

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,870

2
00:00:07,870 --> 00:00:10,390
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:10,390 --> 00:00:12,370
Memorial Museum
Volunteer Collection

4
00:00:12,370 --> 00:00:15,340
Interview with Harry Markowitz.

5
00:00:15,340 --> 00:00:18,220
This is track number
two, and we were

6
00:00:18,220 --> 00:00:20,470
talking that you
were back in Seattle

7
00:00:20,470 --> 00:00:22,930
going to graduate school.

8
00:00:22,930 --> 00:00:25,350
And how long were you in--

9
00:00:25,350 --> 00:00:28,450
for how long were you
in graduate school?

10
00:00:28,450 --> 00:00:30,370
For over two years.

11
00:00:30,370 --> 00:00:31,290
OK.

12
00:00:31,290 --> 00:00:33,430
I was working on my
master's, which I didn't get.

13
00:00:33,430 --> 00:00:37,750
I got into a program that
the University had set up.

14
00:00:37,750 --> 00:00:40,270
It was between
Linguistics, Psychology,

15
00:00:40,270 --> 00:00:43,480
and the and Literature.

16
00:00:43,480 --> 00:00:48,760
And so it involved
almost three departments,

17
00:00:48,760 --> 00:00:52,990
and there was a lot of
infighting between the faculty.

18
00:00:52,990 --> 00:00:55,960
So many of us didn't
get our degrees

19
00:00:55,960 --> 00:00:59,260
because each one
had tried to get

20
00:00:59,260 --> 00:01:04,840
very high level of
requirements for their field.

21
00:01:04,840 --> 00:01:09,205
And I was teaching French.

22
00:01:09,205 --> 00:01:12,490

23
00:01:12,490 --> 00:01:16,840
Then for some reason, two
people in the same week

24

00:01:16,840 --> 00:01:20,702
told me about this
new university in--

25
00:01:20,702 --> 00:01:21,475
I don't know.

26
00:01:21,475 --> 00:01:22,810
I forgot.

27
00:01:22,810 --> 00:01:24,460
After that-- sorry--

28
00:01:24,460 --> 00:01:28,360
after that, I got a job
in a community college

29
00:01:28,360 --> 00:01:29,830
in Tacoma, Washington.

30
00:01:29,830 --> 00:01:33,320
In fact, it was called
Tacoma Community College.

31
00:01:33,320 --> 00:01:37,710
I taught French
there for two years.

32
00:01:37,710 --> 00:01:42,780
Then these two friends told
me about this new university

33
00:01:42,780 --> 00:01:46,140
called Simon Fraser
University in British

34
00:01:46,140 --> 00:01:48,090
Columbia near Vancouver.

35
00:01:48,090 --> 00:01:52,890
And for some reason, they
both said this separately, you

36

00:01:52,890 --> 00:01:55,080
fit in there.

37

00:01:55,080 --> 00:01:58,890
So I didn't know
exactly what they meant,

38

00:01:58,890 --> 00:02:05,100
but I called the chairman of
the Foreign Language Department

39

00:02:05,100 --> 00:02:06,120
or maybe-- sorry--

40

00:02:06,120 --> 00:02:07,600
the Linguistics.

41

00:02:07,600 --> 00:02:09,479
No, it was a combination.

42

00:02:09,479 --> 00:02:12,720
And I told him I was interested.

43

00:02:12,720 --> 00:02:15,990
And he said, OK, come on up--

44

00:02:15,990 --> 00:02:18,660
so '67.

45

00:02:18,660 --> 00:02:20,340
And now we can talk.

46

00:02:20,340 --> 00:02:23,490
So after a few
minutes, he offered me

47

00:02:23,490 --> 00:02:24,960
a position as instructor.

48

00:02:24,960 --> 00:02:28,320
I didn't have a

transcript or anything.

49

00:02:28,320 --> 00:02:34,270

And then he introduced
me to some other people

50

00:02:34,270 --> 00:02:35,210

in the department.

51

00:02:35,210 --> 00:02:38,890

I met a French woman,
and she told me

52

00:02:38,890 --> 00:02:42,310

she was a graduate associate.

53

00:02:42,310 --> 00:02:46,120

I knew what a graduate assistant
was because I had been one,

54

00:02:46,120 --> 00:02:52,870

but it's a little higher
level and more pay.

55

00:02:52,870 --> 00:02:55,680

So I went back to the
chairman of the Department

56

00:02:55,680 --> 00:03:00,120

and said, what is this
graduate associate thing?

57

00:03:00,120 --> 00:03:01,260

Can I do it?

58

00:03:01,260 --> 00:03:04,540

Because I don't have a PhD,
and I'd like to work on it.

59

00:03:04,540 --> 00:03:06,690

He said, oh, sure,
you can do that too.

60

00:03:06,690 --> 00:03:10,620

And so, and it
paid very well too.

61

00:03:10,620 --> 00:03:15,090

So I became a graduate
associate and taught French,

62

00:03:15,090 --> 00:03:17,610

and I got my MA degree there.

63

00:03:17,610 --> 00:03:20,640

64

00:03:20,640 --> 00:03:28,240

Meanwhile, while I was there, I
got interested in sign language

65

00:03:28,240 --> 00:03:29,560

completely by chance.

66

00:03:29,560 --> 00:03:33,610

67

00:03:33,610 --> 00:03:34,660

I'll make it very brief.

68

00:03:34,660 --> 00:03:38,220

69

00:03:38,220 --> 00:03:45,510

I had in mind a research
project involving

70

00:03:45,510 --> 00:03:51,640

linguistic universals, which
had become popularized or not

71

00:03:51,640 --> 00:03:55,140

only popular, but it was
introduced by Chomsky--

72

00:03:55,140 --> 00:03:56,700

Noam Chomsky.

73

00:03:56,700 --> 00:04:01,020

And but it involved
doing a little experiment

74

00:04:01,020 --> 00:04:05,040

with artificial languages to
discover whether one could

75

00:04:05,040 --> 00:04:06,710

learn a language more easily.

76

00:04:06,710 --> 00:04:08,010

You've had that in universals.

77

00:04:08,010 --> 00:04:10,560

But everybody already
knows a language,

78

00:04:10,560 --> 00:04:13,650

so the experiment
was not feasible.

79

00:04:13,650 --> 00:04:17,940

Until one day I read in a
book called The Biological

80

00:04:17,940 --> 00:04:23,370

Foundations of Language that
Deaf children before they

81

00:04:23,370 --> 00:04:25,500

go to school, don't
know any language.

82

00:04:25,500 --> 00:04:31,710

So I said, a-ha, those are
going to be my subject.

83

00:04:31,710 --> 00:04:34,200

Just about this time,
there was a letter

84
00:04:34,200 --> 00:04:39,660
published in the Vancouver
newspaper in response

85
00:04:39,660 --> 00:04:42,030
to an article, which
I had not seen.

86
00:04:42,030 --> 00:04:53,160
But the writer wrote that
So-and-so, a Deaf man,

87
00:04:53,160 --> 00:04:56,700
has a little Deaf girl.

88
00:04:56,700 --> 00:04:58,560
He and his wife
are Deaf and have

89
00:04:58,560 --> 00:05:02,580
a Deaf girl who
was two years old,

90
00:05:02,580 --> 00:05:04,830
and she has a vocabulary of--

91
00:05:04,830 --> 00:05:08,460
maybe she was 2 and 1/2-- of
several hundred signs, which

92
00:05:08,460 --> 00:05:14,328
she combines in
two-sign sentences.

93
00:05:14,328 --> 00:05:15,870
This was very exciting
because that's

94
00:05:15,870 --> 00:05:21,900
what hearing children do in

whatever language they learn.

95

00:05:21,900 --> 00:05:27,840

So I contacted the
writer of the letter.

96

00:05:27,840 --> 00:05:31,200

He was a director of a
social welfare agency.

97

00:05:31,200 --> 00:05:39,780

And we talked, and I
also met a Deaf man.

98

00:05:39,780 --> 00:05:42,870

There he introduced me to this
Deaf man he was writing about.

99

00:05:42,870 --> 00:05:45,810

100

00:05:45,810 --> 00:05:49,360

I don't remember how we talked,
but we had a long conversation.

101

00:05:49,360 --> 00:05:54,210

And it became clear to
me that if you're Deaf,

102

00:05:54,210 --> 00:05:58,240

and you grow up in a
Deaf environment, namely

103

00:05:58,240 --> 00:06:02,350

Deaf residential
schools, that it's

104

00:06:02,350 --> 00:06:03,970

very similar to being Jewish.

105

00:06:03,970 --> 00:06:08,730

106

00:06:08,730 --> 00:06:10,620

Why do you say that?

107

00:06:10,620 --> 00:06:15,150

Because you're in the
minority, and you're

108

00:06:15,150 --> 00:06:18,690

part of the larger society,
but you're always a minority.

109

00:06:18,690 --> 00:06:23,400

And the kind of relationships
that develop among Deaf people

110

00:06:23,400 --> 00:06:25,380

are the same kind
of relationships

111

00:06:25,380 --> 00:06:27,300

you have among Jewish people.

112

00:06:27,300 --> 00:06:34,160

For example, a Deaf
American and a Deaf Japanese

113

00:06:34,160 --> 00:06:37,730

may have more in common than
the Deaf American in a hearing

114

00:06:37,730 --> 00:06:39,230

American in some ways.

115

00:06:39,230 --> 00:06:42,580

116

00:06:42,580 --> 00:06:44,300

There's a language aspect.

117

00:06:44,300 --> 00:06:47,450

There's a whole lot of.

118

00:06:47,450 --> 00:06:48,860

So later in my life.

119

00:06:48,860 --> 00:06:51,580

I started writing
about Deaf community--

120

00:06:51,580 --> 00:06:54,040

the Deaf community
as an ethnic group.

121

00:06:54,040 --> 00:06:56,590

Anyway, this became
very fascinating for me.

122

00:06:56,590 --> 00:07:01,870

I got hooked, so I
started reading books

123

00:07:01,870 --> 00:07:04,630

related to deafness.

124

00:07:04,630 --> 00:07:09,085

And either the books didn't
mention sign language or else

125

00:07:09,085 --> 00:07:12,670

they'd denigrate it
by saying it's not

126

00:07:12,670 --> 00:07:14,830

a real language because
it doesn't have articles,

127

00:07:14,830 --> 00:07:19,705

and it doesn't have a passive
voice, which is pure nonsense.

128

00:07:19,705 --> 00:07:22,030

There are plenty of
languages that don't have

129

00:07:22,030 --> 00:07:23,695
articles or a passive voice.

130
00:07:23,695 --> 00:07:27,400
It's not a requirement for
a lot to be a language.

131
00:07:27,400 --> 00:07:34,990
So that immediately
got a rise out of me.

132
00:07:34,990 --> 00:07:39,970
And the director of the
Institute for the Deaf

133
00:07:39,970 --> 00:07:45,430
told me about a professor at
Gallaudet University, William

134
00:07:45,430 --> 00:07:50,120
Stokoe, who had worked
on sign language,

135
00:07:50,120 --> 00:07:52,160
and suggest I contact him.

