

HENRY GREENBAUM
RG-50.106*0128

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Interviewer: Esther Toporek Finder

Tape 1 Side A

Name at birth was Chuna Grynbaum. Born Starachowice, Poland, in April, 1928. His mother's name was Gittel and his father's name was Nuchum. He had 2 brothers and 6 sisters: Brandel, Rayzel, Feyge, Chaya, Gitta, Dina [Diana], David and Zachary. Henry was the baby of the family. It was a small mill town. The Jewish people had businesses. His family was in the tailoring business and his siblings helped. There were about 5,000 Jews in the area. He does not know his family history beyond his grandfather. Henry went to school and also helped to prepare the iron for the others in his family. He helped clean up around the work area. The family spoke Yiddish at home and his father was a Gabbai in the synagogue. Henry went to pray twice a day with his father. The family kept kosher and they were pretty religious. His favorite holiday was Passover: they always got new clothes and he liked the Passover foods. Henry went to both public and religious school: in public school he learned the regular studies and after school he went to the *Shtebel* and learned Hebrew. He liked learning Hebrew but he doesn't remember too much Hebrew or even Polish. As a child he wanted to be a rabbi. After school he used to like to play soccer and ride bicycles.

Before the war the Jews and non-Jews got along well in his city. His family worked mostly for non-Jews. In school there were sometimes fights and sometimes the religious boys were teased for their curls [*payess*]. There was always some anti-Semitism but as a child he was not overly aware of it. Before the war he knew nothing about Hitler. If his parents knew, they said nothing to him. He did not hear about Kristallnacht until after the invasion. There had been some German Jews who had come to his town before the war but he was too young to pay attention to all that. Those people would sometimes complain that they were not being well cared for by their hosts. He did not get any sense of alarm regarding things in Germany. His oldest brother wanted to leave Poland. His father had family in the US: 2 brothers and a sister. Henry's oldest brother would correspond in Hebrew with these relatives in America. This brother wanted to leave. In 1937 permission was

granted for 1 child to go to America and one of the sisters did go there. Then the war broke out and the others were stuck. Diana was in Washington, DC, in 1937.

Right before the war his father died. Henry was only 12 at the time and it was about 2 months before the war. One of his brothers was in the Polish army and Henry went with his other brother to the synagogue. The caretaker at the synagogue told Henry he should start laying *tefellin* because his father died [though Henry was not yet 13]. He did start wearing *tefellin* and a *tallit*.

One Saturday he was playing with his friends and when he came home he went to see his father who was resting. While he was with his father he noticed blood coming out of his mouth. He went and got his mother and his mother sent him to get the doctor. By the time the doctor arrived his father was dead. His oldest brother, David, kept the business going. Things were lonesome without his father.

By age 12 he wore *payess* and he was tall for his age. That helped him during the war. He was healthy. He was already an uncle and he enjoyed playing with the younger relatives. Those were happy times.

In the mornings he would go to services at the synagogue. He could hear noises in the distance and one morning he woke up and the Germans were there. The town had cobblestone street and the invasion made a terrible noise on those streets. There were planes and tanks and trucks. Before the war he never saw heavy equipment like that. At first it was exciting but within the first few weeks things changed. The Jews stood out, especially with the *payess*. Right away the Jews had to wear the star on the front and back of their clothes. Jews were grabbed to work and were mistreated by the Germans. There were some Jews in his town who were not religious and could not be easily identified by clothing, but the locals helped point out who was Jewish. There were 10-12 people were hanging on the same scaffold: there were 2 Jews and the rest were Gentile but he did not know why they were hung. They were left hanging for a week. The civilian population was helpless. A ghetto was established near the synagogue and his family had to take other people in to their home. There was barbed wire and guards with dogs at the exits. Jews from the outskirts were also brought in to the ghetto. The ghetto was overcrowded and food became scarce. At first

