

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,830

2  
00:00:04,830 --> 00:00:07,380  
This is a continuation of  
the United States Holocaust

3  
00:00:07,380 --> 00:00:09,600  
Memorial Museum  
volunteer collection

4  
00:00:09,600 --> 00:00:11,610  
interview with Maryla Korn.

5  
00:00:11,610 --> 00:00:14,760  
This is tape number 3,  
side A, and we're talking

6  
00:00:14,760 --> 00:00:17,595  
about receiving reparations.

7  
00:00:17,595 --> 00:00:19,380  
I don't think that ever--

8  
00:00:19,380 --> 00:00:24,630  
first of all, nobody can ever  
repay or take away the pain

9  
00:00:24,630 --> 00:00:28,260  
or take away whatever or repair.

10  
00:00:28,260 --> 00:00:29,730  
As much as it's  
called reparations,

11  
00:00:29,730 --> 00:00:31,110  
I don't think  
anybody can repair.

12  
00:00:31,110 --> 00:00:33,270  
This is not a

question of repairing,

13  
00:00:33,270 --> 00:00:35,550  
but there were many people  
in Israel who would have

14  
00:00:35,550 --> 00:00:38,400  
not managed financially who--

15  
00:00:38,400 --> 00:00:39,725  
that made a difference.

16  
00:00:39,725 --> 00:00:41,100  
It certainly is  
going to make now

17  
00:00:41,100 --> 00:00:43,230  
a difference with all  
of the East Europeans

18  
00:00:43,230 --> 00:00:47,040  
who are going to be getting it,  
who suffered and should have--

19  
00:00:47,040 --> 00:00:49,290  
because they were behind  
the Iron Curtain then.

20  
00:00:49,290 --> 00:00:54,720  
And I don't think that  
there is ever really

21  
00:00:54,720 --> 00:00:58,650  
a way of doing it right.

22  
00:00:58,650 --> 00:01:03,540  
It's just-- it's  
one way of helping,

23  
00:01:03,540 --> 00:01:05,760  
and thank God that  
it was there to help

24

00:01:05,760 --> 00:01:07,150  
and that it was established.

25

00:01:07,150 --> 00:01:09,100  
But I have no charity.

26

00:01:09,100 --> 00:01:14,370  
I have absolutely  
no feeling of--

27

00:01:14,370 --> 00:01:16,650  
And anyways I told  
you, either forgiveness

28

00:01:16,650 --> 00:01:19,710  
or for thinking that  
this makes it OK.

29

00:01:19,710 --> 00:01:26,790  
This makes it only  
right in a certain way.

30

00:01:26,790 --> 00:01:28,530  
It's not a reparation.

31

00:01:28,530 --> 00:01:29,850  
It's not a reparation.

32

00:01:29,850 --> 00:01:34,890  
It's not taking away somebody's  
goods, land, or something--

33

00:01:34,890 --> 00:01:38,070  
a farm, a house, or something--  
and then repaying for that.

34

00:01:38,070 --> 00:01:40,200  
This is destroyed lives.

35

00:01:40,200 --> 00:01:42,450  
Now how do you repay  
for destroyed lives?

36  
00:01:42,450 --> 00:01:45,000  
So that's fine with me.

37  
00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:46,320  
They should continue paying.

38  
00:01:46,320 --> 00:01:47,940  
Now it should not be--

39  
00:01:47,940 --> 00:01:50,970  
I'm just curious what will  
happen with the Swiss money,

40  
00:01:50,970 --> 00:01:54,690  
and I am I'm a  
little bit concerned

41  
00:01:54,690 --> 00:01:56,610  
that the Swiss money  
plus other moneys

42  
00:01:56,610 --> 00:02:00,180  
are going to go now to fix  
the thousands of abandoned

43  
00:02:00,180 --> 00:02:04,470  
cemeteries and Jewish schools  
and synagogues in Poland

44  
00:02:04,470 --> 00:02:06,780  
that the Polish government  
didn't know what to do with

45  
00:02:06,780 --> 00:02:08,850  
and they have now,  
quote unquote,

46  
00:02:08,850 --> 00:02:11,310  
as far as I'm concerned dumped  
it on the Jewish community

47

00:02:11,310 --> 00:02:12,290  
and now fix it.

48  
00:02:12,290 --> 00:02:12,990  
So what?

49  
00:02:12,990 --> 00:02:15,750  
Is this money going--  
instead of helping people

50  
00:02:15,750 --> 00:02:19,740  
so that they could end  
out their life in dignity

51  
00:02:19,740 --> 00:02:23,590  
and in some kind of  
a financial security,

52  
00:02:23,590 --> 00:02:25,230  
it's probably  
going to go to take

53  
00:02:25,230 --> 00:02:27,960  
care of some cemeteries that  
have been abandoned in Poland

54  
00:02:27,960 --> 00:02:31,440  
and nobody cares anymore  
except maybe one survivor.

55  
00:02:31,440 --> 00:02:33,900  
One family member was  
somebody buried there.

56  
00:02:33,900 --> 00:02:38,310  
So here we go probably  
spending very, very good money

57  
00:02:38,310 --> 00:02:42,390  
on something that will  
prove to be a total fiasco.

58  
00:02:42,390 --> 00:02:44,550

Do you feel Polish in any way?

59

00:02:44,550 --> 00:02:45,930

Polish!

60

00:02:45,930 --> 00:02:47,590

No way.

61

00:02:47,590 --> 00:02:49,830

The only thing that I  
really felt very strongly

62

00:02:49,830 --> 00:02:52,740

is that my children had to  
see from where they came.

63

00:02:52,740 --> 00:02:54,030

That's a self-respect.

64

00:02:54,030 --> 00:02:56,310

We did not come out of nowhere.

65

00:02:56,310 --> 00:02:58,890

We were-- an American  
friend of mine--

66

00:02:58,890 --> 00:03:02,070

just maybe one of more reasons  
why we have good European

67

00:03:02,070 --> 00:03:04,950

friends because nobody would  
ask us question like that--

68

00:03:04,950 --> 00:03:07,020

she said I did not  
know that there

69

00:03:07,020 --> 00:03:08,850

were well off Jews in Poland.

70

00:03:08,850 --> 00:03:12,120

Well, excuse me.

71

00:03:12,120 --> 00:03:14,400

You have to explain  
to them to somebody

72

00:03:14,400 --> 00:03:18,090

who knows you're from a  
background does not know any--

73

00:03:18,090 --> 00:03:21,270

We're sitting at a family  
bar mitzvah a while back,

74

00:03:21,270 --> 00:03:24,240

and my husband's cousin who  
knew my grandparents very

75

00:03:24,240 --> 00:03:29,670

well turned to his wife and he  
said between Krakow and Warsaw,

76

00:03:29,670 --> 00:03:32,790

the wealthiest Jews was  
Maryla's grandfather.

77

00:03:32,790 --> 00:03:36,330

Well, I couldn't care less  
whether he was the wealthiest

78

00:03:36,330 --> 00:03:39,960

Jew or not, but the fact  
was that it was connected

79

00:03:39,960 --> 00:03:43,710

to something that this was  
not this poor little Jew

80

00:03:43,710 --> 00:03:49,440

shoemaker somewhere in a shtetl,  
but it was somebody who had--

81

00:03:49,440 --> 00:03:51,120

and whose children  
were starting to go

82  
00:03:51,120 --> 00:03:52,860  
to the university, et cetera.

83  
00:03:52,860 --> 00:03:56,100  
And that was of the importance  
of knowing from where you come.

84  
00:03:56,100 --> 00:03:57,060  
But not Poland.

85  
00:03:57,060 --> 00:03:59,010  
No way.

86  
00:03:59,010 --> 00:04:00,650  
No way.

87  
00:04:00,650 --> 00:04:02,170  
Though you were born there?

88  
00:04:02,170 --> 00:04:03,000  
I was born there.

89  
00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:04,410  
Sheer accident.

90  
00:04:04,410 --> 00:04:06,675  
Unfortunately, I  
wasn't born in Geneva

91  
00:04:06,675 --> 00:04:10,230  
or in Lausanne in New York.

92  
00:04:10,230 --> 00:04:11,820  
But that's all that  
there is to it.

93  
00:04:11,820 --> 00:04:15,720  
Yes, my father's family  
went back straight line



94  
00:04:15,720 --> 00:04:19,079  
in that little town, village  
from which they came up

95  
00:04:19,079 --> 00:04:22,950  
to 1780 almost Mayflower.

96  
00:04:22,950 --> 00:04:26,970  
But, again, it's-- no it's not.

