

This is a continuation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum volunteer collection interview with Magdalena Berkovics. We had been talking before about your wartime experience. And then you were liberated. And then you met your husband, you got married.

Yes.

And you had your son. So your son was born in what year? He was born in 14--

1940--

And a quarter.

1946?

'46, yes.

Oh, OK. And what is his name?

His name is now John Sylvanis. He changed his name.

And what did you name him when he was born? He was born Tiberius Berkovics. That was his father's name. But he has changed.

Yes.

Because he had very bad experiences in Europe and in Romania because of his Jewish name. And then he decided to change his name.

I see. Well, we'll talk about those times. So now, it's 1946.

Yes.

And you're a new mother. And what did you do? Did you work?

First, I didn't have--

You were in Cluj, in Romania.

Yes. In my native town.

In your native town. OK.

Yes, I found my house. I became the owner of this house. But it lasted-- the joy lasted only three years, because the government which tended to be a communist regime, you know--

Yes.

--took of it the house. They nationalized. It was nationalized, this house, three times, just imagine. Finally, I lost the house. I lost it. I didn't have any income. I decided to return to my job-- to my, not job, to my profession.

Were you able to, at least, to stay in the house and not own it?

Yes, I was able to stay.

Stay in the house.

Yes. But in those times, the fee of the house. Not fee, how to put--

The rental? The rental? To rent it?

Yes, I had to rent. But it was a small rent, because everybody had a small. It was the communist regime.

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

Yes, I did that. It was not easy. Because I have nobody to help me, you know? It was not easy. And besides, I had to learn a new system. It was a new system according to the new era.

The communist era, is that what you mean?

Yes. And I learned a new system that in Hungary. Not Hungary, in--

Romania?

No, in Cluj, in Hungarian.

Oh.

In Hungarian.

In Hungarian, yeah.

Yes.

Yeah. And your husband was working?

My husband then was working. He was working in a factory of sweets.

Yes.

Yes.

So the two--

He was the manager of the factory.

OK.

He was a party member then.

Really?

I never was.

Why didn't you join the party?

Because, I tell you-- I told that I was the owner of a very big house. And then they suddenly stopped and told that there is not the question of joining the party.

Because you were a capitalist, right?

Yes, exactly. I was a capitalist. So I had to abandon the whole thing. Then I started to really, how to say it, remember what I did before. And to do things which led me to my old profession.

Which was music, teaching music?

Teaching music, and especially the piano. I was a piano teacher. But it lasted a few years until I get the-- I was just a volunteer without salary in the beginning. It lasted a few years, until I got the job, you know? And then I was teaching.

Were you volunteering in a school?

Yes. It was the conservatory of town. Immediately a higher level, because I had two diplomas, you know? I don't know whether it is important or you will remember.

No, that is important.

Yes. I had two diplomas. And therefore, they took me to a higher level. But without salary for the time being a few years. And then slowly, I started from the beginning with a small salary. I was an assistant and teaching voluntarily. And then slowly, I became a salary. I remember, I earned 700 leis. That was more. You know? And then slowly, I raise. You know?

And your son was he--

He was born in '46.

'46. And then so did he go to nursery school? Or regular?

He went to not nursing, maybe it's called-- A daycare? A daycare center?

Yes, yes, yes. Daycare center. A Romanian one. It was a Romanian. So it no longer was Hungary, the place, which made me very happy. I was immediately very full of joy that I was not again in Hungarian possession. You know.

Why? Because they took me to Auschwitz. The Hungarian side was very angry of that. And my family perished whole. I am the only-- I was the only survivor. Then I found out that nobody remained. Meanwhile, this future husband of mine, who was my cousin-- second cousin, or mother's first cousins, started to help me.

Because it was that we had the house to be to to me possession, et cetera. But the house was no longer mine. In a few years, I lost the house and everything I had. I did not care.

Because meanwhile, I decided to return to my profession. That was my aim, to be a teacher. That was my profession all my life. And I managed slowly in a few years to teach in the conservatory of the town. And then I raised slowly, from a low salary higher, higher. And became a good teacher. And here I was teaching my whole life, thirty years.

Now, did you experience any antisemitism when you were teaching? Was there any antisemitism?

No, never in the conservatory. No, no, no, it was--

Nobody ever made any comments?

No, no, no.

What about in your neighborhood?

In the neighborhood was always antisemitism. If not loudly, you know, but hidden.

