --> 00:54:14,120
Maybe all the passengers.

973
00:54:14,120 --> 00:54:16,340
But that's all I could hear.

974
00:54:16,340 --> 00:54:19,820
All the Jews get your
suitcases and go there.

975
00:54:19,820 --> 00:54:23,510
And I was-- and
then I had the key.

976
00:54:23,510 --> 00:54:26,540
Jack went to get the suitcase.

977
00:54:26,540 --> 00:54:28,520
And I was going to
give him the key.

978
00:54:28,520 --> 00:54:36,550
And some older somebody on
the airport, he pushed me.

979
00:54:36,550 --> 00:54:38,800
He went, you know, don't go.

980
00:54:38,800 --> 00:54:44,030
And I started to yell, you
pushed me around here enough.

981
00:54:44,030 --> 00:54:46,360
Right away they send

a younger German in.

982

00:54:46,360 --> 00:54:49,780

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] Dear
lady, can I help you?

983

00:54:49,780 --> 00:54:52,210

You know, I had
to be tranquilized

984

00:54:52,210 --> 00:54:57,440

to go to Israel with the
Librium at that time.

985

00:54:57,440 --> 00:55:04,030

So I had this experience that
was a negative experience,

986

00:55:04,030 --> 00:55:09,520

and I don't know if I
would like to do it again.

987

00:55:09,520 --> 00:55:12,890

I don't think I could.

988

00:55:12,890 --> 00:55:14,910

I try very hard.

989

00:55:14,910 --> 00:55:17,060

Although I speak
German fluently I

990

00:55:17,060 --> 00:55:20,210

don't like to use the language.

991

00:55:20,210 --> 00:55:25,310

I had to go a few weeks
ago to the German embassy.

992

00:55:25,310 --> 00:55:27,470

And I asked my
daughter to go with me.

993

00:55:27,470 --> 00:55:28,760

It was traumatic for me.

994

00:55:28,760 --> 00:55:31,940

You know, it was traumatic
just to go in there

995

00:55:31,940 --> 00:55:33,980

and this German speaking.

996

00:55:33,980 --> 00:55:40,500

And I knew that this is friendly
people, but it was difficult.

997

00:55:40,500 --> 00:55:45,260

So I don't think I have
any business there.

998

00:55:45,260 --> 00:55:51,960

And even to Poland and Lithuania
I'm going because I need to go.

999

00:55:51,960 --> 00:55:54,400

But I don't think
I'll ever go again.

1000

00:55:54,400 --> 00:56:01,390

1001

00:56:01,390 --> 00:56:05,320

Is there anything that we
haven't covered that you

1002

00:56:05,320 --> 00:56:06,790

would like to talk about?

1003

00:56:06,790 --> 00:56:07,520

I don't know.

1004

00:56:07,520 --> 00:56:12,190

You see, Gail, we always
talk about many things,

1005
00:56:12,190 --> 00:56:16,090
and I always think I cover
most of what I remember

1006
00:56:16,090 --> 00:56:17,740
and how I feel.

1007
00:56:17,740 --> 00:56:21,370
And maybe if we are well
and alive in a few years

1008
00:56:21,370 --> 00:56:25,130
you come back and maybe
we'll fill in a little more.

1009
00:56:25,130 --> 00:56:27,550
Well, as someone else said,
it would take me six years

1010
00:56:27,550 --> 00:56:28,860
to tell you--

1011
00:56:28,860 --> 00:56:30,640
it would take me six
years to tell you

1012
00:56:30,640 --> 00:56:32,830
what happened during
those six years.

1013
00:56:32,830 --> 00:56:37,700
It isn't even just the
six years, you know?

1014
00:56:37,700 --> 00:56:40,810
I found out that
through the years

1015
00:56:40,810 --> 00:56:44,380
that I have a selective memory.

1016

00:56:44,380 --> 00:56:46,930
I tell what I want to tell.

1017
00:56:46,930 --> 00:56:50,120
Other things is too painful.

1018
00:56:50,120 --> 00:56:53,130
You protect yourself
a little bit.

1019
00:56:53,130 --> 00:56:55,760
So as time goes
on, you get older,

1020
00:56:55,760 --> 00:56:59,390
and you feel sometimes, well,
maybe I should tell that.

1021
00:56:59,390 --> 00:57:02,690
Maybe I should say
that extra thing.

1022
00:57:02,690 --> 00:57:07,790
And that's why as you come
back you hear sometimes

1023
00:57:07,790 --> 00:57:11,150
a little extra information.

1024
00:57:11,150 --> 00:57:15,990
Well, I'm glad I could help out.

1025
00:57:15,990 --> 00:57:20,740
Well, I hope I can come
back and hear in the future.

1026
00:57:20,740 --> 00:57:23,240
Thank you very much, Nesse,
for doing this interview.

1027
00:57:23,240 --> 00:57:27,540
Yeah, also I like to have a
copy of that release form.

1028
00:57:27,540 --> 00:57:29,070
Thank you.

1029
00:57:29,070 --> 00:57:32,250
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1030
00:57:32,250 --> 00:57:36,140
volunteer collection
interview with Nesse Godin.

1031
00:57:36,140 --> 00:57:38,000