

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,870

2
00:00:05,870 --> 00:00:08,810
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:08,810 --> 00:00:11,150
Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

4
00:00:11,150 --> 00:00:15,375
interview with Irene Silver.

5
00:00:15,375 --> 00:00:20,730

6
00:00:20,730 --> 00:00:28,990
And you were talking
about your experience

7
00:00:28,990 --> 00:00:32,590
raising your children
and their religious--

8
00:00:32,590 --> 00:00:33,630
Affiliations?

9
00:00:33,630 --> 00:00:36,140
Yeah, mm-hmm.

10
00:00:36,140 --> 00:00:37,600
Well, that was
about it, as far as

11
00:00:37,600 --> 00:00:40,510
that they're all bringing
up their children

12
00:00:40,510 --> 00:00:41,650
in the Jewish tradition.

13

00:00:41,650 --> 00:00:46,950

14

00:00:46,950 --> 00:00:51,150

Since I was never that
deeply steeped in religion,

15

00:00:51,150 --> 00:00:59,880

certainly, I don't feel that
they should be doing anything

16

00:00:59,880 --> 00:01:09,260

different, but I'm
happy about the way

17

00:01:09,260 --> 00:01:12,470

that they are being
brought up in.

18

00:01:12,470 --> 00:01:20,820

OK, are you more
comfortable with people

19

00:01:20,820 --> 00:01:25,020

who lived through the war
than let's say Americans here

20

00:01:25,020 --> 00:01:28,140

who never had to experience
what you experienced?

21

00:01:28,140 --> 00:01:32,310

Are you angry that you
had to experience things

22

00:01:32,310 --> 00:01:34,950

that others didn't have to by
living in a different country?

23

00:01:34,950 --> 00:01:35,450

No.

24

00:01:35,450 --> 00:01:44,600

25

00:01:44,600 --> 00:01:47,140

I'm basically very tolerant.

26

00:01:47,140 --> 00:01:53,180

I don't judge other
people, and the fact

27

00:01:53,180 --> 00:01:57,530

that I had to live
through the war and others

28

00:01:57,530 --> 00:02:01,400

didn't, I'm happy
that some people

29

00:02:01,400 --> 00:02:04,580

didn't have to experience it.

30

00:02:04,580 --> 00:02:07,250

Of course, I'm angry
then that the people who

31

00:02:07,250 --> 00:02:11,180

were there and suffered.

32

00:02:11,180 --> 00:02:12,860

That, of course, is
a very deep anger,

33

00:02:12,860 --> 00:02:16,160

but you can't be angry forever.

34

00:02:16,160 --> 00:02:18,020

You can't think
about it forever,

35

00:02:18,020 --> 00:02:20,810

or your life will
become miserable.

36
00:02:20,810 --> 00:02:23,810
And then am I more comfortable?

37
00:02:23,810 --> 00:02:24,980
Not necessarily.

38
00:02:24,980 --> 00:02:28,070
I have very close friends who
have never gone through it,

39
00:02:28,070 --> 00:02:33,590
but I do feel more
comfortable and close

40
00:02:33,590 --> 00:02:42,652
to those friends of mine who
understand as much as they can

41
00:02:42,652 --> 00:02:43,235
what happened.

42
00:02:43,235 --> 00:02:50,410

43
00:02:50,410 --> 00:02:52,840
I don't think I would be
very comfortable with people

44
00:02:52,840 --> 00:02:56,790
who say, well, what
happened happened,

45
00:02:56,790 --> 00:02:58,600
and let's just forget about it.

46
00:02:58,600 --> 00:03:03,580
I would not want to hear that.

47
00:03:03,580 --> 00:03:06,490
There's one other thing
that sometimes comes up,

48
00:03:06,490 --> 00:03:10,790
and it really, I
think, is unfair

49
00:03:10,790 --> 00:03:13,740
and bothers me is
when people say, well,

50
00:03:13,740 --> 00:03:15,140
why didn't the Jews rise up?

51
00:03:15,140 --> 00:03:18,750
Why did they just
go there like sheep?

52
00:03:18,750 --> 00:03:21,600
Well, times were very different.

53
00:03:21,600 --> 00:03:26,970
Civilians did not have any arms.

54
00:03:26,970 --> 00:03:30,750
They couldn't defend
themselves against an army.