97  
00:04:26,970 --> 00:04:31,860  
It's a country that  
gave too much grief.

98  
00:04:31,860 --> 00:04:34,890  
Yesterday, I was translating at  
the museum some stuff by a Pole

99  
00:04:34,890 --> 00:04:35,820  
who wrote it.

100  
00:04:35,820 --> 00:04:37,260  
And I was shaking my head.

101  
00:04:37,260 --> 00:04:40,260  
He's giving excuses.

102  
00:04:40,260 --> 00:04:42,690  
And I understand  
from where he comes,

103  
00:04:42,690 --> 00:04:46,590  
but they are excuses because  
we know that some people did

104  
00:04:46,590 --> 00:04:48,210  
save some others.

105  
00:04:48,210 --> 00:04:53,700  
So saying if you hit a Jew, you  
and your family were in danger.

106  
00:04:53,700 --> 00:04:57,480  
Well, it's true, but still--

107  
00:04:57,480 --> 00:04:59,610  
and then-- of course,  
he give an explanation

108  
00:04:59,610 --> 00:05:03,510  
that it was easier to save women  
and girls than men and children

109  
00:05:03,510 --> 00:05:04,740  
for visible reasons.

110  
00:05:04,740 --> 00:05:07,380  
And I said, yep, right.

111  
00:05:07,380 --> 00:05:10,500  
Let's now talk about the museum.

112  
00:05:10,500 --> 00:05:13,680  
What was your first  
encounter with the museum

113  
00:05:13,680 --> 00:05:15,470  
before you worked  
as a volunteer?

114  
00:05:15,470 --> 00:05:17,220  
In other words, how  
did you hear about it?

115  
00:05:17,220 --> 00:05:21,180  
Long, long before when it  
started to be put together.

116  
00:05:21,180 --> 00:05:22,860  
I really had mixed feelings.

117  
00:05:22,860 --> 00:05:25,353  
My reaction was it had

no business being put

118  
00:05:25,353 --> 00:05:26,520  
in the middle of Washington.

119  
00:05:26,520 --> 00:05:30,540  
It should be put in the  
middle of Warsaw or Berlin.

120  
00:05:30,540 --> 00:05:34,080  
That was the initial reaction.

121  
00:05:34,080 --> 00:05:37,770  
Then we were quite involved  
through one way or another.

122  
00:05:37,770 --> 00:05:40,860  
Family gave a lot of money,  
some of those millions that

123  
00:05:40,860 --> 00:05:45,000  
come from the family, not us  
here but our family in New

124  
00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:47,250  
Jersey.

125  
00:05:47,250 --> 00:05:49,680  
And friends started  
getting involved,

126  
00:05:49,680 --> 00:05:52,350  
and my husband was  
politically involved.

127  
00:05:52,350 --> 00:05:57,820  
That was the beginning was  
Carter and then Reagan.

128  
00:05:57,820 --> 00:06:03,300  
I was involved also because  
I had some good friends that

129

00:06:03,300 --> 00:06:04,560  
were working there.

130

00:06:04,560 --> 00:06:08,500  
And so we had a connection  
in that respect.

131

00:06:08,500 --> 00:06:10,110  
But I was very critical of it.

132

00:06:10,110 --> 00:06:13,920  
I thought this was turning  
out to be ridiculous,

133

00:06:13,920 --> 00:06:17,280  
especially when they started  
talking about who should be

134

00:06:17,280 --> 00:06:19,675  
represented there and who  
shouldn't be represented

135

00:06:19,675 --> 00:06:20,550  
and this whole thing.

136

00:06:20,550 --> 00:06:23,325  
And I said here we go again,  
one of those Jewish stuff.

137

00:06:23,325 --> 00:06:26,940

138

00:06:26,940 --> 00:06:28,950  
And it really  
basically brings me

139

00:06:28,950 --> 00:06:32,610  
to what's going on now  
is a crisis in Poland

140

00:06:32,610 --> 00:06:36,790  
because that brings up then

what are they going to be doing.

141  
00:06:36,790 --> 00:06:39,450  
And I kept saying there is  
Yad Vashem, but, of course,

142  
00:06:39,450 --> 00:06:44,820  
to me now, Yad Vashem represents  
a monument, a memorial, or this

143  
00:06:44,820 --> 00:06:46,470  
is a museum, educational.

144  
00:06:46,470 --> 00:06:48,990  
So now I have the  
differentiation.

145  
00:06:48,990 --> 00:06:51,740

146  
00:06:51,740 --> 00:06:55,140  
At this point, I have very  
different feelings about it.

147  
00:06:55,140 --> 00:06:59,030  
I think it serves a  
wonderful purpose.

148  
00:06:59,030 --> 00:07:03,350  
I-- but I think it as  
much as at the beginning

149  
00:07:03,350 --> 00:07:06,800  
I believe that there were people  
involved there that cared.

150  
00:07:06,800 --> 00:07:08,720  
I think now it's  
becoming a little bit

151  
00:07:08,720 --> 00:07:15,800  
too much a institution  
where most of the people who

152  
00:07:15,800 --> 00:07:16,460  
work there--

153  
00:07:16,460 --> 00:07:19,370  
I have to explain to them what  
I am doing with those tapes

154  
00:07:19,370 --> 00:07:21,980  
that I am translating,  
translating,

155  
00:07:21,980 --> 00:07:24,230  
and transliterating and doing--

156  
00:07:24,230 --> 00:07:26,390  
excuse me.

157  
00:07:26,390 --> 00:07:29,540  
I have to explain to them  
how on Earth are they going

158  
00:07:29,540 --> 00:07:33,710  
to take this and get it in--

159  
00:07:33,710 --> 00:07:35,660  
[? let's say ?] from  
me in English and know

160  
00:07:35,660 --> 00:07:37,330  
what's of importance in there.

161  
00:07:37,330 --> 00:07:39,500  
These are memoirs.

162  
00:07:39,500 --> 00:07:41,840  
Some memoirs talk  
about clothing.

163  
00:07:41,840 --> 00:07:43,070  
Some talk about food.

164

00:07:43,070 --> 00:07:44,360  
Some talk about [INAUDIBLE].

165

00:07:44,360 --> 00:07:47,810  
How do they have the feeling of  
what's of importance in there

166

00:07:47,810 --> 00:07:49,430  
and what is not.

167

00:07:49,430 --> 00:07:52,650  
Who is supervising this  
work that I am doing?

168

00:07:52,650 --> 00:07:53,900  
See I'm [INAUDIBLE] the tapes.

169

00:07:53,900 --> 00:07:57,350  
These are memoirs of Polish Jews  
that were gotten from Poland.

170

00:07:57,350 --> 00:07:59,810  
Now I go-- and it's in Polish.

171

00:07:59,810 --> 00:08:01,950  
So I write out  
words of importance.

172

00:08:01,950 --> 00:08:05,370  
Well-- and I'm not  
saying me, but anybody

173

00:08:05,370 --> 00:08:07,890  
who worked on that  
thing has to know

174

00:08:07,890 --> 00:08:11,190  
of what is of a value to this or  
what is just blah, blah, blah,

175

00:08:11,190 --> 00:08:16,020  
blah by a 16-year-old, which

I had a couple of weeks ago,

176  
00:08:16,020 --> 00:08:16,800  
her life.

177  
00:08:16,800 --> 00:08:18,780  
But her life was important.

178  
00:08:18,780 --> 00:08:21,000  
But what is important  
in all of this?

179  
00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:22,350  
What do you take--

180  
00:08:22,350 --> 00:08:23,790  
what do you think is important?

181  
00:08:23,790 --> 00:08:25,800  
Then if I think it's  
important, who's

182  
00:08:25,800 --> 00:08:30,330  
supervising my job, taking  
out what's important?

183  
00:08:30,330 --> 00:08:32,190  
Maybe that isn't what  
they were looking for.

184  
00:08:32,190 --> 00:08:34,320  
Maybe they were looking  
and I missed something.

185  
00:08:34,320 --> 00:08:36,870  
And I think there's  
a lack of supervision

186  
00:08:36,870 --> 00:08:39,030  
because these people  
that work there

187



00:08:39,030 --> 00:08:42,330  
are young professionals who  
come from this is a librarian

188  
00:08:42,330 --> 00:08:43,919  
and this is this  
and this is that.

189  
00:08:43,919 --> 00:08:46,050  
That's upstairs in the archives.

