

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,780

2

00:00:05,780 --> 00:00:07,808

Are you going to hear
me if I crunch on this?

3

00:00:07,808 --> 00:00:10,680

You're good.

4

00:00:10,680 --> 00:00:13,020

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

5

00:00:13,020 --> 00:00:16,860

Memorial Museum volunteer
collection with Susanne Bennet.

6

00:00:16,860 --> 00:00:19,530

This is track number two.

7

00:00:19,530 --> 00:00:23,040

And we had been talking about
your family being in Mexico.

8

00:00:23,040 --> 00:00:25,312

And then you came to
the United States.

9

00:00:25,312 --> 00:00:33,870

10

00:00:33,870 --> 00:00:36,860

Where did you come to
in the United States?

11

00:00:36,860 --> 00:00:38,700

And when was that,
if you remember?

12

00:00:38,700 --> 00:00:46,670

We went in August of 1950.

13

00:00:46,670 --> 00:00:47,780

From Mexico City?

14

00:00:47,780 --> 00:00:50,150

From Mexico City

via Cuba, actually.

15

00:00:50,150 --> 00:00:53,500

We went to Cuba for four days.

16

00:00:53,500 --> 00:00:58,690

We went from Havana

to Manhattan.

17

00:00:58,690 --> 00:00:59,190

OK.

18

00:00:59,190 --> 00:01:03,150

You are a young,

not so young child.

19

00:01:03,150 --> 00:01:06,630

But then again, you're

moving another time.

20

00:01:06,630 --> 00:01:08,340

What effect did

that have on you?

21

00:01:08,340 --> 00:01:11,150

22

00:01:11,150 --> 00:01:13,360

I was really fairly independent.

23

00:01:13,360 --> 00:01:16,150

My parents were both working.

24

00:01:16,150 --> 00:01:20,230

I was the one who ended up

finding and enrolling myself

25

00:01:20,230 --> 00:01:24,650
in P.S. 59 in Manhattan
because they didn't have time.

26

00:01:24,650 --> 00:01:25,860
You settled in Manhattan.

27

00:01:25,860 --> 00:01:26,490
In Manhattan.

28

00:01:26,490 --> 00:01:27,840
OK.

29

00:01:27,840 --> 00:01:30,450
I found the place by
accident because the English

30

00:01:30,450 --> 00:01:32,680
wasn't very good at that point.

31

00:01:32,680 --> 00:01:35,220
My father had his
first art gallery,

32

00:01:35,220 --> 00:01:39,850
which was at 8 West 56th
Street right off Fifth.

33

00:01:39,850 --> 00:01:42,950

34

00:01:42,950 --> 00:01:46,240
And 8 East 56th Street?

35

00:01:46,240 --> 00:01:46,740
No.

36

00:01:46,740 --> 00:01:47,392
8 West.

37

00:01:47,392 --> 00:01:47,892

West.

38

00:01:47,892 --> 00:01:49,740

OK.

39

00:01:49,740 --> 00:01:52,170

And you know, I did
the grocery shopping.

40

00:01:52,170 --> 00:01:54,658

I did the dry cleaning.

41

00:01:54,658 --> 00:01:56,700

I did all of these things
because both my parents

42

00:01:56,700 --> 00:01:57,658

were working full time.

43

00:01:57,658 --> 00:01:58,800

They didn't have time.

44

00:01:58,800 --> 00:02:00,980

And they worked Saturdays.

45

00:02:00,980 --> 00:02:02,020

And those days--

46

00:02:02,020 --> 00:02:03,000

Where are you living?

47

00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:04,160

We were living there, too.

48

00:02:04,160 --> 00:02:05,960

Oh, you were living there, too.

49

00:02:05,960 --> 00:02:10,009

And in those days, of course,
stores were not open on Sunday.

50
00:02:10,009 --> 00:02:13,000
And they worked six days a week.

51
00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:15,070
So after school,
I would go and run

52
00:02:15,070 --> 00:02:18,580
all these errands and things
because I learned English

53
00:02:18,580 --> 00:02:20,320
very quickly.

54
00:02:20,320 --> 00:02:25,622
They were learning it, they
started to learn it in Mexico.

55
00:02:25,622 --> 00:02:26,830
But they weren't that fluent.

56
00:02:26,830 --> 00:02:30,180

57
00:02:30,180 --> 00:02:33,400
So you enrolled yourself in
the public school system?

58
00:02:33,400 --> 00:02:34,410
Yeah.

59
00:02:34,410 --> 00:02:36,060
And you went into what grade?

60
00:02:36,060 --> 00:02:37,310
I went into eighth grade.

61
00:02:37,310 --> 00:02:40,656

62

00:02:40,656 --> 00:02:42,570
OK.

63
00:02:42,570 --> 00:02:45,570
Again, did the teachers ask
you about your background

64
00:02:45,570 --> 00:02:46,770
and where you had been?

65
00:02:46,770 --> 00:02:51,810
Not really I had one run in,
which was that, in those days,

66
00:02:51,810 --> 00:02:52,440
we had--

67
00:02:52,440 --> 00:02:59,020

68
00:02:59,020 --> 00:03:00,000
what are they called?

69
00:03:00,000 --> 00:03:05,467

70
00:03:05,467 --> 00:03:08,440
Gosh, what's the
word I want here?

71
00:03:08,440 --> 00:03:09,980
Air raid--

72
00:03:09,980 --> 00:03:10,480
Drills.

73
00:03:10,480 --> 00:03:10,980
Drills.

74
00:03:10,980 --> 00:03:13,550

75

00:03:13,550 --> 00:03:16,040

And so, one fine day, we're
having an air raid drill.

76

00:03:16,040 --> 00:03:18,980

And we're all standing out in
the hallway during that drill.

77

00:03:18,980 --> 00:03:21,020

And I said to the teacher,
this is ridiculous.

78

00:03:21,020 --> 00:03:25,880

If this were a real air raid,
none of us would survive this.

79

00:03:25,880 --> 00:03:29,880

I got sent to the
principal for that one.

80

00:03:29,880 --> 00:03:31,405

But it was absolutely true.

81

00:03:31,405 --> 00:03:33,030

I mean, what's the
good of just sending

82

00:03:33,030 --> 00:03:35,520

you to stand in the hallway
on the second or third floor

83

00:03:35,520 --> 00:03:37,680

of a building?

84

00:03:37,680 --> 00:03:38,520

Made no sense.

85

00:03:38,520 --> 00:03:42,660

Did you speak with any kind
of accent at that time?

86

00:03:42,660 --> 00:03:44,520

I don't know.

87

00:03:44,520 --> 00:03:47,400

I really don't think
I've had very much.

88

00:03:47,400 --> 00:03:51,150

But when I went to high school,
I had to go to speech therapy

89

00:03:51,150 --> 00:03:56,060

for my TH, which
wasn't very good.

90

00:03:56,060 --> 00:03:59,150

And I was told to listen to the
New York Times station in New

91

00:03:59,150 --> 00:04:02,030

York to get the right--

92

00:04:02,030 --> 00:04:02,810

Pronunciation.

93

00:04:02,810 --> 00:04:05,070

Pronunciation.

94

00:04:05,070 --> 00:04:06,490

WQXR, I think.

95

00:04:06,490 --> 00:04:08,880

Right.

96

00:04:08,880 --> 00:04:11,100

So you're in the school.

97

00:04:11,100 --> 00:04:13,540

You're doing all the
errands for your parents.

98

00:04:13,540 --> 00:04:16,829

So you don't have much free time

to be with other kids outside

99

00:04:16,829 --> 00:04:18,910
of school, I assume?

100

00:04:18,910 --> 00:04:19,470
No.

101

00:04:19,470 --> 00:04:22,780
And well, I guess it was
a neighborhood school.

102

00:04:22,780 --> 00:04:26,860
But we all sort of went
home after school, anyway.

103

00:04:26,860 --> 00:04:28,990
And then you
started high school?

104

00:04:28,990 --> 00:04:34,330
Then I took the exam
for Hunter, Bronx High

105

00:04:34,330 --> 00:04:36,730
School of Science,
Stuyvestant, Music and Art,

106

00:04:36,730 --> 00:04:40,430
and so forth, and
went to Hunter.

107

00:04:40,430 --> 00:04:45,150
And what kind of experience
did you have there?

108

00:04:45,150 --> 00:04:46,050
It was fine.

109

00:04:46,050 --> 00:04:49,890
I honestly don't think that
I was that involved when

110

00:04:49,890 --> 00:04:53,010

I think back now.

111

00:04:53,010 --> 00:04:55,470

I've run into a few

of my classmates here.

112

00:04:55,470 --> 00:04:59,100

And I never followed through

on very many of them,

113

00:04:59,100 --> 00:05:01,730

although one of them went

on to college with me.

114

00:05:01,730 --> 00:05:03,720

Two went to Radcliffe,

two went to Wellesley.

115

00:05:03,720 --> 00:05:04,710

I was one of the two.

116

00:05:04,710 --> 00:05:08,500

117

00:05:08,500 --> 00:05:10,510

Because that was

what is nowadays

118

00:05:10,510 --> 00:05:13,090

called a magnet school, we

all went home afterward.

119

00:05:13,090 --> 00:05:16,250

And we all lived

all over the city.

120

00:05:16,250 --> 00:05:18,710

So we just didn't really

play with each other.

121

00:05:18,710 --> 00:05:19,817

Yeah.

122
00:05:19,817 --> 00:05:20,900
I mean, there were things.

123
00:05:20,900 --> 00:05:22,880
We had clubs.

124
00:05:22,880 --> 00:05:24,920
Obviously eventually,
we had a senior prom.

125
00:05:24,920 --> 00:05:25,923
All that sort of thing.

126
00:05:25,923 --> 00:05:28,340
And we went out to Far Rockaway
in the middle of the night

127
00:05:28,340 --> 00:05:30,510
on the metro on the subway.

128
00:05:30,510 --> 00:05:37,300
But there wasn't that
much social life.

129
00:05:37,300 --> 00:05:39,722
Your parents' state
of mind at that time.

130
00:05:39,722 --> 00:05:41,430
They were working very
hard, as you said.

131
00:05:41,430 --> 00:05:43,660
Your folks worked
six days a week.

132
00:05:43,660 --> 00:05:45,190
They worked very, very hard.

133
00:05:45,190 --> 00:05:47,940

But they were very
promptly, my father

134
00:05:47,940 --> 00:05:51,880
became a very major
dealer in New York.

135
00:05:51,880 --> 00:05:54,990
And what was the
name of his store?

136
00:05:54,990 --> 00:05:56,190
It was the Klejman Gallery.

137
00:05:56,190 --> 00:05:57,420
It was called that.

138
00:05:57,420 --> 00:05:59,470
And it was first at 8 West 56th.

139
00:05:59,470 --> 00:06:03,240
Then he moved up
to Madison Avenue

140
00:06:03,240 --> 00:06:05,580
in what was then the
Park Bennet building that

141
00:06:05,580 --> 00:06:08,970
became Sotheby's,
982 Madison, which

142
00:06:08,970 --> 00:06:11,850
was across from the Carlyle.

143
00:06:11,850 --> 00:06:22,080
And very early on, my
English teacher, I think--

144
00:06:22,080 --> 00:06:26,630
it was one of my teachers
in eighth grade--

145

00:06:26,630 --> 00:06:29,420
somehow heard me talking one
day about my father having

146

00:06:29,420 --> 00:06:32,820
African art because
he started to,

147

00:06:32,820 --> 00:06:35,520
he had always had European
decorative arts before the war.

148

00:06:35,520 --> 00:06:37,320
But after the war,
with very little money,

149

00:06:37,320 --> 00:06:38,737
one of the things
that he had been

150

00:06:38,737 --> 00:06:41,400
interested in when he
was in Paris studying

151

00:06:41,400 --> 00:06:43,720
had been African art.

152

00:06:43,720 --> 00:06:48,230
So that became a major part
of what he had after the war.

153

00:06:48,230 --> 00:06:51,120
It wasn't very
expensive to buy them.

154

00:06:51,120 --> 00:06:53,820
And she said, oh,
I'm going to tell

155

00:06:53,820 --> 00:06:59,610
my son, who was one of
the curators at the MoMA,

156

00:06:59,610 --> 00:07:02,460

which was then the Museum
of Modern Art, of course.

157

00:07:02,460 --> 00:07:07,350

And the next thing was that the
son brought Nelson Rockefeller

158

00:07:07,350 --> 00:07:08,340

to the gallery.

159

00:07:08,340 --> 00:07:10,540

And then my father
just, that was it.

160

00:07:10,540 --> 00:07:14,420

That was the beginning of
his doing very, very well

161

00:07:14,420 --> 00:07:16,410

and becoming a major
dealer in New York.

162

00:07:16,410 --> 00:07:19,920

So he met with a very
well-known clients such as--

163

00:07:19,920 --> 00:07:23,730

He developed very major clients
in all of the major museums

164

00:07:23,730 --> 00:07:27,200

in the States, really.

165

00:07:27,200 --> 00:07:28,570

And--

166

00:07:28,570 --> 00:07:33,767

So do you think that he
related any of his background

167

00:07:33,767 --> 00:07:34,475

to these clients?

168
00:07:34,475 --> 00:07:35,853
No.

