

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,140

2  
00:00:06,140 --> 00:00:09,050  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:09,050 --> 00:00:13,470  
interview with Rosa  
Weinstein, conducted

4  
00:00:13,470 --> 00:00:18,840  
by Gail Schwartz on  
September 19, 2013,

5  
00:00:18,840 --> 00:00:21,150  
in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

6  
00:00:21,150 --> 00:00:24,760  
This is track number one.

7  
00:00:24,760 --> 00:00:27,010  
What is your full name?

8  
00:00:27,010 --> 00:00:31,540  
It's Rosa Grundberg, my  
maiden name, Weinstein.

9  
00:00:31,540 --> 00:00:34,640  
And when were you born,  
and where were you born?

10  
00:00:34,640 --> 00:00:40,900  
I was born November 19,  
1935, in Vienna, Austria.

11  
00:00:40,900 --> 00:00:43,090  
Let's talk a little  
bit about your family.

12  
00:00:43,090 --> 00:00:45,010

Your parents' names?

13

00:00:45,010 --> 00:00:52,400

Was Temy Druk, and my father's name was Simon Grundberg.

14

00:00:52,400 --> 00:00:54,600

Do you know where and when they were born?

15

00:00:54,600 --> 00:00:56,135

They were born in the Ukraine.

16

00:00:56,135 --> 00:00:59,760

17

00:00:59,760 --> 00:01:02,600

Deliatyn was where my mother was born,

18

00:01:02,600 --> 00:01:06,200

and GwoÅ°dziec is where my father was born.

19

00:01:06,200 --> 00:01:10,100

20

00:01:10,100 --> 00:01:12,710

My father migrated earlier to Vienna,

21

00:01:12,710 --> 00:01:16,250

and my mother after the First World War.

22

00:01:16,250 --> 00:01:18,600

Do you know when they were born?

23

00:01:18,600 --> 00:01:22,990

1905, I believe, was the date.

24

00:01:22,990 --> 00:01:25,375

So your father left  
first and came to--

25  
00:01:25,375 --> 00:01:26,110  
Vienna.

26  
00:01:26,110 --> 00:01:27,830  
--Vienna.

27  
00:01:27,830 --> 00:01:30,730  
Do you know why, or what  
the circumstances were?

28  
00:01:30,730 --> 00:01:35,350  
I think probably for  
opportunity to work.

29  
00:01:35,350 --> 00:01:38,980  
A lot of Jews at that  
time from Eastern Europe

30  
00:01:38,980 --> 00:01:44,340  
went into Vienna to  
have a way of life.

31  
00:01:44,340 --> 00:01:47,370  
And then, after the  
First World War,

32  
00:01:47,370 --> 00:01:52,200  
my mother and her mother  
and brother and sister

33  
00:01:52,200 --> 00:01:56,270  
migrated to Vienna.

34  
00:01:56,270 --> 00:02:02,430  
The father, Nashulum Druk, had  
been killed by the Russians.

35  
00:02:02,430 --> 00:02:05,130  
He was a banker in the Ukraine.

36

00:02:05,130 --> 00:02:07,650

And when the Russians  
invaded and set

37

00:02:07,650 --> 00:02:11,250

him to work in the fields,  
he didn't work fast enough

38

00:02:11,250 --> 00:02:14,340

for the Russians and was killed.

39

00:02:14,340 --> 00:02:18,060

And so, that's the  
reason my mother's mother

40

00:02:18,060 --> 00:02:22,800

and my mother and her  
family moved to Vienna.

41

00:02:22,800 --> 00:02:25,260

And how did your parents meet?

42

00:02:25,260 --> 00:02:26,650

Well, I must tell you this.

43

00:02:26,650 --> 00:02:28,290

They were actually cousins.

44

00:02:28,290 --> 00:02:31,350

And it was customary in  
Eastern Europe for cousins

45

00:02:31,350 --> 00:02:32,370

to marry each other.

46

00:02:32,370 --> 00:02:36,250

47

00:02:36,250 --> 00:02:41,768

Being family, that's how they  
knew each other and married.