136
00:07:52,160 --> 00:07:56,120
So I did, and
immediately, Stokoe

137
00:07:56,120 --> 00:07:59,900
sent me back several
books that he

138
00:07:59,900 --> 00:08:03,360
had written on sign language.

139
00:08:03,360 --> 00:08:11,300
So I wrote my master's
papers on sign language.

140
00:08:11,300 --> 00:08:14,450
This was in 1969,

'70, at the time

141
00:08:14,450 --> 00:08:21,990
when sign language was not
really accepted in America.

142
00:08:21,990 --> 00:08:26,990
So it was a cause.

143
00:08:26,990 --> 00:08:29,000
It was not my cause.

144
00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:33,650
I couldn't fight for my
cause, whatever that would be.

145
00:08:33,650 --> 00:08:40,669
But I found that I
wanted to take part

146
00:08:40,669 --> 00:08:43,549
in this fight for
recognition of sign language,

147
00:08:43,549 --> 00:08:46,430
and I could see
eventually, that has

148
00:08:46,430 --> 00:08:49,460
to do with Deaf civil rights.

149
00:08:49,460 --> 00:08:52,250
So that's what I
did, get involved.

150
00:08:52,250 --> 00:08:57,377
And eventually in--
what year what that?

151
00:08:57,377 --> 00:09:00,700

152

00:09:00,700 --> 00:09:07,470
In '72, I came to Washington
to go to Georgetown

153
00:09:07,470 --> 00:09:14,010
to work on my PhD and at the
suggestion of Bill Stokoe.

154
00:09:14,010 --> 00:09:19,530
And so I studied at
Georgetown, and then I

155
00:09:19,530 --> 00:09:24,690
started working at Gallaudet
in William Stokoe's

156
00:09:24,690 --> 00:09:27,480
linguistic research lab
where they did research

157
00:09:27,480 --> 00:09:28,320
on sign language.

158
00:09:28,320 --> 00:09:32,910

159
00:09:32,910 --> 00:09:36,600
It was funded by various grants,
National Science Foundation.

160
00:09:36,600 --> 00:09:41,630
So when the money
started running out,

161
00:09:41,630 --> 00:09:44,480
I was no longer working there.

162
00:09:44,480 --> 00:09:47,300
I worked there three years.

163
00:09:47,300 --> 00:09:53,810
And, oh, I had gone to Paris
during the summer of '75

164
00:09:53,810 --> 00:09:58,310
with several colleagues
from Gallaudet.

165
00:09:58,310 --> 00:10:03,140
One, in particular,
had a grant from maybe

166
00:10:03,140 --> 00:10:06,410
was National Science, no,
it was National Endowment

167
00:10:06,410 --> 00:10:11,450
for the Humanities, a grant to
study the historical foundation

168
00:10:11,450 --> 00:10:14,270
of American Sign Language,
which its origins are

169
00:10:14,270 --> 00:10:15,830
from French Sign Language.

170
00:10:15,830 --> 00:10:18,830
So I was the French expert.

171
00:10:18,830 --> 00:10:25,098
My task was to go
into the library

172
00:10:25,098 --> 00:10:28,380
at the school for the Humane
School for the Deaf in Paris

173
00:10:28,380 --> 00:10:31,170
and do research
there on what was

174
00:10:31,170 --> 00:10:34,620
available on the
French Sign Language.

175

00:10:34,620 --> 00:10:42,375

There I met a sociologist who
had some interest in deafness.

176

00:10:42,375 --> 00:10:45,230

177

00:10:45,230 --> 00:10:53,470

He knew the history of the
deafness-related controversy.

178

00:10:53,470 --> 00:10:58,110

But he thought that all--

179

00:10:58,110 --> 00:11:02,350

he had been led to believe that
with the new kind of hearing

180

00:11:02,350 --> 00:11:04,330

aids that were developed,
that that was not

181

00:11:04,330 --> 00:11:05,750

the problem anymore.

182

00:11:05,750 --> 00:11:10,760

And so we got involved, and he
invited me to stay with him.

183

00:11:10,760 --> 00:11:14,300

And I told him what I knew.

184

00:11:14,300 --> 00:11:20,020

So next thing that summer,
there was the World Congress

185

00:11:20,020 --> 00:11:20,548

of the Deaf.

186

00:11:20,548 --> 00:11:21,715

It took place in Washington.

187

00:11:21,715 --> 00:11:23,800

It takes place every four years.

188

00:11:23,800 --> 00:11:28,270

He came here, and then
stayed afterward with me,

189

00:11:28,270 --> 00:11:34,090

and so what we were doing in
the linguistic research lab.

190

00:11:34,090 --> 00:11:35,710

And then he asked
me if I would like

191

00:11:35,710 --> 00:11:38,350

to go back to
France, work with him

192

00:11:38,350 --> 00:11:44,380

to get the French Sign
Language recognized in France.

193

00:11:44,380 --> 00:11:46,160

So it took a year.

194

00:11:46,160 --> 00:11:50,020

He got a grant there,
and I went to Paris.

195

00:11:50,020 --> 00:11:56,340

That was '76-- fall of '76.

196

00:11:56,340 --> 00:12:00,540

And the year stretched
to five years.

197

00:12:00,540 --> 00:12:03,780

And in the meantime,
after the first year,

198

00:12:03,780 --> 00:12:07,200

I got married to my
current wife, Arlene, who

199
00:12:07,200 --> 00:12:12,030
I knew already from Washington.

200
00:12:12,030 --> 00:12:14,040
And then you came back
after the five years,

201
00:12:14,040 --> 00:12:17,190
and did you go
back to Gallaudet?

202
00:12:17,190 --> 00:12:17,690
Yes.

203
00:12:17,690 --> 00:12:20,430
Mm-hmm, and then how long
did you stay at Gallaudet?

204
00:12:20,430 --> 00:12:24,510

205
00:12:24,510 --> 00:12:27,930
Eventually, let's
see, I got a position

206
00:12:27,930 --> 00:12:29,910
in the English Department.

207
00:12:29,910 --> 00:12:33,970
And I taught, I think
it was 25 years.

208
00:12:33,970 --> 00:12:40,050
I know the total number of years
is 29 years and nine months.

209
00:12:40,050 --> 00:12:41,580
OK, so now you're retired?

210

00:12:41,580 --> 00:12:44,820
I retired in 2008.

211
00:12:44,820 --> 00:12:49,450
Well, let's talk about
two other topics.

212
00:12:49,450 --> 00:12:52,410
One is your experience as a
volunteer at the Holocaust

213
00:12:52,410 --> 00:12:53,820
Museum--

214
00:12:53,820 --> 00:12:54,780
that's number one.

215
00:12:54,780 --> 00:13:00,420
So how did you happen to
decide to become a volunteer?

216
00:13:00,420 --> 00:13:01,450
That was very easy.

217
00:13:01,450 --> 00:13:05,490
I know a lot of people
who are volunteers.

218
00:13:05,490 --> 00:13:15,485
In 1985, I was one
of the small group

219
00:13:15,485 --> 00:13:18,540
who were founders of an
organization at the time was

220
00:13:18,540 --> 00:13:22,740
called, if I remember
correctly, Child Survivors

221
00:13:22,740 --> 00:13:26,280
of the Holocaust from the
Washington Baltimore area.

222
00:13:26,280 --> 00:13:29,600

223
00:13:29,600 --> 00:13:35,480
It was Flora Singer
who got us together.

224
00:13:35,480 --> 00:13:37,700
The first time there were 7.

225
00:13:37,700 --> 00:13:42,920
And we've been meeting
ever since once a month.

226
00:13:42,920 --> 00:13:46,520
And we also have
become international,

227
00:13:46,520 --> 00:13:51,740
and we have yearly
international meetings.

228
00:13:51,740 --> 00:13:56,500
And so in this group, a lot
of people were volunteering.

229
00:13:56,500 --> 00:14:00,400
How did you get to meet Flora?

230
00:14:00,400 --> 00:14:02,110
That's an interesting question.

231
00:14:02,110 --> 00:14:04,330
One day, I wasn't teaching.

232
00:14:04,330 --> 00:14:06,670
I guess I was home at lunchtime.

233
00:14:06,670 --> 00:14:10,030
I turned on the TV
while I was eating,

234
00:14:10,030 --> 00:14:14,290
and it was the Povich program.

235
00:14:14,290 --> 00:14:15,520
I forgot his first name.

236
00:14:15,520 --> 00:14:16,020
Maury.

237
00:14:16,020 --> 00:14:16,990
Maury Povich.

238
00:14:16,990 --> 00:14:22,040
It was called-- anyway, she was
on the show with her cousin.

239
00:14:22,040 --> 00:14:26,300

240
00:14:26,300 --> 00:14:27,680
So you contacted her?

241
00:14:27,680 --> 00:14:29,626
Yeah, well, I asked my--

242
00:14:29,626 --> 00:14:33,000
oh, I was going to say my
mother-- my wife to contact her

243
00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:34,290
because I couldn't talk.

244
00:14:34,290 --> 00:14:37,610
I was just-- so she
called the station.

245
00:14:37,610 --> 00:14:44,670
And eventually, Flora called
me, and she invited me

246

00:14:44,670 --> 00:14:46,875
to come to the meeting of the--

247
00:14:46,875 --> 00:14:50,910
now I don't remember what
adult organization is called.

248
00:14:50,910 --> 00:14:55,180
I went and it is
obviously not for me.

249
00:14:55,180 --> 00:14:56,420
Is this the Hidden Child?

250
00:14:56,420 --> 00:14:58,050
No, no, this is not the Hidden.

251
00:14:58,050 --> 00:15:00,450
This is the adults.

252
00:15:00,450 --> 00:15:04,980
This is the people who
went through camps mostly

253
00:15:04,980 --> 00:15:06,840
and who are older--

254
00:15:06,840 --> 00:15:08,850
maybe like 20 years older.

255
00:15:08,850 --> 00:15:09,700
Yeah, yeah.

256
00:15:09,700 --> 00:15:14,400
And, well, maybe not that much,
but there's a huge difference.

257
00:15:14,400 --> 00:15:21,010
And to them, nothing happened
to us because we were just kids.

258
00:15:21,010 --> 00:15:23,050

"You don't even remember."

259
00:15:23,050 --> 00:15:30,970
And so once we had invited
one of their members

260
00:15:30,970 --> 00:15:33,940
to come to one of
our meetings, and we

261
00:15:33,940 --> 00:15:35,290
tried to get close to them.

262
00:15:35,290 --> 00:15:38,440
This is a long time ago,
probably 20 years ago.

263
00:15:38,440 --> 00:15:44,560
And at some point, this man
said exactly those words--

264
00:15:44,560 --> 00:15:45,793
"But what do you know?"

265
00:15:45,793 --> 00:15:46,960
You don't remember anything.

266
00:15:46,960 --> 00:15:47,620
You were kids."

267
00:15:47,620 --> 00:15:50,410

268
00:15:50,410 --> 00:15:56,562
So I got back to Flora, and
you know, I don't fit in there.

269
00:15:56,562 --> 00:15:57,520
She said, yeah, I know.

270
00:15:57,520 --> 00:16:00,430
There are several people

who feel the same.

