1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,800

2 00:00:06,800 --> 00:00:09,410 This is a continuation of the United States Holocaust

3 00:00:09,410 --> 00:00:11,690 Memorial Museum volunteer collection

4 00:00:11,690 --> 00:00:13,970 interview with Maryla Korn.

5 00:00:13,970 --> 00:00:17,960 This is tape number 2, side A. And we were talking about

6 00:00:17,960 --> 00:00:22,010 your being in Israel and how much you loved being there.

7 00:00:22,010 --> 00:00:23,390 Absolutely.

8 00:00:23,390 --> 00:00:27,440 I think it was one of the best times in Israel.

9 00:00:27,440 --> 00:00:32,119 The country was in the sense of 1951.

10 00:00:32,119 --> 00:00:36,200 There was everything you could get if you had the money.

11 00:00:36,200 --> 00:00:39,200 And it was a normal society.

12 00:00:39,200 --> 00:00:43,540

## I found it had everything--

13 00:00:43,540 --> 00:00:46,310 it was my first normal type of a life.

14 00:00:46,310 --> 00:00:50,840 I lived with friend of ours who had this wonderful apartment

15 00:00:50,840 --> 00:00:53,300 in the middle of Tel Aviv.

16 00:00:53,300 --> 00:00:57,980 They were a very well-known family in Israel.

17 00:00:57,980 --> 00:01:02,610 It was normalcy-- normalcy in every possible respect,

18 00:01:02,610 --> 00:01:04,430 plus I was exploring.

19 00:01:04,430 --> 00:01:06,410 I met wonderful people.

20 00:01:06,410 --> 00:01:09,980

21 00:01:09,980 --> 00:01:14,490 The Golden Youth of Tel Aviv was good, bad, or indifferent, OK?

22 00:01:14,490 --> 00:01:18,290 This wasn't the Dolce Vita of Italy,

23 00:01:18,290 --> 00:01:21,140 but they were living it up.

24 00:01:21,140 --> 00:01:24,620 25 00:01:24,620 --> 00:01:26,210 There were interesting people.

26 00:01:26,210 --> 00:01:27,380 They had education.

27 00:01:27,380 --> 00:01:28,610 They had a background.

28 00:01:28,610 --> 00:01:30,440 There was a solidity.

29 00:01:30,440 --> 00:01:32,810 And they were not the traumatized characters

30 00:01:32,810 --> 00:01:35,840 in some way that I had had in Belgium surrounding me,

31 00:01:35,840 --> 00:01:38,390 because these were children of people who had

32 00:01:38,390 --> 00:01:40,530 come to Palestine long before.

33 00:01:40,530 --> 00:01:45,420 So it was a wonderful time, really, of my life.

34 00:01:45,420 --> 00:01:48,170 And so then after I came back to Belgium,

35 00:01:48,170 --> 00:01:51,020 I always knew that this was not it.

36 00:01:51,020 --> 00:01:52,910 As much as I had my friends there--

37 00:01:52,910 --> 00:01:56,510 and in Belgium I did date somebody that I care very

38 00:01:56,510 --> 00:01:59,990 much about-- but somehow somewhere,

00:01:59,990 --> 00:02:05,522 I was saying to myself, this is not what I want in life.

40 00:02:05,522 --> 00:02:07,730 We were never Belgian citizens because we could never

41 00:02:07,730 --> 00:02:09,949 become Belgian citizens.

42 00:02:09,949 --> 00:02:13,085 Every six months, we had to prolong our permission to stay.

43 00:02:13,085 --> 00:02:14,960 Nobody was going to kick us out, but the fact

44 00:02:14,960 --> 00:02:17,210 was we were refugees.

45 00:02:17,210 --> 00:02:21,800 And so I felt at home in Israel and went back definitely

46 00:02:21,800 --> 00:02:22,790 the minute I could.

47 00:02:22,790 --> 00:02:26,277 And I always said to my mother, I will not stay here. 48 00:02:26,277 --> 00:02:26,860 I went would--

49 00:02:26,860 --> 00:02:27,680 You will not stay in Belgium.

50 00:02:27,680 --> 00:02:28,400 In Belgium.

51 00:02:28,400 --> 00:02:32,270 I went back and met--

52 00:02:32,270 --> 00:02:34,820 this was after Passover, because I went Passover

53 00:02:34,820 --> 00:02:38,840 with my aunt and uncle to Nice, and then I

54 00:02:38,840 --> 00:02:40,310 thought it was my last hooray.

55 00:02:40,310 --> 00:02:42,360 And then I went to Israel.

56 00:02:42,360 --> 00:02:48,290 Sometimes-- and it was May, or sometimes I think around May--

57 00:02:48,290 --> 00:02:51,980 went to Israel, and at that time said, OK, the play's over.

58 00:02:51,980 --> 00:02:53,210 Now the game is over.

59 00:02:53,210 --> 00:02:55,460 Now there is no more playing around,

00:02:55,460 --> 00:02:59,630 and having this wonderful time, and getting money from Europe.

61 00:02:59,630 --> 00:03:02,490 And I have to take it seriously now.

62 00:03:02,490 --> 00:03:04,520 If I'm going to stay here, I better

63 00:03:04,520 --> 00:03:07,040 take a very serious course in Hebrew.

64 00:03:07,040 --> 00:03:12,500 I better get myself into a different frame of mind.

65 00:03:12,500 --> 00:03:15,230 It's not that I didn't have it before--

66 00:03:15,230 --> 00:03:17,660 I had very strong values and very strong what's

67 00:03:17,660 --> 00:03:20,210 right, what's wrong, but I had had a good time

68 00:03:20,210 --> 00:03:21,710 the first time in Israel.

69 00:03:21,710 --> 00:03:23,690 I was really having a wonderful time.

70 00:03:23,690 --> 00:03:27,150 I was partying, and I was going out, and wonderful.

00:03:27,150 --> 00:03:30,380 And now I realize, wait a minute, this is not it.

72

00:03:30,380 --> 00:03:34,040 So I went very seriously toward [? Pan ?] Akiva.

73

00:03:34,040 --> 00:03:36,558 I had a room with an old lady in Tel Aviv where

74

00:03:36,558 --> 00:03:37,850 I'd come back for the weekends.

75

00:03:37,850 --> 00:03:39,530 I did not want to stay with my family

76

00:03:39,530 --> 00:03:41,495 and be overprotected again.

77

00:03:41,495 --> 00:03:45,620 I wanted to strike it out on my own and see how it works--

78

00:03:45,620 --> 00:03:47,590 still was getting money-- strike on my own,

79

00:03:47,590 --> 00:03:50,600 still was getting money from mom and dad from Europe,

80

00:03:50,600 --> 00:03:51,890 don't kid yourself.

81

00:03:51,890 --> 00:03:56,530 But I was taking my studying very seriously.

82

00:03:56,530 --> 00:03:58,370

And I got involved with a group of people,

83 00:03:58,370 --> 00:04:00,890 although they were connected to the first group,

84 00:04:00,890 --> 00:04:02,990 but it was stabilizing itself already.

85 00:04:02,990 --> 00:04:05,000 They were already getting married.

86 00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:07,460 A very strong friendship came out--

87 00:04:07,460 --> 00:04:10,880 one woman was really considered my sister.

88 00:04:10,880 --> 00:04:14,255 And it came from that group.

89 00:04:14,255 --> 00:04:20,300 I started dating a young doctor that, unfortunately, had lost

90 00:04:20,300 --> 00:04:23,350 his wife and had a little baby.

91 00:04:23,350 --> 00:04:26,150 He had lost his wife when she was giving birth

92 00:04:26,150 --> 00:04:28,490 to the second child, which I had met the first time when

93 00:04:28,490 --> 00:04:29,970 I was in Israel. 94 00:04:29,970 --> 00:04:33,000 So this young couple that I had met, then when I came back

95 00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:36,320 the second time, he was alone.

96 00:04:36,320 --> 00:04:38,870 And so I knew this little boy, except that my parents

97 00:04:38,870 --> 00:04:41,570 thought it was the most horrible thing that could happen.

98 00:04:41,570 --> 00:04:47,210 What on earth did this 22, 23-year-old need,

99 00:04:47,210 --> 00:04:50,340 even if he is a doctor, which is wonderful--

100 00:04:50,340 --> 00:04:51,680 and a Jewish doctor--

101 00:04:51,680 --> 00:04:55,490 who on earth needs this type of--

102 00:04:55,490 --> 00:04:56,870 I wasn't taking it to--

103 00:04:56,870 --> 00:04:57,370 anyway.

104 00:04:57,370 --> 00:04:59,960

105 00:04:59,960 --> 00:05:01,850 I was really putting my roots down.

106 00:05:01,850 --> 00:05:03,140 And I was very happy.

107 00:05:03,140 --> 00:05:05,400 And I belonged there.

108 00:05:05,400 --> 00:05:09,140 I still feel very strongly, this is the one place in my life

109 00:05:09,140 --> 00:05:12,260 where I will always belong.

110 00:05:12,260 --> 00:05:18,290 Anyway, my parents, the summer that I went to Israel,

111 00:05:18,290 --> 00:05:23,810 went to Badgastein in Austria for a vacation.

112 00:05:23,810 --> 00:05:26,090 And my father took a walk.

113 00:05:26,090 --> 00:05:31,670 And on the street, he met a lady that he had not seen since 1939

114 00:05:31,670 --> 00:05:33,860 from Kolbuszowa.

115 00:05:33,860 --> 00:05:37,970 And her name was Sonia Korn.

116 00:05:37,970 --> 00:05:42,230 And she was in America, and she was coming back from Israel

117 00:05:42,230 --> 00:05:46,040 and going to Badgastein for vacation.

118

00:05:46,040 --> 00:05:49,910 And they recognized each other after all of these years.

119

00:05:49,910 --> 00:05:54,000 And they knew they had survived, but they didn't see each other.

120

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:56,622 And she was in America with her son and was at that point

121

00:05:56,622 --> 00:05:58,580 already remarried, because my father-in-law had

122

00:05:58,580 --> 00:06:02,510 died in '47 in Switzerland after coming from Russia.

123

00:06:02,510 --> 00:06:05,030 And she has a son.

124

00:06:05,030 --> 00:06:07,970 Oh my god, and this one has a daughter-- oh my god.

125

00:06:07,970 --> 00:06:10,340 She is in America, and this one is there.

126

00:06:10,340 --> 00:06:13,850 So to make a long story short, they

127

00:06:13,850 --> 00:06:16,235 decided it was a good idea.

128

00:06:16,235 --> 00:06:18,860 Well, it might have been a good idea, except one was in Israel,

00:06:18,860 --> 00:06:22,700 one was in America, and a very independent one in Israel.

130

00:06:22,700 --> 00:06:26,250 So my mother wrote to me-first, she called me at Ulpan

131

00:06:26,250 --> 00:06:27,680 and she told me that they had met.

132

00:06:27,680 --> 00:06:30,320 And I said, very nice-- wonderful.

133

00:06:30,320 --> 00:06:31,820 Well, can he write to you?

134

00:06:31,820 --> 00:06:34,380 I said, you must be kidding all of you guys.

135

00:06:34,380 --> 00:06:35,610 But you know what?

136

00:06:35,610 --> 00:06:37,730 They're dating the doctor, right.

137

00:06:37,730 --> 00:06:40,125 You must be kidding, but he is in America.

138

00:06:40,125 --> 00:06:40,750 I am in Israel.

139

00:06:40,750 --> 00:06:43,850 Boy, is this a safe one-just get off my back.

140

00:06:43,850 --> 00:06:47,120 And if he wants to write, welcome.

141 00:06:47,120 --> 00:06:49,820 OK, never thinking anything more than that.

142 00:06:49,820 --> 00:06:53,450 Say do me a favor.

143 00:06:53,450 --> 00:06:54,700 He wrote.

144 00:06:54,700 --> 00:06:57,170 And I thought it was the most hysterical thing ever,

145 00:06:57,170 --> 00:06:58,880 because he was writing from here,

146 00:06:58,880 --> 00:07:03,650 he was writing in French, because when they came back

147 00:07:03,650 --> 00:07:06,890 from Russia, they were in Poland, and in France,

148 00:07:06,890 --> 00:07:07,910 and then America.

149 00:07:07,910 --> 00:07:10,400 That's their story.

150 00:07:10,400 --> 00:07:15,410 And to make a long story short, I thought it was ridiculous.

151 00:07:15,410 --> 00:07:18,770 But there were my parents bombarding me with this. 152 00:07:18,770 --> 00:07:24,080 And my whole family in Israel, very happy about my going out

153 00:07:24,080 --> 00:07:26,030 with this wonderful doctor, but not very

154 00:07:26,030 --> 00:07:29,860 happy with my going with this wonderful doctor, OK?

155 00:07:29,860 --> 00:07:33,740 They were saying, this is a responsibility.

156 00:07:33,740 --> 00:07:35,130 What do you need this?

157 00:07:35,130 --> 00:07:37,190 OK.

158 00:07:37,190 --> 00:07:39,420 Anyway, to make a long story short,

159 00:07:39,420 --> 00:07:44,540 I decided that I needed some space to figure that one out--

160 00:07:44,540 --> 00:07:47,180 not necessarily to break it off, but to figure it out,

161 00:07:47,180 --> 00:07:53,780 because it started to click that this was a package.

162 00:07:53,780 --> 00:07:59,720 And so somehow David, future husband.

00:07:59,720 --> 00:08:03,290 decided that he was going to come for Pesach to Belgium,

164 00:08:03,290 --> 00:08:04,940 and I was going to come back.

165 00:08:04,940 --> 00:08:08,750 And I left all my clothing, all my stuff, everything in Israel,

166 00:08:08,750 --> 00:08:11,000 because, come on, you must be joking.

167 00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:13,280 And to me, America was always this crazy country--

168 00:08:13,280 --> 00:08:15,500 the crazy Americans.

169 00:08:15,500 --> 00:08:17,540 My mother had had the opportunity of coming

170 00:08:17,540 --> 00:08:21,282 to America with me in '51, and I said to her--

171 00:08:21,282 --> 00:08:23,240 I remember saying to her-- where are you going?

172 00:08:23,240 --> 00:08:25,448 What do you need these crazy Americans walking around

173 00:08:25,448 --> 00:08:28,220 with these long pleather jackets, OK?

174

00:08:28,220 --> 00:08:29,780 It was, again, another world--

175

00:08:29,780 --> 00:08:30,870 who needed this?

176

00:08:30,870 --> 00:08:34,549 Anyway, he came to Belgium.

177

00:08:34,549 --> 00:08:38,720 I arrived two weeks before him.

178

00:08:38,720 --> 00:08:42,289 My mother knew exactly where I stood, because I had my return

179

00:08:42,289 --> 00:08:43,130 ticket to Israel.

180

00:08:43,130 --> 00:08:46,220 And I kept saying to her, I know this whole thing doesn't

181 00:08:46,220 --> 00:08:51,350 make much sense, but I will figure it out.

182 00:08:51,350 --> 00:08:52,970 They never say to me, don't marry him.

183

00:08:52,970 --> 00:08:56,630 They always said, look what you're getting yourself into,

184 00:08:56,630 --> 00:08:59,390 OK?

185 00:08:59,390 --> 00:09:00,580 Or is that what you want?

186 00:09:00,580 --> 00:09:01,580 Is that what you need?

187 00:09:01,580 --> 00:09:04,130 You can have children of your own.