169
00:07:35,853 --> 00:07:37,770
I'm sure that he never
talked about any of it.

170
00:07:37,770 --> 00:07:40,860
So they had no idea what
he had gone through.

171
00:07:40,860 --> 00:07:42,127
Well, I mean people--

172
00:07:42,127 --> 00:07:44,460
Well, he had an accent, I'm
sure, when he spoke English.

173
00:07:44,460 --> 00:07:44,600
Right.

174
00:07:44,600 --> 00:07:46,260
And people like
Rockefeller, I'm sure,

175
00:07:46,260 --> 00:07:48,450
were aware of the
background of people.

176
00:07:48,450 --> 00:07:48,950
But they--

177
00:07:48,950 --> 00:07:50,040
They didn't ask.

178
00:07:50,040 --> 00:07:53,090
Certainly don't want to ever
talk about anything except art.

179
00:07:53,090 --> 00:07:54,380

Yeah.

180
00:07:54,380 --> 00:07:57,460
Who were some of your
father's other clients?

181
00:07:57,460 --> 00:07:59,280
Well known.

182
00:07:59,280 --> 00:08:01,350
Well, let's see.

183
00:08:01,350 --> 00:08:02,730
The various Rockefellers.

184
00:08:02,730 --> 00:08:06,210
John D, Nelson.

185
00:08:06,210 --> 00:08:06,943
Henry Ford.

186
00:08:06,943 --> 00:08:10,060

187
00:08:10,060 --> 00:08:12,440
The one I liked best
was Greta Garbo.

188
00:08:12,440 --> 00:08:13,960
[LAUGHTER]

189
00:08:13,960 --> 00:08:17,300
Erich Maria Remarque.

190
00:08:17,300 --> 00:08:21,040
I have a letter
from him somewhere.

191
00:08:21,040 --> 00:08:24,190
The Duke and Duchess of Windsor
by the time he went back to--

192

00:08:24,190 --> 00:08:26,320

who I did not like--

by the time he

193

00:08:26,320 --> 00:08:31,850

went back to having some

decorative art again,

194

00:08:31,850 --> 00:08:34,720

porcelains and things.

195

00:08:34,720 --> 00:08:38,169

Just about anybody who collected

art in the States ended up,

196

00:08:38,169 --> 00:08:44,530

the de Menils became

clients during that period.

197

00:08:44,530 --> 00:08:48,990

It wasn't very long really,

because he started in 1950.

198

00:08:48,990 --> 00:08:55,740

And he had to retire in

1974 or 1976 because he got

199

00:08:55,740 --> 00:08:56,380

Alzheimer's.

200

00:08:56,380 --> 00:08:57,338

So it wasn't that long.

201

00:08:57,338 --> 00:08:59,085

Well, it was 24 years.

202

00:08:59,085 --> 00:09:00,480

Yeah.

203

00:09:00,480 --> 00:09:04,320

And his name is, he was a

major donor to the Metropolitan

204
00:09:04,320 --> 00:09:05,320
Museum of Art.

205
00:09:05,320 --> 00:09:09,450
And my parents' name
is now inscribed

206
00:09:09,450 --> 00:09:10,571
on the staircase going up.

207
00:09:10,571 --> 00:09:11,113
Oh wonderful.

208
00:09:11,113 --> 00:09:11,800
[PHONE RINGING]

209
00:09:11,800 --> 00:09:17,610
Which was sort of
amazing because,

210
00:09:17,610 --> 00:09:21,360
when you consider our background
and what had happened to us,

211
00:09:21,360 --> 00:09:22,430
there it was.

212
00:09:22,430 --> 00:09:25,608
And is it off?

213
00:09:25,608 --> 00:09:28,036
I'll turn it off.

214
00:09:28,036 --> 00:09:28,536
OK.

215
00:09:28,536 --> 00:09:30,990
Wait, wait, wait.

216
00:09:30,990 --> 00:09:34,800

Any other clients
that your father had?

217
00:09:34,800 --> 00:09:39,450
Some of the major
architects of that period.

218
00:09:39,450 --> 00:09:42,860
Edward Durell Stone.

219
00:09:42,860 --> 00:09:45,335
And then you showed me a
picture of Diego Rivera.

220
00:09:45,335 --> 00:09:47,460
Well, that was when we were
living in Mexico that I

221
00:09:47,460 --> 00:09:48,580
got to know Diego Rivera.

222
00:09:48,580 --> 00:09:50,526
Oh, you did?

223
00:09:50,526 --> 00:09:52,450
Through your father's
art connections?

224
00:09:52,450 --> 00:09:52,950
Yes.

225
00:09:52,950 --> 00:09:53,930
And Tamayo.

226
00:09:53,930 --> 00:10:00,510
And just in general, the
whole sort of artistic group

227
00:10:00,510 --> 00:10:02,220
in Mexico City.

228
00:10:02,220 --> 00:10:03,360

After the war--

229

00:10:03,360 --> 00:10:06,100

I mean, after we moved to--

230

00:10:06,100 --> 00:10:06,950

New York?

231

00:10:06,950 --> 00:10:09,410

New York.

232

00:10:09,410 --> 00:10:11,290

They got to know the
Kennedys through--

233

00:10:11,290 --> 00:10:13,060

I don't know how
important any of this

234

00:10:13,060 --> 00:10:20,650

is really-- but Stash Radziwill,
who married Jackie Kennedy's

235

00:10:20,650 --> 00:10:21,730

sister.

236

00:10:21,730 --> 00:10:24,340

His father, the old
Prince, had been a client

237

00:10:24,340 --> 00:10:26,960

of my father's before the war.

238

00:10:26,960 --> 00:10:29,160

And the Prince survived the war.

239

00:10:29,160 --> 00:10:30,470

His wife Anna did not.

240

00:10:30,470 --> 00:10:35,450

She died in a German prison
while they were imprisoned.

241
00:10:35,450 --> 00:10:38,980
But the Prince survived.

242
00:10:38,980 --> 00:10:41,260
His daughter and son both did.

243
00:10:41,260 --> 00:10:48,520
And Stash Radziwill then
introduced my parents to,

244
00:10:48,520 --> 00:10:50,270
I think he was the one
who introduced them

245
00:10:50,270 --> 00:10:51,710
to the Kennedys.

246
00:10:51,710 --> 00:10:54,680
And for years,
both Jack and Bobby

247
00:10:54,680 --> 00:10:59,060
would buy their little
Christmas gifts, mostly little

248
00:10:59,060 --> 00:11:03,640
tiny antiques on little
bases, from my parents.

249
00:11:03,640 --> 00:11:06,130
When they came to
New York, they always

250
00:11:06,130 --> 00:11:09,850
stayed at the Carlyle,
which was across the street.

251
00:11:09,850 --> 00:11:11,860
And every single
time, the Carlyle

252

00:11:11,860 --> 00:11:15,760
would hop over to my father
and borrow some things

253
00:11:15,760 --> 00:11:19,510
from his gallery for
Jack Kennedy's suite.

254
00:11:19,510 --> 00:11:21,070
Things with a marine theme.

255
00:11:21,070 --> 00:11:25,090
So there was a little
ship, which I have still,

256
00:11:25,090 --> 00:11:27,943
and some other things to sort of
decorate it while he was there.

257
00:11:27,943 --> 00:11:29,110
And then back it would come.

258
00:11:29,110 --> 00:11:30,970
And my father would
take it home because he

259
00:11:30,970 --> 00:11:34,600
was thrilled to be able
to do this for Kennedy,

260
00:11:34,600 --> 00:11:36,670
who he thought was wonderful.

261
00:11:36,670 --> 00:11:40,902
And he didn't want
to sell the things.

262
00:11:40,902 --> 00:11:41,860
You know, he kept them.

263
00:11:41,860 --> 00:11:44,490

264

00:11:44,490 --> 00:11:46,380

My mother especially
liked Bobby Kennedy,

265

00:11:46,380 --> 00:11:48,190

who actually liked
her a lot and would

266

00:11:48,190 --> 00:11:52,600

bring her gifts from his
trips, which was kind of fun.

267

00:11:52,600 --> 00:11:54,465

It was sort of
amazing, you know?

268

00:11:54,465 --> 00:11:55,840

After what they
had been through.

269

00:11:55,840 --> 00:11:58,160

After what they had
been through, right.

270

00:11:58,160 --> 00:12:00,160

Being in the ghetto
and in the labor camp.

271

00:12:00,160 --> 00:12:01,650

And barely surviving.

272

00:12:01,650 --> 00:12:03,890

And here they were.

273

00:12:03,890 --> 00:12:06,110

You went to Hunter High School.

274

00:12:06,110 --> 00:12:10,070

And then what happened?

275

00:12:10,070 --> 00:12:13,670

Then I went to Wellesley

College, Class of '59.

276

00:12:13,670 --> 00:12:17,090

How did you know to apply?

277

00:12:17,090 --> 00:12:19,550

We were only allowed
from Hunter to apply

278

00:12:19,550 --> 00:12:23,210

to three schools, one of
which had to be a city school.

279

00:12:23,210 --> 00:12:25,820

The other, they wouldn't
send our transcripts

280

00:12:25,820 --> 00:12:26,833

to more than three.

281

00:12:26,833 --> 00:12:29,000

I don't know if Bronx High
School had the same rules

282

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:30,530

or not.

283

00:12:30,530 --> 00:12:32,930

So I picked Wellesley
and Oberlin.

284

00:12:32,930 --> 00:12:36,080

And the head of the Oberlin
Art Department, a man

285

00:12:36,080 --> 00:12:38,870

named Charles Parkhurst,
who later became Deputy

286

00:12:38,870 --> 00:12:42,000

at the National Gallery,
was a friend of my parents.

287

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:43,190

And I got into both.

288

00:12:43,190 --> 00:12:44,250

And he sat me down.

289

00:12:44,250 --> 00:12:46,080

And he said, OK.

290

00:12:46,080 --> 00:12:47,850

It depends on whether
you want to be

291

00:12:47,850 --> 00:12:52,770

a big fish in a small pond or
a small fish in a big pond.

292

00:12:52,770 --> 00:12:53,610

So I said, OK.

293

00:12:53,610 --> 00:12:55,050

Small fish sounds good to me.

294

00:12:55,050 --> 00:12:56,412

And I went to Wellesley.

295

00:12:56,412 --> 00:12:58,060

OK.

296

00:12:58,060 --> 00:13:00,890

And it's amazing, if you think
about what the results are

297

00:13:00,890 --> 00:13:01,917

of that sort of thing.

298

00:13:01,917 --> 00:13:03,500

Because I wouldn't
have met my husband

299

00:13:03,500 --> 00:13:04,750

if I hadn't been at Wellesley.

300

00:13:04,750 --> 00:13:07,310

And I wouldn't have had the
family or the life I've had

301

00:13:07,310 --> 00:13:09,080

or any of those things,
except for where

302

00:13:09,080 --> 00:13:10,350

I went to college basically.

303

00:13:10,350 --> 00:13:10,850

I see.

304

00:13:10,850 --> 00:13:12,320

Yeah.

305

00:13:12,320 --> 00:13:14,120

And were there
any other students

306

00:13:14,120 --> 00:13:18,290

in your class at Wellesley
who had been born in Europe?

307

00:13:18,290 --> 00:13:19,970

There were probably.

308

00:13:19,970 --> 00:13:22,790

But we never talked
about it any more

309

00:13:22,790 --> 00:13:26,100

than we had in high school.

310

00:13:26,100 --> 00:13:27,980

So you just moved
on with your life.

311

00:13:27,980 --> 00:13:29,120

Yep.

312

00:13:29,120 --> 00:13:31,880

And what did you
study at Wellesley?

313

00:13:31,880 --> 00:13:34,480

History of Art and Spanish.

314

00:13:34,480 --> 00:13:35,330

And Spanish?

315

00:13:35,330 --> 00:13:38,620

And Spanish, because I knew
Spanish from my nine months

316

00:13:38,620 --> 00:13:40,250

in Mexico.

317

00:13:40,250 --> 00:13:42,008

OK.

318

00:13:42,008 --> 00:13:42,800

Did you meet your--

319

00:13:42,800 --> 00:13:44,970

I also went to Middlebury
in the summers.

320

00:13:44,970 --> 00:13:47,750

So I took Spanish for
a couple of summers.

321

00:13:47,750 --> 00:13:48,290

Yeah.

322

00:13:48,290 --> 00:13:50,320

Did you feel very
American by then?

323

00:13:50,320 --> 00:13:53,570

324
00:13:53,570 --> 00:13:57,080
I don't think I ever felt
totally American at that point.

325
00:13:57,080 --> 00:13:57,580
No.

326
00:13:57,580 --> 00:13:58,610
OK.

327
00:13:58,610 --> 00:14:00,200
Did you feel Polish?

328
00:14:00,200 --> 00:14:01,040
No.

329
00:14:01,040 --> 00:14:02,060
You did not.

330
00:14:02,060 --> 00:14:03,540
European, but not Polish.

331
00:14:03,540 --> 00:14:04,040
Because?

332
00:14:04,040 --> 00:14:07,130

333
00:14:07,130 --> 00:14:10,160
I think that we
always I insisted

334
00:14:10,160 --> 00:14:11,552
on speaking Polish at home.

335
00:14:11,552 --> 00:14:13,010
I didn't want to
lose the language.