55
00:03:30,750 --> 00:03:33,600
How could a civilian
without any arms

56
00:03:33,600 --> 00:03:38,780
stand up to an
army with the guns

57
00:03:38,780 --> 00:03:41,510
and ammunition and tanks
and everything else?

58
00:03:41,510 --> 00:03:45,090

59
00:03:45,090 --> 00:03:51,240

And in the end, there
were those who were still

60
00:03:51,240 --> 00:03:54,570
surviving in the
ghetto who did fight,

61
00:03:54,570 --> 00:03:56,370
and they fought to the end.

62
00:03:56,370 --> 00:04:00,450
But that was at
the very, very end,

63
00:04:00,450 --> 00:04:05,310
and they felt they would try
to do anything they could.

64
00:04:05,310 --> 00:04:10,290
But the general
population, they had no way

65
00:04:10,290 --> 00:04:12,600
to defend themselves.

66
00:04:12,600 --> 00:04:15,480
In the beginning, nobody knew
about the concentration camps,

67
00:04:15,480 --> 00:04:16,532
at least I don't know--

68
00:04:16,532 --> 00:04:18,240
that's what I hear
that they didn't know.

69
00:04:18,240 --> 00:04:21,120
I certainly was too young
to know anything like that,

70
00:04:21,120 --> 00:04:24,810
but I don't know if my
family knew about the camps.

71
00:04:24,810 --> 00:04:27,420
I think that eventually
it became clear

72
00:04:27,420 --> 00:04:29,150
that people who
went never came back

73
00:04:29,150 --> 00:04:33,420
and that there were these camps.

74
00:04:33,420 --> 00:04:40,060
But I just don't want
to hear people saying,

75
00:04:40,060 --> 00:04:42,670
why did they not fight back?

76
00:04:42,670 --> 00:04:44,530
I'd like to see
how they would feel

77
00:04:44,530 --> 00:04:46,630
if they were in that situation.

78
00:04:46,630 --> 00:04:48,310
Now, of course,
anybody can get a gun

79
00:04:48,310 --> 00:04:51,543
and anybody just about
can defend themselves,

80
00:04:51,543 --> 00:04:52,960
but I don't know
what would happen

81
00:04:52,960 --> 00:04:54,370
if that ever happened again.

82
00:04:54,370 --> 00:04:57,850

I hope it never does,
but you should never

83
00:04:57,850 --> 00:05:00,820
judge people if you have
not been in that situation.

84
00:05:00,820 --> 00:05:03,430

85
00:05:03,430 --> 00:05:06,640
Are you a different
person because of what

86
00:05:06,640 --> 00:05:07,645
you experienced?

87
00:05:07,645 --> 00:05:09,070
Yes.

88
00:05:09,070 --> 00:05:16,590
When I was still with my
parents, even the ghetto,

89
00:05:16,590 --> 00:05:17,100
I was--

90
00:05:17,100 --> 00:05:19,970

91
00:05:19,970 --> 00:05:22,700
I was an only child.

92
00:05:22,700 --> 00:05:32,070
I was-- trying to think
of the right word.

93
00:05:32,070 --> 00:05:35,190
I was some doted upon.

94
00:05:35,190 --> 00:05:37,860

95
00:05:37,860 --> 00:05:40,500
My mother would feed me--

96
00:05:40,500 --> 00:05:42,590
my nanny and then my
mother would feed me

97
00:05:42,590 --> 00:05:44,760
I was probably about
seven or eight years old,

98
00:05:44,760 --> 00:05:46,290
because I didn't like to eat.

99
00:05:46,290 --> 00:05:48,460
And so there was always
somebody taking care of me.

100
00:05:48,460 --> 00:05:50,040
I was really well taken care of.

101
00:05:50,040 --> 00:05:52,780

102
00:05:52,780 --> 00:06:00,330
And because I was with my
family and with my parents,

103
00:06:00,330 --> 00:06:04,280
I didn't feel that I had to
behave in any certain way.

104
00:06:04,280 --> 00:06:06,650
I don't know how I
did behave, but I'm

105
00:06:06,650 --> 00:06:11,980
sure I could do whatever I
really wanted if it was safe.