188 00:09:04,130 --> 00:09:07,850 But again, I'm wondering sometimes-- to me,

189 00:09:07,850 --> 00:09:12,920 maybe this child represented me as a child when I was younger.

190 00:09:12,920 --> 00:09:16,880 It wasn't strange to me to have this little boy around.

191 00:09:16,880 --> 00:09:19,420

192 00:09:19,420 --> 00:09:20,860 Anyway, David came.

193 00:09:20,860 --> 00:09:25,580 And to make a long story short, about 10 days later,

194 00:09:25,580 --> 00:09:27,520 we decided we were going to get married--

195 00:09:27,520 --> 00:09:30,240 or at least I was going to come to America.

196 00:09:30,240 --> 00:09:33,370 And he went back, and I came here in May,

197 00:09:33,370 --> 00:09:34,670 and we got married in June. 199 00:09:37,740 --> 00:09:39,060 That's my trip to America.

200 00:09:39,060 --> 00:09:41,520 And as I said to everybody, I did not come up as a refugee.

201 00:09:41,520 --> 00:09:43,260 I did not come off the boat, although I

202 00:09:43,260 --> 00:09:49,995 came by ship I came in totally different circumstances.

203 00:09:49,995 --> 00:09:51,870 And I came here, and we knew that we couldn't

204 00:09:51,870 --> 00:09:54,630 get married in Belgium because then the laws were

205 00:09:54,630 --> 00:09:55,740 very strange.

206 00:09:55,740 --> 00:09:57,240 If we had gotten married in Belgium,

207 00:09:57,240 --> 00:09:59,490 I wouldn't have been able to come to the United States

208 00:09:59,490 --> 00:10:01,140 for six months to a year.

209 00:10:01,140 --> 00:10:04,050 But if we married here, nobody asks anything.

210

00:10:04,050 --> 00:10:07,260 And two days later or whatever, I had my green card.

211

00:10:07,260 --> 00:10:11,250 And that one was totally kosher.

212

00:10:11,250 --> 00:10:11,910 It was fine.

213

00:10:11,910 --> 00:10:14,100 Were your parents able to come to your wedding here?

214

00:10:14,100 --> 00:10:16,320 Yes, my parents came to my wedding.

215

00:10:16,320 --> 00:10:20,070 At that point already, my father's sister, her husband,

216

00:10:20,070 --> 00:10:24,150 and daughter who had come from Poland in '56 to Israel

217

00:10:24,150 --> 00:10:25,530 had emigrated to America.

218

00:10:25,530 --> 00:10:27,010 They were already in New York.

219

00:10:27,010 --> 00:10:30,210 And what is interesting is that my husband's family

220

00:10:30,210 --> 00:10:34,620 and my father's family were totally intermingled.

00:10:34,620 --> 00:10:36,930 The children went to school together.

222

00:10:36,930 --> 00:10:39,420 The two families

were competitors.

223

00:10:39,420 --> 00:10:43,160 My husband's family, the Korns, and my grandfather

224

00:10:43,160 --> 00:10:44,700 were almost in the same business.

225

00:10:44,700 --> 00:10:45,870 And they were competitors.

226

00:10:45,870 --> 00:10:46,800 They knew each other.

227

00:10:46,800 --> 00:10:48,390 Everybody knew everybody.

228

00:10:48,390 --> 00:10:51,510 When the two families get together,

229

00:10:51,510 --> 00:10:53,460 it's like one big family because they

230

00:10:53,460 --> 00:10:54,770 knew each other from childhood.

231

00:10:54,770 --> 00:10:56,130 They were all from that little--

232

00:10:56,130 --> 00:10:59,837 except my mother-- they were all from that little town.

00:10:59,837 --> 00:11:01,920 Before we get into your life in the United States,

234

00:11:01,920 --> 00:11:03,480 you said you had gone to Israel.

235

00:11:03,480 --> 00:11:05,200 Was it hard to leave your mother?

236

00:11:05,200 --> 00:11:07,140 But you were a young adult by that time.

237

00:11:07,140 --> 00:11:10,620 I was a young adult.
The first time I

238

00:11:10,620 --> 00:11:20,470 went, no, it was already a different type of--

239

00:11:20,470 --> 00:11:22,620 look, I was already a grown up.

240

00:11:22,620 --> 00:11:25,710 And I knew that my mother represented everything to me,

241

00:11:25,710 --> 00:11:28,760 but it wasn't this clinging type of a relationship.

242

00:11:28,760 --> 00:11:33,510 She was, and she is until today paralyzed speechless.

243

00:11:33,510 --> 00:11:37,890 She's still my security blanket, OK?

00:11:37,890 --> 00:11:41,480 But it wasn't one of, I couldn't survive without having--

245

00:11:41,480 --> 00:11:42,780 I'm a very independent person.

246

00:11:42,780 --> 00:11:45,270 Now, what came first, I have no idea.

247

00:11:45,270 --> 00:11:51,520 But I never understood how come she let me go to America.

248

00:11:51,520 --> 00:11:54,480 And I don't understand how I left.

249

00:11:54,480 --> 00:11:56,920 This was not Israel.

250

00:11:56,920 --> 00:11:58,020 This was not Israel.

251

00:11:58,020 --> 00:11:59,670 Israel is three hours away.

252

00:11:59,670 --> 00:12:02,520 Israel is where my soul is.

253

00:12:02,520 --> 00:12:05,730 This was foreign.

254

00:12:05,730 --> 00:12:07,950 This was far away.

255

00:12:07,950 --> 00:12:11,190 This was over the Atlantic, not over the Mediterranean.

256

00:12:11,190 --> 00:12:14,760

I have questions why she ever allowed it,

257

00:12:14,760 --> 00:12:18,580 and why did I ever do it at that point,

258

00:12:18,580 --> 00:12:22,650 especially that I wanted to go back to Israel.

259

00:12:22,650 --> 00:12:24,090 So who knows?

260

00:12:24,090 --> 00:12:26,540 Did you go back to Israel to get your stuff?

261

00:12:26,540 --> 00:12:27,060 No.

262

00:12:27,060 --> 00:12:29,730 That one was sent that time.

263

00:12:29,730 --> 00:12:32,610 It was sent.

264

00:12:32,610 --> 00:12:37,030 I knew the minute I landed in Belgium

265

00:12:37,030 --> 00:12:39,370 that it was not going to work out

266

00:12:39,370 --> 00:12:41,560 with the doctor and the child.

267

00:12:41,560 --> 00:12:44,530 That suddenly, I had seven days on the ship,

268

00:12:44,530 --> 00:12:46,870 I came back by ship, I had the time to think.

269

00:12:46,870 --> 00:12:49,990 I had the time, probably, to internalize the whole thing

270

00:12:49,990 --> 00:12:53,080 and say, no, this is not right.

271

00:12:53,080 --> 00:12:55,990 But then what is right?

272

00:12:55,990 --> 00:13:00,310 And that's where it stopped.

273

00:13:00,310 --> 00:13:03,970 By the way, years later, he remarried.

274

00:13:03,970 --> 00:13:06,610 He had two or three children with his wife.

275

00:13:06,610 --> 00:13:08,590 And then he died in a tragic accident--

276

00:13:08,590 --> 00:13:14,390 killed by a crazy patient of his who came in into the hospital

277

00:13:14,390 --> 00:13:15,910 and shot him.

278

00:13:15,910 --> 00:13:19,090 So who knows, right?

279

00:13:19,090 --> 00:13:21,220 Where did you settle in the United States?

00:13:21,220 --> 00:13:26,200 My husband was then teaching and taking his PhD courses

281

00:13:26,200 --> 00:13:27,400 in Georgetown.

282

00:13:27,400 --> 00:13:30,670 And so the day after we were married, we came to Washington.

283

00:13:30,670 --> 00:13:31,570 He was here.

284

00:13:31,570 --> 00:13:34,840 He was commuting between Washington and Norfolk,

285

00:13:34,840 --> 00:13:37,300 where he was teaching at the university.

286

00:13:37,300 --> 00:13:39,700 He is a Russian scholar.

287

00:13:39,700 --> 00:13:40,390 His name?

288

00:13:40,390 --> 00:13:41,710 David Korn.

289

00:13:41,710 --> 00:13:47,050 And so David was at that time, leave of absence from Norfolk

290

00:13:47,050 --> 00:13:51,280 to finish his PhD here where he had started it.

291

00:13:51,280 --> 00:13:55,660 He had done his bachelor's here, his master's here,

00:13:55,660 --> 00:13:56,980 and he was starting his PhD.

293

00:13:56,980 --> 00:13:58,822 He had already taken some courses.

294

00:13:58,822 --> 00:14:00,280 So he was taking off this one year,

295

00:14:00,280 --> 00:14:02,850 he had a fellowship to go to Harvard, to go to Penn,

296

00:14:02,850 --> 00:14:04,030 or to come here.

297

00:14:04,030 --> 00:14:07,390 And he decided that this is where he was going to do it.

298

00:14:07,390 --> 00:14:08,690 He knew everybody here.

299

00:14:08,690 --> 00:14:10,390 So this is where we came.

300

00:14:10,390 --> 00:14:12,655 So you have lived in Washington ever since.

301

00:14:12,655 --> 00:14:15,925 Ever since I came to America basically.

302

00:14:15,925 --> 00:14:17,800 And then what did your husband do after that?

303

00:14:17,800 --> 00:14:20,620

David was a university professor--

304

00:14:20,620 --> 00:14:21,820

At Georgetown?

305

00:14:21,820 --> 00:14:23,950

Georgetown, and then

he became chairman

306

00:14:23,950 --> 00:14:26,560

of the German Russian

department in Howard University,

307

00:14:26,560 --> 00:14:29,950

where he stayed until 1986.

308

00:14:29,950 --> 00:14:33,520

He branched out-- the

most diversified man

309

00:14:33,520 --> 00:14:34,960

that I have ever known.

310

00:14:34,960 --> 00:14:37,330

Not only was he a

university professor,

311

00:14:37,330 --> 00:14:38,840

but he was in the government.

312

00:14:38,840 --> 00:14:43,270

He is a Republican,

and he was with Nixon,

313

 $00:14:43,270 \longrightarrow 00:14:47,270$ 

and he was with Reagan.

314

00:14:47,270 --> 00:14:51,280

He was special assistant

to Secretary Haig.

00:14:51,280 --> 00:14:54,400 And he was in the Health Education and Welfare

316

00:14:54,400 --> 00:14:55,300 Department.

317

00:14:55,300 --> 00:14:58,630 Several times he was in the re-election committees--

318

00:14:58,630 --> 00:15:04,570 one of Nixon's and the other one of Reagan and of Bush-

319

00:15:04,570 --> 00:15:08,050 Reagan and then Bush in charge of minorities.

320

00:15:08,050 --> 00:15:11,190

321

00:15:11,190 --> 00:15:18,160 In Bush's, it was a minority, in Reagan's also was in there.

322

00:15:18,160 --> 00:15:19,750 And then he went into business.

323

00:15:19,750 --> 00:15:22,300 And so he had a lot of real estate here.

324

00:15:22,300 --> 00:15:26,590 So he was pretty much in all direction very much here.

325

00:15:26,590 --> 00:15:30,970 He was the founder in Washington through the Jewish community

326

00:15:30,970 --> 00:15:32,050

council--

327 00:15:32,050 --> 00:15:36,370 the establish [INAUDIBLE] of the Save the Russian

328

00:15:36,370 --> 00:15:39,380 Jews, and was a chairman for all the years.

329

00:15:39,380 --> 00:15:43,620 He was the first one who established it here.

330

00:15:43,620 --> 00:15:46,980 He was on the board of the Jewish Community Council--

331

00:15:46,980 --> 00:15:48,715 and of the social service agency.

332

00:15:48,715 --> 00:15:51,660

333

00:15:51,660 --> 00:15:55,930 And extraordinarily involved years ago--

334

00:15:55,930 --> 00:15:58,750 maybe you're too young, I don't know--

335

00:15:58,750 --> 00:16:02,140 there was a time when one had to pay for Soviet Jews

336

00:16:02,140 --> 00:16:03,320 to come out.

337

00:16:03,320 --> 00:16:08,620 It was David who in the middle of the night discovered this.

00:16:08,620 --> 00:16:11,890 And that was given to the newspapers.

339

00:16:11,890 --> 00:16:13,990 He was extraordinarily involved in this.

340

00:16:13,990 --> 00:16:16,850

341

00:16:16,850 --> 00:16:18,820 He had survived in Russia, and he always

342

00:16:18,820 --> 00:16:21,700 felt that he wasn't allowing to happen

343

00:16:21,700 --> 00:16:25,990 what happened to us to happen to the Soviet Jews--

344

00:16:25,990 --> 00:16:29,890 that what Roosevelt did, he wasn't

345

00:16:29,890 --> 00:16:32,560 going to allow if he had anything to do.

346

00:16:32,560 --> 00:16:35,530 And one of the men who most supported this whole thing

347

00:16:35,530 --> 00:16:38,010 was Nixon.

348

00:16:38,010 --> 00:16:41,470 There were I don't know how many thousands of telephones

00:16:41,470 --> 00:16:46,745 every night out of our home for years paid by the White House

350

00:16:46,745 --> 00:16:49,120 I mean the White House was paying for this-- was allowing

351

00:16:49,120 --> 00:16:51,160 it underline.

352

00:16:51,160 --> 00:16:54,520 He worked from the White House under Nixon,

353

00:16:54,520 --> 00:16:58,080 allowing all of this activity going on.

354

00:16:58,080 --> 00:17:00,910 There is a picture that hangs here that if you

355

00:17:00,910 --> 00:17:02,020 like seeing it later--

356

00:17:02,020 --> 00:17:03,970 one of the rallies where Bush, who

357

00:17:03,970 --> 00:17:08,140 was then in the United Nations, came with Isaak Frank

358

00:17:08,140 --> 00:17:09,819 to the big rally--

359

00:17:09,819 --> 00:17:11,250 very much involved in this.

360

00:17:11,250 --> 00:17:14,950 So our lives-- first, I

was a little bit in shock

361 00:17:14,950 --> 00:17:16,557 when I came here.

362

00:17:16,557 --> 00:17:17,890 First of all, there was nobody--

363

00:17:17,890 --> 00:17:19,390 no member of the family lived here,

364

00:17:19,390 --> 00:17:21,829 everybody lived in New York--

365

00:17:21,829 --> 00:17:22,960 very isolated.

366

00:17:22,960 --> 00:17:25,420 So our friends that we acquired through the years

367

00:17:25,420 --> 00:17:29,333 became our family, more than the family that was in New York.

368

00:17:29,333 --> 00:17:31,250 David's mother was in New York-- by that time,

369

00:17:31,250 --> 00:17:33,190 his stepfather had died.

370

00:17:33,190 --> 00:17:36,000 My aunts and uncles were there, but they were there

371

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:37,540 busy with their own life.

372

 $00:17:37,540 \longrightarrow 00:17:39,240$ 

His family-- sure, we went there,

00:17:39,240 --> 00:17:43,710 but it was here that we really established very much

374

00:17:43,710 --> 00:17:44,380 the routes.

375

00:17:44,380 --> 00:17:47,010 And I started going to the university,

376

00:17:47,010 --> 00:17:49,560 and then I got pregnant, and then there was one child,

377

00:17:49,560 --> 00:17:50,500 and there was another.

378

00:17:50,500 --> 00:17:55,680 And other times, different times, really, I

379

00:17:55,680 --> 00:17:57,100 gave up going to school.