336
00:14:13,010 --> 00:14:14,420

Always, always.

337
00:14:14,420 --> 00:14:15,870
Even when you were
in high school?

338
00:14:15,870 --> 00:14:16,370
Yes.

339
00:14:16,370 --> 00:14:17,960
Even though my parents
wanted to speak

340
00:14:17,960 --> 00:14:19,430
English to improve their own.

341
00:14:19,430 --> 00:14:22,990
And I said no, I really want
to keep the language up, which

342
00:14:22,990 --> 00:14:24,240
was fine with them, of course.

343
00:14:24,240 --> 00:14:27,450

344
00:14:27,450 --> 00:14:29,460
I think I felt more
European because I

345
00:14:29,460 --> 00:14:31,050
had traveled so much by then.

346
00:14:31,050 --> 00:14:35,580
I mean, we had traveled all over
Europe while we were in Sweden.

347
00:14:35,580 --> 00:14:36,930
And Mexico.

348
00:14:36,930 --> 00:14:40,500
And I think I mean I hate to

use the word cosmopolitan.

349

00:14:40,500 --> 00:14:42,360

But I think I sort
of considered myself

350

00:14:42,360 --> 00:14:45,510

to be somewhat more that.

351

00:14:45,510 --> 00:14:48,690

And never Polish simply
because my parents never

352

00:14:48,690 --> 00:14:51,540

spoke about Poland.

353

00:14:51,540 --> 00:14:54,240

I thought of Poland
only in terms of family,

354

00:14:54,240 --> 00:14:58,360

but not in terms of country.

355

00:14:58,360 --> 00:15:01,090

After the war was over-- and
again you were quite young

356

00:15:01,090 --> 00:15:04,210

then, I understand that--

357

00:15:04,210 --> 00:15:06,760

but after the war when
all the news came out

358

00:15:06,760 --> 00:15:12,760

and the pictures came out of
the camps and of the victims,

359

00:15:12,760 --> 00:15:15,490

were you old enough to
understand what happened?

360

00:15:15,490 --> 00:15:18,260

And you say your parents
really never talked about it.

361

00:15:18,260 --> 00:15:20,330

Obviously, they saw all this.

362

00:15:20,330 --> 00:15:21,850

I didn't want to read about it.

363

00:15:21,850 --> 00:15:23,610

And I didn't want to
look at the pictures.

364

00:15:23,610 --> 00:15:27,800

I had, I mean willy nilly,
we would see them sometimes.

365

00:15:27,800 --> 00:15:29,800

But I stayed away
from it completely.

366

00:15:29,800 --> 00:15:32,320

I didn't want to read about it.

367

00:15:32,320 --> 00:15:36,100

I tried reading a couple of
things and just got too upset.

368

00:15:36,100 --> 00:15:38,090

And I just didn't--

369

00:15:38,090 --> 00:15:39,940

So you protected yourself.

370

00:15:39,940 --> 00:15:44,930

And it just reminded
me too much of things.

371

00:15:44,930 --> 00:15:50,500

And if I can jump ahead
a little bit, when

372

00:15:50,500 --> 00:15:55,950

I did the Spielberg interview,
it was during the Bosnian War.

373

00:15:55,950 --> 00:15:57,950

And I had a horrible time.

374

00:15:57,950 --> 00:16:01,010

Because I was watching
the news every night.

375

00:16:01,010 --> 00:16:03,487

And it just brought
everything back.

376

00:16:03,487 --> 00:16:05,570

They looked like the people
that I had been among.

377

00:16:05,570 --> 00:16:08,930

The situation was the same.

378

00:16:08,930 --> 00:16:11,210

I mean, in a sense.

379

00:16:11,210 --> 00:16:14,090

The way people were dressed,
the way they looked.

380

00:16:14,090 --> 00:16:15,950

I think I spent about
a year just sort

381

00:16:15,950 --> 00:16:20,580

of weepy every
single night, which

382

00:16:20,580 --> 00:16:22,290

was really not a good thing.

383

00:16:22,290 --> 00:16:24,990

But suddenly, it hadn't

really come back until then.

384

00:16:24,990 --> 00:16:27,240

And it was after that that
I started to read about it.

385

00:16:27,240 --> 00:16:30,840

But I have not gone to
the Holocaust Museum

386

00:16:30,840 --> 00:16:33,270

except to hear a lecture
once, which was downstairs.

387

00:16:33,270 --> 00:16:34,890

And I didn't have
to go in the Museum.

388

00:16:34,890 --> 00:16:37,500

I did go to Yad
Vashem and thought

389

00:16:37,500 --> 00:16:39,940

that was a mistake afterward.

390

00:16:39,940 --> 00:16:41,290

Because?

391

00:16:41,290 --> 00:16:44,195

It just brought images back
that I didn't want to see.

392

00:16:44,195 --> 00:16:46,570

Yeah.

393

00:16:46,570 --> 00:16:50,870

Some of those photographs
that are there.

394

00:16:50,870 --> 00:16:52,273

You're now in college.

395

00:16:52,273 --> 00:16:53,690

And you said you
met your husband.

396

00:16:53,690 --> 00:16:55,040

Was he a college student also?

397

00:16:55,040 --> 00:16:55,790

Yes.

398

00:16:55,790 --> 00:16:57,155

He was at Wesleyan.

399

00:16:57,155 --> 00:16:59,420

And we were both
juniors when we met.

400

00:16:59,420 --> 00:17:00,790

And you were at Wellesley.

401

00:17:00,790 --> 00:17:01,780

And he was at Wesleyan.

402

00:17:01,780 --> 00:17:02,480

And you met.

403

00:17:02,480 --> 00:17:04,972

And then you graduated
from college.

404

00:17:04,972 --> 00:17:06,430

And did you get
married right away?

405

00:17:06,430 --> 00:17:09,050

I got married in
June of that year.

406

00:17:09,050 --> 00:17:10,339

Most people did in those days.

407

00:17:10,339 --> 00:17:11,650

I know, I know.

408

00:17:11,650 --> 00:17:14,030

And then we went to
Berkeley for a year,

409

00:17:14,030 --> 00:17:15,319

where he got his Masters.

410

00:17:15,319 --> 00:17:17,240

And when we came
back to Cambridge,

411

00:17:17,240 --> 00:17:21,800

I got a Masters of Science in
Library Science at Simmons.

412

00:17:21,800 --> 00:17:26,280

And then I went to work at
the Harvard Library at Weidner

413

00:17:26,280 --> 00:17:29,450

as a cataloguer, first
as a general subject

414

00:17:29,450 --> 00:17:31,910

cataloguer because I
knew all those languages.

415

00:17:31,910 --> 00:17:32,630

Ah yes.

416

00:17:32,630 --> 00:17:36,303

Otherwise, they really didn't
hire women, unless they had to.

417

00:17:36,303 --> 00:17:37,220

But you had the skill.

418

00:17:37,220 --> 00:17:40,250

But I had the languages.

419

00:17:40,250 --> 00:17:43,070
And then I became assistant
Scandinavian cataloguer,

420
00:17:43,070 --> 00:17:44,190
as well.

421
00:17:44,190 --> 00:17:46,460
So I had to learn
to read Icelandic--

422
00:17:46,460 --> 00:17:47,600
Oh my God.

423
00:17:47,600 --> 00:17:51,050
Which is different than
some of the other languages.

424
00:17:51,050 --> 00:17:53,047
Enough to be able to catalogue.

425
00:17:53,047 --> 00:17:56,497

426
00:17:56,497 --> 00:17:58,080
Was your husband
studying or teaching?

427
00:17:58,080 --> 00:18:01,500
He was at Harvard
getting his doctorate

428
00:18:01,500 --> 00:18:03,150
in Medieval Russian History.

429
00:18:03,150 --> 00:18:04,050
Oh my.

430
00:18:04,050 --> 00:18:08,040
And he was three
quarters of the way

431

00:18:08,040 --> 00:18:09,960
through when we
had the opportunity

432
00:18:09,960 --> 00:18:13,150
to join the Foreign
Service and go to India.

433
00:18:13,150 --> 00:18:14,430
So we did for three years.

434
00:18:14,430 --> 00:18:15,930
Did you have children
at that point?

435
00:18:15,930 --> 00:18:16,430
No.

436
00:18:16,430 --> 00:18:19,500
My oldest was born in New Delhi.

437
00:18:19,500 --> 00:18:22,440
And then we came back so he
could finish his doctorate

438
00:18:22,440 --> 00:18:23,670
three years later.

439
00:18:23,670 --> 00:18:27,260
And then, I had my
second son in Cambridge.

440
00:18:27,260 --> 00:18:28,880
And then we moved here.

441
00:18:28,880 --> 00:18:30,650
And he went to work
for Hubert Humphrey.

442
00:18:30,650 --> 00:18:33,290

443

00:18:33,290 --> 00:18:38,300
And he left the State Department
because he couldn't actually

444
00:18:38,300 --> 00:18:40,100
stay if you were
going to go back.

445
00:18:40,100 --> 00:18:43,990
And he felt by then he should go
back and finish his doctorate.

446
00:18:43,990 --> 00:18:44,990
Oh, he hadn't finished.

447
00:18:44,990 --> 00:18:45,490
No.

448
00:18:45,490 --> 00:18:49,230
He had done everything except
write the dissertation.

449
00:18:49,230 --> 00:18:50,090
So we went back.

450
00:18:50,090 --> 00:18:52,610
I had my second
son in Cambridge.

451
00:18:52,610 --> 00:18:54,360
And he spent nine
months writing it.

452
00:18:54,360 --> 00:18:56,590
And then we came here to DC.

453
00:18:56,590 --> 00:18:58,590
And then--

454
00:18:58,590 --> 00:19:00,210
At that point, he
had decided not

455

00:19:00,210 --> 00:19:02,280

to go into teaching, which
he had planned to do,

456

00:19:02,280 --> 00:19:05,790

because there was this
shift from Russian Studies

457

00:19:05,790 --> 00:19:09,510

to Vietnamese and
Southeast Asian Studies.

458

00:19:09,510 --> 00:19:12,810

And there were literally
no jobs in academia.

459

00:19:12,810 --> 00:19:16,470

And by that time, he had also
gotten bitten by the government

460

00:19:16,470 --> 00:19:20,640

bug, having been with
the Foreign Service

461

00:19:20,640 --> 00:19:21,970

for three years in India.

462

00:19:21,970 --> 00:19:22,980

Oh OK.

463

00:19:22,980 --> 00:19:25,710

So he went to work
in a government.

464

00:19:25,710 --> 00:19:27,060

With?

465

00:19:27,060 --> 00:19:28,590

First with Hubert Humphrey.

466

00:19:28,590 --> 00:19:32,040

Then he was what was called

then Administrative Assistant

467

00:19:32,040 --> 00:19:38,540
to Tom Eagleton of Missouri
and Ribicoff of Connecticut.

468

00:19:38,540 --> 00:19:44,220
And then various other things.

469

00:19:44,220 --> 00:19:49,470
And he was head of the staff
for the Senate Budget Committee

470

00:19:49,470 --> 00:19:51,990
when that was first formed.

471

00:19:51,990 --> 00:19:55,740
Then, under Carter, he
was Assistant Secretary

472

00:19:55,740 --> 00:19:58,620
of State for [? H, ?]
and the head of AID.

473

00:19:58,620 --> 00:20:02,390

474

00:20:02,390 --> 00:20:04,310
Assistant Secretary
of State for?

475

00:20:04,310 --> 00:20:05,420
Congressional Relations.

476

00:20:05,420 --> 00:20:06,170
Oh OK.

477

00:20:06,170 --> 00:20:08,900
And then head of AID.

478

00:20:08,900 --> 00:20:11,900
And after that, he was

head of a small think tank

479

00:20:11,900 --> 00:20:17,240
and then was head of National
Public Radio for 11 years.

480

00:20:17,240 --> 00:20:20,960
And under Clinton, he went
back as Assistant Secretary

481

00:20:20,960 --> 00:20:23,600
for International
Organization, at which point

482

00:20:23,600 --> 00:20:28,870
Madeleine Albright, my
classmate, was at the UN.

483

00:20:28,870 --> 00:20:29,790
And--

484

00:20:29,790 --> 00:20:31,660
Now, your husband was
born in this country.

485

00:20:31,660 --> 00:20:32,470
Yes.

486

00:20:32,470 --> 00:20:34,350
His family goes back
to the Mayflower.

487

00:20:34,350 --> 00:20:35,300
Oh OK.

488

00:20:35,300 --> 00:20:36,900
Literally goes back
to the Mayflower.

489

00:20:36,900 --> 00:20:37,400
OK.

490

00:20:37,400 --> 00:20:40,770

491

00:20:40,770 --> 00:20:44,190

In fact, one of my sons did a
thing on it was at Beauvoirs.

492

00:20:44,190 --> 00:20:47,040

They had to do
their genealogies.

493

00:20:47,040 --> 00:20:50,460

And two of the boys in this
class, he and Mark Tunney,

494

00:20:50,460 --> 00:20:56,800

had the most oldest
and the most recent.

495

00:20:56,800 --> 00:20:59,100

Mark Tunney's mother
was, I think, Norwegian.

496

00:20:59,100 --> 00:21:01,180

And I was Polish.