people tried to bribe soldiers, especially for food, but that ended soon. Typhus broke out and people who got sick were taken out and never seen again. He lived in the area that was to become the ghetto. He had limited freedom of movement. There was a munitions factory and he and some siblings were given some jobs and had permits to leave the ghetto and go to the factory. At the factory he was given some soup. He worked with Gentiles: they got paid and the Jews did not. The Jews were cursed and beaten but the Gentiles were not. He could not understand why he was treated that way. His sisters Feyge, Chaya and Gitta were working there with him. Feyge was already married and had a child. Her husband had gone to the US in 1937 and hoped to bring his family over. When the war broke out that never materialized. She had lived in Kielce but moved in with her family and they were together. The grandmother watched the child while Feyge worked.

SS and Ukrainians guarded the ghetto from the outside. Inside the ghetto there were some Jewish policemen assigned to keep order. They served as a liaison with the outside guard. He does not recall if there was a Judenrat. There were quite a few little *shtetls* that fed into his ghetto and people tried to get along. He never saw any suicides in the ghetto but he saw beatings, though he did not know why the people were being beaten. It was fairly easy to get out of the ghetto but there was no place to go. Sometimes his mother would sneak out for food but that area was discovered and that section of the ghetto made secure. While he was in the ghetto he did not know what was going on elsewhere. Other people might have known, but he didn't. The Gentiles at work would not socialize or speak with the Jews. They did not bring food to help the Jews, though it would have been easy for them to bring food in. There were not transports leaving his ghetto. People were put to work in the factories or the stone quarry. He also worked for a while in the quarry. If some people didn't work they were taken to go clean barracks and do laundry. People were kept busy.

Tape 1 Side B

[note: no slating is audible]

Some people were missing from the ghetto but he did not know what happened to them, if they were taken out and shot or if they were shipped away. He was in the ghetto from 1939 until

October, 1942. That October loudspeakers demanded everyone go to the marketplace, including those who worked the night shift. He had been on the night shift. There was lots of commotion and a selection. The elderly and the mothers with children were taken aside. He had been working with his sister but her child was with Henry's mother. When the child saw her mother she tried to go to her but the Germans hit her and kept the child with the grandmother. Finally the child stopped crying and stayed with the grandmother. His sister Reyzel and her 2 children were also with the other mothers with children. By 5:00 everything was straightened out and the older people and mothers with children were taken to the railroad yard. Then those left behind were considered. He could hear shooting in the distance and they also heard the trains leave. He was lined up with others in rows of 5 and marched out. He had a little satchel that his mother had packed for him. He does not know what was in it. They were marched/run about 6 kilometers. They had no water and the weather was hot. Their destination was a pair of camps that was in the outskirts of the town. There were barbed wires with guard towers. The loudspeaker told the people to empty their pockets and leave their satchels. They were told if they did not obey they would be killed. He lost all his possessions. He was put into a barrack and there were 3 assigned to a bunk. The bunks were stacked 3 or 4 high. In the morning he was marched to the factory to work. The Ukrainians had whips and there were dogs growling at them. The Jews were beaten on the way into the factory and again on the way out. He was there in that factory until the end of 1943 or early 1944. He had typhus. His sister had it and his sister was taken away with a group of people who were suffering with typhus. This was the 2nd sister he lost to typhus. Another sister, who was in hospital, was allowed to stay in the hospital where she died. His sister Feyge was the only sister still with him.