380

00:17:57,100 --> 00:18:00,600 Then I went back in the 1970s and I finished the University

381

00:18:00,600 --> 00:18:02,190 in Georgetown.

382

00:18:02,190 --> 00:18:07,110 And in the meantime, I had been working part-time either

383

00:18:07,110 --> 00:18:10,740 as a substitute in public schools, or private schools,

384

00:18:10,740 --> 00:18:13,950

or I was working as a translator,

385

00:18:13,950 --> 00:18:17,132 or I was working as a tour guide in Washington

386

00:18:17,132 --> 00:18:18,090 in all these languages.

387

00:18:18,090 --> 00:18:20,010 So I pretty much did everything.

388

00:18:20,010 --> 00:18:22,860 But the family never came home.

389

00:18:22,860 --> 00:18:26,460 None of the children ever came home with me not being at home.

390

00:18:26,460 --> 00:18:29,250 Nobody carried a key to come home.

391

00:18:29,250 --> 00:18:32,610 I really felt very strongly that this family

392

00:18:32,610 --> 00:18:34,080 had to be the space--

393

00:18:34,080 --> 00:18:37,770 maybe overreacting to my own childhood, who knows?

394

00:18:37,770 --> 00:18:40,350 God forbid they did not have their dinner on the table.

395

00:18:40,350 --> 00:18:42,660 And when I think about it, it's sometimes asinine,

00:18:42,660 --> 00:18:47,100 because you give up your own thing, because that dinner has

397

00:18:47,100 --> 00:18:49,560 to be on the table, excuse me--

398

00:18:49,560 --> 00:18:51,320 as if pizza hadn't been good enough,

399

00:18:51,320 --> 00:18:52,860 or McDonald's, or whatever.

400

00:18:52,860 --> 00:18:53,940 But it had to be there.

401

00:18:53,940 --> 00:18:57,000 It had to be this perfectly set up household.

402

00:18:57,000 --> 00:18:59,460 And David was very busy with everything else.

403

00:18:59,460 --> 00:19:01,870 I tried to be as helpful as I was.

404

00:19:01,870 --> 00:19:03,350 But it was really his thing.

405

00:19:03,350 --> 00:19:06,120 The Soviet Jewry was his thing with all my support.

406

00:19:06,120 --> 00:19:09,973 And our house was an open I call it railroad station.

407

00:19:09,973 --> 00:19:11,640

One came in, and the

other one came out.

408 00:19:11,640 --> 00:19:13,380

All the Russians came through.

409

00:19:13,380 --> 00:19:17,170 He was bringing them to speak to the community, et cetera--

410

00:19:17,170 --> 00:19:19,980 so very much involved with Israel--

411

00:19:19,980 --> 00:19:22,110 very much involved with Israel, politically

412

00:19:22,110 --> 00:19:25,170 and in any other form, David especially--

413

00:19:25,170 --> 00:19:28,050 I mean from Golda Meir to everybody else,

414

00:19:28,050 --> 00:19:29,970 very much so, again, through the Soviet Jewry,

415

00:19:29,970 --> 00:19:31,770 through anything else that he was doing.

416

00:19:31,770 --> 00:19:34,560

417

00:19:34,560 --> 00:19:37,260 And then I went back to school and decided

418

00:19:37,260 --> 00:19:40,740 to finish it, because my husband was pushing me-- do it,

419 00:19:40,740 --> 00:19:42,430 do it, do it, do it.

420

00:19:42,430 --> 00:19:46,950 And so I graduated in '79 from Georgetown,

421

00:19:46,950 --> 00:19:50,570 went to work teaching French--

422

00:19:50,570 --> 00:19:51,840 What'd you major in?

423

00:19:51,840 --> 00:19:54,030 French and Hebrew.

424

00:19:54,030 --> 00:19:58,650 And then I came upon something that I think really

425

00:19:58,650 --> 00:20:02,610 was the most wonderful part of my life personally

426

00:20:02,610 --> 00:20:06,120 and beyond the family.

427

00:20:06,120 --> 00:20:10,230 I found an ad in the newspaper that Georgetown, the campus

428

00:20:10,230 --> 00:20:11,970 ministry, the Jewish chaplaincy was

429

00:20:11,970 --> 00:20:14,800 looking for a program director.

430

00:20:14,800 --> 00:20:19,050 So I went over there, and Rabbi White, who is still there, 431 00:20:19,050 --> 00:20:21,540 was my teacher when I was in Georgetown.

432 00:20:21,540 --> 00:20:24,920 And we were so connected to Georgetown

433 00:20:24,920 --> 00:20:27,240 with David and myself, et cetera-- anyway,

434 00:20:27,240 --> 00:20:29,760 I got a job as program director.

435 00:20:29,760 --> 00:20:32,780 And I stayed there for 13 years.

436 00:20:32,780 --> 00:20:35,550 I thoroughly enjoyed it--

437 00:20:35,550 --> 00:20:39,000 the setting, the university, the kids,

438 00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:41,910 and everything that went with it.

439 00:20:41,910 --> 00:20:44,520 My family at that point, my children

440 00:20:44,520 --> 00:20:46,590 had graduated from college already.

441 00:20:46,590 --> 00:20:49,110 Once they were gone, it was an empty nest. 00:20:49,110 --> 00:20:51,000 So it came in just at the right time.

## 443

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:55,620 I started working there in January of '82.

## 444

00:20:55,620 --> 00:20:57,630 Joe had gone to college in '80.

## 445

00:20:57,630 --> 00:20:59,340 Monique was going to go in '83.

#### 446

00:20:59,340 --> 00:21:02,310 So it was the perfect setup.

### 447

00:21:02,310 --> 00:21:05,760 And David was still involved very much at that time.

#### 448

00:21:05,760 --> 00:21:09,450 He was Secretary Haig's special assistant.

# 449

00:21:09,450 --> 00:21:10,740 I had my time.

#### 450

00:21:10,740 --> 00:21:15,750 I could do my own thing, but still very much in the sense

## 451

00:21:15,750 --> 00:21:18,960 that dinner had still to be on the table.

## 452

00:21:18,960 --> 00:21:22,320 It still was there.

## 453

00:21:22,320 --> 00:21:29,560 Maybe that's the downfall of my personal thing.

454

00:21:29,560 --> 00:21:30,570 I got them used to it.

455

00:21:30,570 --> 00:21:33,780 I was used to it, whatever comes first.

456

00:21:33,780 --> 00:21:35,880

OK?

457

00:21:35,880 --> 00:21:39,570 And so I worked there--

458

00:21:39,570 --> 00:21:44,010 absolutely the perfect time, until basically everything

459

00:21:44,010 --> 00:21:44,760 started.

460

00:21:44,760 --> 00:21:47,400 And what started falling apart is pretty much

461

00:21:47,400 --> 00:21:53,160 that my husband got sick, other priorities

462

00:21:53,160 --> 00:21:55,080 took over-- other family priorities.

463

00:21:55,080 --> 00:21:58,110 Anyway, I decided overnight--

464

00:21:58,110 --> 00:22:01,710 I was saying to my kids at this point--

465

00:22:01,710 --> 00:22:03,900 Joe had gotten married a month earlier-- of course,

466 00:22:03,900 --> 00:22:07,800 November of '94, our daughter was going through her

467 00:22:07,800 --> 00:22:10,290 [INAUDIBLE] and graduated and was a lawyer--

468 00:22:10,290 --> 00:22:15,850 had gone through her own personal uproars, et cetera.

469 00:22:15,850 --> 00:22:21,570 And David got sick, and I just felt that I was choking.

470 00:22:21,570 --> 00:22:23,190 It was just impossible.

471 00:22:23,190 --> 00:22:25,440 I could not concentrate on this.

472 00:22:25,440 --> 00:22:28,290 And overnight, as much as I had told them for the past six

473 00:22:28,290 --> 00:22:31,917 months, I think I'm giving it up, I think I'm--

474 00:22:31,917 --> 00:22:33,750 and everybody was joking saying, mom, you're

475 00:22:33,750 --> 00:22:38,320 going to die on the job at age 99, OK?

476 00:22:38,320 --> 00:22:42,810 One day we went to New York, and I came back-- 477 00:22:42,810 --> 00:22:45,780 this was after Thanksgiving-and I turned to David

478 00:22:45,780 --> 00:22:49,080 and I said, I am leaving in June.

479 00:22:49,080 --> 00:22:50,780 I'm going to finish the academic year.

480 00:22:50,780 --> 00:22:53,280 And he turned to me and he said, if you're going to do this,

481 00:22:53,280 --> 00:22:55,660 why don't you do it now before December,

482 00:22:55,660 --> 00:22:58,230 and let's go to Florida where we had an apartment.

483 00:22:58,230 --> 00:23:00,310 Let's go there and let's just call it quits.

484 00:23:00,310 --> 00:23:03,940 But don't postpone it the six months or whatever.

485 00:23:03,940 --> 00:23:06,360 So I sat down, I wrote a letter-- nobody still believed

486 00:23:06,360 --> 00:23:07,980 me I was going to do it.

487 00:23:07,980 --> 00:23:11,460 I wrote the letter resignation, took it over to Georgetown, 488 00:23:11,460 --> 00:23:19,230 put it in Harold's cubicle and in our boss's cubicle,

489

00:23:19,230 --> 00:23:22,400 and two days later, walked out-

490 00:23:22,400 --> 00:23:25,160 the best decision in my life, because there

491 00:23:25,160 --> 00:23:28,500 comes a time when you have to say,

492 00:23:28,500 --> 00:23:30,360 enough is enough is enough.

493 00:23:30,360 --> 00:23:33,330 And I really felt I had given something of myself--

494 00:23:33,330 --> 00:23:36,480 very much involved-- but I had given something.

495 00:23:36,480 --> 00:23:37,890 It had given me a lot--

496 00:23:37,890 --> 00:23:43,140 probably given me a lot than maybe I have even given it.

497 00:23:43,140 --> 00:23:47,010 But it was time to switch gears.

498 00:23:47,010 --> 00:23:48,762 What were your duties there?

499 00:23:48,762 --> 00:23:50,970 Oh, I was program director for the Jewish Chaplaincy. 500 00:23:50,970 --> 00:23:52,560 They don't have a Hillel.

501 00:23:52,560 --> 00:23:54,990 It's all paid by the universities.

502 00:23:54,990 --> 00:24:02,370 So the Jewish chaplaincy is part of campus ministry.

503 00:24:02,370 --> 00:24:04,230 It's part of the university.

504 00:24:04,230 --> 00:24:07,290 And it was establishing the programs,

505 00:24:07,290 --> 00:24:11,430 running the Jewish house that is there.

506 00:24:11,430 --> 00:24:13,020 It was aversified.

507 00:24:13,020 --> 00:24:16,170 Because at the beginning, we had all these Israeli connections.

508 00:24:16,170 --> 00:24:20,730 So I was pulling them all in to give talks at the university,

509 00:24:20,730 --> 00:24:22,920 at which time I also lost interest.

510 00:24:22,920 --> 00:24:24,940 And it gets a bit repetitive.

511 00:24:24,940 --> 00:24:26,560 And I wanted to do something else.

512

00:24:26,560 --> 00:24:27,810

And so what was it?

513

 $00:24:27,810 \longrightarrow 00:24:31,330$ 

I became treasurer of WTO, which

I don't know what this is--

514

 $00:24:31,330 \longrightarrow 00:24:33,480$ 

Women Treasurer's Organization.

515

 $00:24:33,480 \longrightarrow 00:24:36,510$ 

I had been President

of Young WTO in Belgium

516

00:24:36,510 --> 00:24:38,230

when I was 18 years old.

517

00:24:38,230 --> 00:24:40,350

So this was just normal.

518

 $00:24:40,350 \longrightarrow 00:24:43,110$ 

And everybody's laughing

because it's probably for life

519

 $00:24:43,110 \longrightarrow 00:24:45,290$ 

that I am the treasurer.

520

00:24:45,290 --> 00:24:47,880

Involved with this

just gives me enough--

521

 $00:24:47,880 \longrightarrow 00:24:51,780$ 

became involved immediately

with the Holocaust Museum.

522

00:24:51,780 --> 00:24:53,580

We'll talk about that.

523

00:24:53,580 --> 00:24:56,190

The minute I was leaving, I knew that this

524

00:24:56,190 --> 00:24:58,590 is what I wanted to do to whatever extent

525

00:24:58,590 --> 00:25:00,720 I was going to do it.

526

00:25:00,720 --> 00:25:04,680 You had said that you gave a lot to your position,

527

00:25:04,680 --> 00:25:06,090 but it also gave a lot to you.

528

00:25:06,090 --> 00:25:08,040 What did it give to you?

529

00:25:08,040 --> 00:25:11,580 I worked with the young people.

530

00:25:11,580 --> 00:25:15,390 It gave me a self-confidence.

531

00:25:15,390 --> 00:25:19,380 I also honestly believe that no matter how

532

00:25:19,380 --> 00:25:22,710 financially everybody is fine, it

533

00:25:22,710 --> 00:25:26,430 gives you a certain something to yourself

534

00:25:26,430 --> 00:25:28,450 that you are the one who brings in the check.

535

00:25:28,450 --> 00:25:30,330 The other thing what it did is they

536 00:25:30,330 --> 00:25:33,270 told my family, you are the first,

537 00:25:33,270 --> 00:25:34,670 but you are not any more--

538 00:25:34,670 --> 00:25:37,950

539 00:25:37,950 --> 00:25:41,050 there is a job that has to be, and it has to be done.

540 00:25:41,050 --> 00:25:45,150 So it gave me this little bit of this distance where

541 00:25:45,150 --> 00:25:48,060 I wasn't any more Maryla, and mom,

542 00:25:48,060 --> 00:25:52,200 and everybody else, in which I find that, unfortunately

543 00:25:52,200 --> 00:25:54,630 or fortunately, it has reversed to exactly to that,

544 00:25:54,630 --> 00:25:56,550 because suddenly mom is available.

545 00:25:56,550 --> 00:25:59,280 And so mom's time is everybody's time.

546 00:25:59,280 --> 00:26:02,020 And Maryla's time is also my time.

547 00:26:02,020 --> 00:26:06,190 So I think if you have an outside job--

548 00:26:06,190 --> 00:26:10,590 see, my husband never thinks that being a volunteer

549 00:26:10,590 --> 00:26:11,580 is a job.

550 00:26:11,580 --> 00:26:16,860 That's a hobby that comes far, far beyond anything else, OK?

551 00:26:16,860 --> 00:26:22,710 So that gave me this freedom of saying, wait a minute, no.

552 00:26:22,710 --> 00:26:26,160 Tonight or today-- and I was getting up in the morning,

553 00:26:26,160 --> 00:26:27,630 and they knew where I was.

554 00:26:27,630 --> 00:26:30,650 So it gave me that--

555 00:26:30,650 --> 00:26:32,640 not that I needed any more independence--

556 00:26:32,640 --> 00:26:36,240 I always felt always very independent,

557 00:26:36,240 --> 00:26:38,500 and self-sufficient, and capable, 558 00:26:38,500 --> 00:26:41,400 but this gave me almost this permission

559 00:26:41,400 --> 00:26:47,550 of not being just the mother and a wife, et cetera.

560 00:26:47,550 --> 00:26:48,810 Your folks are still alive.

561 00:26:48,810 --> 00:26:50,190 Yes.

562 00:26:50,190 --> 00:26:54,390 My father is 91, and my mother is 89.