OK. Can you give me some examples? What did people say at that time?

Some people said that the Holocaust did not exist at all. It was just a, how to say, the not remembers, the--

A dream?

The invention.

An invention, yeah.

The invention of those who remained in the country. Because many remained. Many people came in our house, you know? They lived in the house. And I never was able to talk to them. Just imagine to live in the same house with people who I know that they came immediately after my parents' disappearance. They lived there. And so I lived in this house.

So you said you experienced antisemitism when people said that the Holocaust never really happened.

Not everybody, but some.

Not every, but some people. Some people.

They were afraid, you know? Very afraid that we will do something wrong for them.

But you said not in the conservatory.

No. They were taken care not to mention things and not to do something in my--

Now, when you-- OK, so this is the 1940s, 1950s.

Yes, I was all the time at the conservatory, till my pension.

Uh-huh. Which was, and that came in?

That was in 19-- I don't remember where. But I taught there more than 30 years.

Oh, all right. OK. And so during that 30-year time, what can you say about living under communist rule as a Jewish woman?

That was nothing as a Jewish woman, no, no. They were lenient, you know, and knew about my deportation, yes. And they were taking care not to hurt my feelings. Not to hurt my feelings.

Why?

Because they were afraid not to hurt my feelings. It was a communist country, where it was democracy, you know? And that was that.

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

The neighbors, of course, they were afraid not to. Because they were already old neighbors before I came home from the Holocaust.

Yeah, yeah.

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

Now, what about your son? He then got a little older.

Well, my son was born in '46.

Yeah. And when he started to go to school--

Yes, he went to Romanian school.

OK. And did he experience any antisemitism?

Not yet, because he was a small child. As a child, not. Later, he had Romanian friends. It was not the Hungarian regime no longer. It has changed into Romanian regime, which was more lenient.

More lenient, yeah, yeah.

Yes.

So you felt OK. You didn't feel under threat.

No, no, no, no.

And your husband was working and moving up in his factory?

He was moving up in his profession. He was the manager of the sweets factory. Yes.

Yeah. And so now it's the 1950s. And do you remember when the state of Israel was formed in 1948? Yes, yes, yes, yes.

Do you have any memories of hearing about that or how you felt?

No, they were not very much enchanted about the Israeli problem. You know that they shouldn't have. Because in communism, that was different. And Stalin was not a friend of Israel. And we were under Stalin's regimes.

Yeah.

Not under his regime, but under his influence.

Yeah.

You understand?

Yeah. Did you feel very Jewish during those years after the war, in the '40s and '50s?

No, no.

Yeah. Did you practice any religion?

You know, it was the fear of people which retains them from being, you know, very harsh, you understand? They were the fear, because they all were, in a way, guilty. Because they felt this guilt inside.

They felt guilt about what happened.

Inside, yes. And they were taking care to handle us a little lenient, you know?

Because they were afraid of what you might do back to them? Is that what you mean?

Yes, they were afraid in the beginning a few years. Then they accustomed with the new.

Yeah. Yeah. Now, did you practice any religion in the '40s and '50s with your son?

I was not religious at all.

You were not religious. Did he have a bar mitzvah in, let's see, 1946-- 1959?

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

Yeah.

But I lost everything, I told you.

No, no, no. Did your son have a bar mitzvah?

Yes, yes, yes.

In 1959. Yes, yes, yes, of course.

Can you tell me about that a little bit?

Oh, no. It wasn't like any usual bar mitzvah. It didn't have relatives.

Yeah.

Just among ourselves.

Yeah, yeah.

Among ourselves.

Now, were most of your friends Jewish?

Yes.

They were.

Positive. But I had a few Hungarian and Romanian friends.

Yeah.

Yes.

So then it's the 1950s. You're working, your husband's working. Your son is in school.

Yes. Yes.

Then comes the 1960s.

Yes, the same. Until I went to pension.

Yeah. And there was the 1967 war in Israel. I don't know if you remember that.

Yes, yes.

Did you hear about? Did you know about it in Cluj?

Yes, I know. But you know, the atmosphere was against Israel. They did not understand this whole problem of Israel.

Yeah, yeah.

They only condemned Israel, you know? Not in a harsh way, but holding speeches against Israel and so.

OK. And so it's a life goes on.

Yes.

1960s, and now it's the 1970s.

Yes.

Do you remember anything special about that? Your pension-- Yeah, go on.