The Russians were approaching. His sister Feyge and some of her policemen friends tried to organize an escape. Henry came back from work and his sister told them they were going to escape that night. Later that night his sister came for him. Someone cut the barbed wire. There was a cue: if the lights were off, then the people should run. It started and some people got caught in the barbed wire and there was commotion. Henry was with his sister and her policeman friend when he got hit [in the head] and dropped to the ground. He did not know then what happened to his sister or the other people. The lights went on and someone stepped on him with a heel. He woke up and looked for his sister but could not find her. He then decided to go to the woman's barrack

to look for her. He was a little disoriented and he had lost lots of blood. He took a chance to go to the woman's barrack. His cousin Ida was there. Ida saw he was bleeding and took care of him. He had to stay overnight in the woman's barrack. All night long the Nazis were shooting into the barracks because they were so angry about the escape attempt. In the morning he slipped back into his own barrack. Three days later he heard they were going to be shipped out. That was the rumor his sister had heard that made her want to try to escape. The people were talking about how they were helping the German war effort. The people were concerned that, since they were already working for the war effort and they were being shipped out, where would they be sent? To extermination camps? That was why his sister wanted to escape. The partisans/underground was supposed to meet the escapees there. The lights were supposed to be knocked out and that would be the indication that the escape was on. Coincidentally there was an air raid so the lights were off and things got mixed up and the partisans never showed up. Some people did escape and the next morning there was a roll call to see how many escaped. Right in front of the crowd Henry saw the policeman friend of his sister and he was wounded. His sister was laying there dead. There were other people there moaning and groaning and there was lots of blood. Then the Germans machine-gunned all those who survived the escaped attempt. This was the lesson that was to be learned and this was designed to discourage escape attempts. A few days later the prisoners were shipped out of the camp.

Nobody could see the wound on his chest from the shoe heel. Henry's head wound was covered. In this camp the prisoners did not wear striped uniforms and were allowed to wear street clothes and hats. He wore a beret to cover his head wound. He was not checked over carefully at this camp. His wounds did not heal until he was liberated in 1945 when the US medics treated him. His wounds would be infected and then get reinfected again and again. He gets headaches even to this day. Compared to the other things he had to deal with, his 3 inch head wound was not a big problem. If the wound had been a fraction of an inch deeper he would have been killed. Instead he suffered a flesh wound that opened up the scalp almost to the bone.

There were Jews from other towns coming into the camp fairly often. His group was already becoming weak and some of the newcomers looked healthier by comparison. His group was not skeletons yet, but they were weak. People were treated badly and they lost weight but it was

possible to survive in this camp. To discourage escapes the prisoners were told that if anyone escaped other people would be killed. The prisoners had been hearing that since they first arrived in the camp-- long before the escape attempt. While in the camp he did not have any idea what was happening in other parts of Poland. Maybe other people in the camp knew something, but not Henry. There was one German named Altoff [sp] and he would give the prisoners trouble. He would come in during the day and see who was sick and then make them walk a straight line. If the person wiggled he would shoot him. One of his [pre-war] neighbors was very sick and was foaming at the mouth and when asked, he could not walk a straight line. Altoff shot him and Henry saw this. Before the escape attempts there were no deportations. When the camp was liquidated the prisoners saw the cattle cars in the distance and they were marched out towards the trains. They were beaten with whips along the way just like cowboys used whips on cattle. At the railroad yards the people were lined up and about 120-150 people were packed into each car and the doors were sealed. They were 3 days in transit and they stopped at many stations and they never got water. They arrived at a camp with barbed wire and with skeletons walking around in striped uniforms, etc. It was a scary sight. He was told that "Here they are burning the Jews." This was told to him by the prisoners that met his transport. There was a selection. He did not know at first where the other people went. Henry was one of the younger ones and he went with the workers. He was tattooed and his number is A18991. After that he had his hair cut off. The barber there was the first one to ask him about his head wound. Henry's answer was that he had just been injured in the cattle car. The haircut made his head feel better as he was still infected. Then there was a shower. They were instructed to leave their clothes and then they were given striped uniforms and wooden shoes. Then they went into the barracks and then they were given water for the first time in days. That night the neighboring barrack was very noisy.