190  
00:08:46,050 --> 00:08:52,500  
They have no clue except from  
a professional point of view,

191  
00:08:52,500 --> 00:08:54,180  
but the professional--  
there is-- here

192  
00:08:54,180 --> 00:08:57,840  
there is still memories,  
emotions, and everything.

193  
00:08:57,840 --> 00:09:01,800  
There was one story, the  
story of a man who went--

194  
00:09:01,800 --> 00:09:04,140  
this is the best  
research if anybody

195  
00:09:04,140 --> 00:09:07,950  
wants to tap into what  
hunger does to you.

196  
00:09:07,950 --> 00:09:09,600  
This is the story.

197  
00:09:09,600 --> 00:09:13,170  
This is the story, the  
depression and the hunger.

198  
00:09:13,170 --> 00:09:18,720

Somebody can read this who  
is not connected to that time

199  
00:09:18,720 --> 00:09:22,380  
and say [INAUDIBLE]  
What is this?

200  
00:09:22,380 --> 00:09:25,860  
What this is is the  
history of hunger

201  
00:09:25,860 --> 00:09:28,080  
and how hunger  
brings on depression.

202  
00:09:28,080 --> 00:09:29,800  
And that's where I  
have difficulties.

203  
00:09:29,800 --> 00:09:33,138  
I think the museum is  
becoming too political.

204  
00:09:33,138 --> 00:09:34,680  
I don't think it's  
anybody's business

205  
00:09:34,680 --> 00:09:36,870  
whether Arafat is brought  
in by the State Department

206  
00:09:36,870 --> 00:09:38,578  
or isn't brought by  
the State Department.

207  
00:09:38,578 --> 00:09:40,890  
And it shouldn't be an  
in fight in the house,

208  
00:09:40,890 --> 00:09:43,290  
and it shouldn't have  
people fired by this.

209

00:09:43,290 --> 00:09:44,755  
And everybody  
there is an expert.

210  
00:09:44,755 --> 00:09:48,400

211  
00:09:48,400 --> 00:09:49,660  
And it doesn't-- it--

212  
00:09:49,660 --> 00:09:51,355  
I think it's-- it--

213  
00:09:51,355 --> 00:09:54,970  
it's becoming an institution,  
and it's losing its soul,

214  
00:09:54,970 --> 00:09:57,880  
personal feelings.

215  
00:09:57,880 --> 00:10:00,820  
And the more the  
survivors will disappear

216  
00:10:00,820 --> 00:10:02,620  
and the less of  
a soul there will

217  
00:10:02,620 --> 00:10:07,870  
be because the people working  
down there, the volunteers--

218  
00:10:07,870 --> 00:10:09,707  
not talking about  
me and the archives

219  
00:10:09,707 --> 00:10:11,040  
and some others in the archives.

220  
00:10:11,040 --> 00:10:15,870  
We are doing translations, and  
we are doing the paper stuff.

221

00:10:15,870 --> 00:10:18,300

But I'm talking about  
the people down there.

222

00:10:18,300 --> 00:10:21,990

Some things are so  
insensitive, so lack

223

00:10:21,990 --> 00:10:25,950

of respect or lack  
of understanding,

224

00:10:25,950 --> 00:10:31,810

so taken for given,  
doesn't work that way.

225

00:10:31,810 --> 00:10:32,787

I don't know.

226

00:10:32,787 --> 00:10:33,870

I have very mixed feeling.

227

00:10:33,870 --> 00:10:35,190

It's a wonderful institution.

228

00:10:35,190 --> 00:10:36,330

It does its job.

229

00:10:36,330 --> 00:10:39,180

Upstairs, scholars are working.

230

00:10:39,180 --> 00:10:41,940

There is an extending library.

231

00:10:41,940 --> 00:10:44,040

There is an extending archives.

232

00:10:44,040 --> 00:10:45,690

At the-- half of  
the stuff disappears

233

00:10:45,690 --> 00:10:47,400  
somewhere and nobody  
knows where it is.

234  
00:10:47,400 --> 00:10:49,770  
Well, maybe 100 years,  
it will reappear.

235  
00:10:49,770 --> 00:10:51,180  
But the fact is it's there.

236  
00:10:51,180 --> 00:10:52,470  
It's expanding.

237  
00:10:52,470 --> 00:10:55,380  
It's going to be  
a research place.

238  
00:10:55,380 --> 00:10:57,180  
It's going to be--

239  
00:10:57,180 --> 00:11:00,600  
and it is-- the lectures.

240  
00:11:00,600 --> 00:11:03,960  
But there's something  
lacking in humanity

241  
00:11:03,960 --> 00:11:06,810  
that I find more and more.

242  
00:11:06,810 --> 00:11:09,360  
And I'm happy where I  
am working upstairs.

243  
00:11:09,360 --> 00:11:12,150  
I wouldn't want  
to be downstairs.

244  
00:11:12,150 --> 00:11:15,090  
First of all, I don't want  
to be downstairs and respond

245

00:11:15,090 --> 00:11:17,910

to questions about  
the Holocaust.

246

00:11:17,910 --> 00:11:20,910

I really find this  
very difficult, very

247

00:11:20,910 --> 00:11:23,610

difficult. Because  
you can't stop talking

248

00:11:23,610 --> 00:11:26,700

and it brings out your own  
emotions no matter what.

249

00:11:26,700 --> 00:11:30,030

Upstairs-- at this  
point, they are joking.

250

00:11:30,030 --> 00:11:32,730

They saying so you came here to  
relax because they know pretty

251

00:11:32,730 --> 00:11:33,772

much what I have at home.

252

00:11:33,772 --> 00:11:35,310

And I said, in some way, yes.

253

00:11:35,310 --> 00:11:36,702

I do my thing, and I go home.

254

00:11:36,702 --> 00:11:38,910

When I can't take it anymore  
after three, four hours,

255

00:11:38,910 --> 00:11:41,700

five hours, then I go home.

256

00:11:41,700 --> 00:11:48,471

But I hope that it will

maintain or that it will have--

257

00:11:48,471 --> 00:11:51,150

the only way that I can  
think of is in Yiddish.

258

00:11:51,150 --> 00:11:57,000

[SPEAKING YIDDISH],, that it's  
going to keep it because just

259

00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:00,910

to be a museum, so what is  
going to happen in 100 years?

260

00:12:00,910 --> 00:12:04,290

So in 100 years, they won't  
be able to change exhibits,

261

00:12:04,290 --> 00:12:06,940

and there won't be  
new exhibits anymore

262

00:12:06,940 --> 00:12:08,530

because there's new material.

263

00:12:08,530 --> 00:12:11,220

thank God that is coming.

264

00:12:11,220 --> 00:12:15,510

New material, yes, but  
it has its time limit.

265

00:12:15,510 --> 00:12:18,000

And then what will happen?

266

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:20,460

And then what will happen?

267

00:12:20,460 --> 00:12:22,650

When did you start working here?

268

00:12:22,650 --> 00:12:25,080

The minute I left Georgetown.

269

00:12:25,080 --> 00:12:26,400

I immediately work.

270

00:12:26,400 --> 00:12:31,610

A very good acquaintance  
of mine, Babe Abramowitz,

271

00:12:31,610 --> 00:12:36,090

was working there long  
from before as a volunteer,

272

00:12:36,090 --> 00:12:37,980

and then she became  
part of the staff.

273

00:12:37,980 --> 00:12:39,780

And she was in  
charge of fundraising

274

00:12:39,780 --> 00:12:42,120

the big fundraisers,  
and she knew

275

00:12:42,120 --> 00:12:45,510

that if I went to  
some of our family

276

00:12:45,510 --> 00:12:47,040

that had given a  
couple of millions

277

00:12:47,040 --> 00:12:49,950

that I could probably get  
from that society that grew up

278

00:12:49,950 --> 00:12:51,190

a little bit more.

279

00:12:51,190 --> 00:12:53,100

So she brought me  
in very excited



280

00:12:53,100 --> 00:12:56,760  
except that she had had a stroke  
and she was on her way out.

281

00:12:56,760 --> 00:12:58,980  
And the young woman who works--

282

00:12:58,980 --> 00:13:00,960  
worked with her  
and is now working

283

00:13:00,960 --> 00:13:04,530  
there is either unbalanced--

284

00:13:04,530 --> 00:13:06,270  
and I really mean it--

285

00:13:06,270 --> 00:13:10,600  
or unwilling to sever.