271
00:16:00,430 --> 00:16:02,620
Flora was sort of
in-between the ages,

272
00:16:02,620 --> 00:16:06,580
and she spoke Yiddish fluently.

273
00:16:06,580 --> 00:16:09,040
So she said, well, you
know, I'll get you together,

274
00:16:09,040 --> 00:16:10,330
just hold out.

275
00:16:10,330 --> 00:16:12,280
So she did.

276
00:16:12,280 --> 00:16:17,560
She got us together, and we
met and decided to meet again.

277
00:16:17,560 --> 00:16:21,040
But the beginning a year
or so were very difficult

278
00:16:21,040 --> 00:16:23,830
because different individuals
had different ideas what

279
00:16:23,830 --> 00:16:25,600
the group should be.

280
00:16:25,600 --> 00:16:31,688
But it eventually got
sort of worked out.

281
00:16:31,688 --> 00:16:33,480
And then how did you
hear about the Museum?

282

00:16:33,480 --> 00:16:34,700
Through Flora?

283
00:16:34,700 --> 00:16:40,250
No, I knew people in the
Child Survivors group,

284
00:16:40,250 --> 00:16:43,800
there were several
that volunteered.

285
00:16:43,800 --> 00:16:47,640
So when did you
start volunteering?

286
00:16:47,640 --> 00:16:50,010
I think 2009.

287
00:16:50,010 --> 00:16:55,780
What happened also
during in the year 2000,

288
00:16:55,780 --> 00:17:00,860
I taught a seminar
on the Holocaust--

289
00:17:00,860 --> 00:17:04,990
an honor seminar at Gallaudet.

290
00:17:04,990 --> 00:17:11,260
Since I knew so many, the way
I structured the class was we

291
00:17:11,260 --> 00:17:12,700
met once a week for three hours.

292
00:17:12,700 --> 00:17:22,750
And I invited my friends to come
and make a presentation-- not

293
00:17:22,750 --> 00:17:23,720
all of my friends.

294

00:17:23,720 --> 00:17:28,000

The first time I
invited two historians

295

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:30,940

from the Museum,
Patricia Heberer

296

00:17:30,940 --> 00:17:35,560

and I'm blocking
on the other one.

297

00:17:35,560 --> 00:17:37,460

And you signed their talks?

298

00:17:37,460 --> 00:17:40,490

No, we have
interpreters for that.

299

00:17:40,490 --> 00:17:41,950

I mean, yeah.

300

00:17:41,950 --> 00:17:45,250

But also, instead of just
having it as a class,

301

00:17:45,250 --> 00:17:48,475

we had this in an auditorium,
and it was open to everybody.

302

00:17:48,475 --> 00:17:49,520

Wonderful.

303

00:17:49,520 --> 00:17:55,760

And somebody from the
Museum suggested they

304

00:17:55,760 --> 00:17:59,390

have a general who was
one of the liberators--

305

00:17:59,390 --> 00:18:02,780

I've forgotten now his name
also-- but he was well-known

306
00:18:02,780 --> 00:18:04,530
and he was Jewish.

307
00:18:04,530 --> 00:18:07,130
So I had him come.

308
00:18:07,130 --> 00:18:10,520

309
00:18:10,520 --> 00:18:14,330
So and I selected
people from my group who

310
00:18:14,330 --> 00:18:18,780
represented the
whole scale of things

311
00:18:18,780 --> 00:18:21,150
from people who were in camps.

312
00:18:21,150 --> 00:18:23,970
The majority in our
group were not in camps.

313
00:18:23,970 --> 00:18:28,720
But Charlene.

314
00:18:28,720 --> 00:18:29,540
Schiff.

315
00:18:29,540 --> 00:18:32,900
Schiff, her
experience is unique.

316
00:18:32,900 --> 00:18:35,720
And everybody--
there was somebody

317
00:18:35,720 --> 00:18:42,710

who came in the
group of almost 1,000

318
00:18:42,710 --> 00:18:45,405
who were brought to
the state in '44,

319
00:18:45,405 --> 00:18:49,850
and they were sent to
Oswego and put in the camp.

320
00:18:49,850 --> 00:18:54,140
So there was a
Kindertransport and so on.

321
00:18:54,140 --> 00:18:59,960
So I knew I was going to do
it, but after I retired--

322
00:18:59,960 --> 00:19:02,330
I know why it took me a year--

323
00:19:02,330 --> 00:19:04,460
I would ask who do I contact?

324
00:19:04,460 --> 00:19:08,690
And said, oh, I'll let
you know next time.

325
00:19:08,690 --> 00:19:10,550
And it wasn't just their
fault. It was mine.

326
00:19:10,550 --> 00:19:11,800
I could have just--

327
00:19:11,800 --> 00:19:17,120
I knew quite a few people
already at the Museum itself.

328
00:19:17,120 --> 00:19:21,650
I could have, but I
don't know why so.

329
00:19:21,650 --> 00:19:23,690
What do you do at the Museum?

330
00:19:23,690 --> 00:19:25,790
I work with Visitor Services.

331
00:19:25,790 --> 00:19:29,390
Initially, I thought
I should do that so I

332
00:19:29,390 --> 00:19:31,640
can see what it's like.

333
00:19:31,640 --> 00:19:38,585
And I did a little
work for Judy Cohen.

334
00:19:38,585 --> 00:19:41,330

335
00:19:41,330 --> 00:19:43,130
The photo archivist?

336
00:19:43,130 --> 00:19:45,320
Yes, but I wasn't working with--

337
00:19:45,320 --> 00:19:46,420
let's see, what did I do?

338
00:19:46,420 --> 00:19:50,497
I did on the Salvadoran project.

339
00:19:50,497 --> 00:19:51,830
I don't know if you're familiar.

340
00:19:51,830 --> 00:19:52,460
Yes.

341
00:19:52,460 --> 00:20:02,620
And I think it was kind of

tedious and not very exciting.

342

00:20:02,620 --> 00:20:05,190

Maybe she gave me
something else to do also.

343

00:20:05,190 --> 00:20:14,310

But meanwhile, Teresa Pollin had
asked me to translate letters

344

00:20:14,310 --> 00:20:15,960

that a family wrote.

345

00:20:15,960 --> 00:20:18,180

They were traveling
through Europe.

346

00:20:18,180 --> 00:20:19,900

I think they started in France.

347

00:20:19,900 --> 00:20:21,400

Letters were in
several languages

348

00:20:21,400 --> 00:20:23,910

but a good part were
in French-- letters

349

00:20:23,910 --> 00:20:27,660

that were sent to their
relatives in the States.

350

00:20:27,660 --> 00:20:31,890

The family didn't survive,
but the letters obviously

351

00:20:31,890 --> 00:20:33,600

ended up in the Museum.

352

00:20:33,600 --> 00:20:36,870

And I agreed to do it.

353

00:20:36,870 --> 00:20:38,160
She gave me copies.

354
00:20:38,160 --> 00:20:43,350
But my sister wrote many letters
during the war to my parents,

355
00:20:43,350 --> 00:20:46,390
but they didn't go
directly to my parents.

356
00:20:46,390 --> 00:20:50,200
And she wrote in French,
of course, [INAUDIBLE]

357
00:20:50,200 --> 00:20:54,150
in French because of censorship.

358
00:20:54,150 --> 00:21:00,240
And my sister's dead-- she
died about 15 years ago--

359
00:21:00,240 --> 00:21:04,770
but her daughter who lives in
Israel, she has the letters,

360
00:21:04,770 --> 00:21:06,060
but she doesn't know French.

361
00:21:06,060 --> 00:21:10,860
And she's asked already
several years ago,

362
00:21:10,860 --> 00:21:13,600
she asked my brother
and I to translate them.

363
00:21:13,600 --> 00:21:17,160
And for some reason,
we've done a few--

364
00:21:17,160 --> 00:21:18,960
my brother [? Mort ?] and I--

365
00:21:18,960 --> 00:21:22,050
but some of it
you have to decode

366
00:21:22,050 --> 00:21:26,640
because of the censorship.

367
00:21:26,640 --> 00:21:28,530
You couldn't just
[LAUGHS],, so I don't

368
00:21:28,530 --> 00:21:34,140
know why I haven't really sat
down with my sister's letters.

369
00:21:34,140 --> 00:21:37,380
And I felt if I'm going
to translate letters,

370
00:21:37,380 --> 00:21:41,590
I'd rather translate my
sister's letters first.

371
00:21:41,590 --> 00:21:43,890
And so I didn't
do the other ones.

372
00:21:43,890 --> 00:21:46,680
What is your feeling when you
walk into the Museum building?

373
00:21:46,680 --> 00:21:49,530
Do you have any special
feeling when you walk in?

374
00:21:49,530 --> 00:21:52,960

375
00:21:52,960 --> 00:21:54,820
Well, one thing, I don't feel.

376

00:21:54,820 --> 00:21:59,130

377

00:21:59,130 --> 00:21:59,945

Any connection?

378

00:21:59,945 --> 00:22:01,070

Do you feel any connection?

379

00:22:01,070 --> 00:22:04,530

I feel a lot of
connection but to people.

380

00:22:04,530 --> 00:22:06,980

Or the exhibits?

381

00:22:06,980 --> 00:22:11,990

I've always been interested
in Holocaust-related things.

382

00:22:11,990 --> 00:22:15,200

In 1957, when I was
at the University

383

00:22:15,200 --> 00:22:21,590

of Washington majoring in French
Literature, I had a professor.

384

00:22:21,590 --> 00:22:23,600

He was French.

385

00:22:23,600 --> 00:22:27,290

He might have been Jewish, but
by this time he was Catholic.

386

00:22:27,290 --> 00:22:32,570

He and his wife were in the
States when the war broke out.

387

00:22:32,570 --> 00:22:35,340

He was [? there ?]
a year or something.

388

00:22:35,340 --> 00:22:37,400

So they stayed in the States.

389

00:22:37,400 --> 00:22:45,460

So one day in class, he
started talking about--

390

00:22:45,460 --> 00:22:48,070

it's only later
that I realized who

391

00:22:48,070 --> 00:22:51,250

it was-- he was talking
about Eichmann and the deal

392

00:22:51,250 --> 00:22:53,490

that he was trying to
work out with Kant.

393

00:22:53,490 --> 00:22:55,550

I think the guy's
name was Kantor.

394

00:22:55,550 --> 00:22:57,680

I think the Jewish--

395

00:22:57,680 --> 00:22:58,830

I think it's Kantor.

396

00:22:58,830 --> 00:22:59,330

Kastner.

397

00:22:59,330 --> 00:23:01,610

Kastner, thank you.

398

00:23:01,610 --> 00:23:06,020

And but at the time, I
didn't know any of this.

399

00:23:06,020 --> 00:23:13,940

And he was telling the story
of how they were bargaining.

400

00:23:13,940 --> 00:23:17,030

And then Kastner or
somebody else said, well,

401

00:23:17,030 --> 00:23:20,690

how can we trust you that when
we deliver the 10,000 trucks--

402

00:23:20,690 --> 00:23:24,620

which they didn't have, of
course, and they never gotten--

403

00:23:24,620 --> 00:23:28,430

how do we know you're going
to release a million Jews

404

00:23:28,430 --> 00:23:30,140

or whatever it was going to be?