106
00:06:11,980 --> 00:06:17,180

But when I left the ghetto
and I was with strangers,

107
00:06:17,180 --> 00:06:22,040
I learned to be,
not only obedient,

108
00:06:22,040 --> 00:06:26,760
but not to annoy other people.

109
00:06:26,760 --> 00:06:32,930
And so I think that I became
more tolerant of others.

110
00:06:32,930 --> 00:06:40,710
I think that I was spoiled
when I was very young,

111
00:06:40,710 --> 00:06:44,560
but after that, I didn't
grow up very spoiled.

112
00:06:44,560 --> 00:06:47,070
I always had to--

113
00:06:47,070 --> 00:06:48,760
when a child grows
up, like my children,

114
00:06:48,760 --> 00:06:53,010
for instance, if you are
not happy about something,

115
00:06:53,010 --> 00:06:55,620
you let your parents know.

116
00:06:55,620 --> 00:06:58,170
Well, when they're
not your parents,

117
00:06:58,170 --> 00:07:00,300
you're not going
to let them know.

118
00:07:00,300 --> 00:07:03,300
And even with my
aunt and uncle, who

119
00:07:03,300 --> 00:07:05,790
are certainly my closest
family, but still,

120
00:07:05,790 --> 00:07:07,720
they were not my parents.

121
00:07:07,720 --> 00:07:14,690
And so I was very careful most
of my life as to how I behave.

122
00:07:14,690 --> 00:07:16,900
Now, other than
that, I don't know

123
00:07:16,900 --> 00:07:21,310
if I would have grown up
to be a social worker.

124
00:07:21,310 --> 00:07:24,145
Probably not if the
war hadn't happened.

125
00:07:24,145 --> 00:07:26,830

126
00:07:26,830 --> 00:07:28,900
I don't know what
would have happened--

127
00:07:28,900 --> 00:07:32,020
what kind of person
I would have been

128
00:07:32,020 --> 00:07:35,380
if the war hadn't happened.

129

00:07:35,380 --> 00:07:40,350
I would hope that
my war experiences

130
00:07:40,350 --> 00:07:44,700
have helped to make me into a
person who cares about others.

131
00:07:44,700 --> 00:07:49,140

132
00:07:49,140 --> 00:07:52,170
What about an inner strength
to cope with crises?

133
00:07:52,170 --> 00:07:54,950

134
00:07:54,950 --> 00:07:57,530
Well, I haven't really
made up my mind about that,

135
00:07:57,530 --> 00:08:00,230
because I've had
a number of crises

136
00:08:00,230 --> 00:08:04,520
in my life since the war.

137
00:08:04,520 --> 00:08:08,930
Health crises, basically,
and sometimes I

138
00:08:08,930 --> 00:08:13,890
think that when you have a
lot of trauma in your life,

139
00:08:13,890 --> 00:08:16,850
it makes you stronger,
but sometimes, I

140
00:08:16,850 --> 00:08:19,610
think it might

work the other way,

141

00:08:19,610 --> 00:08:23,090
and I haven't really come to any
conclusion on that for myself.

142

00:08:23,090 --> 00:08:29,470
I think with age,
you become stronger.

143

00:08:29,470 --> 00:08:33,773
I think most people will say
that they're stronger than they

144

00:08:33,773 --> 00:08:34,940
were when they were younger.

145

00:08:34,940 --> 00:08:39,230
I know I was much--

146

00:08:39,230 --> 00:08:47,290
not that I'm a nosy person,
but I was more quiet,

147

00:08:47,290 --> 00:08:50,200
do what others want
you to do person.

148

00:08:50,200 --> 00:08:53,530
I will stand up for myself
more now, but that may be age.

149

00:08:53,530 --> 00:08:57,590
I don't know if it's
just my experience.

150

00:08:57,590 --> 00:09:00,380
Do you receive reparations?

151

00:09:00,380 --> 00:09:01,130
I got some.

152

00:09:01,130 --> 00:09:02,810

Yes.

153

00:09:02,810 --> 00:09:04,790

I did not want to.

154

00:09:04,790 --> 00:09:09,140

I was in my 20s and my
uncle said to me once--

155

00:09:09,140 --> 00:09:12,390

156

00:09:12,390 --> 00:09:16,260

asked me if I wanted to
apply for it, and I said,

157

00:09:16,260 --> 00:09:18,210

I don't want any
money from Germany.