286

00:13:10,600 --> 00:13:13,060  
And at this point, I  
avoid her like the plague

287

00:13:13,060 --> 00:13:17,110  
because I came in  
there to work on the--

288

00:13:17,110 --> 00:13:20,200  
so that I could do something,  
whether it was lecturing--

289

00:13:20,200 --> 00:13:22,600  
which I did sometimes  
in the schools--

290

00:13:22,600 --> 00:13:25,290  
or whether it was doing  
something that was--

291

00:13:25,290 --> 00:13:26,620

or fundraising.

292

00:13:26,620 --> 00:13:28,270

And the first thing  
that she did--

293

00:13:28,270 --> 00:13:31,270

I came in there, it was  
winter, and all the snowbirds

294

00:13:31,270 --> 00:13:32,410

were in Florida.

295

00:13:32,410 --> 00:13:34,240

So I was sitting at  
the desk downstairs,

296

00:13:34,240 --> 00:13:36,100

and I was getting  
quite a lot of money

297

00:13:36,100 --> 00:13:39,725

from the people who  
were stopping by.

298

00:13:39,725 --> 00:13:40,600

I'm not the only one.

299

00:13:40,600 --> 00:13:43,730

Everybody else manages to get  
there very nice [INAUDIBLE]..

300

00:13:43,730 --> 00:13:46,580

And she came by one day, and  
she says we don't need you here,

301

00:13:46,580 --> 00:13:47,800

don't want you here.

302

00:13:47,800 --> 00:13:50,650

And by the way, unless you  
give the donation first,

303

00:13:50,650 --> 00:13:52,570  
you have no business being here.

304

00:13:52,570 --> 00:13:55,960  
So I said to her thank you very  
much, and that was the last.

305

00:13:55,960 --> 00:13:58,900  
And this type of a behavior--

306

00:13:58,900 --> 00:14:00,400  
and she's still there.

307

00:14:00,400 --> 00:14:03,450  
You see her constantly.

308

00:14:03,450 --> 00:14:05,240  
And at this point  
whenever I see her,

309

00:14:05,240 --> 00:14:08,980  
I very nicely turn  
around and do this.

310

00:14:08,980 --> 00:14:11,890  
What I'm saying to you, I  
did not encounter upstairs

311

00:14:11,890 --> 00:14:13,990  
that because it's a much more--

312

00:14:13,990 --> 00:14:16,090  
I call it more  
rarefied and more--

313

00:14:16,090 --> 00:14:17,260  
it's different thing.

314

00:14:17,260 --> 00:14:19,000  
You do the translations  
[INAUDIBLE]..

315

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:21,370

And they are wonderful,  
and they are caring.

316

00:14:21,370 --> 00:14:26,640

But I do have the concern of who  
is supervising what I am doing.

317

00:14:26,640 --> 00:14:28,240

You know what I'm saying?

318

00:14:28,240 --> 00:14:30,360

So you're primarily  
doing translating and--

319

00:14:30,360 --> 00:14:31,980

Translating, absolutely.

320

00:14:31,980 --> 00:14:32,820

Yeah.

321

00:14:32,820 --> 00:14:34,267

Of Polish Jewish memoirs?

322

00:14:34,267 --> 00:14:37,860

Polish-- Polish,  
German, and French.

323

00:14:37,860 --> 00:14:38,787

Memoirs of people.

324

00:14:38,787 --> 00:14:40,370

Memoirs or whatever  
comes that needs--

325

00:14:40,370 --> 00:14:44,910

yeah or donations  
that need to be--

326

00:14:44,910 --> 00:14:47,845

Has your working at the  
museum affected your life?

327  
00:14:47,845 --> 00:14:50,520

328  
00:14:50,520 --> 00:14:53,220  
I feel that I am  
contributing something,

329  
00:14:53,220 --> 00:14:54,510  
that I'm doing something.

330  
00:14:54,510 --> 00:14:58,270

331  
00:14:58,270 --> 00:14:59,890  
It's part of me.

332  
00:14:59,890 --> 00:15:03,550  
After my generation  
after me, that's it.

333  
00:15:03,550 --> 00:15:07,480  
And I think, yes, I'm doing, and  
my kids know that I'm doing it.

334  
00:15:07,480 --> 00:15:08,470  
So, yes.

335  
00:15:08,470 --> 00:15:11,380  
Oh, yes, it has.

336  
00:15:11,380 --> 00:15:13,270  
I think in some ways  
it enriches your life.

337  
00:15:13,270 --> 00:15:15,900

338  
00:15:15,900 --> 00:15:18,360  
Look, you know  
what you're doing,

339

00:15:18,360 --> 00:15:22,230

and you know that there is  
a limited amount of-- now

340

00:15:22,230 --> 00:15:26,550

do I believe that some of these  
things should be not volunteer

341

00:15:26,550 --> 00:15:27,750

but paid staff?

342

00:15:27,750 --> 00:15:30,690

Yes, by all means.

343

00:15:30,690 --> 00:15:33,418

I take sometimes home stuff,  
so my husband says to me

344

00:15:33,418 --> 00:15:34,710

how long did you spend on this.

345

00:15:34,710 --> 00:15:36,790

I said, oh, it took  
me about two hours.

346

00:15:36,790 --> 00:15:39,060

These are not bad  
at \$150 an hour.

347

00:15:39,060 --> 00:15:41,560

But that's exactly what it is.

348

00:15:41,560 --> 00:15:46,410

Another institution would  
not rely so heavily--

349

00:15:46,410 --> 00:15:48,600

Either they take advantage  
of it or maybe we

350

00:15:48,600 --> 00:15:49,870

take advantage of it.

351  
00:15:49,870 --> 00:15:53,010  
But I have no problem doing it.

352  
00:15:53,010 --> 00:15:54,630  
I will do it as  
long as I can do it.

353  
00:15:54,630 --> 00:15:57,990

354  
00:15:57,990 --> 00:16:02,370  
Has what you learned  
upstairs affected

355  
00:16:02,370 --> 00:16:04,780  
your memories of the  
Holocaust or enlarged them?

356  
00:16:04,780 --> 00:16:07,100  
Enlarged, very much enlarged.

357  
00:16:07,100 --> 00:16:11,010  
I did some things about a  
Jewish hospital in Berlin,

358  
00:16:11,010 --> 00:16:13,470  
totally flabbergasting.

359  
00:16:13,470 --> 00:16:16,620  
There are sometimes stories  
that are totally flabbergasting,

360  
00:16:16,620 --> 00:16:19,890  
events that are flabbergasting,  
things that you learn.

361  
00:16:19,890 --> 00:16:20,910  
Yes, of course.

362  
00:16:20,910 --> 00:16:21,870  
Like what?

363  
00:16:21,870 --> 00:16:25,110  
Like this Jewish  
hospital staffed

364  
00:16:25,110 --> 00:16:26,862  
by Jews all the way through war.

365  
00:16:26,862 --> 00:16:29,070  
On the way to Auschwitz,  
they were bringing in people

366  
00:16:29,070 --> 00:16:31,350  
to cure them or give  
them treatment for cancer

367  
00:16:31,350 --> 00:16:32,370  
or other things,  
and then they were

368  
00:16:32,370 --> 00:16:33,620  
sending them to research that.

369  
00:16:33,620 --> 00:16:37,020  
Now never knew about  
this, certainly not

370  
00:16:37,020 --> 00:16:40,320  
mentioned in the book of  
Jews who survived in Berlin.

371  
00:16:40,320 --> 00:16:43,140  
Oddly enough, there it was.

372  
00:16:43,140 --> 00:16:46,440  
So you do learn every so  
often or you find something

373  
00:16:46,440 --> 00:16:49,050  
that is odd, that is strange.

374  
00:16:49,050 --> 00:16:50,160



And then you say to--

375  
00:16:50,160 --> 00:16:51,870  
like yesterday, I  
didn't finish yet.

376  
00:16:51,870 --> 00:16:55,620  
I'm working on this memoirs  
of this Pole, non-Jewish,

377  
00:16:55,620 --> 00:16:58,080  
about Sobibor.

378  
00:16:58,080 --> 00:16:59,390  
There was a fact--

379  
00:16:59,390 --> 00:17:02,670  
there was a factory that  
was there at the beginning

380  
00:17:02,670 --> 00:17:05,640  
of the war [INAUDIBLE]  
where Jews were working--

381  
00:17:05,640 --> 00:17:08,430

382  
00:17:08,430 --> 00:17:10,619  
were being paid, minimal  
but were being paid,

383  
00:17:10,619 --> 00:17:12,690  
were given a lousy  
lunch but were fed,

384  
00:17:12,690 --> 00:17:15,119  
and were sent home  
to this little town

385  
00:17:15,119 --> 00:17:18,030  
seven, eight kilometers  
away to stay overnight

386

00:17:18,030 --> 00:17:19,859

until they started  
building the camp

387

00:17:19,859 --> 00:17:22,260

and then nobody could  
get out from that.