405

00:23:30,140 --> 00:23:34,775

And Eichmann said you have
the word of a German officer.

406

00:23:34,775 --> 00:23:38,720

407

00:23:38,720 --> 00:23:42,350

So I start going to the
library at the University

408

00:23:42,350 --> 00:23:43,040

of Washington.

409

00:23:43,040 --> 00:23:46,190

And you know, at that
time, that was '57.

410

00:23:46,190 --> 00:23:48,170

It was very early.

411

00:23:48,170 --> 00:23:51,215

The French professor
had used the word--

412
00:23:51,215 --> 00:23:53,900

413
00:23:53,900 --> 00:23:56,290
let's see, in
English-- no, French

414
00:23:56,290 --> 00:24:05,130
it's [FRENCH],, the literature
of concentration camps.

415
00:24:05,130 --> 00:24:10,080
In France apparently, it
existed already, but not here.

416
00:24:10,080 --> 00:24:13,540
So anyway, I went to
the library, got books.

417
00:24:13,540 --> 00:24:17,340
I remember one specifically,
Bergen-Belsen was the title,

418
00:24:17,340 --> 00:24:19,050
and it was all
about Bergen-Belsen.

419
00:24:19,050 --> 00:24:23,160
But it was each chapter was
written by a different person,

420
00:24:23,160 --> 00:24:29,010
like an Englishman, soldier,
an inmate from the camp,

421
00:24:29,010 --> 00:24:33,370
and it was fascinating.

422
00:24:33,370 --> 00:24:36,930
So I've always been

interested [? for ?] [? no ?]

423

00:24:36,930 --> 00:24:38,220

[? reason. ?]

424

00:24:38,220 --> 00:24:41,640

Are there any particular
exhibits at the Museum

425

00:24:41,640 --> 00:24:47,410

that resonate with you, in the
permanent exhibits or anything?

426

00:24:47,410 --> 00:24:53,220

427

00:24:53,220 --> 00:24:55,380

Well, yeah, come to think of it.

428

00:24:55,380 --> 00:24:58,590

There's a wall of rescuers.

429

00:24:58,590 --> 00:25:03,090

And most people
have their names.

430

00:25:03,090 --> 00:25:06,340

And then there's the priest
who saved my brother.

431

00:25:06,340 --> 00:25:08,190

He's got a whole...

432

00:25:08,190 --> 00:25:17,300

And then the woman who found
places for my sister and I,

433

00:25:17,300 --> 00:25:21,750

she also has a plaque
because she saved hundreds.

434

00:25:21,750 --> 00:25:22,860

And her name?

435

00:25:22,860 --> 00:25:26,040

You know, I can't remember it.

436

00:25:26,040 --> 00:25:29,700

She married an Italian who
was teaching at Chapel Hill.

437

00:25:29,700 --> 00:25:31,560

My sister found this out.

438

00:25:31,560 --> 00:25:33,180

Both the priest and this woman.

439

00:25:33,180 --> 00:25:35,520

The first name was

[PERSONAL NAME] and my sister

440

00:25:35,520 --> 00:25:39,810

remembered they called her

Mademoiselle [PERSONAL NAME]..

441

00:25:39,810 --> 00:25:45,900

Do you find you are more
comfortable among other people

442

00:25:45,900 --> 00:25:47,070

who survived the war--

443

00:25:47,070 --> 00:25:48,370

Yes.

444

00:25:48,370 --> 00:25:50,230

--than those who did

not experience it?

445

00:25:50,230 --> 00:25:50,730

Yes.

446

00:25:50,730 --> 00:25:56,670

447
00:25:56,670 --> 00:25:58,830
Yes, definitely.

448
00:25:58,830 --> 00:26:02,583
That it's easier to talk
to them than someone

449
00:26:02,583 --> 00:26:04,750
who did not have to live
through it the way you did?

450
00:26:04,750 --> 00:26:08,270

451
00:26:08,270 --> 00:26:10,940
Even if we don't
talk about the war,

452
00:26:10,940 --> 00:26:13,675
you know, there's something
we have in common.

453
00:26:13,675 --> 00:26:15,050
An unspoken
connection, you mean?

454
00:26:15,050 --> 00:26:23,440
Yeah, when I was at
Georgetown, when I first came,

455
00:26:23,440 --> 00:26:28,170
I was staying with a young
woman I met at a conference

456
00:26:28,170 --> 00:26:30,750
because I didn't know
anybody in Washington.

457
00:26:30,750 --> 00:26:41,260
And then in the seminar, one
day, she pointed to a woman,

458

00:26:41,260 --> 00:26:45,460

and she said, I think
she's French also.

459

00:26:45,460 --> 00:26:48,020

So during a break, I
went up to this woman

460

00:26:48,020 --> 00:26:53,260

and I asked her
where she was from.

461

00:26:53,260 --> 00:26:59,763

And she said
France, Switzerland.

462

00:26:59,763 --> 00:27:01,180

And after a while
she said Israel.

463

00:27:01,180 --> 00:27:05,500

464

00:27:05,500 --> 00:27:11,440

And then she said, and you?

465

00:27:11,440 --> 00:27:16,270

466

00:27:16,270 --> 00:27:18,020

It's always a difficult
question because I

467

00:27:18,020 --> 00:27:19,960

have to think what
am I going to say?

468

00:27:19,960 --> 00:27:24,290

Seattle, Belgium, Germany?

469

00:27:24,290 --> 00:27:27,830

So while I was thinking,

what am I saying?

470

00:27:27,830 --> 00:27:30,560

I already knew, obviously,
what the situation was,

471

00:27:30,560 --> 00:27:32,120

but I was still thinking.

472

00:27:32,120 --> 00:27:35,150

She said you don't
have to say anything.

473

00:27:35,150 --> 00:27:37,070

Right, I know.

474

00:27:37,070 --> 00:27:39,845

It's unspoken.

475

00:27:39,845 --> 00:27:40,345

Mm-hmm.

476

00:27:40,345 --> 00:27:46,065

477

00:27:46,065 --> 00:27:55,870

What is your opinion about
the non-survivor volunteers?

478

00:27:55,870 --> 00:27:57,930

I think they're wonderful.

479

00:27:57,930 --> 00:27:59,130

Jewish and non-Jewish.

480

00:27:59,130 --> 00:28:02,730

Yeah, well, the ones
I've worked with--

481

00:28:02,730 --> 00:28:04,633

I work on Tuesday afternoon--

482

00:28:04,633 --> 00:28:08,190

483

00:28:08,190 --> 00:28:10,500

right now they're all Jewish.

484

00:28:10,500 --> 00:28:15,900

And I don't know how it is--

485

00:28:15,900 --> 00:28:19,920

I think it's the same
with other people, I mean,

486

00:28:19,920 --> 00:28:22,650

teams or whatever on other days.

487

00:28:22,650 --> 00:28:28,620

When you form a very
supportive group,

488

00:28:28,620 --> 00:28:32,340

even if it was a case
that another day would

489

00:28:32,340 --> 00:28:36,052

be better, more
convenient for me,

490

00:28:36,052 --> 00:28:37,260

I wouldn't think of changing.

491

00:28:37,260 --> 00:28:40,050

492

00:28:40,050 --> 00:28:42,840

I really look forward to going.

493

00:28:42,840 --> 00:28:44,010

You asked me how I feel.

494

00:28:44,010 --> 00:28:45,970

I look forward to going
already on Sunday.

495
00:28:45,970 --> 00:28:46,470
Why?

496
00:28:46,470 --> 00:28:49,470

497
00:28:49,470 --> 00:28:54,900
One is this bond
with these people.

498
00:28:54,900 --> 00:28:59,010
The other is I like
the feeling of, well,

499
00:28:59,010 --> 00:29:02,190
interacting with the visitors.

500
00:29:02,190 --> 00:29:07,860
They encourage us to enter
into conversation with them.

501
00:29:07,860 --> 00:29:09,690
Do you ever say
about your background

502
00:29:09,690 --> 00:29:11,370
when you speak to visitors?

503
00:29:11,370 --> 00:29:12,160
No, I don't.

504
00:29:12,160 --> 00:29:15,150
It's funny because no, I don't.

505
00:29:15,150 --> 00:29:16,650
I don't.

506
00:29:16,650 --> 00:29:18,600
I just have to

tell you, they made

507
00:29:18,600 --> 00:29:21,790
buttons for us that
say I'm a survivor,

508
00:29:21,790 --> 00:29:23,530
do you have any questions?

509
00:29:23,530 --> 00:29:24,648
I don't know.

510
00:29:24,648 --> 00:29:25,940
people don't usually wear them.

511
00:29:25,940 --> 00:29:29,970
But I asked for
one, and now it's

512
00:29:29,970 --> 00:29:31,440
my own little private joke.

513
00:29:31,440 --> 00:29:35,910
But I feel like putting it
behind the lapel of my jacket

514
00:29:35,910 --> 00:29:37,110
because I'm a hidden child.

515
00:29:37,110 --> 00:29:44,450
[LAUGHS] No, I don't--
well, I have on occasion.

516
00:29:44,450 --> 00:29:49,950
But like people come up
to the information desk

517
00:29:49,950 --> 00:29:54,968
where I work and say, I thought
there were Holocaust survivors

518
00:29:54,968 --> 00:29:57,510

that we can talk to, and I say,
yeah, and they're over there.

519
00:29:57,510 --> 00:29:59,550
[LAUGHS]

520
00:29:59,550 --> 00:30:02,040
These two ladies, you can go
over there and talk to them.

521
00:30:02,040 --> 00:30:04,600

522
00:30:04,600 --> 00:30:10,600
Once one of my Tuesday
afternoon group

523
00:30:10,600 --> 00:30:14,740
came up and whispered to me
this woman and her daughter

524
00:30:14,740 --> 00:30:16,990
would like to speak to
a Holocaust survivor,

525
00:30:16,990 --> 00:30:20,180
but they went for lunch
or they're not there.

526
00:30:20,180 --> 00:30:21,530
Do you mind talking to them?

527
00:30:21,530 --> 00:30:23,020
I said, OK.

528
00:30:23,020 --> 00:30:25,900
And so I talked to them,
and they asked me--

529
00:30:25,900 --> 00:30:27,820
I mean, not the mother,
but the daughter.

530

00:30:27,820 --> 00:30:30,080

She had maybe a school
project, I don't know.

531

00:30:30,080 --> 00:30:31,664

Yes.

532

00:30:31,664 --> 00:30:32,950

[INAUDIBLE]

533

00:30:32,950 --> 00:30:33,460

Yes.

534

00:30:33,460 --> 00:30:34,420

But I don't normally.

535

00:30:34,420 --> 00:30:37,892

536

00:30:37,892 --> 00:30:39,350

You don't not
normally bring it up?

537

00:30:39,350 --> 00:30:41,350

No, no.

538

00:30:41,350 --> 00:30:44,470

Have you ever encouraged
other friends of yours

539

00:30:44,470 --> 00:30:46,930

who are survivors to work at
the Museum-- to volunteer?

540

00:30:46,930 --> 00:30:50,070

541

00:30:50,070 --> 00:30:52,860

Yes, very indirectly.