158

00:09:18,210 --> 00:09:21,750

They cannot repay me.

159

00:09:21,750 --> 00:09:24,270

And I didn't-- for the
longest, longest time--

160

00:09:24,270 --> 00:09:27,400

apply for anything, and
then eventually I did.

161

00:09:27,400 --> 00:09:30,460

162

00:09:30,460 --> 00:09:34,780

I did because it
changed my view upon it.

163

00:09:34,780 --> 00:09:40,190

I thought, that
will never repay me,

164

00:09:40,190 --> 00:09:42,860

but if my life can be
made a little better,

165

00:09:42,860 --> 00:09:47,370

maybe it'll have my
children, then why not?

166

00:09:47,370 --> 00:09:48,440

Why should it stay there?

167

00:09:48,440 --> 00:09:49,960

I'd rather have it here.

168

00:09:49,960 --> 00:09:55,220

And so my son,
actually, has done--

169

00:09:55,220 --> 00:09:58,670

anything that's been
done, it's my oldest son.

170

00:09:58,670 --> 00:10:03,080

He pushed me to everything that
I have done on in this area,

171

00:10:03,080 --> 00:10:08,480

and that's about
what's happened lately.

172

00:10:08,480 --> 00:10:09,880

Do you dream about war years?

173

00:10:09,880 --> 00:10:10,450

No.

174

00:10:10,450 --> 00:10:13,520

At least, I don't usually
remember what I dream about,

175

00:10:13,520 --> 00:10:15,470

so I don't know.

176
00:10:15,470 --> 00:10:19,610
Maybe I do, but I
honestly don't know.

177
00:10:19,610 --> 00:10:22,220
Were you active in the
Civil Rights Movement

178
00:10:22,220 --> 00:10:24,770
because what
happened to the Jews

179
00:10:24,770 --> 00:10:26,750
being deprived of
their civil rights?

180
00:10:26,750 --> 00:10:29,540
No, I mean, I certainly
sympathize with them,

181
00:10:29,540 --> 00:10:31,070
but I wasn't active in it.

182
00:10:31,070 --> 00:10:32,960
I was very busy
raising my family.

183
00:10:32,960 --> 00:10:37,160
I really-- I felt
terrible about all of it

184
00:10:37,160 --> 00:10:43,760
and wished everybody to get all
their rights and everything.

185
00:10:43,760 --> 00:10:47,720
I always felt that
way, but I would not

186
00:10:47,720 --> 00:10:49,650
say that I was an active in it.

187

00:10:49,650 --> 00:10:50,408

No.

188

00:10:50,408 --> 00:10:52,450

What were your thoughts
about the Eichmann trial?

189

00:10:52,450 --> 00:10:55,250

Did that bring up
any memories for you?

190

00:10:55,250 --> 00:11:01,400

Didn't bring up memories,
but I was certainly glad

191

00:11:01,400 --> 00:11:06,710

that they had gotten hold of
him and whatever punishment

192

00:11:06,710 --> 00:11:11,330

was due that happened
then, and I'm

193

00:11:11,330 --> 00:11:14,390

certainly upset about
some of the people

194

00:11:14,390 --> 00:11:17,730

who have gotten
away in Argentina

195

00:11:17,730 --> 00:11:18,830

or wherever they went.

196

00:11:18,830 --> 00:11:22,780

I think that that's a shame.

197

00:11:22,780 --> 00:11:32,440

But I feel that I was more
immersed in my family,

198

00:11:32,440 --> 00:11:37,350

in my work, rather than--

199
00:11:37,350 --> 00:11:41,592
I did not think about it
unless it came up on the news

200
00:11:41,592 --> 00:11:42,550
or something like that.

201
00:11:42,550 --> 00:11:45,048

202
00:11:45,048 --> 00:11:46,840
Do you feel that lessons
have been learned?

203
00:11:46,840 --> 00:11:49,340
The world has learned
any lessons from this?

204
00:11:49,340 --> 00:11:49,840
No.

205
00:11:49,840 --> 00:11:51,820
[LAUGHTER]

206
00:11:51,820 --> 00:11:53,820
I don't.

207
00:11:53,820 --> 00:11:59,400
I think that I
thought so at first.