388

00:17:22,260 --> 00:17:23,980

So, yes, of course, you learn.

389

00:17:23,980 --> 00:17:25,140

You always learn.

390

00:17:25,140 --> 00:17:28,920

You read some things as  
silly or as profound as it is

391

00:17:28,920 --> 00:17:31,110

and you suddenly going to  
always learn something.

392

00:17:31,110 --> 00:17:34,500

What does that do for you?

393

00:17:34,500 --> 00:17:39,690

Sometimes it infuriates me  
even more, gets me angry.

394

00:17:39,690 --> 00:17:42,660

Gets me angry.

395

00:17:42,660 --> 00:17:43,880

Sad, angry.

396

00:17:43,880 --> 00:17:46,930

397

00:17:46,930 --> 00:17:48,340

Sometimes you have a good cry.

398

00:17:48,340 --> 00:17:50,230

Sometimes you have a good laugh.

399

00:17:50,230 --> 00:17:52,390

There was a funny  
story a couple of years

400

00:17:52,390 --> 00:17:56,170

ago after the Schindler  
movie was shown.

401

00:17:56,170 --> 00:17:59,380

There was an article  
interview with Mrs. Schindler,

402

00:17:59,380 --> 00:18:00,910

and she said--

403

00:18:00,910 --> 00:18:03,070

I was sitting-- no, I'm  
sitting at the table

404

00:18:03,070 --> 00:18:04,510

next to a gentleman  
who's working

405

00:18:04,510 --> 00:18:06,275

on his papers, an  
elderly gentleman.

406

00:18:06,275 --> 00:18:07,150

Didn't recognize him.

407

00:18:07,150 --> 00:18:08,940

Should have then.

408

00:18:08,940 --> 00:18:12,880

And she says this  
son of a bitch.

409

00:18:12,880 --> 00:18:15,820

This no good womanizer.

410

00:18:15,820 --> 00:18:17,540

He did it all for money.

411

00:18:17,540 --> 00:18:18,670

This, that, something.

412

00:18:18,670 --> 00:18:20,620

It's also-- she contradicts  
[INAUDIBLE] in her book,

413

00:18:20,620 --> 00:18:21,870

but anyway that's the article.

414

00:18:21,870 --> 00:18:24,220

And I start reading this,  
and I start giggling.

415

00:18:24,220 --> 00:18:26,800

Now there's one thing that  
you don't hear in that place

416

00:18:26,800 --> 00:18:28,120

and that's laugh.

417

00:18:28,120 --> 00:18:29,200

You don't hear laugh.

418

00:18:29,200 --> 00:18:30,850

You don't have giggling.

419

00:18:30,850 --> 00:18:32,920

Nothing.

420

00:18:32,920 --> 00:18:35,200

You can hear all kinds  
of sounds or silence,

421

00:18:35,200 --> 00:18:42,370

but it's an interesting place,  
no laugh ever or no happy voice

422

00:18:42,370 --> 00:18:43,390  
ever upstairs.

423  
00:18:43,390 --> 00:18:45,940  
It's frightening in some way.

424  
00:18:45,940 --> 00:18:51,580  
And he looks at me with this  
almost angry look on his face.

425  
00:18:51,580 --> 00:18:54,290  
What is she giggling?

426  
00:18:54,290 --> 00:18:58,840  
And I cannot stop laughing  
because I figure the scorned

427  
00:18:58,840 --> 00:19:00,400  
wife, here we go.

428  
00:19:00,400 --> 00:19:03,710  
He went to Argentina with two  
of his mistresses and his wife.

429  
00:19:03,710 --> 00:19:04,210  
Come on.

430  
00:19:04,210 --> 00:19:05,600  
What did they expect from her?

431  
00:19:05,600 --> 00:19:10,120  
But they're making big hero out  
of him, and she's saying, hey.

432  
00:19:10,120 --> 00:19:12,280  
And I-- this took me  
a couple of minutes,

433  
00:19:12,280 --> 00:19:15,440  
and I keep him seeing as I  
progress in this article.

434

00:19:15,440 --> 00:19:18,160  
So I turned to him,  
and I say, sir,

435  
00:19:18,160 --> 00:19:21,370  
I know you're looking at  
me with this funny look.

436  
00:19:21,370 --> 00:19:23,530  
Would you please  
like to hear this,

437  
00:19:23,530 --> 00:19:25,420  
or would you like to read it?

438  
00:19:25,420 --> 00:19:28,360  
So he says-- and he's  
working seriously there--

439  
00:19:28,360 --> 00:19:29,620  
he says what is it?

440  
00:19:29,620 --> 00:19:34,870  
I said this is the interview  
with Mrs. Schindler saying

441  
00:19:34,870 --> 00:19:37,000  
son of a bitch.

442  
00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:40,240  
He starts laughing,  
and he says, yeah, I

443  
00:19:40,240 --> 00:19:41,620  
know about this article.

444  
00:19:41,620 --> 00:19:44,170  
I said it's almost funny.

445  
00:19:44,170 --> 00:19:46,390  
It is funny in the context--

446

00:19:46,390 --> 00:19:49,540  
That type of things do  
happen, but this is not

447  
00:19:49,540 --> 00:19:51,370  
a place where you either--

448  
00:19:51,370 --> 00:19:55,300  
and slowly you start  
to engage conversations

449  
00:19:55,300 --> 00:19:58,090  
with the people who do the same  
work who are sitting around

450  
00:19:58,090 --> 00:19:58,590  
you.

451  
00:19:58,590 --> 00:19:59,950  
So there gets to be this--

452  
00:19:59,950 --> 00:20:02,470  
but it's a very  
strange camaraderie.

453  
00:20:02,470 --> 00:20:04,990  
This is not-- because we are  
not sitting doing nothing.

454  
00:20:04,990 --> 00:20:06,790  
We are all concentrate.

455  
00:20:06,790 --> 00:20:09,610  
Help each other if there's  
a language or something.

456  
00:20:09,610 --> 00:20:11,620  
Like I had the German guy  
sitting across from me

457  
00:20:11,620 --> 00:20:12,460  
who spoke German.

458

00:20:12,460 --> 00:20:15,670

I went to him, and I said  
look what does this word mean.

459

00:20:15,670 --> 00:20:16,960

It's not in the dictionary.

460

00:20:16,960 --> 00:20:18,530

Doesn't make any sense.

461

00:20:18,530 --> 00:20:21,100

So there is some  
connection there,

462

00:20:21,100 --> 00:20:26,950

but it's not a camaraderie  
type of a place.

463

00:20:26,950 --> 00:20:30,040

But everybody does it, and  
some of them come in every day.

464

00:20:30,040 --> 00:20:32,590

There is a non-Jewish  
lady there every day.

465

00:20:32,590 --> 00:20:38,240

Marian is on her job  
five hours a day.

466

00:20:38,240 --> 00:20:42,440

So it's going somewhere.

467

00:20:42,440 --> 00:20:43,940

And I know it's  
doing a lot of good.

468

00:20:43,940 --> 00:20:46,480

You go downstairs, and  
you see the young kids

469

00:20:46,480 --> 00:20:47,680



that are coming in.

470

00:20:47,680 --> 00:20:52,010

And it's not anymore to  
Jewish groups that have gone.

471

00:20:52,010 --> 00:20:55,660

And you say to yourself I don't  
know what they learned from it

472

00:20:55,660 --> 00:20:59,710

but something will  
stick in their minds.

473

00:20:59,710 --> 00:21:03,460

If you have-- well, your  
friends who are survivors,

474

00:21:03,460 --> 00:21:05,770

do you encourage them to  
come and work at the museum?

475

00:21:05,770 --> 00:21:08,200

Whoever comes to  
Washington, I give them

476

00:21:08,200 --> 00:21:09,900

tickets to go and see it.

477

00:21:09,900 --> 00:21:11,785

No, I meant friends--

478

00:21:11,785 --> 00:21:12,285

no--

479

00:21:12,285 --> 00:21:14,320

Non-Polish, non-survivors.

480

00:21:14,320 --> 00:21:17,980

No, friends of yours  
here who are survivors,

481

00:21:17,980 --> 00:21:20,690  
do you encourage them to come  
and volunteer at the museum?