542

00:30:52,860 --> 00:30:57,060

This woman that I mentioned
that I met at Georgetown.

543
00:30:57,060 --> 00:31:01,400

544
00:31:01,400 --> 00:31:04,340
I lost contact with her.

545
00:31:04,340 --> 00:31:04,970
I have to--

546
00:31:04,970 --> 00:31:09,102

547
00:31:09,102 --> 00:31:09,810
I don't remember.

548
00:31:09,810 --> 00:31:11,405
Oh, when I went to
France and so on,

549
00:31:11,405 --> 00:31:15,390
after that I lost
contact with her.

550
00:31:15,390 --> 00:31:19,230
But once I started
work at the Museum,

551
00:31:19,230 --> 00:31:23,860
I joined the Echoes Writing
Workshop, Echoes of Memory,

552
00:31:23,860 --> 00:31:26,440
and that's one of the--

553
00:31:26,440 --> 00:31:29,290
maybe it was the
first story I wrote.

554
00:31:29,290 --> 00:31:32,850

And so I thought, hmm,
I'll try calling her.

555
00:31:32,850 --> 00:31:35,280
I knew she traveled
back and forth

556
00:31:35,280 --> 00:31:39,860
between here and Geneva a lot.

557
00:31:39,860 --> 00:31:43,030
I think her mother was
living there still.

558
00:31:43,030 --> 00:31:49,230
And I called, and I left
a message on the phone.

559
00:31:49,230 --> 00:31:52,000
And she called me back,
and we got together.

560
00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:56,710
And we don't see each other
that often because she

561
00:31:56,710 --> 00:31:58,960
lives in Potomac or McLean.

562
00:31:58,960 --> 00:32:02,980
But we correspond
by email a lot.

563
00:32:02,980 --> 00:32:06,620
And still, she goes to Geneva.

564
00:32:06,620 --> 00:32:07,810
She's there right now--

565
00:32:07,810 --> 00:32:10,660
constantly going back and forth.

566

00:32:10,660 --> 00:32:13,200
But I don't want
to suggest that--

567
00:32:13,200 --> 00:32:16,570
in fact, I had brought her to
one of our meetings-- the child

568
00:32:16,570 --> 00:32:20,440
survivor meetings-- and
said that's not for me.

569
00:32:20,440 --> 00:32:22,720
And she didn't come back again.

570
00:32:22,720 --> 00:32:24,820
But I know she's
very interested.

571
00:32:24,820 --> 00:32:26,320
I tell her about
the things that are

572
00:32:26,320 --> 00:32:33,100
going on that are a peril to
the work, the various events

573
00:32:33,100 --> 00:32:38,690
that we get to participate
in like the President coming

574
00:32:38,690 --> 00:32:39,830
to speak.

575
00:32:39,830 --> 00:32:42,430
And I got to shake his hand.

576
00:32:42,430 --> 00:32:43,430
Did you?

577
00:32:43,430 --> 00:32:45,620
I got a wonderful
picture out of it.

578
00:32:45,620 --> 00:32:47,540
Wonderful.

579
00:32:47,540 --> 00:32:50,420
But I don't want
to suggest it, no.

580
00:32:50,420 --> 00:32:54,370
And I don't know
anybody else who is not

581
00:32:54,370 --> 00:32:57,110
already affiliated with one
of the groups [INAUDIBLE]

582
00:32:57,110 --> 00:32:58,730
lives here or there.

583
00:32:58,730 --> 00:33:00,860
Maybe Madeleine
Alright that I was just

584
00:33:00,860 --> 00:33:02,150
reading [? her book review ?].

585
00:33:02,150 --> 00:33:06,710
[LAUGHS]

586
00:33:06,710 --> 00:33:08,630
Do you have children?

587
00:33:08,630 --> 00:33:09,350
We have one son.

588
00:33:09,350 --> 00:33:10,310
One son.

589
00:33:10,310 --> 00:33:14,690
When he was growing up, did
you talk about your experiences

590
00:33:14,690 --> 00:33:15,560
to him?

591
00:33:15,560 --> 00:33:17,120
No.

592
00:33:17,120 --> 00:33:18,020
You did not.

593
00:33:18,020 --> 00:33:20,630
No, but.

594
00:33:20,630 --> 00:33:24,890
When did he learn about
what you went through?

595
00:33:24,890 --> 00:33:28,010
When he was very
little, when I still

596
00:33:28,010 --> 00:33:35,880
used to read books to
him, I had a copy of Maus.

597
00:33:35,880 --> 00:33:40,380
And for some reason
he picked it.

598
00:33:40,380 --> 00:33:43,180
He wanted me to read it.

599
00:33:43,180 --> 00:33:47,920
So I read him, skipped a
few parts here and there.

600
00:33:47,920 --> 00:33:55,940
And we [? adopted. ?]
[? He's adopted. ?] He's from

601
00:33:55,940 --> 00:33:56,600
Brazil.

602

00:33:56,600 --> 00:34:03,228

And he didn't have a
bar mitzvah because we

603

00:34:03,228 --> 00:34:05,270

were going to have it in
Israel, but then my wife

604

00:34:05,270 --> 00:34:07,945

got vertigo problems.

605

00:34:07,945 --> 00:34:08,840

She couldn't fly.

606

00:34:08,840 --> 00:34:11,330

Anyway, after that, he didn't
want to have the bar mitzvah.

607

00:34:11,330 --> 00:34:12,620

So he didn't.

608

00:34:12,620 --> 00:34:18,210

He doesn't feel-- he doesn't
identify as being Jewish,

609

00:34:18,210 --> 00:34:19,790

which is neither here nor there.

610

00:34:19,790 --> 00:34:22,870

611

00:34:22,870 --> 00:34:26,409

But he knows, like, sometimes
he calls me and says, Dad,

612

00:34:26,409 --> 00:34:29,830

there's a film that you
might want to see on TV.

613

00:34:29,830 --> 00:34:33,130

614
00:34:33,130 --> 00:34:35,080
But we haven't talked.

615
00:34:35,080 --> 00:34:38,068

616
00:34:38,068 --> 00:34:41,570
I've given him a
couple of the text

617
00:34:41,570 --> 00:34:43,460
then I've written for Echoes.

618
00:34:43,460 --> 00:34:50,100

619
00:34:50,100 --> 00:34:51,330
He hasn't said much.

620
00:34:51,330 --> 00:34:55,320
But he said he briefly, like,
I liked it, or something.

621
00:34:55,320 --> 00:34:56,699
But he doesn't--

622
00:34:56,699 --> 00:34:57,760
I ask him.

623
00:34:57,760 --> 00:34:58,590
How old is he now?

624
00:34:58,590 --> 00:34:59,115
He's 26.

625
00:34:59,115 --> 00:35:03,590

626
00:35:03,590 --> 00:35:10,020
When he was your age that
you were during the war--

627

00:35:10,020 --> 00:35:13,650

you know, a young child--
did that bring back

628

00:35:13,650 --> 00:35:18,150

memories for you about
what you went through?

629

00:35:18,150 --> 00:35:21,540

I don't know if it brought
back memories, but I was aware.

630

00:35:21,540 --> 00:35:25,380

I was thinking, oh,
that's when I was there,

631

00:35:25,380 --> 00:35:32,370

and this is when you were
liberated and tried to imagine

632

00:35:32,370 --> 00:35:34,360

how I could have gone
through those things.

633

00:35:34,360 --> 00:35:36,270

Right, as such a young child.

634

00:35:36,270 --> 00:35:40,710

Right, so it did elicit?

635

00:35:40,710 --> 00:35:42,130

Yes.

636

00:35:42,130 --> 00:35:48,440

Are there any sights today,
or sounds, or smells,

637

00:35:48,440 --> 00:35:54,380

that trigger memories
of the war, being hidden

638

00:35:54,380 --> 00:35:56,420
and anything that
ever triggers it?

639
00:35:56,420 --> 00:36:12,340

640
00:36:12,340 --> 00:36:15,681
There are a lot of
things that trigger it.

641
00:36:15,681 --> 00:36:18,510

642
00:36:18,510 --> 00:36:21,990
Sometimes it's
something that's said.

643
00:36:21,990 --> 00:36:23,640
There's a film.

644
00:36:23,640 --> 00:36:26,460
I think it's called
The [? 80th ?] Blow.

645
00:36:26,460 --> 00:36:32,430
It's a documentary,
and it's about probably

646
00:36:32,430 --> 00:36:33,210
the Warsaw Ghetto.

647
00:36:33,210 --> 00:36:34,510
I don't remember anymore.

648
00:36:34,510 --> 00:36:39,340
This it seems that
it was shot then.

649
00:36:39,340 --> 00:36:42,930
And I can watch that without--

650

00:36:42,930 --> 00:36:44,740
it doesn't bother me.

651
00:36:44,740 --> 00:36:50,550
I can watch bodies being
bulldozed and buried.

652
00:36:50,550 --> 00:36:58,080
But little things like in
this The [? 80th ?] Blow,

653
00:36:58,080 --> 00:37:02,250
there's a scene which two
little boys are sitting

654
00:37:02,250 --> 00:37:05,430
on the sidewalk--
little, little boys--

655
00:37:05,430 --> 00:37:11,590
and one of them,
as people walk by,

656
00:37:11,590 --> 00:37:18,150
he says in Yiddish, a shtik
broyt, piece of bread.

657
00:37:18,150 --> 00:37:22,080

658
00:37:22,080 --> 00:37:26,280
Just in English
doesn't do it, doesn't

659
00:37:26,280 --> 00:37:28,250
do anything, but in Yiddish.

660
00:37:28,250 --> 00:37:32,290

661
00:37:32,290 --> 00:37:37,990
So there are lots of things,
but it's not obvious.

662
00:37:37,990 --> 00:37:45,737
I haven't categorized them,
but I get teary easily.

663
00:37:45,737 --> 00:37:49,400

664
00:37:49,400 --> 00:37:53,600
You said you were in Israel
during the Eichmann trial

665
00:37:53,600 --> 00:37:55,790
and you had to hear about it.

666
00:37:55,790 --> 00:37:58,790
Well, I didn't really
know what was going on.

667
00:37:58,790 --> 00:38:00,410
When I went to my
uncle and aunt,

668
00:38:00,410 --> 00:38:02,810
they would give me
a little, well--

669
00:38:02,810 --> 00:38:06,530
you know, there was no
television in Israel

670
00:38:06,530 --> 00:38:07,820
at the time.

671
00:38:07,820 --> 00:38:12,170
So they didn't say very
much as far as I remember.

672
00:38:12,170 --> 00:38:14,220
Maybe they didn't know either.

673
00:38:14,220 --> 00:38:18,410

So it was such a big thing.

674

00:38:18,410 --> 00:38:22,880

And I was there,
but I was out of it.

675

00:38:22,880 --> 00:38:26,300

It was the same with the
Cuban Missile Crisis.

676

00:38:26,300 --> 00:38:28,700

We were in England.

677

00:38:28,700 --> 00:38:31,880

We met my new wife then.

678

00:38:31,880 --> 00:38:34,880

We traveled to London
where my parents were.