Tape 2 Side A

The first camp was called the Herman Georing factory and he was in a labor camp that was part of the factory. He was transferred to Auschwitz. He saw the sign that said "*Arbeit Macht Frei*." When he arrived at Auschwitz he thought he had been resting on top of people who were sleeping but those people were dead and he had not realized it. They might have died from lack of water or air. His barracks were wood. His first night in Auschwitz [Birkenau] he heard screams from

the next barrack. This went on half the night. He heard that during the night the gypsies [Roma] were being killed. His first day he went out and moved around a little and was fed bread and ersatz coffee. In the evening they were given watery soup. They could smell the stench and he already knew what was going on at this camp. The other prisoners had told him. Occasionally he would have to pick up bodies of people who just died and bring them over to the piles of dead bodies. Bodies were stacked like wood. He was there for many months. One day a man came in and picked some of the younger men in the group, including Henry, and took them to Buna-Monowitz. There were about 2 truck loads of prisoners with Henry.

During the time at Auschwitz nobody noticed his head wound because he covered it with his striped cap. From his place in the camp he could see that his group looked better than the other prisoners. He could see the smoke coming out of the chimneys. He could look out over into an empty area from where he was facing with some woods in the distance.

Buna was cleaner than Auschwitz and the punishment was by hanging, but there were no crematoria. It was a working camp. His job was with I G Farben Company and he was able to get an extra soup at the factory during the day. Sometimes the prisoners were transported to work in trucks, especially if it was foggy. Prisoners were not allowed to talk to each other and if you were caught talking you were interrogated and beaten. He was able to forge some bonds with some of the other prisoners. He became friendly with one of his bunk mates. Sometimes there were air raids at the camp or at the factory. His friend would try to search for discarded food at the IG Farben kitchen during air raids. Henry told his friend not to do that because it was dangerous. That man was caught and hung and Henry had to watch his execution. The Germans read some protocol before the execution but Henry did not understand what was said, nor did he know why the other prisoners executed that day were hung. Then music was played by the band.

Henry was beaten for talking: he had to get down on his knees and bend over a chair and the head was over the chair. The more the prisoner screamed, the more he got beaten. His back was sore for weeks. That was the only time he was beaten but he was hit by whips and rifle butts and soup ladles. He was mostly hit by rifle butts as he marched. He was in Buna for 6-12 months. He could hear the Russians approaching in the distance. Buna was a subsidiary of Auschwitz. He

remembers a sign there that read 37 or 38 miles to Crackow and he fantasized about going there one day. There were British war prisoners there and they were working picking up dirt in the street. They looked better than the Jews and were better dressed. Henry worked setting up the curbs on the streets.

When they left the camp they were first put on trains but the Allies were bombing the rails. The tracks would be bombed and then repaired and then bombed again. Finally the Nazis gave up and started marching the prisoners. He does not know the date he left Buna. He then was moved to Flossenbergl. He stayed there for a while but not too long. His job there was sorting and matching up clothes: mens and women's clothes, gloves, etc. There was a factory at the camp but he did not work in any other capacity. By then he was a skeleton. The Red Cross came to visit the camp and he remembers the camp being cleaned up, though it was already clean. That time they fed the prisoners food like a cream of wheat. The prisoners did not speak to the Red Cross, though the Nazis did. The prisoners were told to go play soccer, which they did though they could hardly walk. The Red Cross should have been able to see how bad they looked. After the Red Cross left the prisoners were again fed water-soup. During that time he had no idea what was happening elsewhere. His brother Zachary had been drafted into the Polish army and Henry had no idea where he was. His oldest brother escaped before the Germans came to their home town. When the war began a friend of the family took his family out of town and to his farm. That was good because they were able to avoid the shrapnel that came with the bombardment. He remembers being on the farm and eating tomatoes right off the vine. His brother was out there on the farm and saw the Polish soldiers coming through with torn uniforms. He asked the soldiers where the Germans were and the soldiers said they were coming so Henry's brother left with them. His brother ultimately went to Vilna. Henry wanted to go with his brother but was told to go back to mother. The brother left without even saying goodbye to their mother. Henry saw three of his sisters die and he knew he had one sister in the US.