48

00:02:41,768 --> 00:02:43,060  
What year did they get married?

49

00:02:43,060 --> 00:02:49,900  
I believe it was 1930 or 1932.

50

00:02:49,900 --> 00:02:52,900  
And then I was born in 1935.

51

00:02:52,900 --> 00:02:58,060  
They first had stillborn  
twins, and then I

52

00:02:58,060 --> 00:03:01,810  
was born a year later in Vienna.

53

00:03:01,810 --> 00:03:03,960  
Did you have any  
siblings after that?

54

00:03:03,960 --> 00:03:05,380  
No siblings at all.

55

00:03:05,380 --> 00:03:08,380  
I was an only child.

56

00:03:08,380 --> 00:03:14,110  
And the winds of war were  
already rampant in Europe

57

00:03:14,110 --> 00:03:16,900  
at that time.

58

00:03:16,900 --> 00:03:19,690  
And my parents had  
a grocery store

59

00:03:19,690 --> 00:03:24,160  
in Vienna, which the  
Nazis closed down

60

00:03:24,160 --> 00:03:25,618  
after the Anschluss.

61  
00:03:25,618 --> 00:03:27,660  
Yeah, we'll talk about  
the Anschluss in a minute.

62  
00:03:27,660 --> 00:03:31,060  
Let's talk pre-Anschluss  
for the time.

63  
00:03:31,060 --> 00:03:34,420  
They had a grocery  
store and I believe--

64  
00:03:34,420 --> 00:03:35,080  
In Vienna.

65  
00:03:35,080 --> 00:03:36,760  
--in Vienna itself.

66  
00:03:36,760 --> 00:03:39,890  
Do you know what  
street, or do you know--

67  
00:03:39,890 --> 00:03:42,050  
I'll have to get the  
records on that, sorry

68  
00:03:42,050 --> 00:03:43,820  
that I don't have that.

69  
00:03:43,820 --> 00:03:48,820  
It was in one of the  
residential sections of Vienna.

70  
00:03:48,820 --> 00:03:51,860

71  
00:03:51,860 --> 00:03:59,690  
They carried herbs and spices  
as a specialty in the store.

72

00:03:59,690 --> 00:04:02,910

73

00:04:02,910 --> 00:04:06,000

It was a comfortable  
living, and I

74

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:12,920

had a maid-nanny  
who took care of me

75

00:04:12,920 --> 00:04:15,740

while they manned the store.

76

00:04:15,740 --> 00:04:18,860

And my mother's  
mother lived with us

77

00:04:18,860 --> 00:04:21,290

at the time in the apartment.

78

00:04:21,290 --> 00:04:22,370

I'll think of the apart--

79

00:04:22,370 --> 00:04:27,320

29 Heiligstadt  
Strasse was the name

80

00:04:27,320 --> 00:04:30,320

of the place where we lived.

81

00:04:30,320 --> 00:04:33,560

And I'll tell you when we get  
to the post-war section what

82

00:04:33,560 --> 00:04:35,840

became of that house.

83

00:04:35,840 --> 00:04:38,240

Were your parents  
very religious people?

84

00:04:38,240 --> 00:04:39,300

No, they weren't.

85

00:04:39,300 --> 00:04:45,440

They were observant to a degree,  
but not very religious at all.

86

00:04:45,440 --> 00:04:51,382

They observed the holidays, and  
I believe kept a kosher house.

87

00:04:51,382 --> 00:04:52,780

And Shabbat?

88

00:04:52,780 --> 00:04:58,820

And Shabbat, but I think  
that not extremely religious.

89

00:04:58,820 --> 00:05:03,030

Were their parents, your  
grandparents, religious people?

90

00:05:03,030 --> 00:05:06,960

My father's father was  
a very religious person.

91

00:05:06,960 --> 00:05:10,950

In fact, he was what I believe  
was called a bochur boy.

92

00:05:10,950 --> 00:05:13,890

He studied at the yeshiva.

93

00:05:13,890 --> 00:05:19,050

And his first wife, my  
paternal grandmother died.