497

00:21:01,180 --> 00:21:03,846

And both fathers went
way back to the whatever.

498

00:21:03,846 --> 00:21:07,030

499

00:21:07,030 --> 00:21:08,730

Is he Jewish, your husband?

500

00:21:08,730 --> 00:21:09,230

No.

501

00:21:09,230 --> 00:21:09,730

No.

502

00:21:09,730 --> 00:21:11,876
OK.

503
00:21:11,876 --> 00:21:13,550
He's not really anything.

504
00:21:13,550 --> 00:21:15,470
But on his mother's
side, he came

505
00:21:15,470 --> 00:21:18,770
from a long line of
Presbyterian ministers,

506
00:21:18,770 --> 00:21:22,360
starting with Abner Benedict who
graduate in 1800 from the Yale

507
00:21:22,360 --> 00:21:23,134
Divinity School.

508
00:21:23,134 --> 00:21:23,910
[LAUGHTER]

509
00:21:23,910 --> 00:21:25,340
But no.

510
00:21:25,340 --> 00:21:27,140
Neither my husband
nor my children

511
00:21:27,140 --> 00:21:29,720
are particularly religious,
although the children consider

512
00:21:29,720 --> 00:21:31,080
themselves Jewish and such.

513
00:21:31,080 --> 00:21:31,580
Do they?

514
00:21:31,580 --> 00:21:33,272

Yeah.

515

00:21:33,272 --> 00:21:34,730

We'll go into that
in a little bit.

516

00:21:34,730 --> 00:21:36,500

Were your parents
upset that you did not

517

00:21:36,500 --> 00:21:37,800

marry someone who was Jewish?

518

00:21:37,800 --> 00:21:37,880

No.

519

00:21:37,880 --> 00:21:38,460

I mean, they were--

520

00:21:38,460 --> 00:21:40,430

Considering what they
had gone through because

521

00:21:40,430 --> 00:21:41,390

they were Jewish.

522

00:21:41,390 --> 00:21:43,050

They did not believe in--

523

00:21:43,050 --> 00:21:43,550

No.

524

00:21:43,550 --> 00:21:44,980

I just meant, considering
what they went through.

525

00:21:44,980 --> 00:21:45,850

Religion and such at all.

526

00:21:45,850 --> 00:21:46,350

Yeah.

527
00:21:46,350 --> 00:21:47,750
Yeah.

528
00:21:47,750 --> 00:21:48,980
So then, OK.

529
00:21:48,980 --> 00:21:51,040
So now you're in Washington.

530
00:21:51,040 --> 00:21:53,690
And you have all
these series of jobs.

531
00:21:53,690 --> 00:21:55,650
And then so you've been here.

532
00:21:55,650 --> 00:21:58,920
And I worked as a librarian
at the Cathedral School.

533
00:21:58,920 --> 00:21:59,420
Oh really?

534
00:21:59,420 --> 00:22:02,870
So I'd have the same vacations
as my children and so forth.

535
00:22:02,870 --> 00:22:03,500
Yeah.

536
00:22:03,500 --> 00:22:06,680
And when we were in India, I
worked at the American School

537
00:22:06,680 --> 00:22:09,950
Library there and also at an
Indian library for a while.

538
00:22:09,950 --> 00:22:14,300

539

00:22:14,300 --> 00:22:16,620
And then your children
went off to college?

540
00:22:16,620 --> 00:22:17,870
Then they went off to college.

541
00:22:17,870 --> 00:22:20,840
And what are they doing now?

542
00:22:20,840 --> 00:22:26,090
My oldest son is the Junior
Senator from Colorado.

543
00:22:26,090 --> 00:22:29,810
The younger one is editor in
chief of the Atlantic Monthly.

544
00:22:29,810 --> 00:22:36,860
And my daughter is a business
consultant for Deloitte,

545
00:22:36,860 --> 00:22:39,170
at the moment working on
their China expansion.

546
00:22:39,170 --> 00:22:40,340
Oh my.

547
00:22:40,340 --> 00:22:42,900
And their names are?

548
00:22:42,900 --> 00:22:47,150
Michael F. Bennet is the oldest.

549
00:22:47,150 --> 00:22:49,840
James D. Bennet
is my middle son.

550
00:22:49,840 --> 00:22:53,270
And Helena Anne
Bennet is my daughter.

551

00:22:53,270 --> 00:22:54,040

Called Holly.

552

00:22:54,040 --> 00:22:54,580

Yeah.

553

00:22:54,580 --> 00:22:56,260

Yeah.

554

00:22:56,260 --> 00:22:58,538

Can we talk a little

bit now about--

555

00:22:58,538 --> 00:22:59,830

and you have retired, I assume?

556

00:22:59,830 --> 00:23:02,090

I have retired.

557

00:23:02,090 --> 00:23:03,890

Although I do a lot

of volunteer things,

558

00:23:03,890 --> 00:23:07,560

so sometimes it doesn't seem

as though I'm very retired.

559

00:23:07,560 --> 00:23:08,060

Right.

560

00:23:08,060 --> 00:23:09,778

Well, that's wonderful.

561

00:23:09,778 --> 00:23:13,360

562

00:23:13,360 --> 00:23:16,750

Can we talk just a little

about your thoughts,

563

00:23:16,750 --> 00:23:20,450

considering what your background
is and what you went through?

564

00:23:20,450 --> 00:23:24,420

Do you consider yourself Jewish
at this point in your life?

565

00:23:24,420 --> 00:23:25,120

Yes.

566

00:23:25,120 --> 00:23:25,620

You do?

567

00:23:25,620 --> 00:23:27,150

Yes.

568

00:23:27,150 --> 00:23:30,640

And you said, were
your children raised it

569

00:23:30,640 --> 00:23:31,870

all in the Jewish tradition?

570

00:23:31,870 --> 00:23:32,020

No.

571

00:23:32,020 --> 00:23:33,610

They weren't raised
in any tradition.

572

00:23:33,610 --> 00:23:43,110

But I think I consider myself
Jewish as an ethnic identity,

573

00:23:43,110 --> 00:23:44,700

perhaps I should say.

574

00:23:44,700 --> 00:23:46,243

But not a religious identity.

575

00:23:46,243 --> 00:23:50,410

576
00:23:50,410 --> 00:23:56,300
And when your children
were growing up,

577
00:23:56,300 --> 00:23:58,797
you said that they sometimes--
or even your grandchildren--

578
00:23:58,797 --> 00:24:00,380
have asked you about
your experiences.

579
00:24:00,380 --> 00:24:04,090
But I mean, they
must have asked you

580
00:24:04,090 --> 00:24:06,190
about why you didn't
have relatives.

581
00:24:06,190 --> 00:24:06,740
No.

582
00:24:06,740 --> 00:24:07,240
No.

583
00:24:07,240 --> 00:24:07,740
They didn't.

584
00:24:07,740 --> 00:24:11,210
Believe me, my husband's
family is so enormous.

585
00:24:11,210 --> 00:24:13,720
A lack of relatives was
not anything anybody ever

586
00:24:13,720 --> 00:24:14,440
talked about.

587
00:24:14,440 --> 00:24:16,310

And we've always
been very close.

588
00:24:16,310 --> 00:24:18,790
We're still very close.

589
00:24:18,790 --> 00:24:19,960
This is a former husband?

590
00:24:19,960 --> 00:24:21,280
So former husband.

591
00:24:21,280 --> 00:24:21,790
Oh, I see.

592
00:24:21,790 --> 00:24:26,440
And the next layer,
I mean, first of all,

593
00:24:26,440 --> 00:24:29,440
he was one of five.

594
00:24:29,440 --> 00:24:30,930
And we're still close.

595
00:24:30,930 --> 00:24:34,060
And then the next
generation, my children's

596
00:24:34,060 --> 00:24:35,230
generation, which is--

597
00:24:35,230 --> 00:24:36,160
All the cousins.

598
00:24:36,160 --> 00:24:37,540
12 cousins.

599
00:24:37,540 --> 00:24:38,770
And they're all very close.

600

00:24:38,770 --> 00:24:42,200
And now their children
are very close.

601
00:24:42,200 --> 00:24:46,330
So it's just, our
vacations, our weddings,

602
00:24:46,330 --> 00:24:48,202
funerals, everybody
gets together.

603
00:24:48,202 --> 00:24:50,410
But I meant there's really
no relatives on your side.

604
00:24:50,410 --> 00:24:51,490
There's none on my side.

605
00:24:51,490 --> 00:24:51,990
No.

606
00:24:51,990 --> 00:24:52,490
Yeah.

607
00:24:52,490 --> 00:24:56,510
And they either didn't bring
it up or just were overwhelmed

608
00:24:56,510 --> 00:24:57,627
by their father's side.

609
00:24:57,627 --> 00:24:58,460
They must have-- No.

610
00:24:58,460 --> 00:25:00,290
They must have at
some point or other.

611
00:25:00,290 --> 00:25:03,590
But I mean, they were
aware of my background.

612

00:25:03,590 --> 00:25:05,390

And they knew I
was an only child.

613

00:25:05,390 --> 00:25:07,233

When did you start
telling them about what

614

00:25:07,233 --> 00:25:08,150

you had lived through?

615

00:25:08,150 --> 00:25:09,890

Well, they always
knew that my parents

616

00:25:09,890 --> 00:25:11,000

had a very strong accent.

617

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:12,860

So they probably
asked at some point.

618

00:25:12,860 --> 00:25:14,510

And my mother and
father certainly

619

00:25:14,510 --> 00:25:18,310

talked about having grown up
in Poland and gone to school.

620

00:25:18,310 --> 00:25:20,360

It's just that they
stopped at the war.

621

00:25:20,360 --> 00:25:21,650

Yeah.

622

00:25:21,650 --> 00:25:25,370

But they did talk
about going to school,

623

00:25:25,370 --> 00:25:27,690

what they did in school.

624

00:25:27,690 --> 00:25:32,310

My father would talk about
his having, he was always very

625

00:25:32,310 --> 00:25:33,600

interested in natural history.

626

00:25:33,600 --> 00:25:35,490

And he had pet snakes
and things like that

627

00:25:35,490 --> 00:25:36,540

when he was growing up.

628

00:25:36,540 --> 00:25:38,970

So that was the kind of
thing they talked about.

629

00:25:38,970 --> 00:25:40,020

The lighthearted--

630

00:25:40,020 --> 00:25:41,670

Their normal life
before the war.

631

00:25:41,670 --> 00:25:43,014

The lighthearted.

632

00:25:43,014 --> 00:25:45,980

633

00:25:45,980 --> 00:25:48,770

When your children were the
age when they could really

634

00:25:48,770 --> 00:25:51,090

seriously study World
War II and the Holocaust,

635

00:25:51,090 --> 00:25:54,780

did that elicit
anything from you?

636
00:25:54,780 --> 00:25:56,190
They didn't really study it.

637
00:25:56,190 --> 00:26:02,040
I mean, it came up with the
business with your genealogy.

638
00:26:02,040 --> 00:26:05,390
But it wasn't until
my daughter, who

639
00:26:05,390 --> 00:26:08,120
is the youngest
by six years, did

640
00:26:08,120 --> 00:26:09,900
this course on
ethics at National

641
00:26:09,900 --> 00:26:14,250
Cathedral that the whole
Holocaust thing came up at all.

642
00:26:14,250 --> 00:26:16,890
And what was very interesting,
to me, at that time was she

643
00:26:16,890 --> 00:26:20,310
also read about Emmett Till.

644
00:26:20,310 --> 00:26:24,300
And she was flabbergasted that
that had happened so recently.

645
00:26:24,300 --> 00:26:27,540
She wasn't aware of how
recently the whole Civil War

646
00:26:27,540 --> 00:26:29,580
battle had been fought.

647
00:26:29,580 --> 00:26:32,430
And I told her that my
senior year in high school,

648
00:26:32,430 --> 00:26:36,180
we had to come down here with
my International Relations

649
00:26:36,180 --> 00:26:39,570
club and a teacher for
a visit to Washington.

650
00:26:39,570 --> 00:26:41,790
And we actually met with
Nixon, believe it or not,

651
00:26:41,790 --> 00:26:46,020
who was then up on the hill.

652
00:26:46,020 --> 00:26:49,890
And when I showed
up at our hotel,

653
00:26:49,890 --> 00:26:52,410
we were turned away because
we had two Puerto Rican

654
00:26:52,410 --> 00:26:53,790
girls in our group.

655
00:26:53,790 --> 00:26:57,740
This was in 1955.

656
00:26:57,740 --> 00:27:00,910
And my daughter
could not believe it.

657
00:27:00,910 --> 00:27:05,410
You know, she just was,
that it was that recently.

658

00:27:05,410 --> 00:27:08,650
And so, we just marched
down to the local Y

659
00:27:08,650 --> 00:27:12,930
and stayed there, the
whole group of us.

660
00:27:12,930 --> 00:27:15,010
And it was a lesson
for us because we

661
00:27:15,010 --> 00:27:18,910
had never, at Hunter, been
the least bit aware of anybody

662
00:27:18,910 --> 00:27:21,720
being different.

663
00:27:21,720 --> 00:27:23,134
We just hadn't.

664
00:27:23,134 --> 00:27:23,970
Yeah.