He was marched to the Flossenbergl camp. They marched 5 in a row and they tried to help each other. People were losing weight. Sometimes they went through a town and it is beyond him how German people could say they did not know what was going on. The Hitler youth would sometimes throw rocks and spit at them as they went through the towns. Food became increasingly

scarce. They got food when they came to a farm and sometimes they got raw potatoes or a turnip. Sometimes the farmer would not give them anything. Those who could not go on were shot on the spot. Sometimes they would pass bodies on ditches that were from other transports. The dead had their eyes open and the front of their skulls were out because of the way the bullets penetrated the heads from the back. He marched until he was liberated somewhere in Bavaria. He was staying in the woods and was looking for berries and drinking water from a creek. There were warplanes and then the prisoners saw trucks on the road. They were not so far into the woods so they could see the road. A tank came along and a boy jumped out and told them in Polish they were free. Before that the prisoners saw the guards disappear and Henry told them not to try to escape because he already had experience with escape attempts. He told the prisoners with him to stay put because it might be a trick. When the tank came they knew they were free and then they hugged and kissed that young soldier. They were given some rations which they jumped on. The soldier saw this and told them to follow behind the tank. The tank led them to a place where there was food. The former prisoners were so hungry they started eating the pig food until the farmer told them to stop and come inside to eat. When he came inside he saw there were others eating and some of those were already sick from over eating. He saw a chunk of bread the likes of which he had not seen in 5 years. He got a little sick from eating and the medics came in and one medic took care of his head wound. He also gave Henry some pills for his stomach. That was liberation.

At liberation he was still with some friends from his home town. This helped because they all helped each other, especially during the death march. Towards the end of the march, in Bavaria, some of his friends were taken off in another direction and shot. This was 3 days before liberation. Henry did not know if there was a grave ready for those prisoners. He later learned that the army found a newly dug grave. The Americans gave orders that the Gentiles could not go to church that Sunday and carpenters had to make coffins. The people from that grave were given a proper burial; that is how he saw that those in the grave were from his group. The American soldiers cried at the funeral because the prisoners had been shot in the head. This was near Nuremberg van Wald [sp]. They were buried all in one grave but in separate coffins. After liberation he saw people from his home town. Later he came to the US while some of his friends went to England. At liberation Henry was with about 100 other prisoners and he does not know what part of the US army liberated him.

Tape 2 Side B

Freedom meant no guards and freedom of movement. The worst feeling is losing your freedom. [re: liberation] “It was like the heavens opened up and the Messiah came.” At liberation he was a skinny boy, you could count his ribs. He was not at his full adult height and he grew more after he started eating again. The other prisoners were all treated well by the American soldiers: they watched to see that nobody overate. In Flossenbergl there had been a man who regularly told the Jews they would be killed, and that he would see to it that none of them made it out of the camp. Henry saw that man dead in a ditch after liberation. That man had been the *blockeldeste* but he does not recall the man’s name.

After liberation he thought about tracking down his sister in the capital of America. He thought New York was the capital of America and he did not get the correct location until he found his brother, Zachary, who had the sister’s address. After liberation he lived in Nuremberg von Wald and then Salzheim in a DP camp that was run by UNRRA. He came back to civilization. He then waited to get to the US. In the meantime he was among 6 people chosen to work for the US soldiers. His job was to hand out food and he moved into the compound with the US soldiers. He stayed with them until he came to the US. Zachary had been in the Polish army. He found Zachary through his cousin Ida who had helped bandage his head after the escape attempt. Ida survived in Bergen Belsen and he went to see her after the war. She was on her way to Lodz to look for brother. Henry asked her to look for his brother there. She located Zachary there. Zachary sent a note that Henry should go to Lodz to visit. Henry did not want to leave the US zone so Zachary came to Henry. Later they found out that David had made it to the US in 1941 via Japan just before Pearl Harbor. David escaped the camps. After the war, all 3 brothers were living with the sister. She fixed up her attic and treated them all well. He never did go back to his pre-war home. He felt nobody from his home town would have helped him. It wasn’t until he got into Auschwitz that he realized the full extent of the Holocaust. He stayed in the DP camp until he was selected to work for the Americans. He even had an American uniform. German prisoners had to wash the dishes and the floors. Had the Americans come later, he might not have survived.

