

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,720

2
00:00:10,720 --> 00:00:13,660
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:13,660 --> 00:00:17,500
Memorial Museum volunteer
collection interview

4
00:00:17,500 --> 00:00:20,950
with Magdalena Berkovics.

5
00:00:20,950 --> 00:00:24,730
We had been talking before
about your wartime experience.

6
00:00:24,730 --> 00:00:26,530
And then you were liberated.

7
00:00:26,530 --> 00:00:31,190
And then you met your
husband, you got married.

8
00:00:31,190 --> 00:00:31,690
Yes.

9
00:00:31,690 --> 00:00:32,770
And you had your son.

10
00:00:32,770 --> 00:00:36,100
So your son was
born in what year?

11
00:00:36,100 --> 00:00:37,820
He was born in 14--

12
00:00:37,820 --> 00:00:41,170

13
00:00:41,170 --> 00:00:41,670
1940--

14
00:00:41,670 --> 00:00:43,360
And a quarter.

15
00:00:43,360 --> 00:00:44,370
1946?

16
00:00:44,370 --> 00:00:45,220
'46, yes.

17
00:00:45,220 --> 00:00:45,720
Oh, OK.

18
00:00:45,720 --> 00:00:47,510
And what is his name?

19
00:00:47,510 --> 00:00:49,920
His name is now John Sylvanis.

20
00:00:49,920 --> 00:00:51,560
He changed his name.

21
00:00:51,560 --> 00:00:54,530
And what did you name
him when he was born?

22
00:00:54,530 --> 00:00:58,010
He was born Tiberius Berkovics.

23
00:00:58,010 --> 00:00:59,520
That was his father's name.

24
00:00:59,520 --> 00:01:00,620
But he has changed.

25
00:01:00,620 --> 00:01:01,120
Yes.

26

00:01:01,120 --> 00:01:04,390
Because he had very
bad experiences

27
00:01:04,390 --> 00:01:10,460
in Europe and in Romania
because of his Jewish name.

28
00:01:10,460 --> 00:01:13,150
And then he decided
to change his name.

29
00:01:13,150 --> 00:01:14,240
I see.

30
00:01:14,240 --> 00:01:16,640
Well, we'll talk
about those times.

31
00:01:16,640 --> 00:01:18,580
So now, it's 1946.

32
00:01:18,580 --> 00:01:19,240
Yes.

33
00:01:19,240 --> 00:01:20,630
And you're a new mother.

34
00:01:20,630 --> 00:01:21,910
And what did you do?

35
00:01:21,910 --> 00:01:23,590
Did you work?

36
00:01:23,590 --> 00:01:25,180
First, I didn't have--

37
00:01:25,180 --> 00:01:27,030
You were in Cluj, in Romania.

38
00:01:27,030 --> 00:01:27,880
Yes.

39
00:01:27,880 --> 00:01:28,967
In my native town.

40
00:01:28,967 --> 00:01:29,800
In your native town.

41
00:01:29,800 --> 00:01:30,300
OK.

42
00:01:30,300 --> 00:01:33,040
Yes, I found my house.

43
00:01:33,040 --> 00:01:35,300
I became the owner
of this house.

44
00:01:35,300 --> 00:01:39,940
But it lasted-- the joy
lasted only three years,

45
00:01:39,940 --> 00:01:45,460
because the government which
tended to be a communist

46
00:01:45,460 --> 00:01:46,615
regime, you know--

47
00:01:46,615 --> 00:01:47,290
Yes.

48
00:01:47,290 --> 00:01:49,110
--took of it the house.

49
00:01:49,110 --> 00:01:50,320
They nationalized.

50
00:01:50,320 --> 00:01:54,970
It was nationalized, this house,
three times, just imagine.

51

00:01:54,970 --> 00:01:59,520
Finally, I lost the house.

52
00:01:59,520 --> 00:02:00,400
I lost it.

53
00:02:00,400 --> 00:02:02,950
I didn't have any income.

54
00:02:02,950 --> 00:02:06,210
I decided to return to my job--

55
00:02:06,210 --> 00:02:09,550
to my, not job,
to my profession.

56
00:02:09,550 --> 00:02:12,040
Were you able to, at
least, to stay in the house

57
00:02:12,040 --> 00:02:13,000
and not own it?

58
00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:14,710
Yes, I was able to stay.

59
00:02:14,710 --> 00:02:15,460
Stay in the house.

60
00:02:15,460 --> 00:02:16,450
Yes.

61
00:02:16,450 --> 00:02:19,985
But in those times,
the fee of the house.

62
00:02:19,985 --> 00:02:20,860
Not fee, how to put--

63
00:02:20,860 --> 00:02:21,570
The rental?

64

00:02:21,570 --> 00:02:22,390

The rental?

65

00:02:22,390 --> 00:02:23,530

To rent it?

66

00:02:23,530 --> 00:02:25,880

Yes, I had to rent.

67

00:02:25,880 --> 00:02:29,770

But it was a small rent,
because everybody had a small.

68

00:02:29,770 --> 00:02:31,450

It was the communist regime.

69

00:02:31,450 --> 00:02:33,040

Right.

70

00:02:33,040 --> 00:02:36,340

So you decided, you said, to
go back to your profession.

71

00:02:36,340 --> 00:02:37,450

Yes, I did that.

72

00:02:37,450 --> 00:02:39,280

It was not easy.

73

00:02:39,280 --> 00:02:42,880

Because I have nobody
to help me, you know?

74

00:02:42,880 --> 00:02:43,870

It was not easy.

75

00:02:43,870 --> 00:02:49,490

And besides, I had to
learn a new system.

76

00:02:49,490 --> 00:02:52,782

It was a new system
according to the new era.

77
00:02:52,782 --> 00:02:54,490
The communist era, is
that what you mean?

78
00:02:54,490 --> 00:02:56,740
Yes.

79
00:02:56,740 --> 00:03:00,950
And I learned a new
system that in Hungary.

80
00:03:00,950 --> 00:03:02,190
Not Hungary, in--

81
00:03:02,190 --> 00:03:04,600
Romania?

82
00:03:04,600 --> 00:03:07,790
No, in Cluj, in Hungarian.

83
00:03:07,790 --> 00:03:08,620
Oh.

84
00:03:08,620 --> 00:03:09,185
In Hungarian.

85
00:03:09,185 --> 00:03:10,640
In Hungarian, yeah.

86
00:03:10,640 --> 00:03:11,490
Yes.

87
00:03:11,490 --> 00:03:12,700
Yeah.

88
00:03:12,700 --> 00:03:15,610
And your husband was working?

89

00:03:15,610 --> 00:03:18,640
My husband then was working.

90
00:03:18,640 --> 00:03:21,320
He was working in a
factory of sweets.

91
00:03:21,320 --> 00:03:22,360
Yes.

92
00:03:22,360 --> 00:03:23,320
Yes.

93
00:03:23,320 --> 00:03:23,860
So the two--

94
00:03:23,860 --> 00:03:25,990
He was the manager
of the factory.

95
00:03:25,990 --> 00:03:26,860
OK.

96
00:03:26,860 --> 00:03:28,700
He was a party member then.

97
00:03:28,700 --> 00:03:30,160
Really?

98
00:03:30,160 --> 00:03:32,260
I never was.

99
00:03:32,260 --> 00:03:33,610
Why didn't you join the party?

100
00:03:33,610 --> 00:03:35,680
Because, I tell you--

101
00:03:35,680 --> 00:03:40,510
I told that I was the
owner of a very big house.

102

00:03:40,510 --> 00:03:43,085

And then they suddenly
stopped and told

103

00:03:43,085 --> 00:03:48,250

that there is not the
question of joining the party.

104

00:03:48,250 --> 00:03:49,900

Because you were a
capitalist, right?

105

00:03:49,900 --> 00:03:51,070

Yes, exactly.

106

00:03:51,070 --> 00:03:52,740

I was a capitalist.

107

00:03:52,740 --> 00:03:58,700

So I had to abandon
the whole thing.

108

00:03:58,700 --> 00:04:03,400

Then I started to
really, how to say it,

109

00:04:03,400 --> 00:04:05,410

remember what I did before.

110

00:04:05,410 --> 00:04:11,030

And to do things which led
me to my old profession.

111

00:04:11,030 --> 00:04:13,270

Which was music, teaching music?

112

00:04:13,270 --> 00:04:17,200

Teaching music, and
especially the piano.

113

00:04:17,200 --> 00:04:19,120

I was a piano teacher.

114
00:04:19,120 --> 00:04:22,120
But it lasted a few
years until I get the--

115
00:04:22,120 --> 00:04:26,710
I was just a volunteer without
salary in the beginning.

116
00:04:26,710 --> 00:04:32,780
It lasted a few years, until
I got the job, you know?

117
00:04:32,780 --> 00:04:33,810
And then I was teaching.

118
00:04:33,810 --> 00:04:35,810
Were you volunteering
in a school?

119
00:04:35,810 --> 00:04:36,310
Yes.

120
00:04:36,310 --> 00:04:39,460
It was the conservatory of town.

121
00:04:39,460 --> 00:04:42,955
Immediately a higher level,
because I had two diplomas,

122
00:04:42,955 --> 00:04:44,100
you know?

123
00:04:44,100 --> 00:04:46,770
I don't know whether it is
important or you will remember.

124
00:04:46,770 --> 00:04:47,770
No, that is important.

125
00:04:47,770 --> 00:04:48,550
Yes.

126
00:04:48,550 --> 00:04:49,840
I had two diplomas.

127
00:04:49,840 --> 00:04:54,940
And therefore, they took
me to a higher level.

128
00:04:54,940 --> 00:04:58,960
But without salary for the
time being a few years.

129
00:04:58,960 --> 00:05:02,750
And then slowly, I
started from the beginning

130
00:05:02,750 --> 00:05:04,000
with a small salary.

131
00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:10,690
I was an assistant and
teaching voluntarily.

132
00:05:10,690 --> 00:05:12,970
And then slowly,
I became a salary.

133
00:05:12,970 --> 00:05:16,720
I remember, I earned 700 leis.

134
00:05:16,720 --> 00:05:19,140
That was more.

135
00:05:19,140 --> 00:05:21,370
You know?

136
00:05:21,370 --> 00:05:24,790
And then slowly, I raise.

137
00:05:24,790 --> 00:05:25,660
You know?

138
00:05:25,660 --> 00:05:27,325
And your son was he--

139
00:05:27,325 --> 00:05:28,830
He was born in '46.

140
00:05:28,830 --> 00:05:29,530
'46.

141
00:05:29,530 --> 00:05:32,080
And then so did he
go to nursery school?

142
00:05:32,080 --> 00:05:33,310
Or regular?