482  
00:21:20,690 --> 00:21:23,430

483  
00:21:23,430 --> 00:21:25,770  
Some cannot even take it  
as much as going and seeing

484  
00:21:25,770 --> 00:21:27,090  
the exhibit.

485  
00:21:27,090 --> 00:21:29,940  
You have all kinds of  
reactions in there.

486  
00:21:29,940 --> 00:21:31,800  
I don't have too  
many friends who

487  
00:21:31,800 --> 00:21:37,950  
are going to volunteer  
there interestingly enough.

488  
00:21:37,950 --> 00:21:41,150  
A lot of our friends are  
still involved in working.

489  
00:21:41,150 --> 00:21:43,127  
We are still this generation.

490  
00:21:43,127 --> 00:21:44,960  
What you have, there  
are a lot of volunteers

491  
00:21:44,960 --> 00:21:47,750  
are the older ones.

492  
00:21:47,750 --> 00:21:50,870  
But I haven't heard  
anybody saying

493

00:21:50,870 --> 00:21:52,932

I'm going to go and  
give my time for it.

494

00:21:52,932 --> 00:21:54,890

They all think it's  
wonderful that I am going--

495

00:21:54,890 --> 00:21:56,930

Do you encourage them?

496

00:21:56,930 --> 00:21:57,980

No.

497

00:21:57,980 --> 00:22:01,280

I think everybody has  
to do their own thing.

498

00:22:01,280 --> 00:22:04,280

Some people do it at UJA,  
which is not my shtick,

499

00:22:04,280 --> 00:22:05,690

and some people do this.

500

00:22:05,690 --> 00:22:07,490

And I think I can do  
much more this way.

501

00:22:07,490 --> 00:22:10,160

At least with my  
languages, I do some good.

502

00:22:10,160 --> 00:22:12,950

And I know what I'm  
doing, which is even--

503

00:22:12,950 --> 00:22:16,190

I know-- when I read something,  
I know what's of importance

504

00:22:16,190 --> 00:22:21,410  
and what is of no importance or  
lesser importance let's put it

505  
00:22:21,410 --> 00:22:23,480  
this way because  
absolutely everything.

506  
00:22:23,480 --> 00:22:25,970  
There was a story two  
or three years ago,

507  
00:22:25,970 --> 00:22:28,400  
it's better than Anne  
Frank and more mature.

508  
00:22:28,400 --> 00:22:33,450

509  
00:22:33,450 --> 00:22:35,400  
And they know that  
the museum exists,

510  
00:22:35,400 --> 00:22:37,230  
so they know I'm doing it.

511  
00:22:37,230 --> 00:22:39,120  
Nobody's asking  
too many questions.

512  
00:22:39,120 --> 00:22:41,040  
And I don't think that people--

513  
00:22:41,040 --> 00:22:43,860  
look, if they don't have  
the skills of translating,

514  
00:22:43,860 --> 00:22:47,360  
they find it very depressing  
going down there and working

515  
00:22:47,360 --> 00:22:47,860  
on that.

516  
00:22:47,860 --> 00:22:50,910  
So that's pretty much it.

517  
00:22:50,910 --> 00:22:53,630  
What is your relationship with--

518  
00:22:53,630 --> 00:22:55,440  
well, you did talk a  
little bit about this,

519  
00:22:55,440 --> 00:22:58,590  
your relationship with  
the other volunteers there

520  
00:22:58,590 --> 00:23:00,990  
who are survivors.

521  
00:23:00,990 --> 00:23:05,070  
I know them because I  
know them for years.

522  
00:23:05,070 --> 00:23:08,400  
With those, it's-- the ones  
that I know for a long time,

523  
00:23:08,400 --> 00:23:09,060  
that's fine.

524  
00:23:09,060 --> 00:23:10,800  
It was the others--

525  
00:23:10,800 --> 00:23:12,750  
It was the volunteers  
who are survivors?

526  
00:23:12,750 --> 00:23:16,920  
Yes, very little  
connection with any.

527  
00:23:16,920 --> 00:23:18,630  
You come, you do

your thing, and then

528

00:23:18,630 --> 00:23:20,640

you go except I  
suspect downstairs

529

00:23:20,640 --> 00:23:24,750

down there they work because  
they don't work on something.

530

00:23:24,750 --> 00:23:28,905

They work at a desk or whatever,  
so they talk and they have--

531

00:23:28,905 --> 00:23:30,990

and I'm sure that they  
have much more connection.

532

00:23:30,990 --> 00:23:33,930

I don't have upstairs  
any connection.

533

00:23:33,930 --> 00:23:36,270

Not the-- there's nothing there.

534

00:23:36,270 --> 00:23:38,100

There is a-- today--

535

00:23:38,100 --> 00:23:38,863

no, it's tomorrow.

536

00:23:38,863 --> 00:23:40,530

Tomorrow's the 10th--  
there is a meeting

537

00:23:40,530 --> 00:23:42,510

of the volunteers,  
the survivors,

538

00:23:42,510 --> 00:23:44,968

but I can't go because I  
have a meeting with Vito.

539

00:23:44,968 --> 00:23:46,260  
So what's more important to me?

540

00:23:46,260 --> 00:23:49,020  
Well, I'm doing my thing  
at the Holocaust Museum,

541

00:23:49,020 --> 00:23:51,870  
but to me my involvement  
with Vito is the treasurer

542

00:23:51,870 --> 00:23:55,943  
and that is something that  
I did I put as a priority.

543

00:23:55,943 --> 00:23:58,110  
So when I have the two  
things, which one do I go to?

544

00:23:58,110 --> 00:23:59,610  
Well, I go to the one--

545

00:23:59,610 --> 00:24:00,633  
I go to that one.

546

00:24:00,633 --> 00:24:01,425  
It's more relaxing.

547

00:24:01,425 --> 00:24:05,730  
It's more-- it doesn't  
concentrate exclusively-- you

548

00:24:05,730 --> 00:24:09,930  
can't be totally surrounded  
by the experiences.

549

00:24:09,930 --> 00:24:12,345  
You have yourself already  
as a Holocaust survivor.

550

00:24:12,345 --> 00:24:14,520  
You can't be constantly

surrounded by this.

551

00:24:14,520 --> 00:24:17,130

You'd go nuts.

552

00:24:17,130 --> 00:24:19,920

So like tomorrow, I'm  
going to my Vito meeting.

553

00:24:19,920 --> 00:24:21,610

I'm not going to my  
Holocaust meeting.

554

00:24:21,610 --> 00:24:25,680

But you've gone to the other  
survivor volunteer meetings?

555

00:24:25,680 --> 00:24:28,050

No, I haven't because first  
of all because there's

556

00:24:28,050 --> 00:24:29,070

an older generation.

557

00:24:29,070 --> 00:24:30,030

They will monopolize.

558

00:24:30,030 --> 00:24:32,850

I know it by experience they  
will monopolize it anyway.

559

00:24:32,850 --> 00:24:34,630

They will do what  
they want to do.

560

00:24:34,630 --> 00:24:39,330

So my reaction is just like  
the commemoration every year,

561

00:24:39,330 --> 00:24:39,900

let the--

562



00:24:39,900 --> 00:24:44,085  
Herman Taube and the  
others do it their own way.

563  
00:24:44,085 --> 00:24:46,360  
Let them have the  
respect of doing it.

564  
00:24:46,360 --> 00:24:48,870  
Then we'll have our time.

565  
00:24:48,870 --> 00:24:51,260  
When they are gone, somebody  
will have to take it over.

566  
00:24:51,260 --> 00:24:52,110  
Let them do it.

567  
00:24:52,110 --> 00:24:52,860  
It's their shtick.

568  
00:24:52,860 --> 00:24:53,490  
Let it do.

569  
00:24:53,490 --> 00:24:54,400  
Let them do it.

570  
00:24:54,400 --> 00:24:57,000  
So do you go to these meetings  
run by Marty Goldman at all?

571  
00:24:57,000 --> 00:24:57,630  
No.

572  
00:24:57,630 --> 00:24:58,725  
No.

573  
00:24:58,725 --> 00:25:02,640  
I really honestly believe I'm  
letting them do their own.

574  
00:25:02,640 --> 00:25:04,350

Let them do it their own.

575

00:25:04,350 --> 00:25:06,690

I don't think it would  
make any difference.

576

00:25:06,690 --> 00:25:10,120

I come there, I want to do my  
productive work if you want to.

577

00:25:10,120 --> 00:25:12,060

And then I come  
home, and that's it.

578

00:25:12,060 --> 00:25:15,030

What are your impressions  
of the museum's

579

00:25:15,030 --> 00:25:18,930

non-survivor volunteers?