During his time in the DP camp the survivors talked about looking for relatives that often were not found.. He was in the concentration camps and then the DP camp so he lost his youth.

The survivors talked about who still had family and others were jealous that he had family.

He got out on one of the earliest boats that came to America. He wanted to go to school when he came to the US. He learned some English from the soldiers [though this was not always the best English] and then learned more from watching movies in English when he came here. He also went to night school in the US. He was not in the DP camp too long. He came to the US in June 1946. He had lived with the soldiers for about a month or two.

His first impressions of the US included his shock at the number of cars and the tall buildings. It was so beautiful in America and he could not get over it. He met his aunt when he arrived but she did not ask him too many questions about the war. His sister wanted to know what happened to the rest of the family. His brother-in-law was waiting to hear the fate of his wife and Henry was the witness to her death. Then his brother-in-law said that now he would go on with his life. He had waited years for her to come. Months later he met someone and married. His name was Haskel Osher [Osherovitz in Poland].

In this country his sister supported him at first. He was now 18 and wanted to do something.

He got his first job making checkout counters for grocery stores; covering the wood with sheet metal. He met his wife-to-be and her father wanted to take him into working in his clothing store.

He worked for him but he wanted to work on his own. He took a job in a department store. A friend of his sister, Eric Rapp, gave him the job. He became a stock boy until he learned more English. Then one day he was told to get dressed up and start selling. He was happy to do the sales but he worried about getting the names of the customers because he could not spell in English. The response was that in this country not to worry: just ask how the name / address was spelled. He met his wife through his sister. His sister had friends in Baltimore. There was an older gentleman in the house they were visiting and he took Henry to go to a social event. There were people there for Washington. He saw a girl there but he did not know her or how to meet her. The older gentleman, who took Henry to the event, went up to the girls parents to talk and then was able to introduce Henry. They dated for a year and were married in 1947. They have been married

for over 50 years. She was born in the US but her parents came from Europe around the 1900s. He has 3 sons and a daughter: Norman, Bernard, Stanley and Gail. The children were named after relatives: Norman was named after Henry's father Nuchum; Bernard was named after his sister Brandel. Stanley was named after an uncle and his daughter he named after his mother, Gittel. He lost his mother on Oct 27, 1942, and his daughter was born Oct. 27. When his kids were young he did not talk about the Holocaust. When they got older he told them. When they first asked him about his Auschwitz number he told them it was his telephone number. In 1978 or so there was a TV show called "Holocaust" and he sat with his children and watched it. He told his kids the reality was much worse than the movie. That was when he told them what happened to him during the war.

After he came to the US the Nuremberg Trials were going on. He followed the story in the newspaper. He felt that some justice was done but all of the defendants should have been killed. They all knew what was happening and what they were doing and the "only following orders" excuse does not apply to such educated men as those men were. They should have known right from wrong. He also followed the UN debate on the partition of Palestine. He wished there had been a Jewish state years before. He listened to the vote for partition on the radio. President Truman was good to the Jewish people. Roosevelt was not good to the Jewish people, especially with regard to letting Jews into the US under the quota restrictions. The Jews would have been good here. The survivors came here and were hard working. His own children: 2 of his sons were dentists, one daughter was a secretary and his other son worked with him in the business. Had the Jews been allowed in the US they would have been an asset to this country.