143
00:05:33,310 --> 00:05:36,640
He went to not nursing,
maybe it's called--

144
00:05:36,640 --> 00:05:37,360
A daycare?

145
00:05:37,360 --> 00:05:39,380
A daycare center?

146
00:05:39,380 --> 00:05:40,540
Yes, yes, yes.

147
00:05:40,540 --> 00:05:41,970
Daycare center.

148
00:05:41,970 --> 00:05:43,990
A Romanian one.

149
00:05:43,990 --> 00:05:45,610
It was a Romanian.

150
00:05:45,610 --> 00:05:49,790
So it no longer was
Hungary, the place,

151
00:05:49,790 --> 00:05:52,300
which made me very happy.

152
00:05:52,300 --> 00:05:55,060
I was immediately
very full of joy

153
00:05:55,060 --> 00:05:58,490
that I was not again in
Hungarian possession.

154
00:05:58,490 --> 00:05:58,990
You know.

155
00:05:58,990 --> 00:06:00,280
Why?

156
00:06:00,280 --> 00:06:04,240
Because they took
me to Auschwitz.

157
00:06:04,240 --> 00:06:08,410
The Hungarian side was
very angry of that.

158
00:06:08,410 --> 00:06:10,720
And my family perished whole.

159
00:06:10,720 --> 00:06:11,980
I am the only--

160
00:06:11,980 --> 00:06:13,640
I was the only survivor.

161
00:06:13,640 --> 00:06:17,230
Then I found out
that nobody remained.

162
00:06:17,230 --> 00:06:23,170
Meanwhile, this future husband
of mine, who was my cousin--

163

00:06:23,170 --> 00:06:29,680
second cousin, or mother's first
cousins, started to help me.

164

00:06:29,680 --> 00:06:33,360
Because it was that we had
the house to be to to me

165

00:06:33,360 --> 00:06:35,410
possession, et cetera.

166

00:06:35,410 --> 00:06:37,810
But the house was
no longer mine.

167

00:06:37,810 --> 00:06:43,150
In a few years, I lost the
house and everything I had.

168

00:06:43,150 --> 00:06:44,110
I did not care.

169

00:06:44,110 --> 00:06:48,880
Because meanwhile, I decided
to return to my profession.

170

00:06:48,880 --> 00:06:52,090
That was my aim,
to be a teacher.

171

00:06:52,090 --> 00:06:54,750
That was my profession
all my life.

172

00:06:54,750 --> 00:06:58,870
And I managed slowly
in a few years

173

00:06:58,870 --> 00:07:02,440
to teach in the
conservatory of the town.

174

00:07:02,440 --> 00:07:07,900

And then I raised slowly, from
a low salary higher, higher.

175

00:07:07,900 --> 00:07:09,400

And became a good teacher.

176

00:07:09,400 --> 00:07:15,810

And here I was teaching my
whole life, thirty years.

177

00:07:15,810 --> 00:07:22,630

Now, did you experience
any antisemitism

178

00:07:22,630 --> 00:07:23,875

when you were teaching?

179

00:07:23,875 --> 00:07:25,000

Was there any antisemitism?

180

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:27,317

No, never in the conservatory.

181

00:07:27,317 --> 00:07:28,150

No, no, no, it was--

182

00:07:28,150 --> 00:07:30,130

Nobody ever made any comments?

183

00:07:30,130 --> 00:07:31,270

No, no, no.

184

00:07:31,270 --> 00:07:33,880

What about in your neighborhood?

185

00:07:33,880 --> 00:07:37,030

In the neighborhood was
always antisemitism.

186

00:07:37,030 --> 00:07:40,160

If not loudly, you
know, but hidden.

187
00:07:40,160 --> 00:07:40,660
OK.

188
00:07:40,660 --> 00:07:43,070
Can you give me some examples?

189
00:07:43,070 --> 00:07:45,910
What did people
say at that time?

190
00:07:45,910 --> 00:07:50,830
Some people said that the
Holocaust did not exist at all.

191
00:07:50,830 --> 00:08:00,340
It was just a, how to say,
the not remembers, the--

192
00:08:00,340 --> 00:08:01,110
A dream?

193
00:08:01,110 --> 00:08:01,890
The invention.

194
00:08:01,890 --> 00:08:02,790
An invention, yeah.

195
00:08:02,790 --> 00:08:05,700
The invention of those who
remained in the country.

196
00:08:05,700 --> 00:08:07,680
Because many remained.

197
00:08:07,680 --> 00:08:11,100
Many people came in
our house, you know?

198
00:08:11,100 --> 00:08:12,720

They lived in the house.

199

00:08:12,720 --> 00:08:17,400

And I never was able
to talk to them.

200

00:08:17,400 --> 00:08:20,400

Just imagine to live
in the same house

201

00:08:20,400 --> 00:08:24,030

with people who I know
that they came immediately

202

00:08:24,030 --> 00:08:28,800

after my parents' disappearance.

203

00:08:28,800 --> 00:08:29,940

They lived there.

204

00:08:29,940 --> 00:08:33,570

And so I lived in this house.

205

00:08:33,570 --> 00:08:37,559

So you said you
experienced antisemitism

206

00:08:37,559 --> 00:08:39,720

when people said that the
Holocaust never really

207

00:08:39,720 --> 00:08:40,020

happened.

208

00:08:40,020 --> 00:08:40,350

Not everybody, but some.

209

00:08:40,350 --> 00:08:41,475

Not every, but some people.

210

00:08:41,475 --> 00:08:42,039

Some people.

211
00:08:42,039 --> 00:08:43,289
They were afraid, you know?

212
00:08:43,289 --> 00:08:50,380
Very afraid that we will do
something wrong for them.

213
00:08:50,380 --> 00:08:53,670
But you said not in
the conservatory.

214
00:08:53,670 --> 00:08:54,290
No.

215
00:08:54,290 --> 00:08:59,280
They were taken care
not to mention things

216
00:08:59,280 --> 00:09:02,910
and not to do something in my--

217
00:09:02,910 --> 00:09:04,310
Now, when you--

218
00:09:04,310 --> 00:09:07,890
OK, so this is the 1940s, 1950s.

219
00:09:07,890 --> 00:09:13,280
Yes, I was all the time at the
conservatory, till my pension.

220
00:09:13,280 --> 00:09:13,920
Uh-huh.

221
00:09:13,920 --> 00:09:15,720
Which was, and that came in?

222
00:09:15,720 --> 00:09:19,010
That was in 19--

223

00:09:19,010 --> 00:09:20,790
I don't remember where.

224
00:09:20,790 --> 00:09:23,220
But I taught there
more than 30 years.

225
00:09:23,220 --> 00:09:24,100
Oh, all right.

226
00:09:24,100 --> 00:09:24,600
OK.

227
00:09:24,600 --> 00:09:27,300
And so during that
30-year time, what can you

228
00:09:27,300 --> 00:09:31,650
say about living under communist
rule as a Jewish woman?

229
00:09:31,650 --> 00:09:35,070
That was nothing as a
Jewish woman, no, no.

230
00:09:35,070 --> 00:09:42,180
They were lenient, you know, and
knew about my deportation, yes.

231
00:09:42,180 --> 00:09:49,050
And they were taking care
not to hurt my feelings.

232
00:09:49,050 --> 00:09:50,120
Not to hurt my feelings.

233
00:09:50,120 --> 00:09:51,360
Why?

234
00:09:51,360 --> 00:09:56,220
Because they were afraid
not to hurt my feelings.

235

00:09:56,220 --> 00:09:58,800

It was a communist country,
where it was democracy,

236

00:09:58,800 --> 00:10:00,130

you know?

237

00:10:00,130 --> 00:10:04,770

And that was that.

238

00:10:04,770 --> 00:10:09,750

And the neighbors were
pleasant to you, most of them?

239

00:10:09,750 --> 00:10:12,240

The neighbors, of course,
they were afraid not to.

240

00:10:12,240 --> 00:10:15,210

Because they were already
old neighbors before

241

00:10:15,210 --> 00:10:17,720

I came home from the Holocaust.

242

00:10:17,720 --> 00:10:18,390

Yeah, yeah.

243

00:10:18,390 --> 00:10:23,490

They were the almost,
how to say, they--

244

00:10:23,490 --> 00:10:24,750

Now, what about your son?

245

00:10:24,750 --> 00:10:25,950

He then got a little older.

246

00:10:25,950 --> 00:10:27,960

Well, my son was born in '46.

247

00:10:27,960 --> 00:10:28,460
Yeah.

248
00:10:28,460 --> 00:10:30,570
And when he started
to go to school--

249
00:10:30,570 --> 00:10:32,410
Yes, he went to Romanian school.

250
00:10:32,410 --> 00:10:32,910
OK.

251
00:10:32,910 --> 00:10:37,520
And did he experience
any antisemitism?

252
00:10:37,520 --> 00:10:40,210
Not yet, because he
was a small child.

253
00:10:40,210 --> 00:10:41,670
As a child, not.

254
00:10:41,670 --> 00:10:43,410
Later, he had Romanian friends.

255
00:10:43,410 --> 00:10:46,470
It was not the Hungarian
regime no longer.

256
00:10:46,470 --> 00:10:51,420
It has changed into Romanian
regime, which was more lenient.

257
00:10:51,420 --> 00:10:52,600
More lenient, yeah, yeah.

258
00:10:52,600 --> 00:10:53,100
Yes.

259
00:10:53,100 --> 00:10:55,770

So you felt OK.

260
00:10:55,770 --> 00:10:58,650
You didn't feel under threat.

261
00:10:58,650 --> 00:11:00,060
No, no, no, no.

262
00:11:00,060 --> 00:11:03,240
And your husband was working
and moving up in his factory?

263
00:11:03,240 --> 00:11:06,050
He was moving up
in his profession.

264
00:11:06,050 --> 00:11:09,510
He was the manager of
the sweets factory.

265
00:11:09,510 --> 00:11:10,100
Yes.

266
00:11:10,100 --> 00:11:10,800
Yeah.

267
00:11:10,800 --> 00:11:14,910
And so now it's the 1950s.

268
00:11:14,910 --> 00:11:17,040
And do you remember
when the state of Israel

269
00:11:17,040 --> 00:11:19,020
was formed in 1948?

270
00:11:19,020 --> 00:11:20,730
Yes, yes, yes, yes.

271
00:11:20,730 --> 00:11:23,010
Do you have any
memories of hearing

272
00:11:23,010 --> 00:11:25,210
about that or how you felt?

273
00:11:25,210 --> 00:11:28,340
No, they were not
very much enchanted

274
00:11:28,340 --> 00:11:30,750
about the Israeli problem.

275
00:11:30,750 --> 00:11:33,750
You know that they
shouldn't have.