Nothing happened. Because in Romania was no revolution and something like that. I think Hungary, in Hungary, there was, meanwhile, a revolution, you know maybe?

Yes, yes, '56.

They are, the Hungarians, revolting people, you know? They are very--

Well, there was the 1956.

Yes.

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

In Romania, there wasn't like that.

There was not. Yeah.

There was always antisemitism. And I have heard now what antisemitism is. I have heard. Our friends who were visiting Romania had told us yes.

Terrible.

So you worked until your pension. Is that the 1970s?

Yes.

Now, your son is still living in Romania then?

No, no, he is here. He fled the country.

When was that?

That was in '76.

OK.

He came as visitor and remained here, fled the country.

Oh, and how did you feel about that, you and your husband?

We were glad because he went to the United States. I had a newspaper man cousin there in the United States. And he helped him. It was the newspaper, the Hungarian-language newspaper, which he owned, my cousin. It was called [HUNGARIAN], that was liberty.

Yeah. You were speaking Romanian all this time?

We spoke Romanian, Hungarian. Because our mother tongue is, in fact, Hungarian.

Did you know Yiddish at all?

No.

No, you did not. OK. So did you and your husband try to get to the United States?

We tried several times, but we were refused. They did not let us. Finally, at the end of the '70s, they were more lenient, you know? And they let us go as visitors here, to come as visitors.

Oh, so did you come to visit?

Yes, my son was here, as he fled the country.

Yes.

He was here. And after six years, I had to wait six years.

To see him?

You can imagine until I saw him again. Then I came as visitor and returned.

Went back. Yeah.

Yeah, returned.

And what was your impression of the United States when you first came?

Oh, you can imagine what an impression I had after this. I compared. I didn't have to compare. It was not competition.

Where was your son living at that time?

In Cleveland, Ohio, where the relatives were.

I see. So you went to Cleveland?

Yes, I told you that this newspaper, he was a newspaper man. A Hungarian-language newspaper there.

Yeah. And then you went back, and tried to--

To come again. And I could receive the visa after seven years, I think. And then I was called by the Romanian security, telling me that either I go for good to the United States, or I call him back.

Your son back?

Yes.

So?

So I didn't call him back, of course. But I decided to leave the country.

This is you and your husband?

Yes, with my husband.

Now, had your husband wanted to come as much as you did to the United States?

What?

Did your husband want to come to the United States as much as you did?

Yes of course, or more even.

More?

Yes, because I was a homely woman, you know. But he was very much-- he wanted to come, by all means. By all means, yes.

Yeah. And his business was successful at that time?

Yes, it was good in Romania. He was, I told you.

In the sweets.

Dealing with sweets. And then as he come here, he was too old.

So when did you-- so then you decided to come.

Yes.

And when was that? When did you come here?

We decided very early, but we came very late. We came at, I don't know, when he was 79.

OK. So it was in the 1980s.

Yes.

OK. And you went to Cleveland to be with your son?

To Cleveland no, I don't know. No, no.

Where did you settle when you came to the United States to live?

First thing I think is I remember bell in Cleveland, Ohio.

OK.

And then the relatives helped me in a way. But just in a way. And then we went-- I don't remember, really.

OK. But then your son started working in the Washington area?

He learned in the University again. And then he started to work and he worked.

So you always were living in the same place where your son was living?

Yes, yes, in the same place.

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

Yes, yes, yes, of course.

Right.

He's living in Virginia now.

And what does he do?

He's teaching.

What does he teach?

What he can.

But he is a musician also.

Yes, but he doesn't teach music.

Oh, OK.

He teaches everything.

But he inherited your musical talent?

Or more, more. He was very, very talented. But he did not succeed. You know, for a musician, it's very difficult. Very, very difficult.

And you had you said in the beginning that he experienced some antisemitism. So he changed his name. Was that in Romania?

Yes, he was very unpleasant with the whole system in Romania.

So he changed it in Romania?

Yes.

OK.

No, no. In Romania, that was very curious. You couldn't change your name. It was forbidden to change your name. Therefore, he couldn't succeed. He was a conductor of classical music. And he couldn't conduct--

Conduct.

--because of his name. Tiberius Berkovics. That was a no.

It was too Jewish a name.

Yeah, Jewish name. And therefore, he decided to change. In Romania, it was not allowed to change the name.

So he didn't change it until he came to the United States.