580

00:25:18,930 --> 00:25:20,460

No idea.

581

00:25:20,460 --> 00:25:21,210

No contact.

582

00:25:21,210 --> 00:25:22,292

No idea.

583

00:25:22,292 --> 00:25:24,750

I think they're doing their  
job, they want to do their job,

584

00:25:24,750 --> 00:25:26,985

and that's wonderful.

585

00:25:26,985 --> 00:25:29,955

[PHONE RINGING]

586

00:25:29,955 --> 00:25:31,940

587  
00:25:31,940 --> 00:25:37,060  
And I was asking whether  
these non-survivor staff

588  
00:25:37,060 --> 00:25:38,620  
you had alluded a  
little bit to it,

589  
00:25:38,620 --> 00:25:40,453  
did you want to say any  
more whether they're

590  
00:25:40,453 --> 00:25:41,950  
jury staff or non-Jewish staff.

591  
00:25:41,950 --> 00:25:46,630  
I think they are professionals,  
but that does not mean bad.

592  
00:25:46,630 --> 00:25:48,850  
And I'm sure that they  
do the things that

593  
00:25:48,850 --> 00:25:51,048  
have to be done professionally  
whether it's tapes

594  
00:25:51,048 --> 00:25:52,840  
or whether it's something  
else or whatever.

595  
00:25:52,840 --> 00:25:58,870  
But I question how much anything  
that-- for example, I do

596  
00:25:58,870 --> 00:25:59,560  
is supervised.

597  
00:25:59,560 --> 00:26:02,590  
That was my question and how  
much then the one who does it

598

00:26:02,590 --> 00:26:05,870

knows what the heck they  
doing, and that I don't know.

599

00:26:05,870 --> 00:26:07,130

I have no idea.

600

00:26:07,130 --> 00:26:10,630

But I think that they would be  
very well served by having more

601

00:26:10,630 --> 00:26:12,700

paid staff being the survivors.

602

00:26:12,700 --> 00:26:15,980

603

00:26:15,980 --> 00:26:17,720

I think that would  
be better served

604

00:26:17,720 --> 00:26:19,550

at this point of the game.

605

00:26:19,550 --> 00:26:20,330

Why?

606

00:26:20,330 --> 00:26:22,880

Because they have the knowledge.

607

00:26:22,880 --> 00:26:27,690

Because at least they have the  
insight, which these don't.

608

00:26:27,690 --> 00:26:29,780

That's all that there is.

609

00:26:29,780 --> 00:26:30,650

Nothing else.

610

00:26:30,650 --> 00:26:33,260

No-- I'm not looking  
for a job, but that's

611  
00:26:33,260 --> 00:26:36,910  
exactly how I feel and have  
felt this way for a long time.

612  
00:26:36,910 --> 00:26:43,290

613  
00:26:43,290 --> 00:26:47,970  
You had said that the Daniel  
Story exhibit is something

614  
00:26:47,970 --> 00:26:49,720  
that you can  
certainly relate to.

615  
00:26:49,720 --> 00:26:53,100  
Are there any other  
parts of the museum

616  
00:26:53,100 --> 00:26:54,450  
with which you identify--

617  
00:26:54,450 --> 00:26:56,670  
Extraordinarily well done.

618  
00:26:56,670 --> 00:26:58,620  
The whole thing is well done.

619  
00:26:58,620 --> 00:26:59,580  
Of course, you do.

620  
00:26:59,580 --> 00:27:00,450  
It's well done.

621  
00:27:00,450 --> 00:27:03,130  
It's well presented.

622  
00:27:03,130 --> 00:27:07,410  
It's taken to the

maximum with sensitivity

623

00:27:07,410 --> 00:27:09,760

and well, well, well done.

624

00:27:09,760 --> 00:27:13,380

There's not an iota of  
criticism about this.

625

00:27:13,380 --> 00:27:16,200

On the contrary, I think they  
have done a wonderful job

626

00:27:16,200 --> 00:27:18,450

in this exhibit.

627

00:27:18,450 --> 00:27:20,597

Whether they do a wonderful  
job with the speakers

628

00:27:20,597 --> 00:27:22,430

that they bring in,  
that's another question.

629

00:27:22,430 --> 00:27:25,050

630

00:27:25,050 --> 00:27:27,690

The last couple of days,  
there are some speakers

631

00:27:27,690 --> 00:27:30,240

that they brought in,  
this is incredible,

632

00:27:30,240 --> 00:27:33,600

and I'm sure that they're  
paying them very healthy money.

633

00:27:33,600 --> 00:27:36,660

One of them, a guy who worked  
with the KGB and now he's

634

00:27:36,660 --> 00:27:38,710

coming to talk about  
fascism in Russia.

635

00:27:38,710 --> 00:27:41,820

Well, where are we  
going with this?

636

00:27:41,820 --> 00:27:44,850

But that's, again, this  
is maybe too much money

637

00:27:44,850 --> 00:27:49,560

spent in some ways that  
they consider right.

638

00:27:49,560 --> 00:27:54,810

And I do have a lot of  
questions how it's being spent.

639

00:27:54,810 --> 00:27:57,660

And, again, this is a  
question of sensitivity.

640

00:27:57,660 --> 00:27:59,340

Comes from the guts.

641

00:27:59,340 --> 00:28:02,190

Again, are the survivors all  
right with what they saying?

642

00:28:02,190 --> 00:28:03,300

No.

643

00:28:03,300 --> 00:28:07,560

But they have their background  
with their criticism

644

00:28:07,560 --> 00:28:09,510

or with their approval.

645

00:28:09,510 --> 00:28:12,300

My reaction is I'm not in  
there to criticize them

646  
00:28:12,300 --> 00:28:13,200  
or to approve them.

647  
00:28:13,200 --> 00:28:15,060  
I just do honestly  
believe that there

648  
00:28:15,060 --> 00:28:19,200  
needs to be more on the staff--

649  
00:28:19,200 --> 00:28:24,540  
on the paid staff, not  
the good doing in between.

650  
00:28:24,540 --> 00:28:26,160  
I come in whenever  
I feel like it.

651  
00:28:26,160 --> 00:28:27,750  
That's not serious work.

652  
00:28:27,750 --> 00:28:30,468  
There if I were paid-- if  
somebody else was paid,

653  
00:28:30,468 --> 00:28:31,260  
they would come in.

654  
00:28:31,260 --> 00:28:32,718  
They would put in  
the [INAUDIBLE]..

655  
00:28:32,718 --> 00:28:33,630  
It would move faster.

656  
00:28:33,630 --> 00:28:38,700  
Nobody says that it has to  
take a year to decipher a tape.

657



00:28:38,700 --> 00:28:44,120  
But if they had more  
paid staff, there

658  
00:28:44,120 --> 00:28:47,330  
are some from all kinds of  
countries that were survivors.

659  
00:28:47,330 --> 00:28:49,765  
It would be much  
smoother at this point.

660  
00:28:49,765 --> 00:28:51,240  
That's all I am saying.

661  
00:28:51,240 --> 00:28:52,700  
Have you suggested that?

662  
00:28:52,700 --> 00:28:53,840  
No.

663  
00:28:53,840 --> 00:28:54,960  
Why not?

664  
00:28:54,960 --> 00:28:55,460  
To whom?

665  
00:28:55,460 --> 00:28:57,853  
You can talk to the wall there.

666  
00:28:57,853 --> 00:29:00,020  
And then you see what's  
happening politically there,

667  
00:29:00,020 --> 00:29:04,950  
and then you realize that  
one or two people are--

668  
00:29:04,950 --> 00:29:08,150  
my husband went to  
Poland two year-- a year

669

00:29:08,150 --> 00:29:10,910  
and a half ago from the  
American government,

670  
00:29:10,910 --> 00:29:12,980  
from the White  
House, from the AID.

671  
00:29:12,980 --> 00:29:14,970  
He was going to Poland.

672  
00:29:14,970 --> 00:29:17,000  
He was speaking to  
the top people there.

673  
00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:22,340  
He came in, and he said  
can I be of some help.

674  
00:29:22,340 --> 00:29:25,100  
Now this guy is  
taking care of Poland.

675  
00:29:25,100 --> 00:29:26,960  
Two guys are taking  
care of Poland.

676  
00:29:26,960 --> 00:29:29,610  
Without naming names, two guys  
are taking care of Poland.

677  
00:29:29,610 --> 00:29:31,450  
Wonderful.

678  
00:29:31,450 --> 00:29:33,740  
It's their little territory.