208
00:11:59,400 --> 00:12:04,080
For many years, I did think
so, but now, looking around,

209
00:12:04,080 --> 00:12:06,670
I think people--

210
00:12:06,670 --> 00:12:12,960
there are those who will

try to get rid of anybody

211

00:12:12,960 --> 00:12:21,460

who doesn't think their
way or who they don't like

212

00:12:21,460 --> 00:12:24,760

or don't want to deal with.

213

00:12:24,760 --> 00:12:27,970

And as far as Israel is
concerned, I think it's--

214

00:12:27,970 --> 00:12:32,310

215

00:12:32,310 --> 00:12:35,360

I can't do anything about
it, so I try not to--

216

00:12:35,360 --> 00:12:38,840

I'm really, really
concerned, and I just

217

00:12:38,840 --> 00:12:44,510

feel that after everything
is said and done,

218

00:12:44,510 --> 00:12:46,010

I don't know if
there ever be peace.

219

00:12:46,010 --> 00:12:49,052

220

00:12:49,052 --> 00:12:53,290

And that's a very
sore point with me,

221

00:12:53,290 --> 00:12:58,500

because I feel that
people who really built

222

00:12:58,500 --> 00:13:04,470

their country from nothing,
why shouldn't they finally

223

00:13:04,470 --> 00:13:06,010

have some peace?

224

00:13:06,010 --> 00:13:08,130

And I suppose they do
to a certain extent,

225

00:13:08,130 --> 00:13:10,380

but they're always
under this siege,

226

00:13:10,380 --> 00:13:15,330

and I worry about Iran
and their nuclear bomb.

227

00:13:15,330 --> 00:13:18,000

But I think that Israel
has to do something,

228

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:19,080

and maybe they will.

229

00:13:19,080 --> 00:13:22,860

I don't think they're just
going to go quietly anywhere.

230

00:13:22,860 --> 00:13:26,820

So I feel that--

231

00:13:26,820 --> 00:13:28,640

I worry about it.

232

00:13:28,640 --> 00:13:32,030

I worry about everything
that's happening in the world.

233

00:13:32,030 --> 00:13:35,610

It's just not a,

not a peaceful time,

234

00:13:35,610 --> 00:13:38,580
and I worry about the future
for my children, grandchildren

235

00:13:38,580 --> 00:13:44,190
[INAUDIBLE]

236

00:13:44,190 --> 00:13:49,170
Are you a member of
any survivor groups?

237

00:13:49,170 --> 00:13:49,740
I was.

238

00:13:49,740 --> 00:13:52,560

239

00:13:52,560 --> 00:13:55,950
For a number of years, I was
part of the Hidden Children

240

00:13:55,950 --> 00:13:58,230
Group in Rockland County.

241

00:13:58,230 --> 00:14:05,220
It was a small group and
maybe there were 25 of us,

242

00:14:05,220 --> 00:14:09,330
and we used to meet
on a monthly basis,

243

00:14:09,330 --> 00:14:13,380
and I found a lot of
common ground with them.

244

00:14:13,380 --> 00:14:19,920
We were all, more or
less, on the same page.

245

00:14:19,920 --> 00:14:24,760

And so sometimes, I write
to one or two of them,

246

00:14:24,760 --> 00:14:29,010

but that was a close
group, and that

247

00:14:29,010 --> 00:14:34,230

was from the Marriott Hotel
we started that after that.

248

00:14:34,230 --> 00:14:39,720

However, when they came
to Washington area,

249

00:14:39,720 --> 00:14:43,590

there is a group, but it's
a very, very large group.

250

00:14:43,590 --> 00:14:46,980

It's Baltimore and
Washington Hidden Children.

251

00:14:46,980 --> 00:14:50,400

They had been a group
for about 20 years,

252

00:14:50,400 --> 00:14:54,780

even before any of that, and I
went to a couple of meetings.

253

00:14:54,780 --> 00:14:59,430

I really tried, but I'm
not terribly outgoing.

254

00:14:59,430 --> 00:15:05,480

Maybe that's part of the
problem, and I didn't feel--

255

00:15:05,480 --> 00:15:10,370

they said they welcomed me, but
they were such a close group,

256

00:15:10,370 --> 00:15:13,880

they knew all about each
other's backgrounds.