665
00:27:23,970 --> 00:27:26,800
Never thought about it.

666
00:27:26,800 --> 00:27:29,010
Just as at Wellesley,
I mean since then,

667
00:27:29,010 --> 00:27:31,360
I've found that a lot
of the Catholic girls

668
00:27:31,360 --> 00:27:33,910
stuck together, which I was
not aware of particularly

669
00:27:33,910 --> 00:27:35,620
at the time.

670

00:27:35,620 --> 00:27:40,300

But we never really
talked religion

671

00:27:40,300 --> 00:27:44,900

either in college in
those days, in the 50s.

672

00:27:44,900 --> 00:27:45,880

We talked politics.

673

00:27:45,880 --> 00:27:47,860

And we got into
battles about politics.

674

00:27:47,860 --> 00:27:50,830

I mean, John Kennedy was running
for President at the end there.

675

00:27:50,830 --> 00:27:55,230

And he came to Wellesley
and spoke and so forth.

676

00:27:55,230 --> 00:27:57,370

And one of the
people in my class

677

00:27:57,370 --> 00:28:01,880

was Eisenhower's Secretary
of Defense's daughter,

678

00:28:01,880 --> 00:28:05,800

for example, and was
a rabid Republican.

679

00:28:05,800 --> 00:28:07,360

So we talked about
things like that.

680

00:28:07,360 --> 00:28:09,070

We talked about our majors.

681

00:28:09,070 --> 00:28:11,590

We talked about our dates.

682

00:28:11,590 --> 00:28:13,900

But we didn't talk
about religion.

683

00:28:13,900 --> 00:28:15,250

I mean, I think some people did.

684

00:28:15,250 --> 00:28:18,460

But never any of my
friends, who are still

685

00:28:18,460 --> 00:28:24,740

my friends from college and
whom I still see regularly.

686

00:28:24,740 --> 00:28:27,790

Did you have many Jewish
friends in college?

687

00:28:27,790 --> 00:28:28,630

Yeah.

688

00:28:28,630 --> 00:28:31,760

But we just didn't
particularly talk religion.

689

00:28:31,760 --> 00:28:32,260

You know?

690

00:28:32,260 --> 00:28:34,390

It was just one of those things.

691

00:28:34,390 --> 00:28:36,790

I mean, I don't think we
were even particularly aware

692

00:28:36,790 --> 00:28:39,240

of what anybody's religion was.

693

00:28:39,240 --> 00:28:42,738
We probably were sort of in a--

694
00:28:42,738 --> 00:28:43,280
Subconscious.

695
00:28:43,280 --> 00:28:44,840
Subconscious way.

696
00:28:44,840 --> 00:28:47,580
But--

697
00:28:47,580 --> 00:28:50,090
Now you said you think your
three children consider

698
00:28:50,090 --> 00:28:52,280
themselves Jewish?

699
00:28:52,280 --> 00:28:52,780
Yes.

700
00:28:52,780 --> 00:28:54,500
But they also are not religious.

701
00:28:54,500 --> 00:28:57,530
Does it manifest itself
in any way or not?

702
00:28:57,530 --> 00:29:04,610
Well, they incorporated, they
all married Episcopalians.

703
00:29:04,610 --> 00:29:08,840
They incorporated some Jewish
tradition into each ceremony.

704
00:29:08,840 --> 00:29:10,477
Oh.

705
00:29:10,477 --> 00:29:11,810
You mean their wedding ceremony?

706
00:29:11,810 --> 00:29:15,030
Their wedding ceremony.

707
00:29:15,030 --> 00:29:18,140
They've talked about
that to their children.

708
00:29:18,140 --> 00:29:21,270
Well, except for the smallest.

709
00:29:21,270 --> 00:29:26,880
My oldest son, Michael Bennet,
has named two of his daughters

710
00:29:26,880 --> 00:29:30,780
after cousins of mine who
died in the Holocaust.

711
00:29:30,780 --> 00:29:32,340
Really?

712
00:29:32,340 --> 00:29:34,740
Well, one is named
after my mother, Helena.

713
00:29:34,740 --> 00:29:39,840
And her middle name is Felicia,
after my 14-year-old cousin

714
00:29:39,840 --> 00:29:41,610
who was killed.

715
00:29:41,610 --> 00:29:52,640
And the little one is named
Anna after my grandmother

716
00:29:52,640 --> 00:29:54,550
and after another
cousin who was killed.

717
00:29:54,550 --> 00:29:57,970

718
00:29:57,970 --> 00:30:01,416
So that's there.

719
00:30:01,416 --> 00:30:05,110
And Holly named, the middle
name for her daughter

720
00:30:05,110 --> 00:30:08,500
is after Sofia Wolf, who helped
my parents during the war.

721
00:30:08,500 --> 00:30:10,350
So they've incorporated it.

722
00:30:10,350 --> 00:30:11,080
Yeah.

723
00:30:11,080 --> 00:30:12,220
Kept the memory alive.

724
00:30:12,220 --> 00:30:16,600
But not-- Holly, when she was
at Columbia getting her MBA,

725
00:30:16,600 --> 00:30:24,280
did attend a local synagogue up
there on the Upper West Side,

726
00:30:24,280 --> 00:30:26,920
just to learn more
about her religion.

727
00:30:26,920 --> 00:30:31,000
But it's just not a big
part of, religion is not--

728
00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:34,090
I mean, for one thing, they
went to the Cathedral Schools.

729

00:30:34,090 --> 00:30:41,350
And I think that sort of turned
them more against religion

730
00:30:41,350 --> 00:30:42,584
than anything else did.

731
00:30:42,584 --> 00:30:44,400
[LAUGHTER]

732
00:30:44,400 --> 00:30:47,810
But it was just not a
big part of our lives.

733
00:30:47,810 --> 00:30:51,040
I mean, neither my
husband nor his siblings

734
00:30:51,040 --> 00:30:52,540
are particularly religious.

735
00:30:52,540 --> 00:30:54,740
And your husband's name is?

736
00:30:54,740 --> 00:30:55,473
James.

737
00:30:55,473 --> 00:30:57,580
[INAUDIBLE]

738
00:30:57,580 --> 00:31:01,690
Douglas Joseph Bennet,
Jr. And his, as I say,

739
00:31:01,690 --> 00:31:04,110
he came from a long line
of Presbyterian ministers.

740
00:31:04,110 --> 00:31:08,560
But by the time it came to
even his parents' religion,

741

00:31:08,560 --> 00:31:11,080
no one was very religious.

742
00:31:11,080 --> 00:31:17,290
And one of my nieces, one
of his sister's daughters,

743
00:31:17,290 --> 00:31:21,770
is married to
someone who is Jewish

744
00:31:21,770 --> 00:31:24,430
and who wanted his
children brought up

745
00:31:24,430 --> 00:31:26,638
in New York in Jewish schools.

746
00:31:26,638 --> 00:31:27,430
And they have been.

747
00:31:27,430 --> 00:31:28,660
And they've had
their bar-- well,

748
00:31:28,660 --> 00:31:29,785
the little girl hasn't yet.

749
00:31:29,785 --> 00:31:32,710
But the little boy
had his bar mitzvah.

750
00:31:32,710 --> 00:31:34,040
It's just never been an issue.

751
00:31:34,040 --> 00:31:34,540
You know?

752
00:31:34,540 --> 00:31:35,590
People intermarry.

753
00:31:35,590 --> 00:31:38,620

They don't worry about it.

754

00:31:38,620 --> 00:31:46,940

I mean, we have, in that
generation, one of my nieces,

755

00:31:46,940 --> 00:31:48,680

another sister of
my husband's, was

756

00:31:48,680 --> 00:31:51,050

married to a Muslim
imam for a while,

757

00:31:51,050 --> 00:31:54,160

from whom she's now divorced
and has a little girl who

758

00:31:54,160 --> 00:31:54,760

is from Ghana.

759

00:31:54,760 --> 00:31:58,590

760

00:31:58,590 --> 00:32:01,290

No one worries very much
in their generation anymore

761

00:32:01,290 --> 00:32:02,115

about either.

762

00:32:02,115 --> 00:32:04,870

763

00:32:04,870 --> 00:32:06,520

I mean, I have
Jewish friends who

764

00:32:06,520 --> 00:32:10,000

have been quite adamant
that their children should

765

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:11,830
marry in the faith.

766
00:32:11,830 --> 00:32:14,140
And then their children go
off and marry a Buddhist

767
00:32:14,140 --> 00:32:15,070
or something.

768
00:32:15,070 --> 00:32:18,940

769
00:32:18,940 --> 00:32:22,210
Do you think you would have
been a different person

770
00:32:22,210 --> 00:32:24,970
if you hadn't gone
through what you

771
00:32:24,970 --> 00:32:27,105
had to as a very young child?

772
00:32:27,105 --> 00:32:28,230
I'm sure I would have been.

773
00:32:28,230 --> 00:32:30,190
In what way?

774
00:32:30,190 --> 00:32:33,100
Well, I think that I
am very introverted.

775
00:32:33,100 --> 00:32:37,910
That I don't really
trust people that much.

776
00:32:37,910 --> 00:32:39,740
My daughter pointed
out one day, we

777

00:32:39,740 --> 00:32:42,420
were talking about where
they should buy a house.

778
00:32:42,420 --> 00:32:44,660
And she said, Mom, you
realize you're always

779
00:32:44,660 --> 00:32:47,450
giving us lectures about
buying houses that have

780
00:32:47,450 --> 00:32:48,665
exits on different streets.

781
00:32:48,665 --> 00:32:52,077

782
00:32:52,077 --> 00:32:54,410
You mean to be able to get
out two different directions?

783
00:32:54,410 --> 00:32:59,100
And I said no, I
never realized it.

784
00:32:59,100 --> 00:33:05,400
And she had gone to a Holocaust
survivors children's group

785
00:33:05,400 --> 00:33:07,800
in New York for a while.

786
00:33:07,800 --> 00:33:10,410
And she told me
one day that, Mom,

787
00:33:10,410 --> 00:33:15,770
they all have the same
experience with their parents

788
00:33:15,770 --> 00:33:19,310
and their grandparents who

survived the Holocaust.

789

00:33:19,310 --> 00:33:22,047

The same business, my mother
would call them all the time

790

00:33:22,047 --> 00:33:23,630

to make sure she
knew where they were.

791

00:33:23,630 --> 00:33:27,278

792

00:33:27,278 --> 00:33:28,820

Your mother would
call your children.

793

00:33:28,820 --> 00:33:30,230

Yeah.

794

00:33:30,230 --> 00:33:32,150

And of course, she called
me every single day

795

00:33:32,150 --> 00:33:33,775

to make sure that
she knew where I was.

796

00:33:33,775 --> 00:33:35,600

No matter where I
was in the world.

797

00:33:35,600 --> 00:33:37,100

Really?

798

00:33:37,100 --> 00:33:42,170

And it was that sort of
thing that was just always,

799

00:33:42,170 --> 00:33:44,390

my daughter said, you
know, I never realized.

800

00:33:44,390 --> 00:33:45,940

But it's not just you.

801

00:33:45,940 --> 00:33:50,180

It's this whole culture
that it creates.

802

00:33:50,180 --> 00:33:55,910

803

00:33:55,910 --> 00:33:59,090

And I think that's another
reason that, as a family,

804

00:33:59,090 --> 00:34:00,290

we've always been close.

805

00:34:00,290 --> 00:34:03,580

Because it ends up
that family ends up

806

00:34:03,580 --> 00:34:07,050

being the most important thing.

807

00:34:07,050 --> 00:34:11,020

And with my parents, certainly
I found that they made friends.

808

00:34:11,020 --> 00:34:13,120

But they made no
close friends after--

809

00:34:13,120 --> 00:34:15,130

I mean, their closest
friends were people

810

00:34:15,130 --> 00:34:18,550

they had known before the war.

811

00:34:18,550 --> 00:34:21,580

But they didn't really keep up
even with them all that much.

812
00:34:21,580 --> 00:34:24,460

813
00:34:24,460 --> 00:34:26,790
It was all family.

814
00:34:26,790 --> 00:34:31,383
Except there wasn't any left.

815
00:34:31,383 --> 00:34:37,389
You described yourself as being
a very independent young child,

816
00:34:37,389 --> 00:34:42,580
that you enrolled yourself
in the elementary school.

817
00:34:42,580 --> 00:34:45,360
Do you think you are that
way because of what you had,

818
00:34:45,360 --> 00:34:49,780
you didn't have the typical
childhood that kids have?

819
00:34:49,780 --> 00:34:52,043
I mean, I was on my
own to a certain extent

820
00:34:52,043 --> 00:34:52,960
for a lot of the time.

821
00:34:52,960 --> 00:34:53,460
Right.

822
00:34:53,460 --> 00:34:54,620
At a very young age.

823
00:34:54,620 --> 00:34:56,710
So do you attribute that to--

824

00:34:56,710 --> 00:34:57,620

I think so.

825

00:34:57,620 --> 00:35:00,010

I mean, something similar
might have happened otherwise.

826

00:35:00,010 --> 00:35:05,080

But I think the part about
not being very trusting,

827

00:35:05,080 --> 00:35:07,960

not really talking very
much until recently

828

00:35:07,960 --> 00:35:19,050

about my feelings about any
of this, I think all of that

829

00:35:19,050 --> 00:35:21,480

was partly because
my parents never did.