276
00:11:33,750 --> 00:11:36,310
Because in communism,
that was different.

277
00:11:36,310 --> 00:11:40,150
And Stalin was not
a friend of Israel.

278
00:11:40,150 --> 00:11:43,640
And we were under
Stalin's regimes.

279
00:11:43,640 --> 00:11:44,640
Yeah.

280
00:11:44,640 --> 00:11:48,350
Not under his regime,
but under his influence.

281
00:11:48,350 --> 00:11:49,090
Yeah.

282
00:11:49,090 --> 00:11:51,160
You understand?

283
00:11:51,160 --> 00:11:51,660
Yeah.

284
00:11:51,660 --> 00:11:54,210

285
00:11:54,210 --> 00:11:59,010
Did you feel very Jewish during
those years after the war,

286
00:11:59,010 --> 00:12:00,510
in the '40s and '50s?

287
00:12:00,510 --> 00:12:02,240
No, no.

288
00:12:02,240 --> 00:12:02,940
Yeah.

289
00:12:02,940 --> 00:12:04,540
Did you practice any religion?

290
00:12:04,540 --> 00:12:06,962
You know, it was
the fear of people

291
00:12:06,962 --> 00:12:12,900
which retains them from
being, you know, very harsh,

292
00:12:12,900 --> 00:12:14,430
you understand?

293
00:12:14,430 --> 00:12:19,140
They were the fear, because
they all were, in a way, guilty.

294
00:12:19,140 --> 00:12:20,830
Because they felt
this guilt inside.

295
00:12:20,830 --> 00:12:22,330
They felt guilt
about what happened.

296
00:12:22,330 --> 00:12:23,960
Inside, yes.

297
00:12:23,960 --> 00:12:28,890
And they were taking care to
handle us a little lenient,

298
00:12:28,890 --> 00:12:29,430
you know?

299
00:12:29,430 --> 00:12:32,340
Because they were afraid of
what you might do back to them?

300
00:12:32,340 --> 00:12:33,510
Is that what you mean?

301
00:12:33,510 --> 00:12:36,600
Yes, they were afraid in
the beginning a few years.

302
00:12:36,600 --> 00:12:40,110
Then they accustomed
with the new.

303
00:12:40,110 --> 00:12:41,230
Yeah.

304
00:12:41,230 --> 00:12:43,210
Yeah.

305
00:12:43,210 --> 00:12:46,800
Now, did you practice any
religion in the '40s and '50s

306
00:12:46,800 --> 00:12:49,230
with your son?

307
00:12:49,230 --> 00:12:50,550
I was not religious at all.

308

00:12:50,550 --> 00:12:51,508

You were not religious.

309

00:12:51,508 --> 00:12:53,880

Did he have a bar mitzvah
in, let's see, 1946--

310

00:12:53,880 --> 00:12:55,200

1959?

311

00:12:55,200 --> 00:12:58,560

I had the apartment, which I
inherited from the parents.

312

00:12:58,560 --> 00:12:59,060

Yeah.

313

00:12:59,060 --> 00:13:01,520

But I lost everything,
I told you.

314

00:13:01,520 --> 00:13:02,820

No, no, no.

315

00:13:02,820 --> 00:13:06,197

Did your son have a bar mitzvah?

316

00:13:06,197 --> 00:13:06,780

Yes, yes, yes.

317

00:13:06,780 --> 00:13:07,960

In 1959.

318

00:13:07,960 --> 00:13:09,260

Yes, yes, yes, of course.

319

00:13:09,260 --> 00:13:11,040

Can you tell me about
that a little bit?

320

00:13:11,040 --> 00:13:12,780

Oh, no.

321

00:13:12,780 --> 00:13:15,350

It wasn't like any
usual bar mitzvah.

322

00:13:15,350 --> 00:13:18,870

It didn't have relatives.

323

00:13:18,870 --> 00:13:19,560

Yeah.

324

00:13:19,560 --> 00:13:21,260

Just among ourselves.

325

00:13:21,260 --> 00:13:22,350

Yeah, yeah.

326

00:13:22,350 --> 00:13:24,210

Among ourselves.

327

00:13:24,210 --> 00:13:26,730

Now, were most of
your friends Jewish?

328

00:13:26,730 --> 00:13:27,690

Yes.

329

00:13:27,690 --> 00:13:28,750

They were.

330

00:13:28,750 --> 00:13:29,460

Positive.

331

00:13:29,460 --> 00:13:33,000

But I had a few Hungarian
and Romanian friends.

332

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:34,300

Yeah.

333

00:13:34,300 --> 00:13:34,800
Yes.

334
00:13:34,800 --> 00:13:39,420

335
00:13:39,420 --> 00:13:41,290
So then it's the 1950s.

336
00:13:41,290 --> 00:13:42,915
You're working, your
husband's working.

337
00:13:42,915 --> 00:13:43,400
Your son is in school.

338
00:13:43,400 --> 00:13:43,840
Yes.

339
00:13:43,840 --> 00:13:44,340
Yes.

340
00:13:44,340 --> 00:13:46,020
Then comes the 1960s.

341
00:13:46,020 --> 00:13:47,740
Yes, the same.

342
00:13:47,740 --> 00:13:49,530
Until I went to pension.

343
00:13:49,530 --> 00:13:51,120
Yeah.

344
00:13:51,120 --> 00:13:55,223
And there was the
1967 war in Israel.

345
00:13:55,223 --> 00:13:56,640
I don't know if
you remember that.

346
00:13:56,640 --> 00:13:57,510
Yes, yes.

347
00:13:57,510 --> 00:13:58,320
Did you hear about?

348
00:13:58,320 --> 00:13:59,570
Did you know about it in Cluj?

349
00:13:59,570 --> 00:14:00,230
Yes, I know.

350
00:14:00,230 --> 00:14:05,310
But you know, the atmosphere
was against Israel.

351
00:14:05,310 --> 00:14:09,360
They did not understand this
whole problem of Israel.

352
00:14:09,360 --> 00:14:11,880
Yeah, yeah.

353
00:14:11,880 --> 00:14:17,470
They only condemned
Israel, you know?

354
00:14:17,470 --> 00:14:30,210
Not in a harsh way, but holding
speeches against Israel and so.

355
00:14:30,210 --> 00:14:33,200

356
00:14:33,200 --> 00:14:33,780
OK.

357
00:14:33,780 --> 00:14:36,370
And so it's a life goes on.

358
00:14:36,370 --> 00:14:36,870

Yes.

359

00:14:36,870 --> 00:14:40,530
1960s, and now it's the 1970s.

360

00:14:40,530 --> 00:14:41,250
Yes.

361

00:14:41,250 --> 00:14:45,780
Do you remember anything
special about that?

362

00:14:45,780 --> 00:14:47,550
Your pension-- Yeah, go on.

363

00:14:47,550 --> 00:14:48,930
Nothing happened.

364

00:14:48,930 --> 00:14:52,850
Because in Romania was no
revolution and something

365

00:14:52,850 --> 00:14:53,450
like that.

366

00:14:53,450 --> 00:14:56,720
I think Hungary, in Hungary,
there was, meanwhile,

367

00:14:56,720 --> 00:14:59,860
a revolution, you know maybe?

368

00:14:59,860 --> 00:15:00,985
Yes, yes, '56.

369

00:15:00,985 --> 00:15:06,780
They are, the Hungarians,
revolting people, you know?

370

00:15:06,780 --> 00:15:07,740
They are very--

371

00:15:07,740 --> 00:15:09,115

Well, there was the 1956.

372

00:15:09,115 --> 00:15:09,615

Yes.

373

00:15:09,615 --> 00:15:12,670

I remember the 1956 disease,
yeah, the Hungarian revolution.

374

00:15:12,670 --> 00:15:14,350

In Romania, there
wasn't like that.

375

00:15:14,350 --> 00:15:15,060

There was not.

376

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

Yeah.

377

00:15:15,560 --> 00:15:17,460

There was always antisemitism.

378

00:15:17,460 --> 00:15:21,480

And I have heard now
what antisemitism is.

379

00:15:21,480 --> 00:15:23,120

I have heard.

380

00:15:23,120 --> 00:15:29,310

Our friends who were visiting
Romania had told us yes.

381

00:15:29,310 --> 00:15:31,230

Terrible.

382

00:15:31,230 --> 00:15:32,880

So you worked
until your pension.

383

00:15:32,880 --> 00:15:34,570
Is that the 1970s?

384
00:15:34,570 --> 00:15:35,070
Yes.

385
00:15:35,070 --> 00:15:38,640
Now, your son is still
living in Romania then?

386
00:15:38,640 --> 00:15:40,170
No, no, he is here.

387
00:15:40,170 --> 00:15:41,850
He fled the country.

388
00:15:41,850 --> 00:15:43,000
When was that?

389
00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:47,400
That was in '76.

390
00:15:47,400 --> 00:15:49,320
OK.

391
00:15:49,320 --> 00:15:53,430
He came as visitor and remained
here, fled the country.

392
00:15:53,430 --> 00:15:58,050
Oh, and how did you feel about
that, you and your husband?

393
00:15:58,050 --> 00:16:01,620
We were glad because he
went to the United States.

394
00:16:01,620 --> 00:16:07,030
I had a newspaper man cousin
there in the United States.

395
00:16:07,030 --> 00:16:08,640

And he helped him.

396

00:16:08,640 --> 00:16:13,710

It was the newspaper, the
Hungarian-language newspaper,

397

00:16:13,710 --> 00:16:17,130

which he owned, my cousin.

398

00:16:17,130 --> 00:16:20,230

It was called [HUNGARIAN],,
that was liberty.

399

00:16:20,230 --> 00:16:23,770

400

00:16:23,770 --> 00:16:25,200

Yeah.

401

00:16:25,200 --> 00:16:28,200

You were speaking
Romanian all this time?

402

00:16:28,200 --> 00:16:30,270

We spoke Romanian, Hungarian.

403

00:16:30,270 --> 00:16:33,390

Because our mother tongue
is, in fact, Hungarian.

404

00:16:33,390 --> 00:16:34,720

Did you know Yiddish at all?

405

00:16:34,720 --> 00:16:35,220

No.

406

00:16:35,220 --> 00:16:36,510

No, you did not.

407

00:16:36,510 --> 00:16:37,450

OK.

408

00:16:37,450 --> 00:16:43,020
So did you and your husband try
to get to the United States?

409

00:16:43,020 --> 00:16:46,410
We tried several times,
but we were refused.

410

00:16:46,410 --> 00:16:48,330
They did not let us.

411

00:16:48,330 --> 00:16:54,565
Finally, at the end of the
'70s, they were more lenient,

412

00:16:54,565 --> 00:16:55,800
you know?