Yes.

I see. And he chose what name?

John Sylvanis.

Was there a meaning to that? Was there a reason why he chose? No, there is no-- it's an Italian name, John Sylvanis.

Oh, OK.

Not a Jewish name.

Because he thought he would have trouble here in the United States.

Yes.

So he changed it. Yeah. Let's talk a little bit now just about your thoughts. Do you think about your wartime experience often? No, not often. But I think, of course. Without that, it's in me.

Yeah, yeah.

It's in me.

Right, right. When John was growing up, when your son was growing up, and he was a little boy, and then in elementary school, did you talk about what you went through?

I told everything in details.

When he was young?

Yes. He knew everything, everything, everything about the Holocaust.

Yeah.

He lost his grandparents which he longed for because he had no family at all but me. So he always thought, if I had a family, if I had my grandparents, and so forth.

Yeah.

You understand.

Yes. Yeah. Did he have friends?

Oh, yes.

Jewish and non-Jewish friends.

Yes.

In Romania?

In Romania. Always Romanian friends. Not Hungarian. Hungarian, not so much.

Did the Jewish friends' parents go through a similar experience that you did? Were his friends, the friends that he had, did their parents go through what you had to go through?

Whose parents?

John's friends' parents.

The Jewish friends?

Yeah, his Jewish friends.

Some of them, yes, but many of them came from Romania, hid, and established in Cluj, you know?

Yeah.

And they don't have this experience in Romania, many of his friends. But mostly, they were Hungarian with whom he had this experience, not Romanian.

What are your thoughts about Israel today? What do you-- do you think about Israel at all?

Yes, of course. Everything the Jewish people are thinking. That Israel should live in order that the Jewish people should have a home.

Did you ever think, after the war was over and you decided to leave, that you would go to Israel instead of the United States? Did you ever, you and your husband, talk about moving to Israel?

No. You know why? The reason is simple. Because I health with the thyroid gland, which was not operated then. It was big like an apple. And I was waiting until I got to the United States. And then they had insured it.

So you did you didn't want to go.

Yes, yes.

It would be too hard to live in Israel with that problem?

Yes, I couldn't. It was impossible.

Are you very angry about what you had to live through? The terrible, terrible times that you-- are you angry about that?

Well, of course. That was a very bad experience. And I don't-- you know what? When I went to Israel as a visitors, and my friends asked to me, how did you bear it? Why didn't you raise some--

Resistance?

Some--

Resistance?

No. Why didn't you have weapons? Took weapons and--

Fight back.

Yes. I thought, how to get the weapons in this regime? It was a totalitarian regime. How to get weapons?

Right, right.

You understand? We couldn't.

Yes, of course.

I wondered because the Israeli young people are very warriors. They're warriors. They did not understand why we didn't raise weapons. I told it was impossible in a regime like that, totalitarian regime, to raise weapons.

Are there any sights today, or sounds, or smells that remind you of some of your wartime experiences?

Yes, sometimes I am dreaming. And one day, I had a very terrible dream.

Still have dreams about what you experienced.

Yes. I have dreams. Not often. But I am sincere, I have dreams.

Yes. And do you talk about it with somebody?

No, no. It is long ago. It was long ago, I don't tell.

Really? Do you still have them? Or that was just after the war? Do you still have the dreams?

Yes.

Still.

Still dream, but not very often.

Yeah, good.

Because I have other preoccupations.

Right. Yeah. But when you're awake, are there any sounds that you hear sometimes, or something that you see that reminds you?

Yes, sometimes I tell my son, see? That was during the war. This sound that was during.

Like what? Like an airplane?

A sound of weapons or sound off, I don't know.

Like an airplane or something like that?

Yes, yes. Did you hear? I have heard them.

And that reminds you?

Yes, yes, yes. Everything strange reminds me.

Yeah.

It did not remain unfelt. Everything reminds me of that.

Do you think going through the terrible things that you went through--

Yes.

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

Yes, because I told too much about it. I told him all the details. And later on, I regretted it, because he knew everything. It was the whole childhood was spent amidst these remembrances. It was a very big mistake what I did. Because it was in me. And he asked always almost about his grandparents. And I should tell not lies but the truth.

Were you very protective of him? Did you let him go out and do things? Or did you always want him nearby?

I don't understand.

When he was a youngster, a young boy.

Yes.

Did you always want to know where he was? Were you very protective of him? Or did you let him just go?