679

00:38:34,880 --> 00:38:40,290

And my uncle said
something about--

680

00:38:40,290 --> 00:38:42,875

I guess we were watching
the news-- and he said,

681

00:38:42,875 --> 00:38:47,280

you know there might
be war or something.

682

00:38:47,280 --> 00:38:53,575

I had no idea because we
hadn't kept up with the news.

683

00:38:53,575 --> 00:38:55,750

Didn't that shake you
up, the fact that you

684

00:38:55,750 --> 00:38:57,200

had lived through another war?

685

00:38:57,200 --> 00:39:02,680

No, maybe I thought
he was exaggerating.

686

00:39:02,680 --> 00:39:03,280

I don't know.

687

00:39:03,280 --> 00:39:07,420

688

00:39:07,420 --> 00:39:09,160

Would you be a
different person today

689

00:39:09,160 --> 00:39:12,820

if you hadn't had the
childhood that you had?

690

00:39:12,820 --> 00:39:16,530

Has it affected
you, do you think?

691

00:39:16,530 --> 00:39:20,250

I think it has, but, of course,
there's no way of knowing.

692

00:39:20,250 --> 00:39:22,380

But I think it has.

693

00:39:22,380 --> 00:39:26,790

But one thing, I wasn't
even aware of that

694

00:39:26,790 --> 00:39:30,280

I read an article.

695

00:39:30,280 --> 00:39:31,350

There were two articles.

696

00:39:31,350 --> 00:39:35,400

I think it's in the
Shoah Foundation

697

00:39:35,400 --> 00:39:37,680

Newsletter or little magazine.

698

00:39:37,680 --> 00:39:41,460

There was an article about a woman who was a hidden child.

699

00:39:41,460 --> 00:39:45,840

And then the next thing was an article that she wrote herself,

700

00:39:45,840 --> 00:39:47,850

and she works in a medical school.

701

00:39:47,850 --> 00:39:50,160

I know she's a medical doctor or what.

702

00:39:50,160 --> 00:39:53,460

But she's made several statements

703

00:39:53,460 --> 00:39:57,510

that I can identify with.

704

00:39:57,510 --> 00:39:59,340

One is indecision.

705

00:39:59,340 --> 00:40:03,690

706

00:40:03,690 --> 00:40:05,080

In what sense?

707

00:40:05,080 --> 00:40:11,970

Well, this writing business has been nagging me forever,

708

00:40:11,970 --> 00:40:13,500

having trouble writing.

709
00:40:13,500 --> 00:40:18,058
So I was seeing a
psychiatrist and.

710
00:40:18,058 --> 00:40:20,475
When you say trouble writing,
do you mean the physical act

711
00:40:20,475 --> 00:40:24,300
of writing, or what do you
mean by trouble writing?

712
00:40:24,300 --> 00:40:26,580
You know, I can't
write, and then

713
00:40:26,580 --> 00:40:29,910
I correct myself so many times.

714
00:40:29,910 --> 00:40:31,560
You mean, picking
the right words?

715
00:40:31,560 --> 00:40:33,330
And you can physically.

716
00:40:33,330 --> 00:40:36,570
Oh yeah, physically,
yes, all right.

717
00:40:36,570 --> 00:40:43,952
So one day said,
Harry, the war is over.

718
00:40:43,952 --> 00:40:46,362
[CRYING] It doesn't matter.

719
00:40:46,362 --> 00:40:50,218

720
00:40:50,218 --> 00:40:51,330

It doesn't matter.

721
00:40:51,330 --> 00:40:53,070
It can go this way or that way.

722
00:40:53,070 --> 00:40:56,590
It has no consequences.

723
00:40:56,590 --> 00:40:59,960
And that never
occurred to me before.

724
00:40:59,960 --> 00:41:01,700
So she talks about this.

725
00:41:01,700 --> 00:41:08,800
Another thing is feeling
that people perceive you

726
00:41:08,800 --> 00:41:12,790
differently, like, this woman
obviously is very accomplished.

727
00:41:12,790 --> 00:41:16,910
She's teaching in the
medical school in New York.

728
00:41:16,910 --> 00:41:20,510
And she said that she
feels like a fake.

729
00:41:20,510 --> 00:41:23,550
And I have the same feeling.

730
00:41:23,550 --> 00:41:25,870
I feel like a fake.

731
00:41:25,870 --> 00:41:26,710
A fake, Katie.

732
00:41:26,710 --> 00:41:28,650
No, I know, but in

what sense do you?

733
00:41:28,650 --> 00:41:34,960

734
00:41:34,960 --> 00:41:39,400
Whatever I get recognition
for, I don't deserve,

735
00:41:39,400 --> 00:41:44,140
or that people take me far
more intelligent than I am.

736
00:41:44,140 --> 00:41:49,120
That what I do, you
know, when people--

737
00:41:49,120 --> 00:41:52,670
sometimes I get praised for
my writing, and I think, well.

738
00:41:52,670 --> 00:41:54,520
And why do you think
that is that you

739
00:41:54,520 --> 00:41:55,990
feel you don't deserve it?

740
00:41:55,990 --> 00:41:56,680
I don't know.

741
00:41:56,680 --> 00:41:59,570

742
00:41:59,570 --> 00:42:02,150
I never associated it
with my experience,

743
00:42:02,150 --> 00:42:08,595
but this woman in her article,
that's what she wrote about.

744

00:42:08,595 --> 00:42:10,220
Do you think maybe
it's because you had

745
00:42:10,220 --> 00:42:11,960
to lead two different lives?

746
00:42:11,960 --> 00:42:16,330
You were that other
little boy, Henry.

747
00:42:16,330 --> 00:42:18,020
Do you know what I mean?

748
00:42:18,020 --> 00:42:20,930
So who are you
really in a sense--

749
00:42:20,930 --> 00:42:24,200
as a young child when your
personality is being formed.

750
00:42:24,200 --> 00:42:26,640
I think you're right.

751
00:42:26,640 --> 00:42:29,180
That's an interesting
comment, what you said.

752
00:42:29,180 --> 00:42:31,980

753
00:42:31,980 --> 00:42:37,760
Well, I think your comment
is also very interesting

754
00:42:37,760 --> 00:42:39,490
because sometimes
I think about it.

755
00:42:39,490 --> 00:42:40,850
I mean, it's kind of strange.

756

00:42:40,850 --> 00:42:44,000

Leading two lives, especially
when you're so little.

757

00:42:44,000 --> 00:42:46,600

Right, and your personality
hasn't been formed yet.

758

00:42:46,600 --> 00:42:47,100

Right.

759

00:42:47,100 --> 00:42:48,593

You were such a young child.

760

00:42:48,593 --> 00:42:58,270

761

00:42:58,270 --> 00:43:01,220

What are your thoughts about
Germany, Germans today?

762

00:43:01,220 --> 00:43:10,130

Today, I think what happened in
Germany could happen anywhere.

763

00:43:10,130 --> 00:43:15,530

I mean, Germany was one of
the most advanced countries,

764

00:43:15,530 --> 00:43:25,320

educational, culture, and in
every field, they were tops--

765

00:43:25,320 --> 00:43:26,760

among the tops.

766

00:43:26,760 --> 00:43:28,290

And it happened.

767

00:43:28,290 --> 00:43:32,905

The conditions made
it possible to happen.

768
00:43:32,905 --> 00:43:36,340

769
00:43:36,340 --> 00:43:38,288
I could see it happening here.

770
00:43:38,288 --> 00:43:39,580
You can see it happening again?

771
00:43:39,580 --> 00:43:41,140
I mean, not there.

772
00:43:41,140 --> 00:43:41,640
Here?

773
00:43:41,640 --> 00:43:43,820
I can even see it
here or anywhere.

774
00:43:43,820 --> 00:43:44,770
In today's world?

775
00:43:44,770 --> 00:43:45,580
In today's world.

776
00:43:45,580 --> 00:43:47,050
You could see it
happening again?

777
00:43:47,050 --> 00:43:49,360
If the conditions
get bad enough.

778
00:43:49,360 --> 00:44:02,280

779
00:44:02,280 --> 00:44:04,770
Do you think your political
views have been affected

780

00:44:04,770 --> 00:44:07,805
by what your experiences were?

781
00:44:07,805 --> 00:44:16,400

782
00:44:16,400 --> 00:44:18,890
I don't know how
to link that up.

783
00:44:18,890 --> 00:44:20,300
I mean, there are
many people who

784
00:44:20,300 --> 00:44:23,120
have not had my
kind of experience

785
00:44:23,120 --> 00:44:26,635
but feel the same
way politically.

786
00:44:26,635 --> 00:44:35,850

787
00:44:35,850 --> 00:44:40,080
You had mentioned
before about you

788
00:44:40,080 --> 00:44:42,510
were active in the
rights for the Deaf--

789
00:44:42,510 --> 00:44:44,610
civil rights for the Deaf.

790
00:44:44,610 --> 00:44:47,880
Were you active in the civil
rights movement in generally?

791
00:44:47,880 --> 00:44:50,310
I mean you came from
a situation where

792

00:44:50,310 --> 00:44:53,820
your civil rights were deprived,
and your parents, and so forth.

793

00:44:53,820 --> 00:44:56,250
Has that made you more attuned?

794

00:44:56,250 --> 00:44:57,900
Maybe more attuned,
but I didn't--

795

00:44:57,900 --> 00:45:03,650
I'm reticent to
actually take part.

796

00:45:03,650 --> 00:45:08,950
I was in British Columbia
for five years during

797

00:45:08,950 --> 00:45:13,000
'68 and so on, so there
was also the movement,

798

00:45:13,000 --> 00:45:15,880
but I was afraid I was
going to be evicted--

799

00:45:15,880 --> 00:45:18,280
deported.

800

00:45:18,280 --> 00:45:20,680
At [? Simon Frasier ?]
University,

801

00:45:20,680 --> 00:45:22,840
students took over
the University.

802

00:45:22,840 --> 00:45:26,320
And lots of the people I knew
were, like, in the building.

803

00:45:26,320 --> 00:45:27,822

Were demonstrating?

804

00:45:27,822 --> 00:45:29,530

Well, they were in
the building that day,

805

00:45:29,530 --> 00:45:35,740

and the Mounted Police arrived.

806

00:45:35,740 --> 00:45:38,770

And I was outside, but I
wouldn't go in the building.

807

00:45:38,770 --> 00:45:44,390

I was afraid of
the consequences,

808

00:45:44,390 --> 00:45:49,690

but also I'm very skittish
about [INAUDIBLE]..

809

00:45:49,690 --> 00:45:52,030

I never told people
I was Jewish either.

810

00:45:52,030 --> 00:45:55,870

I think the first
time was when--

811

00:45:55,870 --> 00:45:57,640

I mean, some people saw me as.

812

00:45:57,640 --> 00:45:59,680

In the high school I
went to in Seattle,

813

00:45:59,680 --> 00:46:02,270

it was in a formerly
Jewish neighborhood.

814

00:46:02,270 --> 00:46:04,390

There were still a
lot of Jewish kids--

815
00:46:04,390 --> 00:46:07,970
maybe 15% or more.

816
00:46:07,970 --> 00:46:08,950
I don't know.