413

00:16:55,800 --> 00:17:00,430
And they let us go as visitors
here, to come as visitors.

414

00:17:00,430 --> 00:17:03,240
Oh, so did you come to visit?

415

00:17:03,240 --> 00:17:07,550
Yes, my son was here,
as he fled the country.

416

00:17:07,550 --> 00:17:08,195
Yes.

417

00:17:08,195 --> 00:17:08,940
He was here.

418

00:17:08,940 --> 00:17:12,930
And after six years, I
had to wait six years.

419

00:17:12,930 --> 00:17:13,520
To see him?

420

00:17:13,520 --> 00:17:16,349

You can imagine until

I saw him again.

421

00:17:16,349 --> 00:17:19,319

Then I came as

visitor and returned.

422

00:17:19,319 --> 00:17:20,140

Went back.

423

00:17:20,140 --> 00:17:20,640

Yeah.

424

00:17:20,640 --> 00:17:21,240

Yeah, returned.

425

00:17:21,240 --> 00:17:22,990

And what was your

impression of the United

426

00:17:22,990 --> 00:17:24,569

States when you first came?

427

00:17:24,569 --> 00:17:28,020

Oh, you can imagine what an

impression I had after this.

428

00:17:28,020 --> 00:17:29,400

I compared.

429

00:17:29,400 --> 00:17:31,370

I didn't have to compare.

430

00:17:31,370 --> 00:17:33,540

It was not competition.

431

00:17:33,540 --> 00:17:36,130

Where was your son

living at that time?

432

00:17:36,130 --> 00:17:38,880
In Cleveland, Ohio,
where the relatives were.

433
00:17:38,880 --> 00:17:39,460
I see.

434
00:17:39,460 --> 00:17:40,770
So you went to Cleveland?

435
00:17:40,770 --> 00:17:43,270
Yes, I told you
that this newspaper,

436
00:17:43,270 --> 00:17:45,035
he was a newspaper man.

437
00:17:45,035 --> 00:17:47,590
A Hungarian-language
newspaper there.

438
00:17:47,590 --> 00:17:48,090
Yeah.

439
00:17:48,090 --> 00:17:50,970
And then you went
back, and tried to--

440
00:17:50,970 --> 00:17:52,170
To come again.

441
00:17:52,170 --> 00:17:58,720
And I could receive the visa
after seven years, I think.

442
00:17:58,720 --> 00:18:02,620
And then I was called by
the Romanian security,

443
00:18:02,620 --> 00:18:07,990
telling me that either I go
for good to the United States,

444
00:18:07,990 --> 00:18:10,600
or I call him back.

445
00:18:10,600 --> 00:18:11,530
Your son back?

446
00:18:11,530 --> 00:18:12,490
Yes.

447
00:18:12,490 --> 00:18:13,350
So?

448
00:18:13,350 --> 00:18:16,600
So I didn't call
him back, of course.

449
00:18:16,600 --> 00:18:19,390
But I decided to
leave the country.

450
00:18:19,390 --> 00:18:21,670
This is you and your husband?

451
00:18:21,670 --> 00:18:23,950
Yes, with my husband.

452
00:18:23,950 --> 00:18:27,490
Now, had your husband wanted
to come as much as you

453
00:18:27,490 --> 00:18:29,390
did to the United States?

454
00:18:29,390 --> 00:18:29,920
What?

455
00:18:29,920 --> 00:18:32,530
Did your husband want to
come to the United States

456
00:18:32,530 --> 00:18:34,400

as much as you did?

457

00:18:34,400 --> 00:18:36,430

Yes of course, or more even.

458

00:18:36,430 --> 00:18:37,130

More?

459

00:18:37,130 --> 00:18:42,690

Yes, because I was a
homely woman, you know.

460

00:18:42,690 --> 00:18:47,740

But he was very much--

461

00:18:47,740 --> 00:18:49,940

he wanted to come, by all means.

462

00:18:49,940 --> 00:18:51,280

By all means, yes.

463

00:18:51,280 --> 00:18:52,030

Yeah.

464

00:18:52,030 --> 00:18:55,900

And his business was
successful at that time?

465

00:18:55,900 --> 00:18:59,110

Yes, it was good in Romania.

466

00:18:59,110 --> 00:19:00,820

He was, I told you.

467

00:19:00,820 --> 00:19:01,650

In the sweets.

468

00:19:01,650 --> 00:19:03,700

Dealing with sweets.

469

00:19:03,700 --> 00:19:07,530

And then as he come
here, he was too old.

470
00:19:07,530 --> 00:19:08,680
So when did you--

471
00:19:08,680 --> 00:19:10,480
so then you decided to come.

472
00:19:10,480 --> 00:19:11,500
Yes.

473
00:19:11,500 --> 00:19:12,410
And when was that?

474
00:19:12,410 --> 00:19:14,000
When did you come here?

475
00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:18,370
We decided very early,
but we came very late.

476
00:19:18,370 --> 00:19:23,220
We came at, I don't
know, when he was 79.

477
00:19:23,220 --> 00:19:23,950
OK.

478
00:19:23,950 --> 00:19:25,510
So it was in the 1980s.

479
00:19:25,510 --> 00:19:26,130
Yes.

480
00:19:26,130 --> 00:19:26,630
OK.

481
00:19:26,630 --> 00:19:29,550
And you went to Cleveland
to be with your son?

482
00:19:29,550 --> 00:19:32,810
To Cleveland no, I don't know.

483
00:19:32,810 --> 00:19:33,460
No, no.

484
00:19:33,460 --> 00:19:35,910
Where did you settle when
you came to the United States

485
00:19:35,910 --> 00:19:36,410
to live?

486
00:19:36,410 --> 00:19:39,550
First thing I think
is I remember bell

487
00:19:39,550 --> 00:19:41,050
in Cleveland, Ohio.

488
00:19:41,050 --> 00:19:42,700
OK.

489
00:19:42,700 --> 00:19:45,660
And then the relatives
helped me in a way.

490
00:19:45,660 --> 00:19:47,680
But just in a way.

491
00:19:47,680 --> 00:19:51,940
And then we went--

492
00:19:51,940 --> 00:19:53,230
I don't remember, really.

493
00:19:53,230 --> 00:19:54,280
OK.

494
00:19:54,280 --> 00:19:58,040
But then your son started

working in the Washington area?

495

00:19:58,040 --> 00:20:01,450

He learned in the
University again.

496

00:20:01,450 --> 00:20:06,620

And then he started
to work and he worked.

497

00:20:06,620 --> 00:20:08,630

So you always were
living in the same place

498

00:20:08,630 --> 00:20:09,713

where your son was living?

499

00:20:09,713 --> 00:20:11,217

Yes, yes, in the same place.

500

00:20:11,217 --> 00:20:13,800

And now, of course, you've been
living in the Washington area.

501

00:20:13,800 --> 00:20:15,880

Yes, yes, yes, of course.

502

00:20:15,880 --> 00:20:16,380

Right.

503

00:20:16,380 --> 00:20:18,290

He's living in Virginia now.

504

00:20:18,290 --> 00:20:19,680

And what does he do?

505

00:20:19,680 --> 00:20:21,200

He's teaching.

506

00:20:21,200 --> 00:20:23,060

What does he teach?

507

00:20:23,060 --> 00:20:24,672

What he can.

508

00:20:24,672 --> 00:20:26,900

But he is a musician also.

509

00:20:26,900 --> 00:20:28,820

Yes, but he doesn't teach music.

510

00:20:28,820 --> 00:20:29,510

Oh, OK.

511

00:20:29,510 --> 00:20:30,840

He teaches everything.

512

00:20:30,840 --> 00:20:33,240

But he inherited
your musical talent?

513

00:20:33,240 --> 00:20:34,300

Or more, more.

514

00:20:34,300 --> 00:20:36,840

He was very, very talented.

515

00:20:36,840 --> 00:20:37,815

But he did not succeed.

516

00:20:37,815 --> 00:20:41,270

You know, for a musician,
it's very difficult.

517

00:20:41,270 --> 00:20:42,850

Very, very difficult.

518

00:20:42,850 --> 00:20:44,540

And you had you said
in the beginning

519

00:20:44,540 --> 00:20:47,000

that he experienced

some antisemitism.

520
00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:48,620
So he changed his name.

521
00:20:48,620 --> 00:20:49,580
Was that in Romania?

522
00:20:49,580 --> 00:20:54,680
Yes, he was very unpleasant with
the whole system in Romania.

523
00:20:54,680 --> 00:20:56,210
So he changed it in Romania?

524
00:20:56,210 --> 00:20:56,840
Yes.

525
00:20:56,840 --> 00:20:57,150
OK.

526
00:20:57,150 --> 00:20:57,680
No, no.

527
00:20:57,680 --> 00:20:59,960
In Romania, that
was very curious.

528
00:20:59,960 --> 00:21:02,060
You couldn't change your name.

529
00:21:02,060 --> 00:21:04,580
It was forbidden to
change your name.

530
00:21:04,580 --> 00:21:06,710
Therefore, he couldn't succeed.

531
00:21:06,710 --> 00:21:11,960
He was a conductor
of classical music.

532
00:21:11,960 --> 00:21:15,910
And he couldn't conduct--

533
00:21:15,910 --> 00:21:16,410
Conduct.

534
00:21:16,410 --> 00:21:19,310
--because of his name.

535
00:21:19,310 --> 00:21:20,720
Tiberius Berkovics.

536
00:21:20,720 --> 00:21:22,145
That was a no.

537
00:21:22,145 --> 00:21:23,580
It was too Jewish a name.

538
00:21:23,580 --> 00:21:25,770
Yeah, Jewish name.

539
00:21:25,770 --> 00:21:27,800
And therefore, he
decided to change.

540
00:21:27,800 --> 00:21:30,153
In Romania, it was not
allowed to change the name.

541
00:21:30,153 --> 00:21:32,570
So he didn't change it until
he came to the United States.

542
00:21:32,570 --> 00:21:33,070
Yes.

543
00:21:33,070 --> 00:21:35,130
I see.

544
00:21:35,130 --> 00:21:37,780
And he chose what name?

545
00:21:37,780 --> 00:21:39,220
John Sylvania.

546
00:21:39,220 --> 00:21:41,380
Was there a meaning to that?

547
00:21:41,380 --> 00:21:43,570
Was there a reason why he chose?

548
00:21:43,570 --> 00:21:47,520
No, there is no-- it's an
Italian name, John Sylvania.

549
00:21:47,520 --> 00:21:48,220
Oh, OK.

550
00:21:48,220 --> 00:21:49,883
Not a Jewish name.