257

00:15:13,880 --> 00:15:15,980

They had a history,
and it's very hard

258

00:15:15,980 --> 00:15:17,240

to get them to something.

259

00:15:17,240 --> 00:15:19,877

And after a while,
I stopped going.

260

00:15:19,877 --> 00:15:20,960

So I don't belong to them.

261

00:15:20,960 --> 00:15:22,850

Have you been to the
Holocaust Museum building?

262

00:15:22,850 --> 00:15:23,390

Yes.

263

00:15:23,390 --> 00:15:26,504

What are your thoughts
when you walk in there?

264

00:15:26,504 --> 00:15:31,750

Well, it was very--

265

00:15:31,750 --> 00:15:35,380

first of all, I
went to the opening

266

00:15:35,380 --> 00:15:39,910

with Elie Wiesel and all
that, and I will never, ever

267

00:15:39,910 --> 00:15:47,350

forget that, because that was

extremely emotional for me.

268

00:15:47,350 --> 00:15:48,340

I cry easily, anyway.

269

00:15:48,340 --> 00:15:50,755

[LAUGHTER]

270

00:15:50,755 --> 00:15:53,480

271

00:15:53,480 --> 00:15:56,320

All my children came
and we were all there.

272

00:15:56,320 --> 00:16:10,680

It was the rainiest day
possible, and I thought,

273

00:16:10,680 --> 00:16:14,730

that's probably the wrong
thing to start talking about.

274

00:16:14,730 --> 00:16:23,360

I thought, it must be the
heaven's coming down crying.

275

00:16:23,360 --> 00:16:23,860

Right.

276

00:16:23,860 --> 00:16:25,560

Right.

277

00:16:25,560 --> 00:16:33,030

But anyway, I didn't
go to that, and then

278

00:16:33,030 --> 00:16:38,380

I didn't go to the
Museum one time,

279

00:16:38,380 --> 00:16:44,650

and I think it's extremely
well put together.

280
00:16:44,650 --> 00:16:52,550
It's a place that other
people can come and see what--

281
00:16:52,550 --> 00:16:56,660
it was very realistic, and I
was very emotional about it.

282
00:16:56,660 --> 00:16:58,000
Oh, did you want to put it on?

283
00:16:58,000 --> 00:16:59,280
Yeah.

284
00:16:59,280 --> 00:17:04,869
So we were talking about
going into the building

285
00:17:04,869 --> 00:17:05,869
itself and the exhibits.

286
00:17:05,869 --> 00:17:08,060
Did you go upstairs
to any of the exhibits

287
00:17:08,060 --> 00:17:09,464
when you went into the building?

288
00:17:09,464 --> 00:17:11,839
I'm not talking about the time
the dedication, obviously.

289
00:17:11,839 --> 00:17:12,530
No, I know.

290
00:17:12,530 --> 00:17:14,270
No, I did go through the--

291
00:17:14,270 --> 00:17:15,650

Section on the Warsaw ghetto?

292

00:17:15,650 --> 00:17:18,510

293

00:17:18,510 --> 00:17:19,060

I don't know.

294

00:17:19,060 --> 00:17:21,602

I went through the whole
thing, and I think so.

295

00:17:21,602 --> 00:17:23,310

Yeah, OK, so you didn't
have particular--

296

00:17:23,310 --> 00:17:24,339

It was many years ago.

297

00:17:24,339 --> 00:17:25,450

Yeah, so you didn't--

298

00:17:25,450 --> 00:17:27,460

particular memories of
going through the section

299

00:17:27,460 --> 00:17:28,335

of the Warsaw ghetto?

300

00:17:28,335 --> 00:17:32,150

Tell you the truth, I
tried to go through.

301

00:17:32,150 --> 00:17:37,010

I couldn't handle just
taking every everything in.

302

00:17:37,010 --> 00:17:42,170

I just couldn't, so I paced
myself rather quickly.

303

00:17:42,170 --> 00:17:47,060

304

00:17:47,060 --> 00:17:52,840

I went back 10 years later
to the re-dedication,

305

00:17:52,840 --> 00:17:57,050

or you know when they had
that the 10-year anniversary?

306

00:17:57,050 --> 00:18:02,420

And I felt, now, that
was a summer day.

307

00:18:02,420 --> 00:18:07,760

The sun was shining, and I was
with my husband and my son,

308

00:18:07,760 --> 00:18:14,660

and I said, this
is so much better.