No, no, no, he knew everything precisely. And he was a good boy and understood these things. And always was terribly excited about why his grandparents died before he knew them.

Yeah, yeah. Do you think that you would have been a different person today if you hadn't gone through the war?

I don't know because he did not know me before. You know? But he told me, mother, you are talking too much about the war and about what you experienced.

You mean now? No, then, when he was a young man.

No, but what I was asking was, do you think you're a different person today, today, because of your wartime experience?

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

Yeah.

It's a long time, but I was-- later on after this experience, I was completely different. More sensitive, very nervous, you know, it affected me deeply.

This is-- you became more nervous after the war, is that what you're saying?

Yes, after this experience, I was terribly nervous.

Yeah. In other words, before the war, you were more relaxed or whatever.

Yes, yes, it is something different, you know, to live always in stress. We lived in stress.

Yeah.

You know?

Do you feel-- how would you describe yourself? Are you Romanian? Are you American? Are you Jewish? How would you describe yourself?

I am Jewish first of all.

OK.

I am a Romanian Jewish.

Romanian Jewish.

Yes.

OK.

Do you feel American?

I start to feel, yes. I feel my son is--

Totally?

--totally American. I like the country, of course. I like it very much. And I admire everything which was realized, you know? And I felt slowly attached to this country. Because I see that he did only good to the Jewish people. And to my son, too. And therefore, I am very-- we are very grateful.

Do you have Romanian friends here in the United States?

Who came like me, who fled the country. But I don't have Romanian friends in the country. No, never. I never. I was never visiting the country again.

I was just going to ask you, have you been back to?

No, no, never.

Would you like to?

No.

Why not?

No. I have not so good experiences to go. Why to go?

OK.

If I am no longer attached. I am attached to this new country who did more good in a shorter time than they did in my whole life. You understand?

Yes. Yeah, yeah.

That is obvious.

Do you get any reparations? Do you get any payment?

From the Germans only.

You do?

I did in the beginning. But newly, I didn't get. And we gave a request for, I don't know how many, \$3,000. But we didn't receive answer. Yes.

Do you think you're more comfortable around people who lived through the war like you did?

Yes.

In contrast to someone who didn't. Like I grew up in the United States. So I didn't live through what you lived through, obviously.

Yes.

So are you-- you are more comfortable with people who were in Europe, who lived through the war?

No, I did not meet people.

Yeah, I mean, you know, here in the United States, when you would meet people from Europe.

Oh, we would hug ourselves. We remember everything. But not like a good unforgotten remembrance, you understand, from the old country. It's just that we were young girls. I have a friend who is coming-- who is calling me from Peru.

Oh.

Yes, she's calling me very often. And we speak about the good old days when we were visiting each other. But we--

This was before the war, you mean? Or after. You were visiting her before the war?

No.

Or after the way.

After. But we don't have good remembrance about the old country. That is everything different. I don't know whether you understand that. It's everything different. Here, I felt the liberty what they gave us. Then we didn't have to speak loudly, you know, sometimes. Or during the war. It was terrible. They took the radio away.

Right.

And things like that, they were, you know, that you shouldn't forget, never.

No, no, no.

And an experience to tell you. We were ghettoed in 1944 in April, in the 3 of April. And one time, they called us out in the courtyard, the general, the great general there, who was leading this area held a speech. And he told, people, don't be afraid. The old people will work from now on. The younger people will be taken care of. Children and work. And the old women will taken care of children. And the children.

That is what he told us. And after a while, after a week or so, we were taken to Auschwitz. So that you have an image about how they behaved. Just lies. And what was the result? That our people was condemned.

Have you been to the Holocaust Museum building?

No. Because I know everything. Why to go?

Right.

Maybe I didn't have time, or I didn't have-- I wasn't curious. I saw everything. What shall I see?

Are you any more religious because of the war?

No. I was not even before the war, not after.

Before and not after, yeah. Yeah.

So you feel American now?

Yes, I cannot say this, oh, you know, because I did not work here. That this, I did not work here. And I have-- I feel guilty, therefore, to tell that I am an American if I did not work. But I feel very good. I feel the liberty what I was getting.

Are you still playing the piano?

No.

No?

No, because I am too old to do that. Nobody plays at this age. No, I cannot. I am dizzy when I am playing.

Really?

I tried two years ago. But neither the fingers nor the mind contributes.