551
00:21:49,883 --> 00:21:51,550
Because he thought
he would have trouble

552
00:21:51,550 --> 00:21:52,633
here in the United States.

553
00:21:52,633 --> 00:21:53,740
Yes.

554
00:21:53,740 --> 00:21:54,880
So he changed it.

555
00:21:54,880 --> 00:21:55,930
Yeah.

556
00:21:55,930 --> 00:22:01,670
Let's talk a little bit now
just about your thoughts.

557
00:22:01,670 --> 00:22:05,500

Do you think about your
wartime experience often?

558
00:22:05,500 --> 00:22:06,880
No, not often.

559
00:22:06,880 --> 00:22:08,230
But I think, of course.

560
00:22:08,230 --> 00:22:10,550
Without that, it's in me.

561
00:22:10,550 --> 00:22:12,550
Yeah, yeah.

562
00:22:12,550 --> 00:22:14,340
It's in me.

563
00:22:14,340 --> 00:22:16,780
Right, right.

564
00:22:16,780 --> 00:22:20,790
When John was growing up,
when your son was growing up,

565
00:22:20,790 --> 00:22:23,160
and he was a little boy, and
then in elementary school,

566
00:22:23,160 --> 00:22:25,830
did you talk about
what you went through?

567
00:22:25,830 --> 00:22:27,460
I told everything in details.

568
00:22:27,460 --> 00:22:28,720
When he was young?

569
00:22:28,720 --> 00:22:29,680
Yes.

570

00:22:29,680 --> 00:22:34,160
He knew everything, everything,
everything about the Holocaust.

571

00:22:34,160 --> 00:22:35,290
Yeah.

572

00:22:35,290 --> 00:22:40,120
He lost his grandparents
which he longed for because he

573

00:22:40,120 --> 00:22:43,090
had no family at all but me.

574

00:22:43,090 --> 00:22:46,840
So he always thought, if
I had a family, if I had

575

00:22:46,840 --> 00:22:49,780
my grandparents, and so forth.

576

00:22:49,780 --> 00:22:50,960
Yeah.

577

00:22:50,960 --> 00:22:52,180
You understand.

578

00:22:52,180 --> 00:22:52,750
Yes.

579

00:22:52,750 --> 00:22:53,410
Yeah.

580

00:22:53,410 --> 00:22:54,940
Did he have friends?

581

00:22:54,940 --> 00:22:56,410
Oh, yes.

582

00:22:56,410 --> 00:22:58,060
Jewish and non-Jewish friends.

583
00:22:58,060 --> 00:22:58,630
Yes.

584
00:22:58,630 --> 00:22:59,590
In Romania?

585
00:22:59,590 --> 00:23:01,040
In Romania.

586
00:23:01,040 --> 00:23:05,200
Always Romanian friends.

587
00:23:05,200 --> 00:23:06,240
Not Hungarian.

588
00:23:06,240 --> 00:23:08,530
Hungarian, not so much.

589
00:23:08,530 --> 00:23:14,200
Did the Jewish friends' parents
go through a similar experience

590
00:23:14,200 --> 00:23:15,340
that you did?

591
00:23:15,340 --> 00:23:18,250
Were his friends, the
friends that he had,

592
00:23:18,250 --> 00:23:22,360
did their parents go through
what you had to go through?

593
00:23:22,360 --> 00:23:23,530
Whose parents?

594
00:23:23,530 --> 00:23:25,900
John's friends' parents.

595
00:23:25,900 --> 00:23:26,965

The Jewish friends?

596

00:23:26,965 --> 00:23:28,400

Yeah, his Jewish friends.

597

00:23:28,400 --> 00:23:33,040

Some of them, yes, but many of them came from Romania, hid,

598

00:23:33,040 --> 00:23:35,830

and established in Cluj, you know?

599

00:23:35,830 --> 00:23:36,520

Yeah.

600

00:23:36,520 --> 00:23:40,300

And they don't have this experience in Romania,

601

00:23:40,300 --> 00:23:42,100

many of his friends.

602

00:23:42,100 --> 00:23:46,990

But mostly, they were Hungarian with whom he had

603

00:23:46,990 --> 00:23:48,270

this experience, not Romanian.

604

00:23:48,270 --> 00:23:53,650

605

00:23:53,650 --> 00:23:55,990

What are your thoughts about Israel today?

606

00:23:55,990 --> 00:23:58,240

What do you-- do you think about Israel at all?

607

00:23:58,240 --> 00:23:59,200

Yes, of course.

608
00:23:59,200 --> 00:24:02,910
Everything the Jewish
people are thinking.

609
00:24:02,910 --> 00:24:08,770
That Israel should live in order
that the Jewish people should

610
00:24:08,770 --> 00:24:11,210
have a home.

611
00:24:11,210 --> 00:24:14,650
Did you ever think,
after the war was over

612
00:24:14,650 --> 00:24:16,930
and you decided to leave,
that you would go to Israel

613
00:24:16,930 --> 00:24:20,230
instead of the United States?

614
00:24:20,230 --> 00:24:21,820
Did you ever, you
and your husband,

615
00:24:21,820 --> 00:24:24,520
talk about moving to Israel?

616
00:24:24,520 --> 00:24:25,420
No.

617
00:24:25,420 --> 00:24:26,230
You know why?

618
00:24:26,230 --> 00:24:27,790
The reason is simple.

619
00:24:27,790 --> 00:24:30,020
Because I health with

the thyroid gland,

620
00:24:30,020 --> 00:24:33,040
which was not operated then.

621
00:24:33,040 --> 00:24:35,130
It was big like an apple.

622
00:24:35,130 --> 00:24:39,340
And I was waiting until I
got to the United States.

623
00:24:39,340 --> 00:24:44,410
And then they had insured it.

624
00:24:44,410 --> 00:24:45,940
So you did you
didn't want to go.

625
00:24:45,940 --> 00:24:46,440
Yes, yes.

626
00:24:46,440 --> 00:24:48,815
It would be too hard to live
in Israel with that problem?

627
00:24:48,815 --> 00:24:50,080
Yes, I couldn't.

628
00:24:50,080 --> 00:24:51,340
It was impossible.

629
00:24:51,340 --> 00:24:54,310

630
00:24:54,310 --> 00:24:58,810
Are you very angry about
what you had to live through?

631
00:24:58,810 --> 00:25:01,705
The terrible, terrible
times that you--

632
00:25:01,705 --> 00:25:03,380
are you angry about that?

633
00:25:03,380 --> 00:25:04,330
Well, of course.

634
00:25:04,330 --> 00:25:06,790
That was a very bad experience.

635
00:25:06,790 --> 00:25:08,410
And I don't-- you know what?

636
00:25:08,410 --> 00:25:11,380
When I went to
Israel as a visitors,

637
00:25:11,380 --> 00:25:15,340
and my friends asked to
me, how did you bear it?

638
00:25:15,340 --> 00:25:19,540
Why didn't you raise some--

639
00:25:19,540 --> 00:25:21,100
Resistance?

640
00:25:21,100 --> 00:25:21,640
Some--

641
00:25:21,640 --> 00:25:23,410
Resistance?

642
00:25:23,410 --> 00:25:24,140
No.

643
00:25:24,140 --> 00:25:28,290
Why didn't you have weapons?

644
00:25:28,290 --> 00:25:29,980
Took weapons and--

645
00:25:29,980 --> 00:25:30,790
Fight back.

646
00:25:30,790 --> 00:25:31,660
Yes.

647
00:25:31,660 --> 00:25:34,910
I thought, how to get the
weapons in this regime?

648
00:25:34,910 --> 00:25:36,950
It was a totalitarian regime.

649
00:25:36,950 --> 00:25:38,150
How to get weapons?

650
00:25:38,150 --> 00:25:39,960
Right, right.

651
00:25:39,960 --> 00:25:40,585
You understand?

652
00:25:40,585 --> 00:25:41,130
We couldn't.

653
00:25:41,130 --> 00:25:42,160
Yes, of course.

654
00:25:42,160 --> 00:25:52,990
I wondered because the Israeli
young people are very warriors.

655
00:25:52,990 --> 00:25:54,200
They're warriors.

656
00:25:54,200 --> 00:25:58,870
They did not understand why
we didn't raise weapons.

657
00:25:58,870 --> 00:26:02,900

I told it was impossible in a regime like that, totalitarian

658
00:26:02,900 --> 00:26:06,100
regime, to raise weapons.

659
00:26:06,100 --> 00:26:14,800
Are there any sights today,
or sounds, or smells that

660
00:26:14,800 --> 00:26:19,590
remind you of some of
your wartime experiences?

661
00:26:19,590 --> 00:26:23,660
Yes, sometimes I am dreaming.

662
00:26:23,660 --> 00:26:26,700
And one day, I had a
very terrible dream.

663
00:26:26,700 --> 00:26:29,230
Still have dreams about
what you experienced.

664
00:26:29,230 --> 00:26:29,740
Yes.

665
00:26:29,740 --> 00:26:30,520
I have dreams.

666
00:26:30,520 --> 00:26:31,700
Not often.

667
00:26:31,700 --> 00:26:34,060
But I am sincere, I have dreams.

668
00:26:34,060 --> 00:26:34,690
Yes.

669
00:26:34,690 --> 00:26:36,910
And do you talk about

it with somebody?

670
00:26:36,910 --> 00:26:38,230
No, no.

671
00:26:38,230 --> 00:26:39,410
It is long ago.

672
00:26:39,410 --> 00:26:42,570
It was long ago, I don't tell.

673
00:26:42,570 --> 00:26:44,200
Really?

674
00:26:44,200 --> 00:26:45,190
Do you still have them?

675
00:26:45,190 --> 00:26:47,230
Or that was just after the war?

676
00:26:47,230 --> 00:26:48,920
Do you still have the dreams?

677
00:26:48,920 --> 00:26:49,420
Yes.

678
00:26:49,420 --> 00:26:49,920
Still.

679
00:26:49,920 --> 00:26:51,530
Still dream, but not very often.

680
00:26:51,530 --> 00:26:52,660
Yeah, good.

681
00:26:52,660 --> 00:26:54,970
Because I have other
preoccupations.

682
00:26:54,970 --> 00:26:56,040
Right.

683
00:26:56,040 --> 00:26:57,040
Yeah.

684
00:26:57,040 --> 00:27:02,500
But when you're awake,
are there any sounds

685
00:27:02,500 --> 00:27:04,510
that you hear
sometimes, or something

686
00:27:04,510 --> 00:27:06,520
that you see that reminds you?

687
00:27:06,520 --> 00:27:09,400
Yes, sometimes I
tell my son, see?

688
00:27:09,400 --> 00:27:11,275
That was during the war.

689
00:27:11,275 --> 00:27:12,710
This sound that was during.