563 00:26:54,390 --> 00:26:57,180 And although she had had a very hard last 30

564 00:26:57,180 --> 00:26:59,380 years, both physically, emotionally,

565 00:26:59,380 --> 00:27:02,700 mentally in every respect, unfortunately in March,

566 00:27:02,700 --> 00:27:07,680 she had a stroke, and she is in the Jewish home in Frankfurt

567 00:27:07,680 --> 00:27:12,600 paralyzed and speechless, but her mind

568 00:27:12,600 --> 00:27:14,300 is still working very much so. 00:27:14,300 --> 00:27:16,050 But you can't communicate anything.

570 00:27:16,050 --> 00:27:20,720 And my father probably was getting senile before,

571 00:27:20,720 --> 00:27:22,330 and now for sure he is getting senile.

572 00:27:22,330 --> 00:27:23,220 There's no question.

573 00:27:23,220 --> 00:27:26,190 But he refuses to go to the old age home,

574 00:27:26,190 --> 00:27:28,300 so there is a problem there.

575 00:27:28,300 --> 00:27:32,850 And then it's a problem from all sides.

576 00:27:32,850 --> 00:27:36,420 You had alluded earlier about what,

577 00:27:36,420 --> 00:27:41,080 because of your experiences, what kind of young person

578 00:27:41,080 --> 00:27:41,580 you were.

579 00:27:41,580 --> 00:27:44,790 Do you feel that if you hadn't gone through those experiences,

580 00:27:44,790 --> 00:27:47,430 that you would be a different person than you are today?

581 00:27:47,430 --> 00:27:48,780 Of course, there's no question.

582 00:27:48,780 --> 00:27:50,940 There's absolutely no question.

583 00:27:50,940 --> 00:27:53,820 I had a conversation with a very close friend of mine

584 00:27:53,820 --> 00:27:55,170 because she said--

585 00:27:55,170 --> 00:27:58,740 my granddaughter, we had her over, and they were here--

586 00:27:58,740 --> 00:28:00,990 and she said, she adores you.

587 00:28:00,990 --> 00:28:02,940 It's interesting that somebody who

588 00:28:02,940 --> 00:28:12,450 was not nurtured in a normal way was even capable of--

589 00:28:12,450 --> 00:28:15,150 you if you do something by example, then

590 00:28:15,150 --> 00:28:17,640 she was no example in that sense.

591 00:28:17,640 --> 00:28:20,100 There was no way of, this is right for a child, 00:28:20,100 --> 00:28:21,610 this is wrong for a child.

593

00:28:21,610 --> 00:28:23,460 So when I was bringing my two kids,

594

00:28:23,460 --> 00:28:27,090 it's a miracle that they are the wonderful people that they are,

595

00:28:27,090 --> 00:28:32,160 because I didn't have a brother or sister being one.

596

00:28:32,160 --> 00:28:34,050 My husband is an only child.

597

00:28:34,050 --> 00:28:37,445 He is a Holocaust survivor with a different path

598

00:28:37,445 --> 00:28:38,820 because he was with his parents--

599

00:28:38,820 --> 00:28:40,920 but still, no normal childhood.

600

00:28:40,920 --> 00:28:42,840 I certainly didn't have a normal childhood.

601

00:28:42,840 --> 00:28:45,600 How on earth did we even manage halfway

602

00:28:45,600 --> 00:28:48,870 to put together a normal household

603

00:28:48,870 --> 00:28:52,360

or have certain

# things that we did

604

00:28:52,360 --> 00:28:55,630 that was in a normal pattern?

605

00:28:55,630 --> 00:28:57,970 Yes, but it definitely did.

606

00:28:57,970 --> 00:29:01,900 There is no question in my mind--

607

00:29:01,900 --> 00:29:07,420 anybody who survived has marked them in a way--

608

00:29:07,420 --> 00:29:10,540 whatever way that is, or whatever their experiences

609

00:29:10,540 --> 00:29:12,220 after the war--

610

00:29:12,220 --> 00:29:17,170 there's no question that these children were marked, that they

611

00:29:17,170 --> 00:29:21,280 will carry it, and that we have, again,

612

00:29:21,280 --> 00:29:26,170 after us, we brought up a generation of children that

613

00:29:26,170 --> 00:29:31,450 are different from the norm.

614

00:29:31,450 --> 00:29:34,840 My kids were born in Washington.

615

00:29:34,840 --> 00:29:39,610

My son, more than my daughter--but again, she also reacted.

616 00:29:39,610 --> 00:29:42,400

00:29:39,610 --> 00:29:42,400 She reacted by pulling back, OK?

617 00:29:42,400 --> 00:29:48,670 And to her, it's not as if it's of no interest,

618 00:29:48,670 --> 00:29:49,750 but it's a pullback.

619 00:29:49,750 --> 00:29:53,800 My son, incredibly involved with every Jewish organization--

620 00:29:53,800 --> 00:29:57,100 UJA [NON-ENGLISH] any Jewish organization,

621 00:29:57,100 --> 00:29:59,650 anything that it's there and at high level--

622 00:29:59,650 --> 00:30:03,250 we're talking high level in UJA.

623 00:30:03,250 --> 00:30:05,920 That's him interested, went back to Poland,

624 00:30:05,920 --> 00:30:08,140 wanted to know his roots, wanted to know--

625 00:30:08,140 --> 00:30:11,200 see the other thing was to show the children their roots.

626 00:30:11,200 --> 00:30:15,760 We did not come from nowhere. 627

00:30:15,760 --> 00:30:17,470 I was once flabbergasted.

628

00:30:17,470 --> 00:30:19,420 Remember, I came to Washington '61.

629

00:30:19,420 --> 00:30:20,940 Nobody talked about the Holocaust.

630

00:30:20,940 --> 00:30:26,060 American Jews were as close to the subject as anything

631

00:30:26,060 --> 00:30:26,560 you got.

632

00:30:26,560 --> 00:30:29,210 We were the strange ones.

633

00:30:29,210 --> 00:30:32,050 1961, it sounds crazy--

634

00:30:32,050 --> 00:30:33,850 and I'm not talking about some pockets

635

00:30:33,850 --> 00:30:35,500 in Silver Spring or somewhere where

636

00:30:35,500 --> 00:30:39,430 the Holocaust survivors were, I'm talking the American Jews.

637

00:30:39,430 --> 00:30:41,170 This was a no subject.

638

 $00:30:41,170 \longrightarrow 00:30:45,220$ 

That was the strange person who had survived

639 00:30:45,220 --> 00:30:48,370 the Holocaust, this odd person.

640

00:30:48,370 --> 00:30:55,120 These children were brought up in a society which was normal.

641 00:30:55,120 --> 00:30:58,510 I remember going to friends of ours for Pesach

642 00:30:58,510 --> 00:31:00,370 and being basically jealous.

643 00:31:00,370 --> 00:31:02,950 They had a family.

644 00:31:02,950 --> 00:31:06,040 We had no man's land--

645 00:31:06,040 --> 00:31:10,060 not even a cemetery to go to.

646 00:31:10,060 --> 00:31:14,800 It brings back all kinds of incredible--

647 00:31:14,800 --> 00:31:16,750 there was no cemetery.

648 00:31:16,750 --> 00:31:20,020 There was no place to go and cry on mothers, or fathers,

649 00:31:20,020 --> 00:31:23,225 or grandfathers' tomb, OK?

650 00:31:23,225 --> 00:31:24,850 Whether it's good, bad, or indifferent, 651 00:31:24,850 --> 00:31:28,060 that's an individual thing, but it's not there.

652 00:31:28,060 --> 00:31:33,930 The first person that died around me was my mother in '79.

653 00:31:33,930 --> 00:31:36,060 I must tell you, I am as frightened

654 00:31:36,060 --> 00:31:38,730 as any of these type of things, because people,

655 00:31:38,730 --> 00:31:40,830 when they are my age, they have had

656 00:31:40,830 --> 00:31:44,430 grandparents, aunts, uncles, probably parents that

657 00:31:44,430 --> 00:31:45,540 have already died.

658 00:31:45,540 --> 00:31:50,570 And so I'm not saying they're used to it, but they have who?

659 00:31:50,570 --> 00:31:52,260 Nothing.

660 00:31:52,260 --> 00:31:54,720 For the first time, we have a grave,

661 00:31:54,720 --> 00:31:57,230 and that grave is my mother-in-law.

662

00:31:57,230 --> 00:31:59,350 So when she died, we made a big thing about it.

663

00:31:59,350 --> 00:32:02,245 We brought her from New York to be buried in Washington.

664

00:32:02,245 --> 00:32:03,120 And so what happened?

665

00:32:03,120 --> 00:32:04,930 I went looking all over the place,

666

00:32:04,930 --> 00:32:08,640 because I wanted a cemetery with tombstones

667

00:32:08,640 --> 00:32:11,430 so we could put the names of her family

668

00:32:11,430 --> 00:32:14,330 from both sides that had died.

669

00:32:14,330 --> 00:32:21,090 An American very seldom goes through that type.

670

00:32:21,090 --> 00:32:23,730 So of course it did influence.

671

00:32:23,730 --> 00:32:28,500 It influences every minute of one's life.

672

00:32:28,500 --> 00:32:33,630 It influences how one feels, how one thinks.

673

00:32:33,630 --> 00:32:38,220

And again, it's not

totally always conscious.

674

00:32:38,220 --> 00:32:40,230 But it is there.

675

00:32:40,230 --> 00:32:43,230 And if anybody tells you that they don't think about it

676

00:32:43,230 --> 00:32:45,400 or it didn't influence their life,

677

00:32:45,400 --> 00:32:49,020 I think that they deny it--

678

00:32:49,020 --> 00:32:51,185 just maybe they don't want to talk about it,

679

00:32:51,185 --> 00:32:52,060 that's another story.

680

00:32:52,060 --> 00:32:59,570

681

00:32:59,570 --> 00:33:01,970 You said that for a long time when you heard thunder,

682

00:33:01,970 --> 00:33:04,050 you would hide under the table.

683

00:33:04,050 --> 00:33:06,830 Are there any other sounds that remind

684

00:33:06,830 --> 00:33:09,000 you of your childhood or sites?

685

00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:12,170

No, just don't go and see

movies about the Holocaust.

686 00:33:12,170 --> 00:33:14,210 I have absolutely no need for those,

687 00:33:14,210 --> 00:33:17,063 nor do I have any particular desire for this.

688 00:33:17,063 --> 00:33:18,230 I just don't want to see it.

689 00:33:18,230 --> 00:33:21,360

690 00:33:21,360 --> 00:33:22,890 It's there, and it's a reality.

691 00:33:22,890 --> 00:33:25,475 And I think that those who never saw it,

692 00:33:25,475 --> 00:33:27,100 I can't put myself through that trauma.

693 00:33:27,100 --> 00:33:29,960

694 00:33:29,960 --> 00:33:32,480 You had mentioned earlier about your mother

695 00:33:32,480 --> 00:33:36,692 working in the factory making shopping bags,

696 00:33:36,692 --> 00:33:38,900 and that you had mentioned to me before the interview 00:33:38,900 --> 00:33:40,522 about similar--

698 00:33:40,522 --> 00:33:42,230

you want to talk a little bit about that.

699 00:33:42,230 --> 00:33:44,980 Well, Birkenau was very close to Krakow.

700 00:33:44,980 --> 00:33:47,060 And this factory had something to do

701 00:33:47,060 --> 00:33:49,940 with was household goods-these shopping bags.

702 00:33:49,940 --> 00:33:54,320 My mother saw him once coming in there while she was working,

703 00:33:54,320 --> 00:33:58,370 and what she said to me-- this was already just about a year

704 00:33:58,370 --> 00:33:59,240 or two ago--

705 00:33:59,240 --> 00:34:01,220 after the movie came out, she said,

706 00:34:01,220 --> 00:34:03,290 because Schindler ended up in Frankfurt

707 00:34:03,290 --> 00:34:04,460 and saw my parents there.

708 00:34:04,460 --> 00:34:06,260 So she saw him after the war-- 709 00:34:06,260 --> 00:34:12,290 had very different feeling about him than all of this praising

710 00:34:12,290 --> 00:34:14,710 and what have you.

711 00:34:14,710 --> 00:34:20,449 And her reaction was he came in this gorgeous chunk of a man.

712 00:34:20,449 --> 00:34:25,130 He also seemed to have had some connection, supposedly, first

713 00:34:25,130 --> 00:34:27,960 of all, to a couple that lived in Bosnia.

714 00:34:27,960 --> 00:34:31,070 He came to visit there quite often.

715 00:34:31,070 --> 00:34:32,840 And the other one there were rumors--

716 00:34:32,840 --> 00:34:35,900 and this, again, leave it to the historians--

717 00:34:35,900 --> 00:34:38,150 that he had some connection to that escape route

718 00:34:38,150 --> 00:34:41,780 to Hungary, which I heard a couple of years back.

719 00:34:41,780 --> 00:34:42,770 Anything is possible. 720

00:34:42,770 --> 00:34:45,620 It was from that same area.

721

00:34:45,620 --> 00:34:47,540 But my mother never

knew, being from Krakow,

722

00:34:47,540 --> 00:34:52,670 that that factory was doing what it was doing during the war.

723

00:34:52,670 --> 00:34:58,970 And after the war when he appeared in Frankfurt,

724

00:34:58,970 --> 00:35:02,270 the Jewish community really distanced itself a little bit.

725

00:35:02,270 --> 00:35:03,860 You have all kinds of stories--

726

00:35:03,860 --> 00:35:08,750 I was just watching his biography--

727

00:35:08,750 --> 00:35:11,390 the ones that survive under him, you

728

00:35:11,390 --> 00:35:13,760 hear about the ones that praise him,

729

00:35:13,760 --> 00:35:17,480 but you don't hear about the ones that

730

00:35:17,480 --> 00:35:19,510 had something negative to say.

731

00:35:19,510 --> 00:35:25,280

So I think this is a wonderful thing that he did.

732 00:35:25,280 --> 00:35:27,260 A friend of ours who was saved by him

733 00:35:27,260 --> 00:35:30,740 said, since when was a 16-year-old

734 00:35:30,740 --> 00:35:36,020 supposed to be interned and made a slave laborer?

735 00:35:36,020 --> 00:35:38,480 So I'm glad that he saved my life,

736 00:35:38,480 --> 00:35:41,610 but why was I there to start with?

737 00:35:41,610 --> 00:35:46,140 And so you can take it from whichever side you take it.

738 00:35:46,140 --> 00:35:47,900 She says, since when was I supposed to be

739 00:35:47,900 --> 00:35:51,860 a slave laborer at age 16?

740 00:35:51,860 --> 00:35:53,450 That was the only connection that we

741 00:35:53,450 --> 00:36:01,220 had to this Schindler thing that I thought was of some interest.

742 00:36:01,220 --> 00:36:04,950 He had somewhere crossed our lives maybe on the peripheries.

743 00:36:04,950 --> 00:36:17,672

744

00:36:17,672 --> 00:36:19,880 This is a continuation of the United States Holocaust

745

00:36:19,880 --> 00:36:21,890 Memorial Museum Volunteer Collection

746

00:36:21,890 --> 00:36:23,630 Interview with Maryla Korn.

747

00:36:23,630 --> 00:36:29,010 This is tape number 2, side B. What are your thoughts

748

00:36:29,010 --> 00:36:31,740 about Germany today?

749

00:36:31,740 --> 00:36:33,480 Unfortunately, I have to go there quite

750

00:36:33,480 --> 00:36:38,160 often since my parents are still alive and living there.