830

00:35:21,480 --> 00:35:30,840

And part of it, I think, is
that this whole new business

831

00:35:30,840 --> 00:35:33,120

in the United States about
just everybody talking

832

00:35:33,120 --> 00:35:34,920

about everything
that's most private

833

00:35:34,920 --> 00:35:38,470

was simply not ever done anyway
in my generation or my parents'

834

00:35:38,470 --> 00:35:38,970

generation.

835

00:35:38,970 --> 00:35:40,605
That's true, that's true.

836
00:35:40,605 --> 00:35:43,280

837
00:35:43,280 --> 00:35:46,560
Talking about your
intimate lives and thoughts

838
00:35:46,560 --> 00:35:49,950
and everything else, which is
all over television these days.

839
00:35:49,950 --> 00:35:53,220
But so, it was a way
people were brought up.

840
00:35:53,220 --> 00:35:55,560
I mean, there were things
you simply didn't talk about.

841
00:35:55,560 --> 00:35:56,700
Right.

842
00:35:56,700 --> 00:35:59,730
When your children were very
young and the age that you

843
00:35:59,730 --> 00:36:05,520
were, for instance, when
you were in the countryside,

844
00:36:05,520 --> 00:36:08,880
did it bring back any
memories for you at that time?

845
00:36:08,880 --> 00:36:11,950
Did you associate it
with your childhood?

846
00:36:11,950 --> 00:36:13,240
No.

847
00:36:13,240 --> 00:36:16,284
It was so totally different.

848
00:36:16,284 --> 00:36:17,660
I didn't.

849
00:36:17,660 --> 00:36:21,032
I was just wondering if
it stirred up memories.

850
00:36:21,032 --> 00:36:23,940
No.

851
00:36:23,940 --> 00:36:26,122
How do you feel about Germany?

852
00:36:26,122 --> 00:36:27,080
What are your thoughts?

853
00:36:27,080 --> 00:36:28,380
Have you been there?

854
00:36:28,380 --> 00:36:30,510
I've been twice.

855
00:36:30,510 --> 00:36:33,360
And I felt totally
claustrophobic the whole time.

856
00:36:33,360 --> 00:36:37,920
I went because my husband had
to go on official government

857
00:36:37,920 --> 00:36:38,430
business.

858
00:36:38,430 --> 00:36:41,280
And I had to go with him.

859
00:36:41,280 --> 00:36:48,120

And my feeling has
always been that I

860
00:36:48,120 --> 00:36:51,570
think I wish Germany had
been completely destroyed.

861
00:36:51,570 --> 00:36:54,410
And I still feel that way.

862
00:36:54,410 --> 00:36:57,050
And I never buy
anything made in Germany

863
00:36:57,050 --> 00:36:58,620
if I can possibly avoid it.

864
00:36:58,620 --> 00:37:00,860
We have never
owned a German car.

865
00:37:00,860 --> 00:37:03,720
Once in a while, I slip up on
something like a can opener.

866
00:37:03,720 --> 00:37:07,490
But I've really
always made a point.

867
00:37:07,490 --> 00:37:12,900
And I've sort of got my kids
to agree to do that also.

868
00:37:12,900 --> 00:37:14,060
Because?

869
00:37:14,060 --> 00:37:16,730
What's your reasoning?

870
00:37:16,730 --> 00:37:21,690
Because of the way I feel
about Germans and Germany,

871

00:37:21,690 --> 00:37:24,460

which is why I can understand
the Bosnians re-fighting

872

00:37:24,460 --> 00:37:29,150

a war from 800 AD or whatever.

873

00:37:29,150 --> 00:37:33,440

What happens when you
hear the German language?

874

00:37:33,440 --> 00:37:34,300

Is that upsetting?

875

00:37:34,300 --> 00:37:34,912

Yes.

876

00:37:34,912 --> 00:37:35,412

It is.

877

00:37:35,412 --> 00:37:37,890

It's still upsetting,
which is ridiculous.

878

00:37:37,890 --> 00:37:39,290

I mean, I'm 73 years old.

879

00:37:39,290 --> 00:37:40,490

But it still bothers me.

880

00:37:40,490 --> 00:37:48,840

881

00:37:48,840 --> 00:37:51,730

And as I say, I still cannot
get near a German shepherd.

882

00:37:51,730 --> 00:37:53,510

Right.

883

00:37:53,510 --> 00:37:57,240

They're odd things that are
simply not rational, I realize.

884
00:37:57,240 --> 00:37:58,610
But there they are.

885
00:37:58,610 --> 00:38:01,500
Are there any other
sights or sounds or smells

886
00:38:01,500 --> 00:38:04,130
that would trigger memories?

887
00:38:04,130 --> 00:38:06,540
Those silly stairs
in that building

888
00:38:06,540 --> 00:38:08,010
that the man fell down.

889
00:38:08,010 --> 00:38:11,160
I periodically find myself in
a school building or something

890
00:38:11,160 --> 00:38:12,600
where they have those stairs.

891
00:38:12,600 --> 00:38:15,300
And I absolutely just get out
of there as fast as I can.

892
00:38:15,300 --> 00:38:15,800
Do you?

893
00:38:15,800 --> 00:38:18,090
Yeah.

894
00:38:18,090 --> 00:38:19,970
It took me a while to
realize what it was.

895
00:38:19,970 --> 00:38:21,240

And then I finally did.

896
00:38:21,240 --> 00:38:23,870

897
00:38:23,870 --> 00:38:28,370
And then the Bosnia, seeing
the Bosnian war on the news

898
00:38:28,370 --> 00:38:30,660
was really just--

899
00:38:30,660 --> 00:38:31,160
Too painful.

900
00:38:31,160 --> 00:38:33,890
Terrible.

901
00:38:33,890 --> 00:38:36,843
What are your
thoughts about Israel?

902
00:38:36,843 --> 00:38:38,010
You've been there, you said?

903
00:38:38,010 --> 00:38:39,700
You've been to Yad Vashem.

904
00:38:39,700 --> 00:38:42,340
When my son was
there, my younger son

905
00:38:42,340 --> 00:38:45,900
was there for the
New York Times,

906
00:38:45,900 --> 00:38:47,220
it was during the Intifada.

907
00:38:47,220 --> 00:38:48,810
So things were very closed down.

908

00:38:48,810 --> 00:38:53,380

909

00:38:53,380 --> 00:38:56,080

I feel very apprehensive
about what's

910

00:38:56,080 --> 00:38:58,700

going to happen to Israel.

911

00:38:58,700 --> 00:39:03,680

I feel that they have made some
very serious mistakes in how

912

00:39:03,680 --> 00:39:05,150

they treat the Palestinians.

913

00:39:05,150 --> 00:39:08,180

What I saw when I was
there was pretty God awful.

914

00:39:08,180 --> 00:39:11,370

And it simply made me think that
they were doing the same thing

915

00:39:11,370 --> 00:39:13,130

that the Germans had
done with the Jews,

916

00:39:13,130 --> 00:39:14,560

of making them non-people.

917

00:39:14,560 --> 00:39:17,770

918

00:39:17,770 --> 00:39:21,900

You know, at one point, at
one of the checkpoints, which

919

00:39:21,900 --> 00:39:24,430

were really set up massively
during the Intifada,

920
00:39:24,430 --> 00:39:27,100
I saw some soldiers being
absolutely horrible a couple

921
00:39:27,100 --> 00:39:28,943
of old Palestinian men.

922
00:39:28,943 --> 00:39:30,235
And that brought back memories.

923
00:39:30,235 --> 00:39:32,800

924
00:39:32,800 --> 00:39:38,560
And they have totally
ghettoized them.

925
00:39:38,560 --> 00:39:42,280
I think, in the end, if Israel
wants to continue to be there,

926
00:39:42,280 --> 00:39:45,070
they have to develop
a relationship

927
00:39:45,070 --> 00:39:47,600
and a decent relationship
with the Palestinians.

928
00:39:47,600 --> 00:39:50,210

929
00:39:50,210 --> 00:39:53,510
And even realizing that
the Arabs have deliberately

930
00:39:53,510 --> 00:39:57,610
kept the Palestinians living in
the situation in which they are

931
00:39:57,610 --> 00:40:03,710

as a provocation to Israel, even
realizing all of these things,

932

00:40:03,710 --> 00:40:08,690

I think that Israel has
become very, very conservative

933

00:40:08,690 --> 00:40:10,160

in recent years.

934

00:40:10,160 --> 00:40:14,070

I was amazed to find
when I was there--

935

00:40:14,070 --> 00:40:20,180

I'm trying to remember what year
it was that James was there--

936

00:40:20,180 --> 00:40:24,890

the majority of Israelis at that
point were either Middle East,

937

00:40:24,890 --> 00:40:28,800

I mean born in Arab
countries or from Russia.

938

00:40:28,800 --> 00:40:29,300

Yeah.

939

00:40:29,300 --> 00:40:34,520

So they had grown up in
countries in the Middle East

940

00:40:34,520 --> 00:40:41,720

where religion and government
were completely intertwined,

941

00:40:41,720 --> 00:40:45,480

which was not a good
thing for Israel.

942

00:40:45,480 --> 00:40:49,190

They were trying to have the

same thing happen in Israel.

943

00:40:49,190 --> 00:40:54,000

And I knew, I mean when I
was growing up in New York,

944

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:56,165

Teddy Kollek would come
and visit my parents.

945

00:40:56,165 --> 00:40:59,740

946

00:40:59,740 --> 00:41:02,230

Moshe Dayan would come
and visit and so forth.

947

00:41:02,230 --> 00:41:04,720

And they were secular people.

948

00:41:04,720 --> 00:41:06,470

And they understood.

949

00:41:06,470 --> 00:41:07,720

You know, they were Jewish.

950

00:41:07,720 --> 00:41:12,010

But they understood the need
for secular government and not

951

00:41:12,010 --> 00:41:16,280

to have religion be the one
that ran the government.

952

00:41:16,280 --> 00:41:19,070

And I think this is an
enormous danger now in Israel.

953

00:41:19,070 --> 00:41:22,940

954

00:41:22,940 --> 00:41:26,090

I mean, you have
people who are so

955
00:41:26,090 --> 00:41:29,690
unaware of their own history,
I think, in many ways.

956
00:41:29,690 --> 00:41:40,920

957
00:41:40,920 --> 00:41:44,430
Treating people the
way they are treating

958
00:41:44,430 --> 00:41:46,300
the Palestinians,
who are, of course,

959
00:41:46,300 --> 00:41:49,830
an enormous danger to them,
only makes it more dangerous.

960
00:41:49,830 --> 00:41:53,400

961
00:41:53,400 --> 00:41:57,150
Were you active in the
civil rights movement?

962
00:41:57,150 --> 00:41:59,400
Well, in a very minor way.

963
00:41:59,400 --> 00:42:03,625
When we lived in Berkeley,
we sat in several--

964
00:42:03,625 --> 00:42:04,250
Demonstrations?

965
00:42:04,250 --> 00:42:07,690
Drugstore counters,
believe it or not.

966

00:42:07,690 --> 00:42:10,790

And I walked in a bunch
of demonstrations here.

967

00:42:10,790 --> 00:42:13,580

But the major ones were
when we were abroad,

968

00:42:13,580 --> 00:42:16,040

those three years that
we were in 1963 to 1967

969

00:42:16,040 --> 00:42:18,010

that we weren't here.

970

00:42:18,010 --> 00:42:18,510

Yeah.

971

00:42:18,510 --> 00:42:20,440

That's when you were in India.

972

00:42:20,440 --> 00:42:22,000

Since then, I have.

973

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:22,628

Yeah.

974

00:42:22,628 --> 00:42:23,420

You've been active?

975

00:42:23,420 --> 00:42:26,070

Yeah.

976

00:42:26,070 --> 00:42:27,170

OK.

977

00:42:27,170 --> 00:42:31,170

Any thoughts that you had at
the time of the Eichmann trial?

978

00:42:31,170 --> 00:42:32,420

Do you remember that?

979

00:42:32,420 --> 00:42:34,490

I didn't really follow it.

980

00:42:34,490 --> 00:42:37,700

Honestly, I mean I know

it's total avoidance.

981

00:42:37,700 --> 00:42:41,450

But I just didn't want

to, it's only recently

982

00:42:41,450 --> 00:42:43,580

that looks up some

things on the internet

983

00:42:43,580 --> 00:42:44,900

and tried to read them.

984

00:42:44,900 --> 00:42:51,438

985

00:42:51,438 --> 00:42:53,230

You know, I got some

books for the children

986

00:42:53,230 --> 00:42:55,105

because I thought that

they should read them.

987

00:42:55,105 --> 00:43:01,487

Like Melcher's Never to Forget,

which is very good, I think.

988

00:43:01,487 --> 00:43:03,070

I've read some of

the other books that

989

00:43:03,070 --> 00:43:04,240

are written for children.

990

00:43:04,240 --> 00:43:06,940
I find that most of them, even
the ones that are supposedly

991
00:43:06,940 --> 00:43:09,960
memoirs, are not very accurate.

992
00:43:09,960 --> 00:43:12,270
And so, I haven't
pressed them on them.