309

00:18:14,660 --> 00:18:19,410

We have gone through
10 years, and--

310

00:18:19,410 --> 00:18:21,840

not that there has been
healing, but I think

311

00:18:21,840 --> 00:18:25,050

we're past some of the things.

312

00:18:25,050 --> 00:18:32,190

And I just felt that it
was almost like rebirth.

313

00:18:32,190 --> 00:18:35,310

That's how I felt. It was
just-- the whole atmosphere was

314

00:18:35,310 --> 00:18:40,410

so much different than the

dedication, which was--

315

00:18:40,410 --> 00:18:44,640

it just, I thought
that it was so--

316

00:18:44,640 --> 00:18:45,570

very traumatic for me.

317

00:18:45,570 --> 00:18:47,080

I don't know why, really.

318

00:18:47,080 --> 00:18:50,160

I just felt very traumatized.

319

00:18:50,160 --> 00:18:53,790

Not traumatized, but
emotional about it.

320

00:18:53,790 --> 00:18:58,980

And then when we came back, it
was different 10 years later.

321

00:18:58,980 --> 00:19:00,830

I'm glad that it's there.

322

00:19:00,830 --> 00:19:02,330

I'm just--

323

00:19:02,330 --> 00:19:03,360

Why are you glad?

324

00:19:03,360 --> 00:19:11,680

Because I think that, not so
much for us who have survived,

325

00:19:11,680 --> 00:19:16,640

but for those who didn't.

326

00:19:16,640 --> 00:19:18,102

They're not forgotten.

327

00:19:18,102 --> 00:19:24,010

328

00:19:24,010 --> 00:19:26,510

The room with the shoes
was just too much.

329

00:19:26,510 --> 00:19:36,020

330

00:19:36,020 --> 00:19:38,000

Is there anything else
you would like to say

331

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:39,610

before we end the interview?

332

00:19:39,610 --> 00:19:41,200

Any thoughts that you have?

333

00:19:41,200 --> 00:19:42,880

Any message to
your grandchildren,

334

00:19:42,880 --> 00:19:45,200

possibly, that you would
want to say to them?

335

00:19:45,200 --> 00:19:56,230

336

00:19:56,230 --> 00:19:57,257

Be strong.

337

00:19:57,257 --> 00:19:57,965

Follow your star.

338

00:19:57,965 --> 00:20:03,080

339

00:20:03,080 --> 00:20:10,900

Don't forget what happened,
but don't be burdened by it.

340
00:20:10,900 --> 00:20:20,040
You have to go on with
your life and make

341
00:20:20,040 --> 00:20:25,460
Jewish people proud to know
you well, and I love you.

342
00:20:25,460 --> 00:20:31,470

343
00:20:31,470 --> 00:20:34,388
That's a beautiful
note to end on.

344
00:20:34,388 --> 00:20:35,240
Thank--

345
00:20:35,240 --> 00:20:38,120
I'm sorry, about all--

346
00:20:38,120 --> 00:20:42,830
my children know me, and so when
something emotional comes up,

347
00:20:42,830 --> 00:20:43,970
oh, here comes mom.

348
00:20:43,970 --> 00:20:45,400
[LAUGHTER]

349
00:20:45,400 --> 00:20:48,230
So I'm sorry about
that, but I should

350
00:20:48,230 --> 00:20:49,802
have brought a whole box.

351
00:20:49,802 --> 00:20:50,510

Well, thank you--

352

00:20:50,510 --> 00:20:52,677

I thought this was going
to be a real dry interview.

353

00:20:52,677 --> 00:20:54,880

[LAUGHTER]

354

00:20:54,880 --> 00:20:58,370

Well, thank you so much
for doing the interview.

355

00:20:58,370 --> 00:21:00,150

You're very welcome.

356

00:21:00,150 --> 00:21:04,100

I hope that it becomes
part of something

357

00:21:04,100 --> 00:21:05,780

bigger than just one person.

358

00:21:05,780 --> 00:21:08,330

Yes, it will be.

359

00:21:08,330 --> 00:21:11,300

This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

360

00:21:11,300 --> 00:21:16,090

volunteer collection
interview with Irene Silver.

361

00:21:16,090 --> 00:21:18,000