751

00:36:38,160 --> 00:36:41,140 I don't think I will ever put foot there again after they

752

00:36:41,140 --> 00:36:41,640 are gone.

753

00:36:41,640 --> 00:36:44,400

00:36:44,400 --> 00:36:49,240 I am not in the business of forgiving.

755 00:36:49,240 --> 00:36:52,730 I don't think from my perspective there's anything--

756 00:36:52,730 --> 00:36:55,520 look, if my children feel that strongly about Germany,

757 00:36:55,520 --> 00:37:00,340 so let no person tell me that the people, the Germans who

758 00:37:00,340 --> 00:37:03,180 were there during the war and then had their children,

759 00:37:03,180 --> 00:37:05,890 that they didn't influence their children and grandchildren.

760 00:37:05,890 --> 00:37:10,230 So maybe they try to say whatever they

761 00:37:10,230 --> 00:37:11,940 are saying, that they have--

762 00:37:11,940 --> 00:37:14,520 of course, they wouldn't maybe be given the opportunity

763 00:37:14,520 --> 00:37:17,550 of changing, of doing it again.

764 00:37:17,550 --> 00:37:20,850 And so they think whatever they think at this point.

765 00:37:20,850 --> 00:37:22,770 As far as I'm concerned, it's not

766 00:37:22,770 --> 00:37:24,930 a question of collective guilt. I

767 00:37:24,930 --> 00:37:28,490 don't think that the young ones are responsible for what

768 00:37:28,490 --> 00:37:30,990 the older ones did, but I don't think that their mentalities

769 00:37:30,990 --> 00:37:32,770 have changed.

770 00:37:32,770 --> 00:37:34,500 And again, I go there very often.

771 00:37:34,500 --> 00:37:36,600 I have a very different perspective.

772 00:37:36,600 --> 00:37:38,250 Every time I come there, I shiver

773 00:37:38,250 --> 00:37:41,160 by the time I land up at the Frankfurt airport,

774 00:37:41,160 --> 00:37:45,970 and I find it debilitating.

775 00:37:45,970 --> 00:37:49,870 I wouldn't have a German friend, and I go there

776 00:37:49,870 --> 00:37:51,850 because I have to go there. 777 00:37:51,850 --> 00:37:54,670 And as far as I'm concerned, they cannot be forgiven,

778 00:37:54,670 --> 00:37:58,690 and it cannot be forgotten, and it cannot be forgiven,

779 00:37:58,690 --> 00:38:02,260 and it cannot be understood, and it cannot be explained.

780 00:38:02,260 --> 00:38:07,960 And I said years ago something that horrified some people,

781 00:38:07,960 --> 00:38:09,490 but that's fine with me too.

782 00:38:09,490 --> 00:38:11,830 I said that as far as I was concerned,

783 00:38:11,830 --> 00:38:13,540 I had nothing against the Japanese,

784 00:38:13,540 --> 00:38:14,920 Truman did the wrong thing.

785 00:38:14,920 --> 00:38:18,040 He should have shot one on Germany and Poland

786 00:38:18,040 --> 00:38:19,420 and put it altogether.

787 00:38:19,420 --> 00:38:20,860 And I really meant it in that way,

788

00:38:20,860 --> 00:38:24,520 because I don't think that those crimes can

789 00:38:24,520 --> 00:38:29,830 be explained, understood in any form forgiven.

790 00:38:29,830 --> 00:38:32,110 So when I hear German, even at the Holocaust Museum,

791 00:38:32,110 --> 00:38:35,560 I jump, I must admit.

792 00:38:35,560 --> 00:38:41,065 I don't have it in me to say whatever it takes to--

793 00:38:41,065 --> 00:38:43,808

794 00:38:43,808 --> 00:38:44,350 I don't know.

795 00:38:44,350 --> 00:38:47,770 I've never talked about it with anybody else.

796 00:38:47,770 --> 00:38:51,628 There is a certain hatred among Polish Jews to Poland.

797 00:38:51,628 --> 00:38:53,170 But interestingly enough, what I find

798 00:38:53,170 --> 00:38:54,962 is that German Jews don't feel the same way

799 00:38:54,962 --> 00:38:56,200 against the German. 800 00:38:56,200 --> 00:39:01,570 To me, the Polish phenomena is a phenomena by itself,

801 00:39:01,570 --> 00:39:05,540 but they wouldn't have had done it--

802 00:39:05,540 --> 00:39:08,487 OK, they collaborated, they did it--

803 00:39:08,487 --> 00:39:10,570 if the Germans had not put the machinery in place.

804 00:39:10,570 --> 00:39:12,220 So whom do you blame first?

805 00:39:12,220 --> 00:39:14,980 As far as I'm concerned, it's one or the other,

806 00:39:14,980 --> 00:39:17,390 and it's all pretty much the same.

807 00:39:17,390 --> 00:39:19,420 I don't consider Poland my homeland.

808 00:39:19,420 --> 00:39:21,640 And you asked me what I think about the Germans--

809 00:39:21,640 --> 00:39:24,370

810 00:39:24,370 --> 00:39:30,790 the same thing-- there is no way that this can be forgiven 811 00:39:30,790 --> 00:39:35,050 or whatever the term it is.

812 00:39:35,050 --> 00:39:37,660 Look, they finished off our family

813 00:39:37,660 --> 00:39:40,960 to an extent that is irreplaceable.

814 00:39:40,960 --> 00:39:43,000 They finished off--

815 00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:46,980 I'm thinking my kids would have had now--

816 00:39:46,980 --> 00:39:48,480 forget about first cousins, maybe we

817 00:39:48,480 --> 00:39:50,530 would have remained for only children.

818 00:39:50,530 --> 00:39:53,140 They're with 10 uncles on one side.

819 00:39:53,140 --> 00:39:56,740 My mother-in-law lost seven brothers and sisters--

820 00:39:56,740 --> 00:39:58,360 we're talking numbers.

821 00:39:58,360 --> 00:40:01,540 If each one of those kids had had two,

822 00:40:01,540 --> 00:40:03,940 can you imagine what would have gone on?

823

00:40:03,940 --> 00:40:05,470 There was a family.

824

00:40:05,470 --> 00:40:09,290 They annihilated everything going down the generations.

825

00:40:09,290 --> 00:40:13,980 They didn't just kill six million, they finished off--

826

00:40:13,980 --> 00:40:17,830 and I always keep saying the same thing--

827

00:40:17,830 --> 00:40:22,150 in the turns of numbers, six millions in the humanity

828

00:40:22,150 --> 00:40:23,382 doesn't mean [INAUDIBLE].

829

00:40:23,382 --> 00:40:26,950 Six millions, OK, so?

830

00:40:26,950 --> 00:40:27,940 How many die here?

831

00:40:27,940 --> 00:40:29,980 How many die there?

832

00:40:29,980 --> 00:40:32,770 But in terms of what they killed,

833

00:40:32,770 --> 00:40:41,410 the intellect, the history, the philosophy, the theology--

834

00:40:41,410 --> 00:40:43,990 all of these Yeshiva that are springing up,

835

00:40:43,990 --> 00:40:48,820 they have lost a hole in there where there were no teachers.

836

00:40:48,820 --> 00:40:50,920 Every so often, you have this yeshiva that

837

00:40:50,920 --> 00:40:53,230 jumps out [INAUDIBLE] somebody.

838

00:40:53,230 --> 00:40:57,550 The fact is that the knowledge had disappeared.

839

00:40:57,550 --> 00:40:59,830 What they killed was something--

840

00:40:59,830 --> 00:41:03,370 I don't think that one recoups.

841

00:41:03,370 --> 00:41:05,020 I don't know whether my children recoup

842

00:41:05,020 --> 00:41:08,170 from not having this family.

843

00:41:08,170 --> 00:41:09,400 I certainly didn't.

844

00:41:09,400 --> 00:41:10,930 My husband certainly didn't.

845

00:41:10,930 --> 00:41:16,060 So to us, they certainly went beyond this.

00:41:16,060 --> 00:41:18,010 We're lucky our parents survived,

847 00:41:18,010 --> 00:41:21,730 but they were traumatized in their own way.

848 00:41:21,730 --> 00:41:24,050 Everybody went their own way.

849 00:41:24,050 --> 00:41:27,760 Who would have been in America if this hadn't happened?

850 00:41:27,760 --> 00:41:30,310 We'd all have been in Europe, good, bad, or indifferent,

851 00:41:30,310 --> 00:41:34,150 in that little place or in another big place.

852 00:41:34,150 --> 00:41:35,650 The children were getting education,

853 00:41:35,650 --> 00:41:38,510 and they weren't going out.

854 00:41:38,510 --> 00:41:40,735 So that's my feeling about Germany.

855 00:41:40,735 --> 00:41:43,090 If I don't see it again, I won't cry.

856 00:41:43,090 --> 00:41:46,120 You said before on the tape that you lost your childhood.

857 00:41:46,120 --> 00:41:50,295 Are you angry that you did and other people your age

858

00:41:50,295 --> 00:41:51,670 were living here in this country?

859

00:41:51,670 --> 00:41:52,450 No.

860

00:41:52,450 --> 00:41:54,560 No, but I lost my childhood.

861

00:41:54,560 --> 00:41:56,290 I'm not jealous that they had theirs.

862

00:41:56,290 --> 00:41:58,270 But my daughter-in-law said something very interesting

863

00:41:58,270 --> 00:41:58,570 to me--

864

00:41:58,570 --> 00:41:59,860 I said, I'm bored in Florida.

865

00:41:59,860 --> 00:42:02,410 So she says, take it as a summer camp.

866

00:42:02,410 --> 00:42:04,360 Do all the fun things in a summer camp.

867

00:42:04,360 --> 00:42:07,660 And I looked at her and I said, I love you too--

868

00:42:07,660 --> 00:42:08,990

what summer camp?

00:42:08,990 --> 00:42:11,860 I have never been to a summer camp.

870 00:42:11,860 --> 00:42:14,710 In order to enjoy a summer camp at age 60,

871 00:42:14,710 --> 00:42:18,070 you have to know what it was at age 10.

872 00:42:18,070 --> 00:42:20,350 So.

873 00:42:20,350 --> 00:42:24,760 Did you really talk things over with your children

874 00:42:24,760 --> 00:42:27,430 as they were growing up-going into the difficulties

875 00:42:27,430 --> 00:42:29,560 and your thoughts that you experienced?

876 00:42:29,560 --> 00:42:32,080 They were never shielded from that,

877 00:42:32,080 --> 00:42:33,730 good, bad, or indifferent.

878 00:42:33,730 --> 00:42:36,760 We were not a family that did not talk.

879 00:42:36,760 --> 00:42:41,830 We always did, both my husband--

880 00:42:41,830 --> 00:42:45,400 he had memories from Poland, because he was five--

881 00:42:45,400 --> 00:42:47,770 to his experiences in Russia.

882

00:42:47,770 --> 00:42:51,310 There was no shielding.

883

00:42:51,310 --> 00:42:53,350 It's a question of how deep one went.

884

00:42:53,350 --> 00:42:56,440 By the way, my kids have never seen--

885

00:42:56,440 --> 00:43:01,180 they have it, but they haven't seen the Shoah tapes

886

00:43:01,180 --> 00:43:02,560 I gave it to them--

887

00:43:02,560 --> 00:43:03,670 Shoah interview tape.

888

00:43:03,670 --> 00:43:05,950 I said whenever you are ready, there

889

00:43:05,950 --> 00:43:08,350 you have the whole story is there

890

00:43:08,350 --> 00:43:10,690 for both my husband and myself.

891

00:43:10,690 --> 00:43:12,310 I said, this is it.

892

00:43:12,310 --> 00:43:16,510

I don't know whether

they have ever seen it.

893

00:43:16,510 --> 00:43:22,020 But they certainly are marked by it, there's no question.

894

00:43:22,020 --> 00:43:24,200 In what way?

895

00:43:24,200 --> 00:43:27,830 They were brought up differently.

896

00:43:27,830 --> 00:43:34,250 Parents had different concerns-maybe overpowering, maybe

897

00:43:34,250 --> 00:43:35,510 all kinds of things.

898

00:43:35,510 --> 00:43:38,120 To me, I always said to them, I survived

899

00:43:38,120 --> 00:43:40,840 so that you could be around.

900

00:43:40,840 --> 00:43:43,740 So you can't just throw this to the wolves.

901

00:43:43,740 --> 00:43:46,742 You can't say, I'm like any other American kid

902

00:43:46,742 --> 00:43:48,700 where the parent says, you want to inter-marry?

903

00:43:48,700 --> 00:43:49,630

Be my guest.

00:43:49,630 --> 00:43:50,670 OK, whatever.

905

00:43:50,670 --> 00:43:52,150 I said, doesn't fly.

906

00:43:52,150 --> 00:43:57,310 They did not die so that you can do it at this point.

907

00:43:57,310 --> 00:44:00,270 It had its marks.

908

00:44:00,270 --> 00:44:02,910 It really had its marks.

909

00:44:02,910 --> 00:44:05,430 It wasn't just talk.

910

00:44:05,430 --> 00:44:09,210 When something happened, I reacted in a way

911

00:44:09,210 --> 00:44:11,280 that our rabbi said to me, Maryla,

912

00:44:11,280 --> 00:44:14,010 I have been a rabbi 40 years, I have never seen a parent

913

00:44:14,010 --> 00:44:15,090 reacting this way.

914

00:44:15,090 --> 00:44:15,996 Such as.

915

00:44:15,996 --> 00:44:19,160

916

00:44:19,160 --> 00:44:23,180

Such as at one point our

daughter did spring on us,

917 00:44:23,180 --> 00:44:25,430 and she got married to a non-Jew.

918 00:44:25,430 --> 00:44:29,780 And I said to her, this door is always open to you,

919 00:44:29,780 --> 00:44:34,340 but he doesn't come into my home whatever happens.

920 00:44:34,340 --> 00:44:36,355 We almost lost her.

921 00:44:36,355 --> 00:44:38,730 The fact is that I was right that this whole relationship

922 00:44:38,730 --> 00:44:41,160 was crazy, and she got divorced.

923 00:44:41,160 --> 00:44:45,450 But it took our guts out.

924 00:44:45,450 --> 00:44:47,880 My husband was suicidal, and then he got sick--

925 00:44:47,880 --> 00:44:50,730 wonderful, so the whole package came together.

926 00:44:50,730 --> 00:44:52,920 But I wasn't playing any games here.

927 00:44:52,920 --> 00:44:58,500 And so everybody who came here-and this went on for two years. 928

00:44:58,500 --> 00:44:59,670 It destroyed us.

929

00:44:59,670 --> 00:45:01,290 It destroyed our son.

930

00:45:01,290 --> 00:45:03,480 It destroyed absolutely everybody in the process.

931

00:45:03,480 --> 00:45:06,180 They kept saying, why such a--

932

00:45:06,180 --> 00:45:11,010 I said, because if I give in with her, I give in on myself,

933

00:45:11,010 --> 00:45:12,390 and I give in on Joe.

934

00:45:12,390 --> 00:45:14,430 I give him who is not married the permission

935

00:45:14,430 --> 00:45:15,540 of doing the same thing.

936

00:45:15,540 --> 00:45:17,910 And then what was this all for?

937

00:45:17,910 --> 00:45:25,110 So you do have reactions that maybe somebody else doesn't--

938

00:45:25,110 --> 00:45:27,040 good, bad, or indifferent--

939

00:45:27,040 --> 00:45:29,110 called it principles.