690
00:27:12,710 --> 00:27:13,432
Like what?

691
00:27:13,432 --> 00:27:14,140
Like an airplane?

692
00:27:14,140 --> 00:27:18,040
A sound of weapons or
sound off, I don't know.

693
00:27:18,040 --> 00:27:19,880
Like an airplane or
something like that?

694
00:27:19,880 --> 00:27:20,380
Yes, yes.

695

00:27:20,380 --> 00:27:22,510

Did you hear?

696

00:27:22,510 --> 00:27:24,070

I have heard them.

697

00:27:24,070 --> 00:27:24,970

And that reminds you?

698

00:27:24,970 --> 00:27:26,240

Yes, yes, yes.

699

00:27:26,240 --> 00:27:28,180

Everything strange reminds me.

700

00:27:28,180 --> 00:27:28,680

Yeah.

701

00:27:28,680 --> 00:27:37,090

It did not remain unfelt.

Everything reminds me of that.

702

00:27:37,090 --> 00:27:40,210

Do you think going through
the terrible things

703

00:27:40,210 --> 00:27:41,500

that you went through--

704

00:27:41,500 --> 00:27:42,040

Yes.

705

00:27:42,040 --> 00:27:48,640

Do you think that affected
you, how you raised your son?

706

00:27:48,640 --> 00:27:52,540

Yes, because I told
too much about it.

707

00:27:52,540 --> 00:27:54,700

I told him all the details.

708
00:27:54,700 --> 00:27:59,320
And later on, I regretted it,
because he knew everything.

709
00:27:59,320 --> 00:28:02,010
It was the whole
childhood was spent

710
00:28:02,010 --> 00:28:04,420
amidst these remembrances.

711
00:28:04,420 --> 00:28:08,860
It was a very big
mistake what I did.

712
00:28:08,860 --> 00:28:11,080
Because it was in me.

713
00:28:11,080 --> 00:28:14,245
And he asked always almost
about his grandparents.

714
00:28:14,245 --> 00:28:18,970
And I should tell not
lies but the truth.

715
00:28:18,970 --> 00:28:23,110
Were you very protective of him?

716
00:28:23,110 --> 00:28:25,030
Did you let him go
out and do things?

717
00:28:25,030 --> 00:28:27,430
Or did you always
want him nearby?

718
00:28:27,430 --> 00:28:29,080
I don't understand.

719

00:28:29,080 --> 00:28:31,550

When he was a
youngster, a young boy.

720

00:28:31,550 --> 00:28:32,050

Yes.

721

00:28:32,050 --> 00:28:35,830

Did you always want
to know where he was?

722

00:28:35,830 --> 00:28:39,040

Were you very protective of him?

723

00:28:39,040 --> 00:28:41,220

Or did you let him just go?

724

00:28:41,220 --> 00:28:45,250

No, no, no, he knew
everything precisely.

725

00:28:45,250 --> 00:28:48,520

And he was a good boy and
understood these things.

726

00:28:48,520 --> 00:28:54,670

And always was terribly excited
about why his grandparents died

727

00:28:54,670 --> 00:28:56,540

before he knew them.

728

00:28:56,540 --> 00:28:59,080

Yeah, yeah.

729

00:28:59,080 --> 00:29:04,780

Do you think that you would
have been a different person

730

00:29:04,780 --> 00:29:08,920

today if you hadn't
gone through the war?

731

00:29:08,920 --> 00:29:12,220

I don't know because he
did not know me before.

732

00:29:12,220 --> 00:29:12,930

You know?

733

00:29:12,930 --> 00:29:18,970

But he told me, mother, you are
talking too much about the war

734

00:29:18,970 --> 00:29:20,465

and about what you experienced.

735

00:29:20,465 --> 00:29:22,380

You mean now?

736

00:29:22,380 --> 00:29:25,040

No, then, when he
was a young man.

737

00:29:25,040 --> 00:29:28,030

No, but what I
was asking was, do

738

00:29:28,030 --> 00:29:34,720

you think you're a different
person today, today, because

739

00:29:34,720 --> 00:29:37,290

of your wartime experience?

740

00:29:37,290 --> 00:29:40,450

No, yes, but it's a
long time since then.

741

00:29:40,450 --> 00:29:41,160

Yeah.

742

00:29:41,160 --> 00:29:42,970

It's a long time, but I was--

743

00:29:42,970 --> 00:29:48,520

later on after this experience,
I was completely different.

744

00:29:48,520 --> 00:29:53,590

More sensitive, very
nervous, you know,

745

00:29:53,590 --> 00:29:55,390

it affected me deeply.

746

00:29:55,390 --> 00:29:58,435

This is-- you became more
nervous after the war,

747

00:29:58,435 --> 00:29:59,560

is that what you're saying?

748

00:29:59,560 --> 00:30:04,895

Yes, after this experience,
I was terribly nervous.

749

00:30:04,895 --> 00:30:05,395

Yeah.

750

00:30:05,395 --> 00:30:07,120

In other words,
before the war, you

751

00:30:07,120 --> 00:30:10,140

were more relaxed or whatever.

752

00:30:10,140 --> 00:30:12,930

Yes, yes, it is something
different, you know,

753

00:30:12,930 --> 00:30:14,710

to live always in stress.

754

00:30:14,710 --> 00:30:16,210

We lived in stress.

755

00:30:16,210 --> 00:30:16,710

Yeah.

756

00:30:16,710 --> 00:30:17,980

You know?

757

00:30:17,980 --> 00:30:21,850

Do you feel-- how would
you describe yourself?

758

00:30:21,850 --> 00:30:23,920

Are you Romanian?

759

00:30:23,920 --> 00:30:25,930

Are you American?

760

00:30:25,930 --> 00:30:27,700

Are you Jewish?

761

00:30:27,700 --> 00:30:30,070

How would you describe yourself?

762

00:30:30,070 --> 00:30:31,930

I am Jewish first of all.

763

00:30:31,930 --> 00:30:32,680

OK.

764

00:30:32,680 --> 00:30:34,690

I am a Romanian Jewish.

765

00:30:34,690 --> 00:30:35,960

Romanian Jewish.

766

00:30:35,960 --> 00:30:36,460

Yes.

767

00:30:36,460 --> 00:30:37,060

OK.

768

00:30:37,060 --> 00:30:39,730
Do you feel American?

769
00:30:39,730 --> 00:30:41,980
I start to feel, yes.

770
00:30:41,980 --> 00:30:44,650
I feel my son is--

771
00:30:44,650 --> 00:30:45,490
Totally?

772
00:30:45,490 --> 00:30:48,490
--totally American.

773
00:30:48,490 --> 00:30:50,770
I like the country, of course.

774
00:30:50,770 --> 00:30:52,285
I like it very much.

775
00:30:52,285 --> 00:30:56,610
And I admire everything
which was realized, you know?

776
00:30:56,610 --> 00:31:01,870
And I felt slowly
attached to this country.

777
00:31:01,870 --> 00:31:05,950
Because I see that he did only
good to the Jewish people.

778
00:31:05,950 --> 00:31:08,200
And to my son, too.

779
00:31:08,200 --> 00:31:10,300
And therefore, I am very--

780
00:31:10,300 --> 00:31:11,460
we are very grateful.

781
00:31:11,460 --> 00:31:13,990

782
00:31:13,990 --> 00:31:18,730
Do you have Romanian friends
here in the United States?

783
00:31:18,730 --> 00:31:21,430
Who came like me,
who fled the country.

784
00:31:21,430 --> 00:31:25,945
But I don't have Romanian
friends in the country.

785
00:31:25,945 --> 00:31:27,020
No, never.

786
00:31:27,020 --> 00:31:27,560
I never.

787
00:31:27,560 --> 00:31:30,520
I was never visiting
the country again.

788
00:31:30,520 --> 00:31:32,980
I was just going to ask
you, have you been back to?

789
00:31:32,980 --> 00:31:33,950
No, no, never.

790
00:31:33,950 --> 00:31:35,300
Would you like to?

791
00:31:35,300 --> 00:31:35,810
No.

792
00:31:35,810 --> 00:31:36,510
Why not?

793

00:31:36,510 --> 00:31:37,010
No.

794
00:31:37,010 --> 00:31:39,570
I have not so good
experiences to go.

795
00:31:39,570 --> 00:31:40,540
Why to go?

796
00:31:40,540 --> 00:31:41,180
OK.

797
00:31:41,180 --> 00:31:42,710
If I am no longer attached.

798
00:31:42,710 --> 00:31:44,570
I am attached to
this new country

799
00:31:44,570 --> 00:31:48,530
who did more good
in a shorter time

800
00:31:48,530 --> 00:31:50,740
than they did in my whole life.

801
00:31:50,740 --> 00:31:51,600
You understand?

802
00:31:51,600 --> 00:31:52,694
Yes.

803
00:31:52,694 --> 00:31:55,380
Yeah, yeah.

804
00:31:55,380 --> 00:31:56,085
That is obvious.

805
00:31:56,085 --> 00:31:59,520

806
00:31:59,520 --> 00:32:02,392
Do you get any reparations?

807
00:32:02,392 --> 00:32:03,350
Do you get any payment?

808
00:32:03,350 --> 00:32:04,920
From the Germans only.

809
00:32:04,920 --> 00:32:06,270
You do?

810
00:32:06,270 --> 00:32:09,210
I did in the beginning.

811
00:32:09,210 --> 00:32:10,710
But newly, I didn't get.

812
00:32:10,710 --> 00:32:19,050
And we gave a request for, I
don't know how many, \$3,000.

813
00:32:19,050 --> 00:32:22,560
But we didn't receive answer.

814
00:32:22,560 --> 00:32:23,610
Yes.

815
00:32:23,610 --> 00:32:28,410
Do you think you're more
comfortable around people

816
00:32:28,410 --> 00:32:31,630
who lived through
the war like you did?

817
00:32:31,630 --> 00:32:32,130
Yes.

818
00:32:32,130 --> 00:32:34,770

819
00:32:34,770 --> 00:32:36,610
In contrast to
someone who didn't.

820
00:32:36,610 --> 00:32:38,212
Like I grew up in
the United States.

821
00:32:38,212 --> 00:32:40,670
So I didn't live through what
you lived through, obviously.

822
00:32:40,670 --> 00:32:41,740
Yes.

823
00:32:41,740 --> 00:32:43,720
So are you-- you
are more comfortable

824
00:32:43,720 --> 00:32:49,340
with people who were in Europe,
who lived through the war?

825
00:32:49,340 --> 00:32:52,137
No, I did not meet people.

826
00:32:52,137 --> 00:32:54,220
Yeah, I mean, you know,
here in the United States,

827
00:32:54,220 --> 00:32:55,845
when you would meet
people from Europe.