817
00:46:08,950 --> 00:46:10,820
So there it was not an issue.

818
00:46:10,820 --> 00:46:15,290
But later when I was at the
University of Washington,

819
00:46:15,290 --> 00:46:20,110
I remember being in a
restaurant-- a hamburger

820
00:46:20,110 --> 00:46:22,780
place-- with my friends,
several friends.

821
00:46:22,780 --> 00:46:25,480
I don't know why I
said that I was Jewish,

822
00:46:25,480 --> 00:46:27,970
and they said you're Jewish?

823
00:46:27,970 --> 00:46:30,610
[LAUGHS] Like it was
a surprise to them.

824
00:46:30,610 --> 00:46:32,110
But that was the
first time that I

825
00:46:32,110 --> 00:46:34,611
remember saying it to anybody.

826

00:46:34,611 --> 00:46:37,207

827

00:46:37,207 --> 00:46:38,040

It was not already--

828

00:46:38,040 --> 00:46:44,020

829

00:46:44,020 --> 00:46:46,150

I didn't know how they
would react to that.

830

00:46:46,150 --> 00:46:49,300

831

00:46:49,300 --> 00:46:54,240

What is your feelings now
religiously in the sense of

832

00:46:54,240 --> 00:46:56,940

said your family
was quite secular.

833

00:46:56,940 --> 00:46:57,890

Yes.

834

00:46:57,890 --> 00:46:59,640

Do you feel yourself
still quite secular--

835

00:46:59,640 --> 00:47:00,140

Yes.

836

00:47:00,140 --> 00:47:02,550

--or did you experience
change there?

837

00:47:02,550 --> 00:47:03,750

No.

838

00:47:03,750 --> 00:47:06,160

On your thought about
being Jewish in general?

839
00:47:06,160 --> 00:47:10,590
I think I feel very Jewish--
but very, very Jewish, in fact--

840
00:47:10,590 --> 00:47:13,350
but not because of a religion.

841
00:47:13,350 --> 00:47:19,200
Some of our relatives-- my
sister married an Orthodox man,

842
00:47:19,200 --> 00:47:25,080
and her children are very quite
Orthodox, especially her son.

843
00:47:25,080 --> 00:47:31,050
And my wife has several
siblings, but one of them

844
00:47:31,050 --> 00:47:36,240
also is very Orthodox and
married a very Orthodox man,

845
00:47:36,240 --> 00:47:39,240
and the seven children
are very Orthodox.

846
00:47:39,240 --> 00:47:46,890
So it's kind of
strange sometimes.

847
00:47:46,890 --> 00:47:50,830
I think I don't need this.

848
00:47:50,830 --> 00:47:54,270
I don't-- or maybe I
don't say don't need this.

849
00:47:54,270 --> 00:47:58,710
I feel I would like

it, but I can't do it.

850

00:47:58,710 --> 00:48:06,290

Like, I see it's when they get together with other people that

851

00:48:06,290 --> 00:48:09,930

do have the same kind of faith, there's

852

00:48:09,930 --> 00:48:14,970

a rapport through religion that I don't have.

853

00:48:14,970 --> 00:48:18,090

And I don't know, the prayers and.

854

00:48:18,090 --> 00:48:19,740

Are you a member of a synagogue?

855

00:48:19,740 --> 00:48:21,400

No, we tried several things.

856

00:48:21,400 --> 00:48:25,120

In fact, two weekends ago, we went to an open house from

857

00:48:25,120 --> 00:48:31,680

the [NON-ENGLISH], and we're going to go on their retreat.

858

00:48:31,680 --> 00:48:38,100

But we had been members before we had our son,

859

00:48:38,100 --> 00:48:41,550

and it was very child-oriented it seemed to us.

860

00:48:41,550 --> 00:48:45,390

So we felt we didn't feel that it was our place.

861
00:48:45,390 --> 00:48:48,030
But we went to this
one meeting, and it

862
00:48:48,030 --> 00:48:54,150
was quite amazing to us besides
the bagel nosh and all that.

863
00:48:54,150 --> 00:48:58,680
They had a discussion led by
a reporter for The Washington

864
00:48:58,680 --> 00:49:01,470
Post reports on the
national news that

865
00:49:01,470 --> 00:49:02,790
talked about the elections.

866
00:49:02,790 --> 00:49:09,240
And there another reporter
who works for the Los Angeles

867
00:49:09,240 --> 00:49:14,040
Times, I guess it was, and
but among the audience,

868
00:49:14,040 --> 00:49:17,370
everybody who commented,
they were so brilliant.

869
00:49:17,370 --> 00:49:24,045
[LAUGHS] And it was an
amazing intellectual feat

870
00:49:24,045 --> 00:49:25,150
that was going on.

871
00:49:25,150 --> 00:49:28,790

872

00:49:28,790 --> 00:49:34,010

In fact, I felt I
didn't feel up to par.

873

00:49:34,010 --> 00:49:36,750

874

00:49:36,750 --> 00:49:38,520
But so we're going to try that.

875

00:49:38,520 --> 00:49:42,540
Good, and do you think
more about the war years

876

00:49:42,540 --> 00:49:44,670
as you get older?

877

00:49:44,670 --> 00:49:46,700
Well, there's more
time to think about it.

878

00:49:46,700 --> 00:49:47,700
Now that you're retired.

879

00:49:47,700 --> 00:49:57,810
Yes, and especially
being in the environment

880

00:49:57,810 --> 00:50:03,030
with the Museum, so when there
are all these other activities,

881

00:50:03,030 --> 00:50:04,050
movies, and so on.

882

00:50:04,050 --> 00:50:06,960

883

00:50:06,960 --> 00:50:09,510
And my wife doesn't
mind, and she likes it.

884

00:50:09,510 --> 00:50:12,270
So it's a good thing because
she didn't go through that.

885
00:50:12,270 --> 00:50:19,110
But it would be more difficult
if she couldn't relate to it

886
00:50:19,110 --> 00:50:20,680
or didn't want to participate.

887
00:50:20,680 --> 00:50:23,250
She doesn't participate in
the Child Survivors group.

888
00:50:23,250 --> 00:50:25,880

889
00:50:25,880 --> 00:50:29,150
For one thing, when
we started this,

890
00:50:29,150 --> 00:50:34,580
we didn't allow
non-survivors, even spouses.

891
00:50:34,580 --> 00:50:36,480
Even spouses.

892
00:50:36,480 --> 00:50:39,150
And some people were
very adamant about that,

893
00:50:39,150 --> 00:50:41,720
but that's all changed now.

894
00:50:41,720 --> 00:50:43,850
But my wife, she's much younger.

895
00:50:43,850 --> 00:50:48,500
And-- she's younger, and
that's not her thing.

896

00:50:48,500 --> 00:50:54,480

Are you angry that you had
to go through what you did?

897

00:50:54,480 --> 00:50:57,980

Being hidden and away from your
family, and some of the losses

898

00:50:57,980 --> 00:51:00,530

your family suffered?

899

00:51:00,530 --> 00:51:02,840

Are you angry and
that other people--

900

00:51:02,840 --> 00:51:05,180

Jewish children, let's say,
or other children your age--

901

00:51:05,180 --> 00:51:06,920

didn't have to go
through what you did?

902

00:51:06,920 --> 00:51:08,030

No, I'm not angry.

903

00:51:08,030 --> 00:51:08,540

You're not?

904

00:51:08,540 --> 00:51:09,040

No.

905

00:51:09,040 --> 00:51:14,132

906

00:51:14,132 --> 00:51:14,850

It's what?

907

00:51:14,850 --> 00:51:16,080

More of an acceptance or?

908

00:51:16,080 --> 00:51:22,915

909

00:51:22,915 --> 00:51:25,820

Other children who didn't
have that experience,

910

00:51:25,820 --> 00:51:28,280

don't have such happy
childhoods for whatever.

911

00:51:28,280 --> 00:51:31,160

In fact, my wife
background, I mean,

912

00:51:31,160 --> 00:51:35,330

the family was four
or five children,

913

00:51:35,330 --> 00:51:40,440

and her childhood wasn't
that happy either.

914

00:51:40,440 --> 00:51:41,150

It was difficult.

915

00:51:41,150 --> 00:51:41,650

Yes.

916

00:51:41,650 --> 00:51:47,810

917

00:51:47,810 --> 00:51:51,590

Well, is there anything
else you wanted to add,

918

00:51:51,590 --> 00:51:54,260

any thoughts you had?

919

00:51:54,260 --> 00:52:01,530

Well, one thing that I've been
thinking about at the Museum--

920

00:52:01,530 --> 00:52:03,050

maybe elsewhere

too-- there's a lot

921

00:52:03,050 --> 00:52:08,090

of emphasis on seems

to be on the bystander

922

00:52:08,090 --> 00:52:12,770

as being guilty for

not doing something.

923

00:52:12,770 --> 00:52:17,600

Well, to me, that

doesn't make sense.

924

00:52:17,600 --> 00:52:21,680

Just because there are

injustices going around you

925

00:52:21,680 --> 00:52:23,120

doesn't mean that you can--

926

00:52:23,120 --> 00:52:26,750

especially being in an occupied

country or in Germany--

927

00:52:26,750 --> 00:52:29,983

it doesn't mean and you can just

go out there and do something.

928

00:52:29,983 --> 00:52:32,150

I mean, you can do something,

get hit over the head,

929

00:52:32,150 --> 00:52:33,230

and that's the end.

930

00:52:33,230 --> 00:52:36,920

931

00:52:36,920 --> 00:52:40,790

I've become aware that a lot
of the people who were involved

932
00:52:40,790 --> 00:52:42,470
was due to circumstances.

933
00:52:42,470 --> 00:52:46,310
[INAUDIBLE] and somebody came
knocked at the door and asked

934
00:52:46,310 --> 00:52:48,810
if they would take a child--

935
00:52:48,810 --> 00:52:50,490
didn't say Jewish child.

936
00:52:50,490 --> 00:52:51,900
She suspected it she said.

937
00:52:51,900 --> 00:52:55,230

938
00:52:55,230 --> 00:53:00,210
Others, that woman who--

939
00:53:00,210 --> 00:53:03,630
[PERSONAL NAME],, she
was a schoolteacher.

940
00:53:03,630 --> 00:53:05,580
She was 20-year-old,
a schoolteacher,

941
00:53:05,580 --> 00:53:08,650
and some of her kids
were disappearing--

942
00:53:08,650 --> 00:53:10,470
the Jewish kids.

943
00:53:10,470 --> 00:53:12,660
So she had this connection.

944
00:53:12,660 --> 00:53:16,250
She was then started
helping other kids.

945
00:53:16,250 --> 00:53:18,530
And I now I watch for them.

946
00:53:18,530 --> 00:53:23,060
I'm on the lookout, and I
see that's what's happening

947
00:53:23,060 --> 00:53:27,500
with the priest in Belgium.

948
00:53:27,500 --> 00:53:30,890
There was also that
aspect that he was asked,

949
00:53:30,890 --> 00:53:35,910
or so I see it is not that
easy to just decide, well,

950
00:53:35,910 --> 00:53:36,858
this is not fair.

951
00:53:36,858 --> 00:53:38,900
I'm going to go out and
demonstrate or something.