940

00:45:29,110 --> 00:45:32,460

Love is a principle.

# 941

00:45:32,460 --> 00:45:38,340 Somebody can say to me, but at least she would be there.

## 942

00:45:38,340 --> 00:45:41,160 OK, so she would be there, but she was lost

# 943

00:45:41,160 --> 00:45:46,370 to what to me was a reason.

# 944

00:45:46,370 --> 00:45:48,290 My reaction always is, if I survived,

# 945

00:45:48,290 --> 00:45:51,680 there must have been some kind of a reason for this, OK?

#### 946

00:45:51,680 --> 00:45:59,030 So no guilt feeling for survival, but what is this?

### 947

00:45:59,030 --> 00:46:01,850 Were you very protective of the children when they were little?

# 948

00:46:01,850 --> 00:46:03,650 Yes, very much so.

# 949

00:46:03,650 --> 00:46:06,260 And there is an episode that I think maybe

## 950

00:46:06,260 --> 00:46:08,390 even shows how far subconsciously

# 951

00:46:08,390 --> 00:46:09,470 some of these things--

952 00:46:09,470 --> 00:46:12,530 there was a movie in 1965 that came out

953

00:46:12,530 --> 00:46:16,820 that was the "Shop on the Main Street," Ida Kaminska.

954

00:46:16,820 --> 00:46:19,190 And I was pregnant with Monique, and I

955

00:46:19,190 --> 00:46:21,590 went to see this movie with my husband,

956

00:46:21,590 --> 00:46:24,870 surprise, surprise-- that and "The Pound Broker," the two

957

00:46:24,870 --> 00:46:25,370 movies.

958

00:46:25,370 --> 00:46:27,710 After that, I never went again--

959

00:46:27,710 --> 00:46:29,930 certainly not documentary.

960

00:46:29,930 --> 00:46:33,350 And I almost went into shock seeing

961

00:46:33,350 --> 00:46:34,850 the "Shop on the Main Street."

962

00:46:34,850 --> 00:46:38,670 Somehow, Ida Kaminska represented my grandmother.

963

00:46:38,670 --> 00:46:43,970 And I remember coming home and running to Joe's room--

964 00:46:43,970 --> 00:46:46,070 the middle of the night, please--

965 00:46:46,070 --> 00:46:49,730 grabbing this child, and seeing a trip

966 00:46:49,730 --> 00:46:58,020 on the train with these mothers and with their children.

967 00:46:58,020 --> 00:47:03,620 That was pretty much when it almost came consciously.

968 00:47:03,620 --> 00:47:07,310 Before that, I lived with it around me, but that was 1965.

969 00:47:07,310 --> 00:47:11,570 And that was total conscious.

970 00:47:11,570 --> 00:47:15,740 When it was over, I said, whoa, this was a movie,

971 00:47:15,740 --> 00:47:17,570 and this was brought out at me.

972 00:47:17,570 --> 00:47:21,410

973 00:47:21,410 --> 00:47:24,410 Do you feel that you're two different persons--

974 00:47:24,410 --> 00:47:26,870 someone on the outside living in today's 975 00:47:26,870 --> 00:47:29,330 world and someone different on the inside

976 00:47:29,330 --> 00:47:30,980 for what you went through?

977 00:47:30,980 --> 00:47:33,060 No, I don't think so.

978 00:47:33,060 --> 00:47:35,070 I don't think so.

979 00:47:35,070 --> 00:47:36,740 I think I always--

980 00:47:36,740 --> 00:47:39,590 maybe because I married a Polish Jew,

981 00:47:39,590 --> 00:47:43,430 and it was in that same family--

982 00:47:43,430 --> 00:47:44,420 no.

983 00:47:44,420 --> 00:47:49,250 I feel I am me, good, bad, or indifferent--

984 00:47:49,250 --> 00:47:54,050 maybe reacting a little bit differently, maybe

985 00:47:54,050 --> 00:48:03,180 having different values and different needs.

986 00:48:03,180 --> 00:48:05,330 I don't know too many crazy grandmothers 987 00:48:05,330 --> 00:48:09,530 who go from Florida by plane in the morning

988 00:48:09,530 --> 00:48:13,820 to pick up a baby to bring her the next morning to Florida

989 00:48:13,820 --> 00:48:17,840 to have her 10 days, and then take her back in the morning,

990 00:48:17,840 --> 00:48:22,040 and take a plane back to Florida the same day

991 00:48:22,040 --> 00:48:24,990 so that the baby is with us today.

992 00:48:24,990 --> 00:48:29,210 You have reactions-- it's not that other grandmothers don't

993 00:48:29,210 --> 00:48:31,070 want their grandchildren there, but I

994 00:48:31,070 --> 00:48:36,150 don't know too many who would be doing this hopping around,

995 00:48:36,150 --> 00:48:40,340 especially in one day back and forth just so

996 00:48:40,340 --> 00:48:43,650 that the baby would be there.

997 00:48:43,650 --> 00:48:45,650 They maybe would be happy to have their children 998

00:48:45,650 --> 00:48:46,700 and grandchildren come.

999

00:48:46,700 --> 00:48:50,240 But what I'm saying, you have sometimes different reactions.

1000

00:48:50,240 --> 00:48:54,230 And you don't know if it's you, it's your personality,

1001

00:48:54,230 --> 00:48:57,928 or whether it's something that comes out from the back.

1002

00:48:57,928 --> 00:48:58,970 You know what I'm saying?

1003

00:48:58,970 --> 00:49:02,810 It's very difficult to decide what

1004

00:49:02,810 --> 00:49:04,230 is the influence from there.

1005

00:49:04,230 --> 00:49:09,800 I am a very strongly emotional Jew--

1006

00:49:09,800 --> 00:49:10,970 very much so.

1007

00:49:10,970 --> 00:49:13,970 But I'm not an Orthodox Jew.

1008

00:49:13,970 --> 00:49:16,430 I have orthodox beliefs.

1009

00:49:16,430 --> 00:49:17,795 I have very strong beliefs.

1011

00:49:21,220 --> 00:49:24,778 And yesterday we got some bad news with my husband,

1012

00:49:24,778 --> 00:49:25,820 so I said, you know what?

1013

00:49:25,820 --> 00:49:28,130 God, he's the only one up there who can answer.

1014

00:49:28,130 --> 00:49:31,160 And he looked at me and he says, here goes Maryla.

1015

00:49:31,160 --> 00:49:34,410 And I said, either you believe or you don't.

1016

00:49:34,410 --> 00:49:38,390 And everything has some kind-- maybe a meaning.

1017

00:49:38,390 --> 00:49:40,460 Somebody said, how do you feel now?

1018

00:49:40,460 --> 00:49:42,710 And I said, I feel like saying to God, get off my back

1019

00:49:42,710 --> 00:49:43,670 a little bit.

1020

00:49:43,670 --> 00:49:48,730 OK, but it's halfway done in jest.

1021

00:49:48,730 --> 00:49:51,590

Fine.

1022 00:49:51,590 --> 00:49:52,850 But I need this.

1023

00:49:52,850 --> 00:49:57,175 Judaism to me is something that's central to my life.

1024 00:49:57,175 --> 00:49:58,550 Because of what you went through.

1025 00:49:58,550 --> 00:50:02,150 I think so-- beside the fact that my mother

1026 00:50:02,150 --> 00:50:05,150 is emotionally very Jewish.

1027 00:50:05,150 --> 00:50:11,070 But yes, I am convinced that it has something to do with it.

1028 00:50:11,070 --> 00:50:13,602 But then how much are we product of the past?

1029 00:50:13,602 --> 00:50:14,810 I like to collect tchotchkes.

1030 00:50:14,810 --> 00:50:17,522 So my mother once came in and she says, no wonder.

1031 00:50:17,522 --> 00:50:18,730 I wouldn't have believed her.

1032 00:50:18,730 --> 00:50:20,690 She says, this is your grandfather,

1033 00:50:20,690 --> 00:50:22,520 he used to drive my mother crazy,

1034

00:50:22,520 --> 00:50:24,230

he would bring all of these things home.

1035

00:50:24,230 --> 00:50:26,900

Now, come on, I wasn't

influenced by my grandfather

1036

00:50:26,900 --> 00:50:30,740

picking up tchotchkes all

over the place, but I am that.

1037

00:50:30,740 --> 00:50:34,370

So is this by osmosis genomes?

1038

 $00:50:34,370 \longrightarrow 00:50:37,310$ 

How much do we know

what is what marked us?

1039

00:50:37,310 --> 00:50:41,960

But my childhood marked

me, I have no doubt.

1040

00:50:41,960 --> 00:50:47,520

It has to-- and not

always in a negative way.

1041

00:50:47,520 --> 00:50:50,870

You have to be much

stronger, I think.

1042

 $00:50:50,870 \longrightarrow 00:50:54,140$ 

You didn't have

this peaceful thing.

1043

 $00:50:54,140 \longrightarrow 00:50:57,290$ 

It created a character.

1044

 $00:50:57,290 \longrightarrow 00:51:00,710$ 

It gave strength to a

character, whatever it

1045

00:51:00,710 --> 00:51:02,420 is-- good, bad, or indifferent.

1046

00:51:02,420 --> 00:51:06,860 It doesn't mean that I don't get frightened.

1047

00:51:06,860 --> 00:51:09,380 But I do take things, I think, very differently

1048

00:51:09,380 --> 00:51:11,040 from a lot of people.

1049

00:51:11,040 --> 00:51:13,965 And I take them more at heart than many people do.

1050

00:51:13,965 --> 00:51:16,910 Such as?

1051

00:51:16,910 --> 00:51:20,240 I have a friend who was dying of cancer--

1052

00:51:20,240 --> 00:51:21,530 very dear friend.

1053

00:51:21,530 --> 00:51:23,080 Her husband says to me, Maryla, you

1054

00:51:23,080 --> 00:51:24,800 do the best that you can in life,

1055

00:51:24,800 --> 00:51:26,360 and that's all you can do.

1056

00:51:26,360 --> 00:51:29,430

And my reaction is, I have, unfortunately, a husband--

1057 00:51:29,430 --> 00:51:31,940 don't know how long I will have him.

1058 00:51:31,940 --> 00:51:32,720

I don't do this.

1059 00:51:32,720 --> 00:51:34,980 I fight.

1060 00:51:34,980 --> 00:51:39,360 I don't just say, OK, so there is this doctor, he says that.

1061 00:51:39,360 --> 00:51:42,140 I do fight with it, and I do have problems,

1062 00:51:42,140 --> 00:51:44,400 and I don't think that doing my best is good enough.

1063 00:51:44,400 --> 00:51:48,290

1064 00:51:48,290 --> 00:51:55,730 And I think part of this, it is this fighter, survivor,

1065 00:51:55,730 --> 00:51:57,740 whatever this whole thing is--

1066 00:51:57,740 --> 00:51:59,650 whatever it is.

1067 00:51:59,650 --> 00:52:03,010 I think that you have to give to the Jewish Community,

00:52:03,010 --> 00:52:04,840 not necessarily giving them money, which

1069 00:52:04,840 --> 00:52:09,130 is thrown around mercilessly

in all directions and not

1070 00:52:09,130 --> 00:52:10,580 always the right ones--

1071 00:52:10,580 --> 00:52:12,670 and think if you give your time, it's

1072 00:52:12,670 --> 00:52:16,600 much more important than whether the UJA or somebody puts up

1073 00:52:16,600 --> 00:52:18,340 a plaque that you gave them \$1 million.

1074 00:52:18,340 --> 00:52:23,080 Let those for whom the \$1 million, or the \$10,000,

1075 00:52:23,080 --> 00:52:26,920 or whatever is the way they want to do it,

1076 00:52:26,920 --> 00:52:29,980 that's OK, because it's needed too.

1077 00:52:29,980 --> 00:52:34,140 But I find that the people who give of their time,

1078 00:52:34,140 --> 00:52:39,050 of their knowledge, of their support to a Jewish community--

00:52:39,050 --> 00:52:43,160 be the synagogue, be the old age home, being whatever--

1080 00:52:43,160 --> 00:52:46,010 I think that this is what's needed.

1081 00:52:46,010 --> 00:52:48,320 You have to have this connection.

1082 00:52:48,320 --> 00:52:50,330 You can't just be taking from it.

1083 00:52:50,330 --> 00:52:52,970 Or you can't just go twice a year or three times a year

1084 00:52:52,970 --> 00:52:59,060 to the synagogue and think that you have done your thing.

1085 00:52:59,060 --> 00:53:03,140 Do you think your political views are because of what

1086 00:53:03,140 --> 00:53:05,450 you experienced as a child?

1087 00:53:05,450 --> 00:53:10,370 I am a total mixture of conservative,

1088 00:53:10,370 --> 00:53:16,360 ultra conservative, liberal, and ultra liberal.

1089 00:53:16,360 --> 00:53:19,040 I vote Republican except in the last elections.

00:53:19,040 --> 00:53:22,435 And now look what we have--

1091

00:53:22,435 --> 00:53:24,560 not that the Republican couldn't do the same thing,

1092

00:53:24,560 --> 00:53:26,350 don't misunderstand, OK?

1093

00:53:26,350 --> 00:53:27,320 That's not the issue.

1094

00:53:27,320 --> 00:53:32,110 But where I'm saying, I voted always the conservative route.

1095

00:53:32,110 --> 00:53:34,900 I don't believe that the state owes me anything.

1096

00:53:34,900 --> 00:53:38,620 I don't think that the country owes me anything.

1097

00:53:38,620 --> 00:53:40,900 And I think that you have to stand on your own feet.

1098

00:53:40,900 --> 00:53:43,930 Now, is that part of upbringing?

1099

00:53:43,930 --> 00:53:45,940 Probably.

1100

00:53:45,940 --> 00:53:49,360 My political views--

1101

00:53:49,360 --> 00:53:52,060 I don't know how much that shapes it, again,

00:53:52,060 --> 00:53:54,520 because you have these ultra liberals,

1103 00:53:54,520 --> 00:53:57,010 and Holocaust survivors, and you have the others.

1104 00:53:57,010 --> 00:53:59,320 I don't think that you have to give people handouts.

1105 00:53:59,320 --> 00:54:04,810 Now, is this my Jewish approach, or is this my political thing?

1106 00:54:04,810 --> 00:54:07,970

1107 00:54:07,970 --> 00:54:10,750 I don't want to sound cruel, but after a woman

1108 00:54:10,750 --> 00:54:15,718 has had two children at age 14 and 15 or whatever,

1109 00:54:15,718 --> 00:54:18,010 I would do something to her so that she doesn't produce

1110 00:54:18,010 --> 00:54:19,570 a third, fourth, and 10th.

1111 00:54:19,570 --> 00:54:23,290 I don't think I'm there to support that type of a thing.

1112 00:54:23,290 --> 00:54:24,495 I think people can work.

1113 00:54:24,495 --> 00:54:25,870 If they don't have

### 1114

00:54:25,870 --> 00:54:27,940 let the state pay them and let them clean the streets,

# 1115

00:54:27,940 --> 00:54:29,380 but let them have the self-respect

#### 1116

00:54:29,380 --> 00:54:32,650 that they do something, and not that they

#### 1117

00:54:32,650 --> 00:54:35,450 get this getting type of thing.

### 1118

00:54:35,450 --> 00:54:41,860 So how much is this of my Jewish beliefs that you help somebody

#### 1119

00:54:41,860 --> 00:54:44,950 to better himself or herself compared

### 1120

00:54:44,950 --> 00:54:49,090 to any other feelings in this?