828
00:32:55,845 --> 00:32:58,080
Oh, we would hug ourselves.

829
00:32:58,080 --> 00:32:59,410
We remember everything.

830
00:32:59,410 --> 00:33:03,550

But not like a good
unforgotten remembrance,

831
00:33:03,550 --> 00:33:07,350
you understand, from
the old country.

832
00:33:07,350 --> 00:33:09,940
It's just that we
were young girls.

833
00:33:09,940 --> 00:33:12,370
I have a friend who is coming--

834
00:33:12,370 --> 00:33:14,800
who is calling me from Peru.

835
00:33:14,800 --> 00:33:15,490
Oh.

836
00:33:15,490 --> 00:33:17,800
Yes, she's calling
me very often.

837
00:33:17,800 --> 00:33:20,800
And we speak about
the good old days

838
00:33:20,800 --> 00:33:23,350
when we were
visiting each other.

839
00:33:23,350 --> 00:33:23,880
But we--

840
00:33:23,880 --> 00:33:25,540
This was before
the war, you mean?

841
00:33:25,540 --> 00:33:26,380
Or after.

842

00:33:26,380 --> 00:33:28,810

You were visiting
her before the war?

843

00:33:28,810 --> 00:33:29,310

No.

844

00:33:29,310 --> 00:33:30,430

Or after the way.

845

00:33:30,430 --> 00:33:32,220

After.

846

00:33:32,220 --> 00:33:34,540

But we don't have
good remembrance

847

00:33:34,540 --> 00:33:36,730

about the old country.

848

00:33:36,730 --> 00:33:38,440

That is everything different.

849

00:33:38,440 --> 00:33:41,160

I don't know whether
you understand that.

850

00:33:41,160 --> 00:33:43,380

It's everything different.

851

00:33:43,380 --> 00:33:49,360

Here, I felt the liberty
what they gave us.

852

00:33:49,360 --> 00:33:55,510

Then we didn't have to speak
loudly, you know, sometimes.

853

00:33:55,510 --> 00:33:59,613

Or during the war.

854

00:33:59,613 --> 00:34:00,280

It was terrible.

855
00:34:00,280 --> 00:34:02,040
They took the radio away.

856
00:34:02,040 --> 00:34:03,220
Right.

857
00:34:03,220 --> 00:34:06,395
And things like that,
they were, you know,

858
00:34:06,395 --> 00:34:08,610
that you shouldn't
forget, never.

859
00:34:08,610 --> 00:34:12,894
No, no, no.

860
00:34:12,894 --> 00:34:15,520
And an experience to tell you.

861
00:34:15,520 --> 00:34:18,060

862
00:34:18,060 --> 00:34:25,659
We were ghettoed in 1944 in
April, in the 3 of April.

863
00:34:25,659 --> 00:34:31,710
And one time, they called us out
in the courtyard, the general,

864
00:34:31,710 --> 00:34:37,179
the great general
there, who was leading

865
00:34:37,179 --> 00:34:40,600
this area held a speech.

866
00:34:40,600 --> 00:34:45,340
And he told, people,

don't be afraid.

867
00:34:45,340 --> 00:34:49,150
The old people will
work from now on.

868
00:34:49,150 --> 00:34:51,699
The younger people
will be taken care of.

869
00:34:51,699 --> 00:34:53,830
Children and work.

870
00:34:53,830 --> 00:34:59,010
And the old women will
taken care of children.

871
00:34:59,010 --> 00:35:01,030
And the children.

872
00:35:01,030 --> 00:35:02,870
That is what he told us.

873
00:35:02,870 --> 00:35:05,410
And after a while,
after a week or so,

874
00:35:05,410 --> 00:35:08,020
we were taken to Auschwitz.

875
00:35:08,020 --> 00:35:12,700
So that you have an image
about how they behaved.

876
00:35:12,700 --> 00:35:13,420
Just lies.

877
00:35:13,420 --> 00:35:16,775

878
00:35:16,775 --> 00:35:18,836
And what was the result?

879
00:35:18,836 --> 00:35:21,270
That our people was condemned.

880
00:35:21,270 --> 00:35:25,720

881
00:35:25,720 --> 00:35:28,450
Have you been to the
Holocaust Museum building?

882
00:35:28,450 --> 00:35:29,110
No.

883
00:35:29,110 --> 00:35:31,670
Because I know everything.

884
00:35:31,670 --> 00:35:32,810
Why to go?

885
00:35:32,810 --> 00:35:33,840
Right.

886
00:35:33,840 --> 00:35:39,700
Maybe I didn't have
time, or I didn't have--

887
00:35:39,700 --> 00:35:40,930
I wasn't curious.

888
00:35:40,930 --> 00:35:42,070
I saw everything.

889
00:35:42,070 --> 00:35:46,330
What shall I see?

890
00:35:46,330 --> 00:35:49,110
Are you any more religious
because of the war?

891
00:35:49,110 --> 00:35:49,610

No.

892
00:35:49,610 --> 00:35:52,510
I was not even before
the war, not after.

893
00:35:52,510 --> 00:35:54,910
Before and not after, yeah.

894
00:35:54,910 --> 00:35:55,410
Yeah.

895
00:35:55,410 --> 00:36:02,130

896
00:36:02,130 --> 00:36:04,710
So you feel American now?

897
00:36:04,710 --> 00:36:07,380
Yes, I cannot say
this, oh, you know,

898
00:36:07,380 --> 00:36:09,410
because I did not work here.

899
00:36:09,410 --> 00:36:11,760
That this, I did not work here.

900
00:36:11,760 --> 00:36:13,980
And I have--

901
00:36:13,980 --> 00:36:17,130
I feel guilty, therefore,
to tell that I am

902
00:36:17,130 --> 00:36:19,420
an American if I did not work.

903
00:36:19,420 --> 00:36:21,030
But I feel very good.

904

00:36:21,030 --> 00:36:23,940

905

00:36:23,940 --> 00:36:28,630

I feel the liberty
what I was getting.

906

00:36:28,630 --> 00:36:30,760

Are you still playing the piano?

907

00:36:30,760 --> 00:36:31,350

No.

908

00:36:31,350 --> 00:36:31,880

No?

909

00:36:31,880 --> 00:36:34,570

No, because I am
too old to do that.

910

00:36:34,570 --> 00:36:36,235

Nobody plays at this age.

911

00:36:36,235 --> 00:36:38,960

912

00:36:38,960 --> 00:36:41,380

No, I cannot.

913

00:36:41,380 --> 00:36:43,670

I am dizzy when I am playing.

914

00:36:43,670 --> 00:36:44,170

Really?

915

00:36:44,170 --> 00:36:46,600

I tried two years ago.

916

00:36:46,600 --> 00:36:56,560

But neither the fingers
nor the mind contributes.

917

00:36:56,560 --> 00:37:00,620

When did your husband pass away?

918

00:37:00,620 --> 00:37:02,060

About 12 years.

919

00:37:02,060 --> 00:37:03,052

Oh, OK.

920

00:37:03,052 --> 00:37:08,020

921

00:37:08,020 --> 00:37:10,665

And did he feel American?

922

00:37:10,665 --> 00:37:13,510

Oh, he was very devoted already.

923

00:37:13,510 --> 00:37:15,390

But he was too old to work.

924

00:37:15,390 --> 00:37:16,830

So he did not work here?

925

00:37:16,830 --> 00:37:17,460

He couldn't.

926

00:37:17,460 --> 00:37:19,630

He was 79 when we came.

927

00:37:19,630 --> 00:37:20,130

Yeah.

928

00:37:20,130 --> 00:37:24,002

929

00:37:24,002 --> 00:37:25,600

And he couldn't.

930

00:37:25,600 --> 00:37:28,750

But he was very devoted
always to America.

931
00:37:28,750 --> 00:37:31,930
He dreamed to come here,
but he did not succeed.

932
00:37:31,930 --> 00:37:35,000

933
00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:35,880
Very.

934
00:37:35,880 --> 00:37:41,940
He told that here, they realized
the real democracy, what

935
00:37:41,940 --> 00:37:43,160
he was waiting for.

936
00:37:43,160 --> 00:37:46,420

937
00:37:46,420 --> 00:37:51,130
And then the fall of
communism in 19-- what, '89?

938
00:37:51,130 --> 00:37:52,905
What were your thoughts then?

939
00:37:52,905 --> 00:37:54,580
You were already here.

940
00:37:54,580 --> 00:37:56,710
You were here in
the United States.

941
00:37:56,710 --> 00:37:59,200
We were here in '89.

942
00:37:59,200 --> 00:37:59,710
Yeah.

943
00:37:59,710 --> 00:38:02,190
So what were your thoughts
when you heard about that?

944
00:38:02,190 --> 00:38:04,750
We were terribly astonished.

945
00:38:04,750 --> 00:38:07,150
How could that become?

946
00:38:07,150 --> 00:38:10,600
Because the Soviet Union
fell at the same time.

947
00:38:10,600 --> 00:38:11,100
Right.

948
00:38:11,100 --> 00:38:11,600
How?

949
00:38:11,600 --> 00:38:16,930
Because we saw that he was
the most powerful country.

950
00:38:16,930 --> 00:38:21,820
We were taught all our lives
that the Soviet Union cannot

951
00:38:21,820 --> 00:38:22,810
fail.

952
00:38:22,810 --> 00:38:27,280
And we were terribly astonished
that he still failed.

953
00:38:27,280 --> 00:38:33,360
Gorbachev was the man
who contributed to this.

954
00:38:33,360 --> 00:38:35,980
You know, it was

terribly astonishing.

955

00:38:35,980 --> 00:38:39,495

We were here already and watched
on the TV what was happening.

956

00:38:39,495 --> 00:38:43,000

Otherwise, we couldn't watch.

957

00:38:43,000 --> 00:38:44,570

Did you celebrate?

958

00:38:44,570 --> 00:38:46,040

Did you--

959

00:38:46,040 --> 00:38:50,930

We were-- you can see, you
can understand what we felt.

960

00:38:50,930 --> 00:38:52,410

Yeah, yeah.

961

00:38:52,410 --> 00:38:56,390

But still, we were
thinking so much blood

962

00:38:56,390 --> 00:39:01,738

for this system,
which was, you know,

963

00:39:01,738 --> 00:39:08,670

so much war, and
so much revolution,

964

00:39:08,670 --> 00:39:10,680

and everything for this system.

965

00:39:10,680 --> 00:39:12,480

And finally, it just fell.

966

00:39:12,480 --> 00:39:15,300

967
00:39:15,300 --> 00:39:19,470
We saw that it will
never happen because

968
00:39:19,470 --> 00:39:22,140
of the propaganda,
which was always that it

969
00:39:22,140 --> 00:39:24,690
is the most powerful country.