952
00:53:38,900 --> 00:53:40,550
You can do that here.

953
00:53:40,550 --> 00:53:43,420
Under certain circumstances,
it's perfectly fine,

954
00:53:43,420 --> 00:53:44,960
and get your permit or whatever.

955
00:53:44,960 --> 00:53:47,600
You can have a demonstration.

956
00:53:47,600 --> 00:53:53,100
But under the
conditions in Germany

957
00:53:53,100 --> 00:53:56,190
and later in the
occupied countries.

958
00:53:56,190 --> 00:54:00,240
I admire the White
Rose movement.

959
00:54:00,240 --> 00:54:03,350

960
00:54:03,350 --> 00:54:07,190
I think it's-- but they gave
their lives for nothing,

961
00:54:07,190 --> 00:54:10,340
and the same with a lot of--

962
00:54:10,340 --> 00:54:12,860
well, another thing
that gets to me

963
00:54:12,860 --> 00:54:19,810
is the myth about the
Jews not resisting.

964
00:54:19,810 --> 00:54:24,040
There was, of course, some armed
resistance, but it was futile.

965
00:54:24,040 --> 00:54:25,510
What does it mean?

966
00:54:25,510 --> 00:54:30,500
Countries like Poland,
Czechoslovakia, Norway,

967

00:54:30,500 --> 00:54:36,520
Denmark, Luxembourg,
Belgium, France, Holland,

968
00:54:36,520 --> 00:54:41,050
almost Russia were
invaded and almost never--

969
00:54:41,050 --> 00:54:45,220
they were defeated,
not Russia almost.

970
00:54:45,220 --> 00:54:51,830
What does it mean to resist?

971
00:54:51,830 --> 00:54:55,060
Well, there was resistance
to all kind of form.

972
00:54:55,060 --> 00:54:58,360
Every time you didn't do what
they wanted to, every time you

973
00:54:58,360 --> 00:55:02,530
didn't report to the work
when you were chosen,

974
00:55:02,530 --> 00:55:06,610
or you didn't go to the
place where you were supposed

975
00:55:06,610 --> 00:55:10,330
to go so they can
deport you, or when

976
00:55:10,330 --> 00:55:15,700
you were supposed to
register, hiding children,

977
00:55:15,700 --> 00:55:19,040
all these things
were resistance.

978

00:55:19,040 --> 00:55:25,890
And so that's bothered
me for a long time.

979
00:55:25,890 --> 00:55:27,500
There's all kinds of resistance.

980
00:55:27,500 --> 00:55:29,120
There's all kind of resistance.

981
00:55:29,120 --> 00:55:34,940
And the armed
resistance was, I think,

982
00:55:34,940 --> 00:55:38,280
well, it's wonderful
that people did decide,

983
00:55:38,280 --> 00:55:41,060
OK, we're going to
resist with weapons,

984
00:55:41,060 --> 00:55:45,310
but in general, I guess
could say that those few.

985
00:55:45,310 --> 00:55:48,700
And I mean, they didn't
survive many times.

986
00:55:48,700 --> 00:55:49,860
Hostages were killed.

987
00:55:49,860 --> 00:55:52,470

988
00:55:52,470 --> 00:55:54,720
Have you been to Germany?

989
00:55:54,720 --> 00:55:59,100
For very brief
periods of visits.

990

00:55:59,100 --> 00:56:00,600

When I was living in Paris--

991

00:56:00,600 --> 00:56:07,790

well, I had an aunt who
had been in Tangier.

992

00:56:07,790 --> 00:56:10,610

She's actually not Jewish,
and I didn't even know that.

993

00:56:10,610 --> 00:56:15,170

But when my uncle
died in Tangier,

994

00:56:15,170 --> 00:56:19,700

she and their two daughters
moved to Frankfurt

995

00:56:19,700 --> 00:56:21,110

where she was from I guess.

996

00:56:21,110 --> 00:56:26,560

And while I was in Paris, I
visited them for two weekends.

997

00:56:26,560 --> 00:56:32,223

And another time with Arlene,
when we were living in France,

998

00:56:32,223 --> 00:56:33,890

we did a lot of
traveling back and forth

999

00:56:33,890 --> 00:56:35,170

and come here for the summer.

1000

00:56:35,170 --> 00:56:39,460

And so at one time,
there was some,

1001

00:56:39,460 --> 00:56:42,270

I don't know if it was a controller strike or whatever.

1002
00:56:42,270 --> 00:56:43,710
I don't remember what it was.

1003
00:56:43,710 --> 00:56:45,710
I think it had something to do with controllers.

1004
00:56:45,710 --> 00:56:51,640
So we couldn't get a commercial flight back here.

1005
00:56:51,640 --> 00:56:55,930
But my brother who was in the tourist business

1006
00:56:55,930 --> 00:56:58,330
arranged for us to get on, I think

1007
00:56:58,330 --> 00:57:04,120
it was a charter flight or something, from Salzburg

1008
00:57:04,120 --> 00:57:06,050
in Germany, I guess it is.

1009
00:57:06,050 --> 00:57:10,450
So we went there and we had to spend a night or so.

1010
00:57:10,450 --> 00:57:11,377
I felt [INAUDIBLE].

1011
00:57:11,377 --> 00:57:12,210
Are you comfortable?

1012
00:57:12,210 --> 00:57:14,410
Are you comfortable in Germany?

1013

00:57:14,410 --> 00:57:16,870
I'm not comfortable wherever
I can't speak the language,

1014
00:57:16,870 --> 00:57:21,160
and my German is
limited in vocabulary.

1015
00:57:21,160 --> 00:57:23,440
It's also limited by the
fact that I only spoke it

1016
00:57:23,440 --> 00:57:25,790
with my parents or
relatives, so I don't even

1017
00:57:25,790 --> 00:57:28,040
know how to talk to people.

1018
00:57:28,040 --> 00:57:32,030
When I was in college,
there was a Swiss,

1019
00:57:32,030 --> 00:57:35,180
but he was from an Italian area.

1020
00:57:35,180 --> 00:57:37,400
So his German was [INAUDIBLE].

1021
00:57:37,400 --> 00:57:39,250
So it was more the
lack of the language

1022
00:57:39,250 --> 00:57:42,740
rather than the feeling
what Germany represented?

1023
00:57:42,740 --> 00:57:45,250
It was both.

1024
00:57:45,250 --> 00:57:49,240
I still thought, you know,
when I saw all the people.

1025
00:57:49,240 --> 00:57:50,200
What did they do?

1026
00:57:50,200 --> 00:57:55,720
But you know, at least,
intellectually I think,

1027
00:57:55,720 --> 00:57:58,690
they didn't do anything
more than people

1028
00:57:58,690 --> 00:58:02,530
do in other countries in
that kind of situation.

1029
00:58:02,530 --> 00:58:04,690
Did your parents get
reparations at all?

1030
00:58:04,690 --> 00:58:08,260
My parents got-- yeah, they did.

1031
00:58:08,260 --> 00:58:09,760
And you and your
brother and sister,

1032
00:58:09,760 --> 00:58:11,440
did you get any payments?

1033
00:58:11,440 --> 00:58:16,090
I think my brother and
sister got a few hundred

1034
00:58:16,090 --> 00:58:19,223
dollars for loss of school.

1035
00:58:19,223 --> 00:58:20,140
I didn't get anything.

1036
00:58:20,140 --> 00:58:21,140
You didn't get anything.

1037
00:58:21,140 --> 00:58:22,780
But your parents did.

1038
00:58:22,780 --> 00:58:25,990
Yeah, my father had a pension.

1039
00:58:25,990 --> 00:58:30,400
They lost the
apartment in Berlin.

1040
00:58:30,400 --> 00:58:33,190
We left illegally across
the border illegally.

1041
00:58:33,190 --> 00:58:37,160

1042
00:58:37,160 --> 00:58:38,030
We left.

1043
00:58:38,030 --> 00:58:42,080
My father believed that
Hitler wasn't going last,

1044
00:58:42,080 --> 00:58:45,110
like other people
were not informed.

1045
00:58:45,110 --> 00:58:47,030
Well, I think a lot
of professionals

1046
00:58:47,030 --> 00:58:51,130
lost their job, so they left,
but my father had his business.

1047
00:58:51,130 --> 00:58:55,610
And it was getting better as
his competition was leaving

1048
00:58:55,610 --> 00:58:57,320

because he had [INAUDIBLE].

1049

00:58:57,320 --> 00:58:58,730

So things we're doing well.

1050

00:58:58,730 --> 00:59:00,260

So he didn't want to leave.

1051

00:59:00,260 --> 00:59:05,580

But then his friend--

1052

00:59:05,580 --> 00:59:06,660

I am not sure.

1053

00:59:06,660 --> 00:59:07,650

He was a friend.

1054

00:59:07,650 --> 00:59:12,780

He was-- they used to have
a German maid until '35,

1055

00:59:12,780 --> 00:59:16,630

and her boyfriend
was a policeman.

1056

00:59:16,630 --> 00:59:21,330

He came to see my
father in '38 and said--

1057

00:59:21,330 --> 00:59:23,730

oh, well, I'll get back to that.

1058

00:59:23,730 --> 00:59:27,240

He said, Max, you have
to leave, and something

1059

00:59:27,240 --> 00:59:28,330

is going to be terrible.

1060

00:59:28,330 --> 00:59:31,940

And I think he had knowledge
about the Kristallnacht,

1061
00:59:31,940 --> 00:59:33,870
the plans.

1062
00:59:33,870 --> 00:59:37,350
So my father took my
brother and sister,

1063
00:59:37,350 --> 00:59:39,990
and but they were caught
at the border by the Dutch,

1064
00:59:39,990 --> 00:59:40,872
and sent back.

1065
00:59:40,872 --> 00:59:43,080
And you know, he was going
to prison, but he got out.

1066
00:59:43,080 --> 00:59:45,970
And then, see, my
brother and sister

1067
00:59:45,970 --> 00:59:49,930
disagreed on whether we left
before or after Kristallnacht,

1068
00:59:49,930 --> 00:59:51,900
and I think it was both.

1069
00:59:51,900 --> 00:59:54,990
They left before, but they
were caught and sent back.

1070
00:59:54,990 --> 00:59:59,000

1071
00:59:59,000 --> 01:00:01,820
Well, is there-- as I said
before-- anything else

1072
01:00:01,820 --> 01:00:05,922

that you wanted to
say before we close?

1073
01:00:05,922 --> 01:00:07,880
I don't if there was,
but I forget what it was.

1074
01:00:07,880 --> 01:00:19,920

1075
01:00:19,920 --> 01:00:21,250
I'm sure I'll remember later.

1076
01:00:21,250 --> 01:00:25,010

1077
01:00:25,010 --> 01:00:30,500
Well, thank you very much
for doing the interview.

1078
01:00:30,500 --> 01:00:37,660
Thank you, you certainly
helped me with your questions.

1079
01:00:37,660 --> 01:00:42,130

1080
01:00:42,130 --> 01:00:45,400
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1081
01:00:45,400 --> 01:00:49,770
interview with Harry Markowitz.

1082
01:00:49,770 --> 01:00:52,000