#### 1121

00:54:49,090 --> 00:54:50,140 I have no idea.

#### 1122

00:54:50,140 --> 00:54:55,750 But I think I'm an incredible mixture--

#### 1123

00:54:55,750 --> 00:54:56,680 depends for what.

# 1124

00:54:56,680 --> 00:54:59,890 If somebody gets raped, then they better get an abortion

00:54:59,890 --> 00:55:01,570 if that's what they choose to.

1126

00:55:01,570 --> 00:55:04,870 Who on earth wants to penalize a woman?

1127

00:55:04,870 --> 00:55:09,700 So that's my one side, OK?

1128

00:55:09,700 --> 00:55:11,980 What about the Civil Rights movement?

1129

00:55:11,980 --> 00:55:17,920 Were you involved with that-- because of what you--

1130

00:55:17,920 --> 00:55:19,000 Absolutely not.

1131

00:55:19,000 --> 00:55:19,960 Absolutely not.

1132

00:55:19,960 --> 00:55:22,720 My husband worked at that time in Howard University,

1133

00:55:22,720 --> 00:55:24,730 Black institution--

1134

00:55:24,730 --> 00:55:25,690 absolutely not.

1135

00:55:25,690 --> 00:55:29,080 It didn't touch me, because I believed--

1136

00:55:29,080 --> 00:55:31,510 You were discriminated against as a child.

00:55:31,510 --> 00:55:35,230 But I came to this country in '61, where I still saw

1138

00:55:35,230 --> 00:55:39,418 bathrooms on the way to Norfolk, where we visited--

1139

00:55:39,418 --> 00:55:41,710 because my basic thing is, what are they talking about?

1140

00:55:41,710 --> 00:55:43,310 Everybody's equal.

1141

00:55:43,310 --> 00:55:45,190 So what is all of this?

1142

00:55:45,190 --> 00:55:48,610 At the same time, everybody has the right

1143

00:55:48,610 --> 00:55:51,400 of living in their own place, in their own home,

1144

00:55:51,400 --> 00:55:56,200 in their own whatever, and not be

1145

00:55:56,200 --> 00:56:00,140 imposed by some laws or something-- this is my person.

1146

00:56:00,140 --> 00:56:01,990 You will excuse me, but that's somebody

1147

00:56:01,990 --> 00:56:03,330 at the door downstairs.

1148

00:56:03,330 --> 00:56:06,880

1149

00:56:06,880 --> 00:56:13,270 What were your responses during the Eichmann trial in Israel?

1150

00:56:13,270 --> 00:56:14,590 He was caught.

1151

00:56:14,590 --> 00:56:16,510 He was tried.

1152

00:56:16,510 --> 00:56:20,050 And that's fine.

1153

00:56:20,050 --> 00:56:23,330 And Israel should not be dumped all of those--

1154

00:56:23,330 --> 00:56:26,420 controlling Demjanjuk later on should not be dumped there.

1155

00:56:26,420 --> 00:56:30,540 But he was needed in order to bring the consciousness,

1156

00:56:30,540 --> 00:56:33,190 awareness of what had happened.

1157

00:56:33,190 --> 00:56:39,430 And I think that episode woke up the public, the world

1158

00:56:39,430 --> 00:56:41,740 a little bit more to the reality.

1159

00:56:41,740 --> 00:56:44,680 It needed to be done.

1160

00:56:44,680 --> 00:56:46,690 Was that a painful time for you?

1161 00:56:46,690 --> 00:56:48,730 Not anymore, no.

1162 00:56:48,730 --> 00:56:50,327 It was just one more.

1163 00:56:50,327 --> 00:56:51,910 Look, there were so many trials, there

1164 00:56:51,910 --> 00:56:55,060 were so many other things.

1165 00:56:55,060 --> 00:56:59,080 I think I was almost following more the Mengele

1166 00:56:59,080 --> 00:57:01,750 than I was Eichmann.

1167 00:57:01,750 --> 00:57:06,350 I followed Eichmann, but it was a trial.

1168 00:57:06,350 --> 00:57:10,120 And I think that Mengele's story brought up

1169 00:57:10,120 --> 00:57:12,640 some other things in me--

1170 00:57:12,640 --> 00:57:14,710 the experiments on the children, et cetera.

1171 00:57:14,710 --> 00:57:17,620 And so that one in some way was much more--

1172 00:57:17,620 --> 00:57:20,710 1173

00:57:20,710 --> 00:57:23,740 I wouldn't say it's scary, but troubling.

1174

00:57:23,740 --> 00:57:27,430 And these things had to be done.

1175

00:57:27,430 --> 00:57:28,990 They haven't been done enough.

1176

00:57:28,990 --> 00:57:33,760 At this point I think is basically looking

1177

00:57:33,760 --> 00:57:37,780 for a pin in a haystack.

1178

00:57:37,780 --> 00:57:42,430 And they are all dying out, and that's a chapter that ends.

1179

00:57:42,430 --> 00:57:45,190 What bothers me more than anything else is that--

1180

00:57:45,190 --> 00:57:49,560 I really said it when I was hit with one of the first episode

1181

00:57:49,560 --> 00:57:53,770 at the university level of the denials--

1182

00:57:53,770 --> 00:57:55,863 this was the first I was hit with that.

1183

00:57:55,863 --> 00:57:57,280 And by the way, one of the reasons

00:57:57,280 --> 00:57:59,740 I resigned from Georgetown was because when

1185 00:57:59,740 --> 00:58:02,800 the second bunch of advertisements came,

1186 00:58:02,800 --> 00:58:04,970 I really reacted very violently to it.

1187 00:58:04,970 --> 00:58:07,540 Because the first one was handled well by the university,

1188 00:58:07,540 --> 00:58:09,370 the second one was published.

1189 00:58:09,370 --> 00:58:12,880 And my boss was away, who is a priest,

1190 00:58:12,880 --> 00:58:15,760 and Harold White was away at a conference,

1191 00:58:15,760 --> 00:58:17,320 and I was hit with that thing.

1192 00:58:17,320 --> 00:58:18,650 And I reacted.

1193 00:58:18,650 --> 00:58:20,560 And when my boss came back, I had

1194 00:58:20,560 --> 00:58:24,310 to explain to him why I had raised such a hullabaloo all

1195 00:58:24,310 --> 00:58:27,100 the way through, and called

# in university professors

1196 00:58:27,100 --> 00:58:30,010 to do something about it-which, by the way, they did.

1197

00:58:30,010 --> 00:58:32,200 We were one of the universities [? the guys ?]

1198

00:58:32,200 --> 00:58:34,890 were sanctions and was sent to the Holocaust Museum

1199

00:58:34,890 --> 00:58:37,920 to visit after they said, well, I wasn't sure that it existed,

1200

00:58:37,920 --> 00:58:39,850 so freedom of speech, whatever.

1201

00:58:39,850 --> 00:58:42,880 And my reaction was, never did I think in my life--

1202

 $00:58:42,880 \longrightarrow 00:58:46,150$ 

1203

00:58:46,150 --> 00:58:47,452 let's put it this way--

1204

00:58:47,452 --> 00:58:48,910 when I thought about the Holocaust,

1205

00:58:48,910 --> 00:58:52,600 I thought it would end up being two paragraphs in a history

1206

00:58:52,600 --> 00:58:54,580

book.

00:58:54,580 --> 00:58:56,890 But I never thought I would live to see denials,

1208 00:58:56,890 --> 00:59:01,000 not in my lifetime-- not with what is available.

1209 00:59:01,000 --> 00:59:04,780 This is not the Turkish story.

1210 00:59:04,780 --> 00:59:09,160 This is something that's on tape that's there--

1211 00:59:09,160 --> 00:59:13,290 although the Turks say that they all died of influenza.

1212 00:59:13,290 --> 00:59:17,210 And there is enough there to trap citizens to show that it

1213 00:59:17,210 --> 00:59:17,710 wasn't.

1214 00:59:17,710 --> 00:59:24,950 So therefore, I just thought that this would not happen.

1215 00:59:24,950 --> 00:59:27,820 But by the way, going back, when my boss came back,

1216 00:59:27,820 --> 00:59:30,520 he says, why did you react like this?

1217 00:59:30,520 --> 00:59:32,480 Because I called up the university professor,

1218 00:59:32,480 --> 00:59:34,870 and I said, would you please get off your seat

1219

00:59:34,870 --> 00:59:36,820 and do something about it?

1220

00:59:36,820 --> 00:59:39,880 Anyway, when asked, I turned to him--

1221

00:59:39,880 --> 00:59:43,630 a wonderful priest, wonderful man--

1222

00:59:43,630 --> 00:59:48,490 and he said, why did you react so strongly?

1223

00:59:48,490 --> 00:59:52,180 And I looked at him in his eyes and I said, you know what, Bob?

1224

00:59:52,180 --> 00:59:55,270 If your grandparents, aunts, and uncles

1225

00:59:55,270 --> 00:59:57,910 had gone up in smoke like mine did,

1226

00:59:57,910 --> 01:00:02,620 maybe you too would have reacted or overreacted.

1227

01:00:02,620 --> 01:00:05,940 And something died in me--

1228

01:00:05,940 --> 01:00:08,380 and I realized that immediately--

1229

01:00:08,380 --> 01:00:12,380 when it came to working

in that environment.

1230

01:00:12,380 --> 01:00:16,090 Now, it didn't take terribly long-- took a year for this

1231

01:00:16,090 --> 01:00:17,530 to settle.

1232

01:00:17,530 --> 01:00:22,390 But that was one of those decisive times when I said,

1233

01:00:22,390 --> 01:00:25,430 I can't do it.

1234

01:00:25,430 --> 01:00:26,960 So maybe I overreacted.

1235

01:00:26,960 --> 01:00:29,700 Maybe it is not the way to do it.

1236

01:00:29,700 --> 01:00:31,325 But that was my reaction.

1237

01:00:31,325 --> 01:00:34,460

1238

01:00:34,460 --> 01:00:36,920 So that's pretty much where I think

1239

01:00:36,920 --> 01:00:39,350 these trials were needed--

1240

01:00:39,350 --> 01:00:42,530 just like two days ago--we were talking yesterday.

1241

01:00:42,530 --> 01:00:46,910

The one who awakened in me a

#### literature about the Holocaust

1242 01:00:46,910 --> 01:00:53,360

was Elie Wiesel in French was Le Jour et Le Nuit the two books.

1243

01:00:53,360 --> 01:00:58,390 Until then, it was part of my life, but it wasn't in there.

1244

01:00:58,390 --> 01:01:01,400 And by the way, that of the judges

1245

01:01:01,400 --> 01:01:06,800 who heard the appeal of Eichmann was my husband's cousin

1246

01:01:06,800 --> 01:01:07,460 in Israel.

1247

 $01:01:07,460 \longrightarrow 01:01:11,950$ So we were connected to it in that way.

1248

01:01:11,950 --> 01:01:15,670 When you pick up the newspaper or see on the television things

1249

01:01:15,670 --> 01:01:18,400 that happened over the years in Rwanda

1250

01:01:18,400 --> 01:01:24,030 or the former Yugoslavia, do you who is on the run yourself

1251

01:01:24,030 --> 01:01:25,360 relate to any of this?

1252

01:01:25,360 --> 01:01:27,790

I feel sorry.

1253 01:01:27,790 --> 01:01:35,110 But I'm starting to believe that there is a part of me that

1254 01:01:35,110 --> 01:01:37,420 became amnesticized.

1255 01:01:37,420 --> 01:01:41,880 And the one and only thing that matters

1256 01:01:41,880 --> 01:01:44,340 is Jews and Jewish people.

1257 01:01:44,340 --> 01:01:49,230 When something happens in Israel, I jump.

1258 01:01:49,230 --> 01:01:52,830 When the plane crashed in Halifax,

1259 01:01:52,830 --> 01:01:54,090 I looked for Jewish names--

1260 01:01:54,090 --> 01:01:57,270

1261 01:01:57,270 --> 01:01:58,710 good, bad, indifferent.

1262 01:01:58,710 --> 01:02:07,180 Maybe people don't even say it, but that's where I am at.

1263 01:02:07,180 --> 01:02:12,340 I am not there to save the world,

1264 01:02:12,340 --> 01:02:14,090 as much as I would like to. 1265 01:02:14,090 --> 01:02:16,690

1266

01:02:16,690 --> 01:02:18,290

That's the connection.

1267

01:02:18,290 --> 01:02:20,170

And I'm sure that

this has something

1268

01:02:20,170 --> 01:02:22,510

to do with the Holocaust, OK?

1269

01:02:22,510 --> 01:02:24,441

Maybe the older generations--

1270

01:02:24,441 --> 01:02:27,740

1271

01:02:27,740 --> 01:02:32,090

Again, I don't know how

many people express it,

1272

01:02:32,090 --> 01:02:35,150

or how many feel it, or

maybe somebody becomes--

12/3

 $01:02:35,150 \longrightarrow 01:02:39,280$ 

maybe this is why being a

child, I was marked by this.

1274

01:02:39,280 --> 01:02:44,600

This is what matters to me.

1275

01:02:44,600 --> 01:02:47,000

Connected maybe back

again to the same thing--

1276

01:02:47,000 --> 01:02:47,800

we did survive.

01:02:47,800 --> 01:02:49,010 We survived for some reason.

1278 01:02:49,010 --> 01:02:52,760

1279 01:02:52,760 --> 01:02:54,860 And I really don't make any apologies for it.

1280 01:02:54,860 --> 01:02:57,800

1281 01:02:57,800 --> 01:03:00,380 I found it very interesting-we were in Israel one day,

1282 01:03:00,380 --> 01:03:02,720 and there were some young people collecting some money

1283 01:03:02,720 --> 01:03:07,500 for I think it was somewhere in Africa.

1284 01:03:07,500 --> 01:03:10,310 And I said, it's wonderful, because they

1285 01:03:10,310 --> 01:03:12,200 have the consciousness.

1286 01:03:12,200 --> 01:03:15,600 But maybe I did not have the luxury of that type.

1287 01:03:15,600 --> 01:03:20,010 So that's where it is.

1288 01:03:20,010 --> 01:03:23,760 Are you more comfortable around other people who are survivors?

01:03:23,760 --> 01:03:25,470 Absolutely.

1290

01:03:25,470 --> 01:03:27,240 No question.

1291

01:03:27,240 --> 01:03:30,870 First of all, I'm not comfortable among non-Jews,

1292

01:03:30,870 --> 01:03:32,610 even as friends.

1293

01:03:32,610 --> 01:03:36,150 We always had somebody when my husband was connected to,

1294

01:03:36,150 --> 01:03:39,510 but they were not friends, they were acquaintances.

1295

01:03:39,510 --> 01:03:41,490 Our close friends are exclusively--

1296

01:03:41,490 --> 01:03:42,960 and even I will go further--

1297

01:03:42,960 --> 01:03:46,890 our friends are exclusively non-American Jews except with

1298

01:03:46,890 --> 01:03:49,070 very few exceptions--

1299

01:03:49,070 --> 01:03:54,200 two, three couples, the rest, we are all Europeans--

1300

01:03:54,200 --> 01:03:57,870 whether it's from South Africa, or South America, or whatever,

1301 01:03:57,870 --> 01:03:59,685 but we are not American Jews.

1302 01:03:59,685 --> 01:04:02,420

1303 01:04:02,420 --> 01:04:04,760 Yeah, very much so--

1304 01:04:04,760 --> 01:04:07,100 it's very interesting--

1305 01:04:07,100 --> 01:04:09,200 Why is that?