993
00:43:12,270 --> 00:43:14,580
I think one of the best
books is actually-- well,

994
00:43:14,580 --> 00:43:17,510
one is Never to Forget,
which is not fiction.

995
00:43:17,510 --> 00:43:19,550
And the other is a
little book of fiction

996
00:43:19,550 --> 00:43:25,210
called Frederick, which is about
a little Jewish boy in Germany.

997
00:43:25,210 --> 00:43:27,670
And it's a tiny little book.

998
00:43:27,670 --> 00:43:29,290
And it's very, very good.

999
00:43:29,290 --> 00:43:32,110
Because it just gives
you this description

1000
00:43:32,110 --> 00:43:35,210
of how this child is
completely isolated.

1001
00:43:35,210 --> 00:43:37,720
It is a sort of very

claustrophobic thing.

1002

00:43:37,720 --> 00:43:38,590

And then he dies.

1003

00:43:38,590 --> 00:43:42,980

1004

00:43:42,980 --> 00:43:46,378

And I obviously got the
Anne Frank book for Holly.

1005

00:43:46,378 --> 00:43:47,670

I don't think the boys read it.

1006

00:43:47,670 --> 00:43:50,040

I'm not sure they ever did.

1007

00:43:50,040 --> 00:43:54,570

But I found, as I looked
at a lot of the books that

1008

00:43:54,570 --> 00:43:58,230

have come out, they just don't
seem very authentic to me.

1009

00:43:58,230 --> 00:43:59,970

And they just kind
of don't ring right.

1010

00:43:59,970 --> 00:44:03,530

1011

00:44:03,530 --> 00:44:07,875

But that's just sort
of a visceral reaction.

1012

00:44:07,875 --> 00:44:11,130

What do you mean, not authentic?

1013

00:44:11,130 --> 00:44:13,890

The books that are specifically

written for teenagers,

1014
00:44:13,890 --> 00:44:16,770
for example, that are supposed--

1015
00:44:16,770 --> 00:44:18,330
fiction--

1016
00:44:18,330 --> 00:44:20,710
[SNAP]

1017
00:44:20,710 --> 00:44:21,210
No, no.

1018
00:44:21,210 --> 00:44:21,710
That's fine.

1019
00:44:21,710 --> 00:44:25,230

1020
00:44:25,230 --> 00:44:28,810
Which is supposedly
based on, which

1021
00:44:28,810 --> 00:44:32,480
you use heroes or
heroines who are Jewish

1022
00:44:32,480 --> 00:44:38,750
and what their life is
like, they're so sanitized.

1023
00:44:38,750 --> 00:44:39,690
Oh.

1024
00:44:39,690 --> 00:44:43,740
They don't-- which I guess they
have to be when they're written

1025
00:44:43,740 --> 00:44:45,800
for children.

1026

00:44:45,800 --> 00:44:47,990

But I don't think they're
very much use, either.

1027

00:44:47,990 --> 00:44:51,290

Which is why Never to
Forget, another book

1028

00:44:51,290 --> 00:44:56,260

is called Smoke and Ashes are
two good non-fiction books

1029

00:44:56,260 --> 00:44:58,570

that I would recommend.

1030

00:44:58,570 --> 00:44:59,070

But--

1031

00:44:59,070 --> 00:45:02,663

1032

00:45:02,663 --> 00:45:04,330

You mean the others
are not grim enough?

1033

00:45:04,330 --> 00:45:05,350

Is that what you mean?

1034

00:45:05,350 --> 00:45:14,730

They're not-- you don't have
to be totally grim to at least

1035

00:45:14,730 --> 00:45:16,650

express the--

1036

00:45:16,650 --> 00:45:19,560

I mean, one of the things that
people don't understand here,

1037

00:45:19,560 --> 00:45:21,952

they say, well, why didn't
the Jews fight back?

1038
00:45:21,952 --> 00:45:22,910
Which some of them did.

1039
00:45:22,910 --> 00:45:25,830
Why didn't they
do this and that?

1040
00:45:25,830 --> 00:45:28,770
And it's never in these
books that, if every one

1041
00:45:28,770 --> 00:45:31,500
of your neighbors is
ready to turn you in,

1042
00:45:31,500 --> 00:45:36,000
and you can't ever
tell who you are,

1043
00:45:36,000 --> 00:45:37,680
that's just not in those books.

1044
00:45:37,680 --> 00:45:41,340
And that's what
has to be there, I

1045
00:45:41,340 --> 00:45:44,750
think, for a child to
understand or a teenager to.

1046
00:45:44,750 --> 00:45:48,060
I mean, we're talking about
teen books for teenagers

1047
00:45:48,060 --> 00:45:54,490
to understand why things
were the way they were.

1048
00:45:54,490 --> 00:45:59,890
You're in complete
enemy land every moment.

1049

00:45:59,890 --> 00:46:04,840

How do you feel about having the
Holocaust Museum in Washington?

1050

00:46:04,840 --> 00:46:06,310

I think it's a very good thing.

1051

00:46:06,310 --> 00:46:07,710

I think that it's a--

1052

00:46:07,710 --> 00:46:14,730

1053

00:46:14,730 --> 00:46:17,310

the problem is that
now you're ending up

1054

00:46:17,310 --> 00:46:19,530

with all these
other museums that I

1055

00:46:19,530 --> 00:46:22,230

think it's as if every
single group feels that they

1056

00:46:22,230 --> 00:46:24,450

have to have their own museum.

1057

00:46:24,450 --> 00:46:28,050

And it sort dilutes, I think,
the impact of something

1058

00:46:28,050 --> 00:46:34,340

which refers to a very
specific historical incident.

1059

00:46:34,340 --> 00:46:40,540

I am very glad that they are
including other peoples now

1060

00:46:40,540 --> 00:46:42,130

besides Jews.

1061
00:46:42,130 --> 00:46:43,130
At the Holocaust Museum?

1062
00:46:43,130 --> 00:46:44,130
At the Holocaust Museum.

1063
00:46:44,130 --> 00:46:46,650

1064
00:46:46,650 --> 00:46:47,150
Yeah.

1065
00:46:47,150 --> 00:46:49,770
I've never been to Cambodia--
well, I've been to Cambodia--

1066
00:46:49,770 --> 00:46:57,310
but not to visit
the Killing Fields.

1067
00:46:57,310 --> 00:47:01,320
And the fact that it
just gets repeated,

1068
00:47:01,320 --> 00:47:05,040
I mean this is what I found so
disturbing during the Bosnian

1069
00:47:05,040 --> 00:47:09,700
war, that people haven't
learned anything.

1070
00:47:09,700 --> 00:47:12,760
And now, it's in Africa
and everywhere else.

1071
00:47:12,760 --> 00:47:18,480

1072
00:47:18,480 --> 00:47:22,730
And even in the United

States, where you now have,

1073

00:47:22,730 --> 00:47:28,050
in our politics,
these extremes in how

1074

00:47:28,050 --> 00:47:35,330
people talk about their religion
and how the rest of the United

1075

00:47:35,330 --> 00:47:37,400
States should follow
certain precepts

1076

00:47:37,400 --> 00:47:41,995
because they belong to one
particular narrow world view.

1077

00:47:41,995 --> 00:47:44,670
It continues to be
very frightening.

1078

00:47:44,670 --> 00:47:45,540
Yeah.

1079

00:47:45,540 --> 00:47:49,190
What was it like to
become a citizen?

1080

00:47:49,190 --> 00:47:50,330
It was fine.

1081

00:47:50,330 --> 00:47:52,370
My parents became
citizens before I did.

1082

00:47:52,370 --> 00:47:54,470
Because I had to be 18.

1083

00:47:54,470 --> 00:47:56,930
And I had to come back when
I was already in college

1084

00:47:56,930 --> 00:47:58,850
to take the exam.

1085

00:47:58,850 --> 00:48:02,890
And the judge, because I had
graduated from high school,

1086

00:48:02,890 --> 00:48:05,810
he had my transcript
in front of him.

1087

00:48:05,810 --> 00:48:09,230
He asked me the whole
succession to the presidency,

1088

00:48:09,230 --> 00:48:11,060
all the way down.

1089

00:48:11,060 --> 00:48:13,715
And he wanted the names of the
people, not just the titles.

1090

00:48:13,715 --> 00:48:16,520

1091

00:48:16,520 --> 00:48:18,560
And you know now,
if someone comes in

1092

00:48:18,560 --> 00:48:20,160
and they haven't
been educated here,

1093

00:48:20,160 --> 00:48:22,280
they ask them who the first
President of the United States

1094

00:48:22,280 --> 00:48:22,780
was.

1095

00:48:22,780 --> 00:48:26,260
And I was half an hour being

asked all of these questions.

1096
00:48:26,260 --> 00:48:28,010
Because he wanted to
be sure that I really

1097
00:48:28,010 --> 00:48:32,690
had learned in the New York
public schools all the things

1098
00:48:32,690 --> 00:48:35,710
he felt I should know.

1099
00:48:35,710 --> 00:48:37,490
It was really very exciting.

1100
00:48:37,490 --> 00:48:39,280
You were proud to be a citizen?

1101
00:48:39,280 --> 00:48:39,840
Yeah.

1102
00:48:39,840 --> 00:48:41,340
Absolutely.

1103
00:48:41,340 --> 00:48:43,200
How would you
describe yourself now?

1104
00:48:43,200 --> 00:48:44,850
As American?

1105
00:48:44,850 --> 00:48:45,460
Yes.

1106
00:48:45,460 --> 00:48:46,560
Or Jewish?

1107
00:48:46,560 --> 00:48:48,697
What adjectives would you--

1108

00:48:48,697 --> 00:48:50,780

You know, I don't really
think about it very much.

1109

00:48:50,780 --> 00:48:54,000

But obviously, I think
of myself as an American.

1110

00:48:54,000 --> 00:48:56,880

I know.

1111

00:48:56,880 --> 00:49:01,335

I would also say that I'm sort
of moderate in my politics.

1112

00:49:01,335 --> 00:49:03,990

1113

00:49:03,990 --> 00:49:07,110

Maybe not on some issues.

1114

00:49:07,110 --> 00:49:11,210

I think that's probably
also very important to me.

1115

00:49:11,210 --> 00:49:13,830

1116

00:49:13,830 --> 00:49:18,120

Certainly, as I say,
my ethnicity is Jewish.

1117

00:49:18,120 --> 00:49:20,205

I would never describe
myself as being Polish.

1118

00:49:20,205 --> 00:49:23,050

1119

00:49:23,050 --> 00:49:26,040

Do you think in English?

1120

00:49:26,040 --> 00:49:27,330
Yes.

1121
00:49:27,330 --> 00:49:38,770
But I don't think a
single evening goes

1122
00:49:38,770 --> 00:49:48,370
by when I don't think about
my family and wonder what

1123
00:49:48,370 --> 00:49:51,070
happened to them.

1124
00:49:51,070 --> 00:49:53,430
You're talking about your
extended family, your aunts,

1125
00:49:53,430 --> 00:49:54,680
uncles, cousins, grandparents?

1126
00:49:54,680 --> 00:49:55,610
My whole life.

1127
00:49:55,610 --> 00:49:56,450
Your whole life.

1128
00:49:56,450 --> 00:49:56,950
Always.

1129
00:49:56,950 --> 00:49:57,450
Yes.

1130
00:49:57,450 --> 00:50:06,690

1131
00:50:06,690 --> 00:50:11,040
My cousin, my mother's nieces--

1132
00:50:11,040 --> 00:50:14,720
well, not her nieces and
nephews-- her first cousins,

1133
00:50:14,720 --> 00:50:16,060
second cousins.

1134
00:50:16,060 --> 00:50:22,830
Because my mother's mother
was the oldest of five.

1135
00:50:22,830 --> 00:50:26,340
And her parents died
in the flu epidemic

1136
00:50:26,340 --> 00:50:27,600
at the end of World War II.

1137
00:50:27,600 --> 00:50:29,670
So she brought up her
brothers and sisters.

1138
00:50:29,670 --> 00:50:30,690
World War I, you mean?

1139
00:50:30,690 --> 00:50:31,790
World War I. Sorry.

1140
00:50:31,790 --> 00:50:34,230
So she brought up her
brothers and sisters.

1141
00:50:34,230 --> 00:50:36,810
So they were always very much
a part of my mother's family.

1142
00:50:36,810 --> 00:50:37,990
They were always there.

1143
00:50:37,990 --> 00:50:41,880
And so were their children,
who were fairly young.

1144
00:50:41,880 --> 00:50:43,980
I mean, the 20-year-old

was the oldest.

1145
00:50:43,980 --> 00:50:46,710
But most of them
were 12, 13, 14.

1146
00:50:46,710 --> 00:50:49,140
Because they were that much
younger than my mother's

1147
00:50:49,140 --> 00:50:51,230
mother.

1148
00:50:51,230 --> 00:50:56,160
And of course, my mother was
only 30 when the war broke out.

1149
00:50:56,160 --> 00:50:56,920
31.

1150
00:50:56,920 --> 00:50:58,420
31.

1151
00:50:58,420 --> 00:51:01,150
When the war broke
out, my father was 33.

1152
00:51:01,150 --> 00:51:03,578
And they lost 10 years.

1153
00:51:03,578 --> 00:51:05,060
Right.

1154
00:51:05,060 --> 00:51:10,980
But their cousins were in
their early teens, pretty much.