In the 1950s he was married and had one son. He started a dry cleaning business with his brother.

Later he bought his brother out and his son worked with him. He did okay with the business. He followed the Eichmann trial and he thinks the Israelis were brilliant to find him. Eichmann had too easy a death. He should have been in a cage and sent around the world to see what he did to people. There were people in the US who were for and against the Israeli action of taking Eichmann. He felt that Eichmann was a killer and deserved to be caught.

Henry was uncomfortable with the segregation he found in this country. He could not understand the discrimination. He thinks that Martin Luther King did a lot for the Black people and was a great spokesperson. He remembers seeing a sign on Massachusetts Avenue [in DC] that said that the area was restricted. Henry did not know what that meant and asked his brother-in-law. It was explained that no Jews or Blacks were allowed in the area. Henry was very uncomfortable with that. Driving by the White House once he saw Skinheads and he could not understand why they were allowed to be there. He now understands freedom of speech and why they were tolerated. He was uncomfortable with the war in Vietnam but he appreciates that now Americans speak out when there is injustice in the world. Had people spoken up when the Jews were suffering in Europe maybe they might have saved some people.

Tape 3 Side A

When he first came to the US he experienced anti-Semitism. He saw the restriction sign [see above] and some department stores would not hire Jews. He could detect some anti-Semitism even when he was in business but it was nowhere near as much as he saw in Europe. He is a volunteer at the US Holocaust Museum and speaks of his experiences in schools and in the building. He also works there on Fridays and attends special functions. On Fridays he sits at the donor/ membership desk and he talks to people. Some people are very generous. Those that sit at the desk are like ambassadors of good will for the museum. All of a sudden people want to know about the Holocaust. It is too bad people are asking 50 years later and he doesn't remember as well now. Years ago people did not want to talk about it and tried to shove it under the table. Millions of people, Jew and others, were killed. How can Holocaust deniers say it never happened while the survivors are still here? In future they will have to come to the museum. Doubters should also check with the US Army. They liberated many camps and they saw what happened. Deniers are trying to make a fast dollar trying to deny the Holocaust. When he goes into the museum he goes to a memorial place. He has no cemetery or other place to go. When he sees the artifacts in the permanent exhibit he considers that maybe one of those artifacts might have belonged to one of his loved ones. American Jews need to be vigilant so there will never be a Holocaust here. He was in Israel for the survivor gathering in 1981. It was a great experience to be feeling so free: to not have to look who is over your shoulder and to be as religious as you want

to be. He loves the US but he felt more free there than here. When Israel was at war he felt bad that Israel stood alone fighting all the enemies. It reminded him of being in the concentration camps: they were all alone. Only the US helped the Israelis.

He tries to get along with people and not discriminate and to keep his family together. He was more religious when he was young. He still believes in G-d but “you do the best you can in a country where you are not all Jews.” “I love being Jewish. I was born a Jew and I will die that way.” He wanted his children to have an education, especially since he did not have an education.

He was always vigilant in raising his kids even if he was overprotective. He raised his kids during tough times but he did not have trouble with them. He is involved with the local Holocaust survivor group since 1978 when the group was called Club Shalom. He was even a past president. Now the group is called Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Friends of Greater Washington and he is the current vice president. They are watchful. He still has nightmares: especially when he has to talk about the war. He dreams about the trains, the marches and the hangings. The dreams never stop.

His best surprise in the US is the freedom: nobody stops you or tells you what to do. Your fate is your own doing. He has had no major disappointments here, except the “restricted” signs [see above]. “As long as I live I will talk about the Holocaust.” He speculates that maybe that is why G-d saved him; so he could keep talking about what was done to the Jews. Others should carry on and never let deniers get their way. He speaks to his grandchildren about his experiences and his grandchildren sometimes have questions based on what they were learning on the Holocaust in school.

He would like the American Army for liberating him and he thanks the US for giving him a chance to start his life all over again.

End.