1306 01:04:09,200 --> 01:04:11,360 Because you feel more comfortable,

1307 01:04:11,360 --> 01:04:13,460 because you don't have to explain,

1308 01:04:13,460 --> 01:04:19,760 because there is a certain connection.

1309 01:04:19,760 --> 01:04:21,380 My husband has a wonderful friend--

1310 01:04:21,380 --> 01:04:22,588 they were together in Russia.

1311 01:04:22,588 --> 01:04:24,890

1312 01:04:24,890 --> 01:04:25,930 She lives in Canada.

01:04:25,930 --> 01:04:28,460 She just was here last weekend.

1314

01:04:28,460 --> 01:04:31,160 There's a connection there.

1315

01:04:31,160 --> 01:04:33,160 I was talking with her yesterday.

1316

01:04:33,160 --> 01:04:34,707 She said, why didn't you call?

1317

01:04:34,707 --> 01:04:36,290 I said, bad news, why didn't you call?

1318

01:04:36,290 --> 01:04:38,210 I said, I didn't call you on purpose.

1319

01:04:38,210 --> 01:04:39,890 I didn't want to call.

1320

01:04:39,890 --> 01:04:41,840 So she says, if you don't tell me,

1321

01:04:41,840 --> 01:04:43,580 where are you going to turn?

1322

01:04:43,580 --> 01:04:44,750 And I said, you're right.

1323

01:04:44,750 --> 01:04:53,000 But I find that there is a different level of friendship

1324

01:04:53,000 --> 01:04:53,720

when it comes--

1325

01:04:53,720 --> 01:04:56,380

1326 01:04:56,380 --> 01:05:00,670 maybe American society is a little bit superficial.

1327 01:05:00,670 --> 01:05:05,150 Whatever it is, but it's not mine.

1328 01:05:05,150 --> 01:05:08,480 I ended a couple of years ago, we were in Israel.

1329 01:05:08,480 --> 01:05:10,640 And it was in Tel Aviv.

1330 01:05:10,640 --> 01:05:13,610 And I came out of the hotel with my husband.

1331 01:05:13,610 --> 01:05:17,660 And after about 15 minutes of walking down Ben Yehuda,

1332 01:05:17,660 --> 01:05:22,380 I said to him, I feel I'm at home.

1333 01:05:22,380 --> 01:05:26,250 And I feel that these are my brothers and sisters.

1334 01:05:26,250 --> 01:05:30,510 So he turns to me and says, OK, but do they

1335 01:05:30,510 --> 01:05:33,900 think that you are their sister?

1336 01:05:33,900 --> 01:05:36,360 And we started laughing.

01:05:36,360 --> 01:05:39,430 I don't know, but I don't care.

1338

01:05:39,430 --> 01:05:41,130 That's basically where it comes.

1339

01:05:41,130 --> 01:05:45,300 And it's going to be if I have to have my friends,

1340

01:05:45,300 --> 01:05:50,580 my real friends at home, and go out with them and be connected,

1341

01:05:50,580 --> 01:05:56,940 I do find that I have a better connection.

1342

01:05:56,940 --> 01:06:00,180 Somehow, I don't know whether that's the right word,

1343

01:06:00,180 --> 01:06:05,420 but I have a strange feeling sometimes that we care more--

1344

01:06:05,420 --> 01:06:06,430 whatever it is.

1345

01:06:06,430 --> 01:06:07,510 Care more about what?

1346

01:06:07,510 --> 01:06:09,330 Care more about each other.

1347

01:06:09,330 --> 01:06:13,410 We care more about what happens to each other.

1348

01:06:13,410 --> 01:06:15,470 It's not like this polite, oh, everything

1349 01:06:15,470 --> 01:06:18,220 is OK type of a thing, you know what I'm saying?

1350 01:06:18,220 --> 01:06:21,420 Oh, it's wonderful seeing you-- hope to see you whatever.

1351 01:06:21,420 --> 01:06:22,580 It's not that.

1352 01:06:22,580 --> 01:06:27,892 It's a much more tight friendship--

1353 01:06:27,892 --> 01:06:29,850 good, bad, or indifferent, because sometime you

1354 01:06:29,850 --> 01:06:31,020 can play on your nerves too.

1355 01:06:31,020 --> 01:06:34,350 But I think that that's what it is.

1356 01:06:34,350 --> 01:06:39,930 As you get older, do you think about your early childhood

1357 01:06:39,930 --> 01:06:41,373 more--

1358 01:06:41,373 --> 01:06:42,540 about what you went through?

1359 01:06:42,540 --> 01:06:47,100 Sometimes on occasions when something happens--

1360 01:06:47,100 --> 01:06:51,120 when something--yeah, absolutely.

1361 01:06:51,120 --> 01:06:55,050 I find that the older I got, and the more I

1362 01:06:55,050 --> 01:06:58,590 was thinking about it, and the more things were

1363 01:06:58,590 --> 01:07:02,030 happening in my life, and the more I was thinking about--

1364 01:07:02,030 --> 01:07:06,190

1365 01:07:06,190 --> 01:07:08,950 now if I get into panic, boy, do I

1366 01:07:08,950 --> 01:07:12,700 have some reasons to get into panic here from all sides.

1367 01:07:12,700 --> 01:07:16,900 I must tell you, I much less was panicking about my parents,

1368 01:07:16,900 --> 01:07:21,440 because they have lived their life, and it gets to be normal.

1369 01:07:21,440 --> 01:07:23,745 So somewhere your brain starts worrying.

1370 01:07:23,745 --> 01:07:27,110 When I see David-- and I really got into panic last night.

1371 01:07:27,110 --> 01:07:30,460 Can't show it to him, can't say anything.

1372 01:07:30,460 --> 01:07:34,590 And then what comes back is but you know that you're

1373 01:07:34,590 --> 01:07:36,580 going to be all right.

1374 01:07:36,580 --> 01:07:39,970 And I know I will be all right, not

1375 01:07:39,970 --> 01:07:43,660 because that's the way people do it, but because I know myself.

1376 01:07:43,660 --> 01:07:46,090 I know I will be all right.

1377 01:07:46,090 --> 01:07:49,130 There's the hump, and let's see what it does.

1378 01:07:49,130 --> 01:07:50,650 And let's see where it comes.

1379 01:07:50,650 --> 01:07:52,450 But it's interesting.

1380 01:07:52,450 --> 01:07:56,620 Then my other reaction is, but you're going to be all right.

1381 01:07:56,620 --> 01:07:58,470 Is that part of that?

1382 01:07:58,470 --> 01:08:00,640 Is that not part of it.

1383 01:08:00,640 --> 01:08:03,210 I have no idea.

1384 01:08:03,210 --> 01:08:08,580 Maybe because I survived so many times that, OK.

1385

01:08:08,580 --> 01:08:12,240 Do you ever dream about your experiences as a child?

1386

01:08:12,240 --> 01:08:14,020 No

1387

01:08:14,020 --> 01:08:16,210 No, absolutely not.

1388

01:08:16,210 --> 01:08:18,520 The only time I told you was after that movie.

1389

01:08:18,520 --> 01:08:25,178 No, absolutely not, which I find sometimes very interesting.

1390

01:08:25,178 --> 01:08:30,330

1391

01:08:30,330 --> 01:08:32,580 Besides the thunder, are there any other sounds

1392

01:08:32,580 --> 01:08:34,660 that recall your childhood.

1393

01:08:34,660 --> 01:08:36,750 Oh, yes, very much so--

1394

01:08:36,750 --> 01:08:43,890 the German ambulance, police, have the same signal

1395

01:08:43,890 --> 01:08:46,069

that the Gestapo had--

1396 01:08:46,069 --> 01:08:47,850 it's there, it's ringing.

1397 01:08:47,850 --> 01:08:50,712 Interestingly enough, years ago--

1398 01:08:50,712 --> 01:08:52,170 you see, the first time that I went

1399 01:08:52,170 --> 01:08:56,100 to visit my parents in Germany was in 1964.

1400 01:08:56,100 --> 01:08:57,649 It was our baby.

1401 01:08:57,649 --> 01:08:59,640 It was Joe at the time.

1402 01:08:59,640 --> 01:09:05,100 And I was sitting on a living room chair, and I sat down,

1403 01:09:05,100 --> 01:09:07,500 and I ended up sitting on the floor.

1404 01:09:07,500 --> 01:09:10,689 And my parents were in the room and my father said,

1405 01:09:10,689 --> 01:09:12,390 what happened to you?

1406 01:09:12,390 --> 01:09:15,090 And I looked all over-- what happened?

01:09:15,090 --> 01:09:18,510 And my mother who stood there started shaking her head,

1408 01:09:18,510 --> 01:09:20,189 she says, I know what happened.

1409 01:09:20,189 --> 01:09:23,370 And what happened was a very interesting thing.

1410 01:09:23,370 --> 01:09:29,580 I had heard that sound outside, and something in me

1411 01:09:29,580 --> 01:09:31,319 obviously reacted after so many years,

1412 01:09:31,319 --> 01:09:33,359 and I slid down from that chair.

1413 01:09:33,359 --> 01:09:35,737 That's a sound make, any time I hear it now,

1414 01:09:35,737 --> 01:09:36,570 I say, you bastards.

1415 01:09:36,570 --> 01:09:39,290

1416 01:09:39,290 --> 01:09:43,109 So that was another sound, which to me was absolutely incredible

1417 01:09:43,109 --> 01:09:45,779 when I realized that this is what had shaken me

1418 01:09:45,779 --> 01:09:50,399 out of sitting there on this living room sofa was a chair. 1419 01:09:50,399 --> 01:09:52,950 Are there any odors that bring back, let's say, the ghetto?

1420 01:09:52,950 --> 01:09:56,710 No, absolutely nothing-no, absolutely nothing.

1421 01:09:56,710 --> 01:10:00,010

1422 01:10:00,010 --> 01:10:02,738 What language do you think in?

1423 01:10:02,738 --> 01:10:03,530 That's interesting.

1424 01:10:03,530 --> 01:10:05,585 When I count, I count in French.

1425 01:10:05,585 --> 01:10:11,240

1426 01:10:11,240 --> 01:10:14,150 Very often, depending on the circumstances--

1427 01:10:14,150 --> 01:10:17,030 if we are with our family, we still speak Polish,

1428 01:10:17,030 --> 01:10:19,520 and we will react in Polish.

1429 01:10:19,520 --> 01:10:22,358 Otherwise, it's very much French and English at this point.

1430 01:10:22,358 --> 01:10:23,900 What do you speak to your husband in?

01:10:23,900 --> 01:10:24,700 Now English.

1432

01:10:24,700 --> 01:10:25,700 We used to speak French.

1433

01:10:25,700 --> 01:10:27,075 It didn't work with the children.

1434

01:10:27,075 --> 01:10:29,840 We gave it up and we spoke English--

1435

01:10:29,840 --> 01:10:32,090 and Polish every so often.

1436

01:10:32,090 --> 01:10:34,070 Do you get reparations?

1437

01:10:34,070 --> 01:10:35,620 Yes.

1438

01:10:35,620 --> 01:10:36,770 How do you feel about that?

1439

01:10:36,770 --> 01:10:39,060 Never enough.

1440

01:10:39,060 --> 01:10:43,300 It's money spent for those who needed to live on.

1441

01:10:43,300 --> 01:10:46,710 It's too little but better than nothing.

1442

01:10:46,710 --> 01:10:51,120 And for any of us who are getting it, it's play money.

01:10:51,120 --> 01:10:53,980 This should give you pleasure.

### 1444

01:10:53,980 --> 01:10:55,230 Otherwise--

#### 1445

01:10:55,230 --> 01:10:56,940 What do you use it for?

## 1446

01:10:56,940 --> 01:11:00,490 I use it for whatever I feel like doing--

#### 1447

01:11:00,490 --> 01:11:02,240 from buying things for my children,

## 1448

01:11:02,240 --> 01:11:06,020 for buying for myself, for all my charity,

## 1449

01:11:06,020 --> 01:11:08,770 the deduction, for whatever it is.

#### 1450

01:11:08,770 --> 01:11:11,080 I have absolutely no attachment to it,

### 1451

01:11:11,080 --> 01:11:15,050 except there will never be enough.

# 1452

01:11:15,050 --> 01:11:15,550 Why?

#### 1453

01:11:15,550 --> 01:11:17,320 For what they did.

### 1454

01:11:17,320 --> 01:11:22,240 Because they took away health.

01:11:22,240 --> 01:11:24,220 They didn't give it out of [INAUDIBLE]..

1456

01:11:24,220 --> 01:11:27,820 They took away because health was affected

1457

01:11:27,820 --> 01:11:30,340 in some way or another.

1458

01:11:30,340 --> 01:11:34,540 Also they can never replace--

1459

01:11:34,540 --> 01:11:37,210 we would have had an extraordinarily comfortable

1460

01:11:37,210 --> 01:11:38,780 life.

1461

01:11:38,780 --> 01:11:41,380 I was the oldest grandchild of this extraordinarily wealthy

1462

01:11:41,380 --> 01:11:44,110 man--

1463

01:11:44,110 --> 01:11:45,280 lived in a village.

1464

01:11:45,280 --> 01:11:49,840 But grandfather was extraordinarily wealthy.

1465

01:11:49,840 --> 01:11:50,980 This crazy guy went--

1466

01:11:50,980 --> 01:11:56,030

01:11:56,030 --> 01:11:59,195 Honestly don't believe that they can ever pay enough.

1468 01:11:59,195 --> 01:12:01,730

1469 01:12:01,730 --> 01:12:07,400 My grandfather in September of 1939

1470 01:12:07,400 --> 01:12:11,960 bought for blocks in Krakow--

1471 01:12:11,960 --> 01:12:14,540 this is my paternal grandfather--

1472 01:12:14,540 --> 01:12:17,450 and put down hundreds and hundreds of thousands

1473 01:12:17,450 --> 01:12:18,740 of dollars in cash.

1474 01:12:18,740 --> 01:12:20,240 If he had taken that to Switzerland,

1475 01:12:20,240 --> 01:12:21,920 he would have been much better off.

1476 01:12:21,920 --> 01:12:24,350 But he thought that since he was born in Poland,

1477 01:12:24,350 --> 01:12:28,820 he would die in Poland, which is exactly what happened.

1478 01:12:28,820 --> 01:12:31,730 I don't think that they will ever be able.

1479 01:12:31,730 --> 01:12:36,650 And if this helps the shrinking number of survivors--

1480

01:12:36,650 --> 01:12:38,390 how many children did they have?

1481

01:12:38,390 --> 01:12:41,780 OK, the rest is falling by the wayside.

1482

01:12:41,780 --> 01:12:45,820 If this is what helped them to put their lives together,

1483

01:12:45,820 --> 01:12:46,910 it certainly did.

1484

01:12:46,910 --> 01:12:49,918 Israel here may be proportionately less--

1485

01:12:49,918 --> 01:12:51,710 although we have a case in the family where

1486

01:12:51,710 --> 01:12:58,310 it really makes a difference between poverty and making it.

1487

01:12:58,310 --> 01:13:00,500 Why not?

1488

01:13:00,500 --> 01:13:03,050 They took it away.

1489

01:13:03,050 --> 01:13:04,760 Not only did they take life away,

01:13:04,760 --> 01:13:06,370 they took everything else away.

1491 01:13:06,370 --> 01:13:10,150 So where are we?

1492 01:13:10,150 --> 01:13:13,000