1155
00:51:10,980 --> 00:51:14,240
And everybody was gone.

1156
00:51:14,240 --> 00:51:17,560
So everybody in all

of those generations,

1157
00:51:17,560 --> 00:51:19,550
I don't remember her mother.

1158
00:51:19,550 --> 00:51:21,670
And the only picture
I have of her

1159
00:51:21,670 --> 00:51:23,350
is when she was on
a visit to Egypt.

1160
00:51:23,350 --> 00:51:27,220
And you can't really see
her face particularly.

1161
00:51:27,220 --> 00:51:29,320
I have some pictures
of my father's side

1162
00:51:29,320 --> 00:51:33,700
of the family that had
been sent to friends

1163
00:51:33,700 --> 00:51:36,220
and so forth that had survived.

1164
00:51:36,220 --> 00:51:38,000
Because they had been
sent before the war

1165
00:51:38,000 --> 00:51:41,410
at one time or another.

1166
00:51:41,410 --> 00:51:46,230
But nothing from my
mother's side at all.

1167
00:51:46,230 --> 00:51:48,650
Just total blank.

1168

00:51:48,650 --> 00:51:51,720

Did you sense any
bitterness or anger

1169

00:51:51,720 --> 00:51:53,885

on your parents' part
because of their losses?

1170

00:51:53,885 --> 00:51:56,930

1171

00:51:56,930 --> 00:51:58,840

Or they just kept it all inside?

1172

00:51:58,840 --> 00:52:01,000

I think they basically
kept it all inside.

1173

00:52:01,000 --> 00:52:02,830

But they certainly
wanted nothing ever

1174

00:52:02,830 --> 00:52:07,250

to do with anything having to
do with the Germans or Germany.

1175

00:52:07,250 --> 00:52:07,750

Ever.

1176

00:52:07,750 --> 00:52:08,250

Yeah.

1177

00:52:08,250 --> 00:52:20,030

1178

00:52:20,030 --> 00:52:22,720

And my father, who spoke German
perfectly before the war,

1179

00:52:22,720 --> 00:52:24,590

would never speak
German after the war.

1180
00:52:24,590 --> 00:52:37,680

1181
00:52:37,680 --> 00:52:39,662
But it's always there.

1182
00:52:39,662 --> 00:52:40,162
Yeah.

1183
00:52:40,162 --> 00:52:43,620

1184
00:52:43,620 --> 00:52:49,500
And I think it's not knowing
what happened to them.

1185
00:52:49,500 --> 00:52:53,820

1186
00:52:53,820 --> 00:52:56,230
I mean, we've
always assumed that

1187
00:52:56,230 --> 00:52:58,210
in the cases of most
of them, that they

1188
00:52:58,210 --> 00:53:00,355
died at Treblinka, which
was just completely

1189
00:53:00,355 --> 00:53:01,760
an extermination camp.

1190
00:53:01,760 --> 00:53:03,760
But that would not have
happened to the ones who

1191
00:53:03,760 --> 00:53:06,370
were able to work and so forth.

1192

00:53:06,370 --> 00:53:11,150

1193

00:53:11,150 --> 00:53:14,720

It would have happened to the
small children and the elderly.

1194

00:53:14,720 --> 00:53:17,780

1195

00:53:17,780 --> 00:53:19,390

And we've tried,
I mean, my parents

1196

00:53:19,390 --> 00:53:21,367

tried for years to
find out if there was--

1197

00:53:21,367 --> 00:53:21,950

To trace them.

1198

00:53:21,950 --> 00:53:25,240

To trace anybody.

1199

00:53:25,240 --> 00:53:30,260

And sometimes,
now that there are

1200

00:53:30,260 --> 00:53:36,410

photographs showing up and
so forth, I've gone through--

1201

00:53:36,410 --> 00:53:40,730

the Holocaust Museum was
showing photos of children

1202

00:53:40,730 --> 00:53:41,860

who had survived the war.

1203

00:53:41,860 --> 00:53:44,850

And I was looking
at those pictures.

1204

00:53:44,850 --> 00:53:47,597

And I sent them information
about several cousins

1205

00:53:47,597 --> 00:53:49,680

and asked them to see if
they could find anything.

1206

00:53:49,680 --> 00:53:51,055

But I never heard
back from them.

1207

00:53:51,055 --> 00:53:54,630

So I just let it go.

1208

00:53:54,630 --> 00:53:59,310

They probably have a lot
of requests like that.

1209

00:53:59,310 --> 00:54:01,690

And I don't think
anybody would have--

1210

00:54:01,690 --> 00:54:05,220

Michael, my oldest, went to
Auschwitz where, of course,

1211

00:54:05,220 --> 00:54:06,540

they did keep some records.

1212

00:54:06,540 --> 00:54:08,220

But not very many.

1213

00:54:08,220 --> 00:54:12,470

But we don't think anyone
probably ended up there anyway.

1214

00:54:12,470 --> 00:54:16,610

Because really, most of the
Polish ones from the Warsaw

1215

00:54:16,610 --> 00:54:19,640

area went either to Treblinka
or to the small camps

1216
00:54:19,640 --> 00:54:22,760
that were all over the place.

1217
00:54:22,760 --> 00:54:25,340
And a lot of the Poles
ended up at Auschwitz.

1218
00:54:25,340 --> 00:54:28,040

1219
00:54:28,040 --> 00:54:30,150
But there are no
records there either.

1220
00:54:30,150 --> 00:54:32,090
Have you been back to Poland?

1221
00:54:32,090 --> 00:54:37,730
I went back to visit the
Kuharskys in the mid '70s.

1222
00:54:37,730 --> 00:54:42,770
And I went to the cemetery then
to see my grandfather's grave.

1223
00:54:42,770 --> 00:54:44,630
After the war, my
father had put up

1224
00:54:44,630 --> 00:54:54,130
a stone sort of in memory
of the whole family

1225
00:54:54,130 --> 00:54:57,730
saying something about,
with his name on it,

1226
00:54:57,730 --> 00:54:59,450
the grandfather's name on it.

1227

00:54:59,450 --> 00:55:03,340

Saying something about, I
mean, I have it somewhere.

1228

00:55:03,340 --> 00:55:04,460

I have the inscription.

1229

00:55:04,460 --> 00:55:09,050

1230

00:55:09,050 --> 00:55:11,540

Our family is dust
in your fields.

1231

00:55:11,540 --> 00:55:14,270

Those who have survived
are leaving her.

1232

00:55:14,270 --> 00:55:17,000

Meaning Poland.

1233

00:55:17,000 --> 00:55:20,270

And that was it.

1234

00:55:20,270 --> 00:55:24,560

And yeah, Nina Kuharsky would
go regularly and put flowers

1235

00:55:24,560 --> 00:55:25,730

on the grave.

1236

00:55:25,730 --> 00:55:27,230

Now I'm not sure
I could find it.

1237

00:55:27,230 --> 00:55:30,290

Michael tried to find it
when he went to Warsaw

1238

00:55:30,290 --> 00:55:33,890

and wasn't able to.

1239

00:55:33,890 --> 00:55:35,870

By now, I think they
may have cleaned up.

1240

00:55:35,870 --> 00:55:38,420

And when we went in
the mid 70s, the Poles

1241

00:55:38,420 --> 00:55:43,290

were allowing that whole Jewish
cemetery to go to a forest.

1242

00:55:43,290 --> 00:55:43,790

Yeah.

1243

00:55:43,790 --> 00:55:47,360

So there were trees growing
up through all of the graves.

1244

00:55:47,360 --> 00:55:49,610

And stones had been dragged off.

1245

00:55:49,610 --> 00:55:52,000

People were taking
them away and so forth.

1246

00:55:52,000 --> 00:55:57,020

So the only area that had been
cleaned and was being kept up

1247

00:55:57,020 --> 00:55:59,450

was an area where there
were some Jewish labor

1248

00:55:59,450 --> 00:56:02,005

leaders and a couple of
American labor unions

1249

00:56:02,005 --> 00:56:04,655

that had taken on cleaning up--

1250

00:56:04,655 --> 00:56:05,280

[PHONE RINGING]

1251
00:56:05,280 --> 00:56:08,220
Sorry.

1252
00:56:08,220 --> 00:56:15,640
Now I don't think the Americans
in general really have--

1253
00:56:15,640 --> 00:56:19,410
it's mostly the conception
of when, on the whole,

1254
00:56:19,410 --> 00:56:21,880
everybody around you
has turned against you.

1255
00:56:21,880 --> 00:56:25,720
That's the part that
Americans can't understand.

1256
00:56:25,720 --> 00:56:28,450
There's nothing.

1257
00:56:28,450 --> 00:56:31,115
An African-American
a friend of mine--

1258
00:56:31,115 --> 00:56:31,740
is this on now?

1259
00:56:31,740 --> 00:56:32,698
Yeah.

1260
00:56:32,698 --> 00:56:33,198
OK.

1261
00:56:33,198 --> 00:56:37,090

1262
00:56:37,090 --> 00:56:38,426
I'll tell you later.

1263
00:56:38,426 --> 00:56:39,420
OK.

1264
00:56:39,420 --> 00:56:43,990
Oh, is there anything else you
wanted to add to the interview?

1265
00:56:43,990 --> 00:56:44,680
No.

1266
00:56:44,680 --> 00:56:45,380
Not really.

1267
00:56:45,380 --> 00:56:50,230
I think it's, I wish
my mother wouldn't do

1268
00:56:50,230 --> 00:56:52,070
the interview with Spielberg.

1269
00:56:52,070 --> 00:56:55,060
She felt very much
that it was over.

1270
00:56:55,060 --> 00:56:55,660
It was done.

1271
00:56:55,660 --> 00:56:58,570
It was no good bringing
any of this up.

1272
00:56:58,570 --> 00:57:02,100
And I kept saying that the only
reason, the only way people

1273
00:57:02,100 --> 00:57:03,760
will remember any
of these people

1274
00:57:03,760 --> 00:57:07,400
will be if you talk about it.

1275
00:57:07,400 --> 00:57:08,860
And she wouldn't do it.

1276
00:57:08,860 --> 00:57:13,030
And when she died, she
was literally three months

1277
00:57:13,030 --> 00:57:15,100
short of 100.

1278
00:57:15,100 --> 00:57:19,270
I just felt that basically
all of those people

1279
00:57:19,270 --> 00:57:20,140
had died with her.

1280
00:57:20,140 --> 00:57:22,340
Because she was the last
person to know them.

1281
00:57:22,340 --> 00:57:22,900
To know them.

1282
00:57:22,900 --> 00:57:23,400
Yeah.

1283
00:57:23,400 --> 00:57:31,730

1284
00:57:31,730 --> 00:57:36,690
So you know, it's essential
that something like the records

1285
00:57:36,690 --> 00:57:40,880
and so forth at the
Holocaust Museum be there.

1286
00:57:40,880 --> 00:57:43,320
Are there any names
you'd like to mention now

1287
00:57:43,320 --> 00:57:45,460
that we can have
on this interview

1288
00:57:45,460 --> 00:57:47,550
to pay tribute to your--

1289
00:57:47,550 --> 00:57:48,060
No.

1290
00:57:48,060 --> 00:57:51,740
I'm still trying to
find, I have some photos

1291
00:57:51,740 --> 00:57:53,820
that I'm trying to
put together, which

1292
00:57:53,820 --> 00:57:56,070
I'd like to get to them
if you can take them

1293
00:57:56,070 --> 00:57:58,930
some time, if I put the names,
maybe down to the Museum.

1294
00:57:58,930 --> 00:58:03,140

1295
00:58:03,140 --> 00:58:05,630
This friend actually
called before to have

1296
00:58:05,630 --> 00:58:07,600
coffee, who is a photographer.

1297
00:58:07,600 --> 00:58:09,440
And I've had her blow
up some pictures.

1298
00:58:09,440 --> 00:58:13,100

And I'm hoping to put the
labels on and so forth.

1299
00:58:13,100 --> 00:58:13,600
Good.

1300
00:58:13,600 --> 00:58:15,683
It would be wonderful to
have those in the museum.

1301
00:58:15,683 --> 00:58:19,230

1302
00:58:19,230 --> 00:58:20,170
Well, thank you.

1303
00:58:20,170 --> 00:58:20,670
Thank you.

1304
00:58:20,670 --> 00:58:23,355
Thank you very much for
doing the interview.

1305
00:58:23,355 --> 00:58:24,470
It's important.

1306
00:58:24,470 --> 00:58:24,970
Yeah.

1307
00:58:24,970 --> 00:58:28,110
I wish I had looked,
I don't know what I've

1308
00:58:28,110 --> 00:58:29,310
done with all those papers.

1309
00:58:29,310 --> 00:58:32,370
I've got to drag them out and
hopefully get some of them

1310
00:58:32,370 --> 00:58:34,700
to so you can actually use them.

1311
00:58:34,700 --> 00:58:35,490
Right.

1312
00:58:35,490 --> 00:58:37,260
Thank you very, very much.

1313
00:58:37,260 --> 00:58:38,730
Well, thank you.

1314
00:58:38,730 --> 00:58:41,820
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1315
00:58:41,820 --> 00:58:44,540
interview with Susanne Bennet.

1316
00:58:44,540 --> 00:58:46,000