679  
00:29:33,740 --> 00:29:36,620  
So that's what I'm saying.

680  
00:29:36,620 --> 00:29:39,420  
No, I'm not passing  
judgment at this point.

681  
00:29:39,420 --> 00:29:41,180  
I think it's a  
wonderful institution.

682  
00:29:41,180 --> 00:29:43,700  
It's wonderfully put together.

683  
00:29:43,700 --> 00:29:46,270  
And hopefully it  
will go forward.

684  
00:29:46,270 --> 00:29:49,320

685  
00:29:49,320 --> 00:29:51,990  
Do you belong to any  
groups of child survivors?

686  
00:29:51,990 --> 00:29:53,160  
No, child survivors.

687  
00:29:53,160 --> 00:29:58,340  
I belong to the Holocaust  
survivors in Washington.

688  
00:29:58,340 --> 00:30:00,710  
See child survivors  
is a very strange--

689  
00:30:00,710 --> 00:30:03,470  
there's one group from  
Baltimore, Connected Baltimore,

690  
00:30:03,470 --> 00:30:05,990  
or it's Washington, and then  
there are the Hidden Children.

691  
00:30:05,990 --> 00:30:08,660  
I don't fall into any of this.

692  
00:30:08,660 --> 00:30:13,105

Children-- child survivors I  
do to be very honest too much

693  
00:30:13,105 --> 00:30:13,890  
school.

694  
00:30:13,890 --> 00:30:17,300  
There's such a-- that's  
such a heavy stuff there.

695  
00:30:17,300 --> 00:30:18,860  
You go-- I went to one meeting.

696  
00:30:18,860 --> 00:30:19,640  
It's so heavy.

697  
00:30:19,640 --> 00:30:22,190

698  
00:30:22,190 --> 00:30:24,110  
I don't want to do it.

699  
00:30:24,110 --> 00:30:28,450  
It's unfair to myself,  
to everybody else.

700  
00:30:28,450 --> 00:30:32,170  
Do you speak to or have you  
spoken to school groups?

701  
00:30:32,170 --> 00:30:33,020  
Yes.

702  
00:30:33,020 --> 00:30:34,120  
Long ago.

703  
00:30:34,120 --> 00:30:36,700  
What level?

704  
00:30:36,700 --> 00:30:38,320  
High school.

705

00:30:38,320 --> 00:30:39,790

High school level.

706

00:30:39,790 --> 00:30:43,770

When I was in substituting  
in Maryland in the 19--

707

00:30:43,770 --> 00:30:45,640

late '70s, early '90s--

708

00:30:45,640 --> 00:30:47,350

early '80s.

709

00:30:47,350 --> 00:30:48,760

I'm not doing it anymore.

710

00:30:48,760 --> 00:30:52,000

Really comes a time  
everything takes over.

711

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:55,150

712

00:30:55,150 --> 00:30:57,430

And I find it very  
difficult to talk to--

713

00:30:57,430 --> 00:30:59,190

about it.

714

00:30:59,190 --> 00:31:06,610

Strange enough but I do  
find it very difficult.

715

00:31:06,610 --> 00:31:07,150

That's me.

716

00:31:07,150 --> 00:31:10,820

717

00:31:10,820 --> 00:31:13,976

Is there any message you want  
to leave to your granddaughter?

718  
00:31:13,976 --> 00:31:16,964  
[SNIFFLING]

719  
00:31:16,964 --> 00:31:26,440

720  
00:31:26,440 --> 00:31:29,020  
I guess there is one.

721  
00:31:29,020 --> 00:31:31,480  
I'm glad that we  
lived to see her.

722  
00:31:31,480 --> 00:31:36,320

723  
00:31:36,320 --> 00:31:39,560  
And that's pretty much it.

724  
00:31:39,560 --> 00:31:43,190

725  
00:31:43,190 --> 00:31:46,010  
We're expecting another one.

726  
00:31:46,010 --> 00:31:46,580  
That's it.

727  
00:31:46,580 --> 00:31:50,320

728  
00:31:50,320 --> 00:31:55,900  
That's maybe the whole  
meaning for anything else.

729  
00:31:55,900 --> 00:31:59,660  
Parents are going to normal.

730

00:31:59,660 --> 00:32:03,190  
But OK.

731  
00:32:03,190 --> 00:32:08,170  
And she's named after her  
wonderful grandmother,

732  
00:32:08,170 --> 00:32:11,420  
David's mother, and  
her other grandmother

733  
00:32:11,420 --> 00:32:12,610  
but this grandmother.

734  
00:32:12,610 --> 00:32:16,390  
And I think that's continuity.

735  
00:32:16,390 --> 00:32:18,760  
That's what I was saying  
from the beginning

736  
00:32:18,760 --> 00:32:21,272  
and that it had  
to have a meaning.

737  
00:32:21,272 --> 00:32:22,105  
This is the meaning.

738  
00:32:22,105 --> 00:32:24,970

739  
00:32:24,970 --> 00:32:31,030  
When she walks around and said  
she wants a kippah I said OK.

740  
00:32:31,030 --> 00:32:34,360  
That's what I said.

741  
00:32:34,360 --> 00:32:37,030  
You see that's why I don't want  
to talk to groups because I

742

00:32:37,030 --> 00:32:38,305  
do get emotional about it.

743  
00:32:38,305 --> 00:32:41,130

744  
00:32:41,130 --> 00:32:45,570  
Maybe not about what basically  
happened to me, but I

745  
00:32:45,570 --> 00:32:48,150  
think the loss--

746  
00:32:48,150 --> 00:32:54,420  
the loss of everybody who  
was there who could help.

747  
00:32:54,420 --> 00:32:57,840  
And it's unimaginable,  
people going up in smoke,

748  
00:32:57,840 --> 00:33:02,580  
people being herded into gas  
chambers, people this and that.

749  
00:33:02,580 --> 00:33:04,650  
Come on.

750  
00:33:04,650 --> 00:33:09,630  
My only [INAUDIBLE] who gave  
you the right to do this.

751  
00:33:09,630 --> 00:33:13,877

752  
00:33:13,877 --> 00:33:15,710  
That's why maybe I don't  
have any-- you see,

753  
00:33:15,710 --> 00:33:17,750  
it all brings  
back-- this is maybe



754

00:33:17,750 --> 00:33:24,440  
why I don't have any sympathy  
or any feelings about Blacks

755

00:33:24,440 --> 00:33:25,670  
going and protesting.

756

00:33:25,670 --> 00:33:28,490

757

00:33:28,490 --> 00:33:30,380  
Sure there were  
killings and there were

758

00:33:30,380 --> 00:33:33,080  
everything else but come on.

759

00:33:33,080 --> 00:33:35,910  
Then you think  
what's of importance.

760

00:33:35,910 --> 00:33:40,310  
Well, it's not comparing  
one horror to another,

761

00:33:40,310 --> 00:33:44,850  
but I feel terrible.

762

00:33:44,850 --> 00:33:46,020  
Japanese were interned.

763

00:33:46,020 --> 00:33:48,330  
Wonderful, they were interned.

764

00:33:48,330 --> 00:33:50,880  
And somebody else says,  
but it's terrible.

765

00:33:50,880 --> 00:33:54,960  
Yes, it's terrible  
but compared to what.

766

00:33:54,960 --> 00:33:57,955

So maybe I-- it's not  
that I'm insensitive,

767

00:33:57,955 --> 00:34:01,840

but I'm coming from  
a very different--

768

00:34:01,840 --> 00:34:04,590

it wasn't right, but it was war.

769

00:34:04,590 --> 00:34:14,830

OK but nobody shot you  
and in such horrible ways.

770

00:34:14,830 --> 00:34:16,462

Anyway so that's my--

771

00:34:16,462 --> 00:34:19,759

772

00:34:19,759 --> 00:34:20,940

that's my story.

773

00:34:20,940 --> 00:34:23,757

774

00:34:23,757 --> 00:34:25,090

Anything else you wanted to add?

775

00:34:25,090 --> 00:34:26,290

No, not really.

776

00:34:26,290 --> 00:34:28,389

You did a wonderful job.

777

00:34:28,389 --> 00:34:31,420

It's a long one.

778

00:34:31,420 --> 00:34:34,074

Well, thank you very much

for doing the interview.

779

00:34:34,074 --> 00:34:35,800

You're welcome.

780

00:34:35,800 --> 00:34:39,100

This concludes the United  
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

781

00:34:39,100 --> 00:34:43,110

interview with Maryla Korn.

782

00:34:43,110 --> 00:34:45,000