When did your husband pass away?

About 12 years.

Oh, OK.

And did he feel American?

Oh, he was very devoted already. But he was too old to work.

So he did not work here?

He couldn't. He was 79 when we came.

Yeah.

And he couldn't. But he was very devoted always to America. He dreamed to come here, but he did not succeed. Very. He told that here, they realized the real democracy, what he was waiting for.

And then the fall of communism in 19-- what, '89? What were your thoughts then? You were already here. You were here in the United States.

We were here in '89.

Yeah. So what were your thoughts when you heard about that?

We were terribly astonished. How could that become? Because the Soviet Union fell at the same time.

Right.

How? Because we saw that he was the most powerful country. We were taught all our lives that the Soviet Union cannot fail. And we were terribly astonished that he still failed. Gorbachev was the man who contributed to this. You know, it was terribly astonishing. We were here already and watched on the TV what was happening. Otherwise, we couldn't watch.

Did you celebrate? Did you--

We were-- you can see, you can understand what we felt.

Yeah, yeah.

But still, we were thinking so much blood for this system, which was, you know, so much war, and so much revolution, and everything for this system. And finally, it just fell. We saw that it will never happen because of the propaganda, which was always that it is the most powerful country. And it will always persist. No. See?

The Soviet Union fell. Who thought about that? We were so astonished that we couldn't believe.

Well, you're wonderful to have done this interview. What made you be willing to do the interview?

With you?

Yeah. What made you?

To discharge my feelings, so to tell everything I went through. You are satisfied with how I told?

Very much. And that's so important that you did this. And it's going to be in the archives of the Museum for years and years and years for people to learn from your story.

Yes.

Is there a lesson that people should learn? If you were giving advice to a young person, would you--

I did not meet young persons, whom to meet here?

No, but I meant if you were today talking to a young person. Would you give-- after all that you lived through--

Yes, of course.

Would you give them any advice?

Yes, yes.

What would you say to a young person today?

To a young person, to take care of with whom you are friends. To take care, not to be befriended with anybody. To take care and to be together only with people who you can advise what to do wrong and what to do good, you know? Because we went through terrible things.

Yeah, yeah. And what would you say to them about the United States? Only good things. What can I tell? It is the most advanced country in the world. Yes? And it is a, how to say, it's a wonderful country with everything we dreamed for. Yes, you are living here, you know better.

Yes, I appreciate it very much.

Yes, yes.

And we were received as visitors very nicely. We received for two years, or how much, I don't remember well, a green card a few years as a help. And then we had to look for some existence.

So how did you support yourself?

My son worked.

Yeah. So your son helped.

My son worked. And we got from the green card some support, you know?

Are you a citizen of the United States?

Oh, for long.

Tell me about what that was like for you and your husband.

Oh, that was very nice. We got a praise. We were told that we answered very good. And our English was already like now. And we praised us and told that you were very good.

So the day that you became-- you and your husband became citizens on the same day? Was this in Cleveland or where was it in?

In Cleveland, I remember.

And what did it take you, five years? Or do you remember how many?

Yeah, how long? I think it lasted a few years.

Before you, yeah.

Because you got first the green card.

Right.

And after, we got-- we had to apply for the citizenship.

Yeah, yeah.

We learned a lot, oy, oy, oy. And the rules and regulations, the country. I learned so much.

Do you remember anything you learned?

Yes. And we were very good. Because we were told that we were very good. We gave very good and precise answers.

What did you have to learn? Do you remember what you had to learn?

The rules and regulations which rule the country, you know?

Well, I guess you're very glad you passed the test.

Oh, yes, of course. I was. We were very, very, very happy.

Yeah. Well, is there anything you wanted to add before we finish? Anything you wanted to say?

No. I have nothing. I am too small to raise these questions at the citizen of the United States. And older citizen of the United States. I am just telling that you must be very happy that you are-- for how long are you citizen?

I was born.

You were born.

Born in the United States.

How can you compare our life issues when we had bad times, you know? It can not be compared. It can not be. We lived very hard times in Europe. Very, very hard. Always under stress, that is.

Well, thank you so much for sharing your experiences. It's very important.

Oh, I was not convincing, was I?

No, we appreciate your sharing.

Yes?

Yeah, yeah. And if there's nothing more that you wanted to say, is there anything else you wanted to say? OK. Well, thank you, again. This concludes the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Magdalena Berger it's.