970
00:39:24,690 --> 00:39:27,000
And it will always persist.

971
00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:27,510
No.

972
00:39:27,510 --> 00:39:28,010
See?

973
00:39:28,010 --> 00:39:32,080

974
00:39:32,080 --> 00:39:35,680
The Soviet Union fell.

975
00:39:35,680 --> 00:39:37,060
Who thought about that?

976
00:39:37,060 --> 00:39:40,080
We were so astonished
that we couldn't believe.

977
00:39:40,080 --> 00:39:48,020

978
00:39:48,020 --> 00:39:52,550
Well, you're wonderful to
have done this interview.

979

00:39:52,550 --> 00:39:56,100
What made you be willing
to do the interview?

980
00:39:56,100 --> 00:39:57,080
With you?

981
00:39:57,080 --> 00:39:57,680
Yeah.

982
00:39:57,680 --> 00:39:58,690
What made you?

983
00:39:58,690 --> 00:40:08,120
To discharge my feelings, so to
tell everything I went through.

984
00:40:08,120 --> 00:40:10,190
You are satisfied
with how I told?

985
00:40:10,190 --> 00:40:10,930
Very much.

986
00:40:10,930 --> 00:40:13,310
And that's so important
that you did this.

987
00:40:13,310 --> 00:40:16,820
And it's going to
be in the archives

988
00:40:16,820 --> 00:40:21,380
of the Museum for years and
years and years for people

989
00:40:21,380 --> 00:40:23,420
to learn from your story.

990
00:40:23,420 --> 00:40:24,920
Yes.

991

00:40:24,920 --> 00:40:28,820

Is there a lesson that
people should learn?

992

00:40:28,820 --> 00:40:32,870

If you were giving advice to
a young person, would you--

993

00:40:32,870 --> 00:40:37,160

I did not meet young
persons, whom to meet here?

994

00:40:37,160 --> 00:40:39,980

No, but I meant
if you were today

995

00:40:39,980 --> 00:40:41,690

talking to a young person.

996

00:40:41,690 --> 00:40:44,570

Would you give-- after all
that you lived through--

997

00:40:44,570 --> 00:40:46,090

Yes, of course.

998

00:40:46,090 --> 00:40:49,970

Would you give them any advice?

999

00:40:49,970 --> 00:40:50,780

Yes, yes.

1000

00:40:50,780 --> 00:40:52,800

What would you say to
a young person today?

1001

00:40:52,800 --> 00:40:58,790

To a young person, to take care
of with whom you are friends.

1002

00:40:58,790 --> 00:41:03,710

To take care, not to be
befriended with anybody.

1003
00:41:03,710 --> 00:41:09,180
To take care and
to be together only

1004
00:41:09,180 --> 00:41:14,750
with people who you can
advise what to do wrong

1005
00:41:14,750 --> 00:41:16,202
and what to do good, you know?

1006
00:41:16,202 --> 00:41:19,640
Because we went through
terrible things.

1007
00:41:19,640 --> 00:41:22,010
Yeah, yeah.

1008
00:41:22,010 --> 00:41:25,070
And what would you say to
them about the United States?

1009
00:41:25,070 --> 00:41:26,080
Only good things.

1010
00:41:26,080 --> 00:41:27,710
What can I tell?

1011
00:41:27,710 --> 00:41:32,400
It is the most advanced
country in the world.

1012
00:41:32,400 --> 00:41:34,310
Yes?

1013
00:41:34,310 --> 00:41:41,940
And it is a, how to say,
it's a wonderful country

1014
00:41:41,940 --> 00:41:46,460
with everything we dreamed for.

1015
00:41:46,460 --> 00:41:48,700
Yes, you are living
here, you know better.

1016
00:41:48,700 --> 00:41:50,840
Yes, I appreciate it very much.

1017
00:41:50,840 --> 00:41:52,970
Yes, yes.

1018
00:41:52,970 --> 00:41:56,870
And we were received as
visitors very nicely.

1019
00:41:56,870 --> 00:41:59,600
We received for two
years, or how much,

1020
00:41:59,600 --> 00:42:07,790
I don't remember well, a green
card a few years as a help.

1021
00:42:07,790 --> 00:42:14,240
And then we had to look
for some existence.

1022
00:42:14,240 --> 00:42:16,940
So how did you support yourself?

1023
00:42:16,940 --> 00:42:18,200
My son worked.

1024
00:42:18,200 --> 00:42:18,700
Yeah.

1025
00:42:18,700 --> 00:42:19,492
So your son helped.

1026
00:42:19,492 --> 00:42:20,750
My son worked.

1027

00:42:20,750 --> 00:42:26,570

And we got from the green
card some support, you know?

1028

00:42:26,570 --> 00:42:29,450

1029

00:42:29,450 --> 00:42:31,460

Are you a citizen of
the United States?

1030

00:42:31,460 --> 00:42:32,883

Oh, for long.

1031

00:42:32,883 --> 00:42:35,300

Tell me about what that was
like for you and your husband.

1032

00:42:35,300 --> 00:42:36,950

Oh, that was very nice.

1033

00:42:36,950 --> 00:42:39,990

We got a praise.

1034

00:42:39,990 --> 00:42:45,770

We were told that we
answered very good.

1035

00:42:45,770 --> 00:42:48,710

And our English was
already like now.

1036

00:42:48,710 --> 00:42:54,770

And we praised us and told
that you were very good.

1037

00:42:54,770 --> 00:42:57,710

So the day that you became--
you and your husband became

1038

00:42:57,710 --> 00:42:59,960

citizens on the same day?

1039
00:42:59,960 --> 00:43:02,450
Was this in Cleveland
or where was it in?

1040
00:43:02,450 --> 00:43:05,730
In Cleveland, I remember.

1041
00:43:05,730 --> 00:43:07,940
And what did it take
you, five years?

1042
00:43:07,940 --> 00:43:09,760
Or do you remember how many?

1043
00:43:09,760 --> 00:43:11,570
Yeah, how long?

1044
00:43:11,570 --> 00:43:13,910
I think it lasted a few years.

1045
00:43:13,910 --> 00:43:15,050
Before you, yeah.

1046
00:43:15,050 --> 00:43:17,510
Because you got
first the green card.

1047
00:43:17,510 --> 00:43:18,620
Right.

1048
00:43:18,620 --> 00:43:20,270
And after, we got--

1049
00:43:20,270 --> 00:43:22,530
we had to apply for
the citizenship.

1050
00:43:22,530 --> 00:43:24,410
Yeah, yeah.

1051

00:43:24,410 --> 00:43:26,840
We learned a lot, oy, oy, oy.

1052
00:43:26,840 --> 00:43:30,490
And the rules and
regulations, the country.

1053
00:43:30,490 --> 00:43:32,798
I learned so much.

1054
00:43:32,798 --> 00:43:34,340
Do you remember
anything you learned?

1055
00:43:34,340 --> 00:43:35,210
Yes.

1056
00:43:35,210 --> 00:43:36,410
And we were very good.

1057
00:43:36,410 --> 00:43:39,320
Because we were told
that we were very good.

1058
00:43:39,320 --> 00:43:43,055
We gave very good
and precise answers.

1059
00:43:43,055 --> 00:43:44,180
What did you have to learn?

1060
00:43:44,180 --> 00:43:46,535
Do you remember what
you had to learn?

1061
00:43:46,535 --> 00:43:49,370

1062
00:43:49,370 --> 00:43:55,070
The rules and regulations which
rule the country, you know?

1063

00:43:55,070 --> 00:43:58,340

1064

00:43:58,340 --> 00:44:00,770

Well, I guess you're very
glad you passed the test.

1065

00:44:00,770 --> 00:44:01,940

Oh, yes, of course.

1066

00:44:01,940 --> 00:44:02,740

I was.

1067

00:44:02,740 --> 00:44:06,236

We were very, very, very happy.

1068

00:44:06,236 --> 00:44:09,428

1069

00:44:09,428 --> 00:44:10,800

Yeah.

1070

00:44:10,800 --> 00:44:14,730

Well, is there anything you
wanted to add before we finish?

1071

00:44:14,730 --> 00:44:16,710

Anything you wanted to say?

1072

00:44:16,710 --> 00:44:18,360

No.

1073

00:44:18,360 --> 00:44:20,280

I have nothing.

1074

00:44:20,280 --> 00:44:27,120

I am too small to raise these
questions at the citizen

1075

00:44:27,120 --> 00:44:29,610

of the United States.

1076

00:44:29,610 --> 00:44:34,230

And older citizen of
the United States.

1077

00:44:34,230 --> 00:44:38,270

I am just telling that you must
be very happy that you are--

1078

00:44:38,270 --> 00:44:40,680

for how long are you citizen?

1079

00:44:40,680 --> 00:44:41,700

I was born.

1080

00:44:41,700 --> 00:44:42,480

You were born.

1081

00:44:42,480 --> 00:44:43,563

Born in the United States.

1082

00:44:43,563 --> 00:44:49,290

How can you compare our life
issues when we had bad times,

1083

00:44:49,290 --> 00:44:49,910

you know?

1084

00:44:49,910 --> 00:44:53,320

1085

00:44:53,320 --> 00:44:57,014

It can not be compared.

1086

00:44:57,014 --> 00:44:58,918

It can not be.

1087

00:44:58,918 --> 00:45:01,880

We lived very hard
times in Europe.

1088

00:45:01,880 --> 00:45:04,410

Very, very hard.

1089
00:45:04,410 --> 00:45:06,650
Always under stress, that is.

1090
00:45:06,650 --> 00:45:11,370

1091
00:45:11,370 --> 00:45:14,317
Well, thank you so much for
sharing your experiences.

1092
00:45:14,317 --> 00:45:15,150
It's very important.

1093
00:45:15,150 --> 00:45:18,990
Oh, I was not convincing, was I?

1094
00:45:18,990 --> 00:45:20,940
No, we appreciate your sharing.

1095
00:45:20,940 --> 00:45:21,440
Yes?

1096
00:45:21,440 --> 00:45:24,090
Yeah, yeah.

1097
00:45:24,090 --> 00:45:27,980
And if there's nothing more
that you wanted to say,

1098
00:45:27,980 --> 00:45:31,429
is there anything else
you wanted to say?

1099
00:45:31,429 --> 00:45:32,790
OK.

1100
00:45:32,790 --> 00:45:35,070
Well, thank you, again.

1101

00:45:35,070 --> 00:45:38,700

This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1102

00:45:38,700 --> 00:45:42,990

interview with
Magdalena Berger it's.

1103

00:45:42,990 --> 00:45:44,000