94

00:05:19,050 --> 00:05:23,400

We believe it was  
about 1917, 1918,

95

00:05:23,400 --> 00:05:27,060



at the height of the  
flu epidemic that hit,

96  
00:05:27,060 --> 00:05:33,510  
and she died and is buried there  
in the Friedhoff in Vienna.

97  
00:05:33,510 --> 00:05:39,660  
And then my paternal  
grandfather remarried.

98  
00:05:39,660 --> 00:05:45,630  
My paternal grandfather  
and paternal grandmother

99  
00:05:45,630 --> 00:05:53,760  
had four children: Adolf,  
Clara, Simon and Benjamin.

100  
00:05:53,760 --> 00:05:57,690  
And after my  
grandfather remarried,

101  
00:05:57,690 --> 00:06:03,844  
the children left the  
home and lived elsewhere.

102  
00:06:03,844 --> 00:06:06,750

103  
00:06:06,750 --> 00:06:08,540  
What about your mother's family?

104  
00:06:08,540 --> 00:06:11,190  
Were they religious?

105  
00:06:11,190 --> 00:06:13,620  
I believe that my  
grandmother was observant,

106  
00:06:13,620 --> 00:06:15,480  
but I don't know to what degree.

107

00:06:15,480 --> 00:06:18,960

108

00:06:18,960 --> 00:06:23,410

Do you know if they  
were Zionistic at all?

109

00:06:23,410 --> 00:06:24,700

That's a very good question.

110

00:06:24,700 --> 00:06:25,690

Let's say your parents.

111

00:06:25,690 --> 00:06:26,950

Oh, my parents--

112

00:06:26,950 --> 00:06:29,530

My mother always  
wanted to go to Israel

113

00:06:29,530 --> 00:06:32,440

and always wanted an Israel--

114

00:06:32,440 --> 00:06:35,260

and I'll tell you  
something post matter when

115

00:06:35,260 --> 00:06:37,540

we get to that section, too.

116

00:06:37,540 --> 00:06:39,220

But I'm talking  
about in the '30s.

117

00:06:39,220 --> 00:06:40,840

Do you know?

118

00:06:40,840 --> 00:06:43,500

Obviously this is  
what you've been told,

119

00:06:43,500 --> 00:06:46,120  
you were a newborn  
and into child.

120  
00:06:46,120 --> 00:06:47,800  
Right.

121  
00:06:47,800 --> 00:06:50,380  
I believe my mother  
was always pro-Zionist,

122  
00:06:50,380 --> 00:06:54,580  
and I think my father was  
more neutral about that.

123  
00:06:54,580 --> 00:06:58,570

124  
00:06:58,570 --> 00:07:01,110  
Do you remember what  
language you spoke at home?

125  
00:07:01,110 --> 00:07:01,610  
German.

126  
00:07:01,610 --> 00:07:02,900  
You spoke German.

127  
00:07:02,900 --> 00:07:04,640  
It was combination of  
German and Yiddish.

128  
00:07:04,640 --> 00:07:06,240  
And Yiddish.

129  
00:07:06,240 --> 00:07:06,740  
Ja.

130  
00:07:06,740 --> 00:07:10,730

131  
00:07:10,730 --> 00:07:14,240

When we get to the  
part of during the war,

132  
00:07:14,240 --> 00:07:18,020  
I will tell you the story of  
my aunt, the daughter that was

133  
00:07:18,020 --> 00:07:20,530  
born of the second marriage.

134  
00:07:20,530 --> 00:07:22,440  
Would you let me  
know when that's--

135  
00:07:22,440 --> 00:07:23,990  
OK.

136  
00:07:23,990 --> 00:07:28,280  
So, your first  
memory would be what?

137  
00:07:28,280 --> 00:07:31,190  
My first memory was  
of my grandmother.

138  
00:07:31,190 --> 00:07:35,160  
I must have been in  
my crib at the time,

139  
00:07:35,160 --> 00:07:38,240  
and I remember my grandmother  
raising the shade,

140  
00:07:38,240 --> 00:07:42,917  
and light coming into the room  
in our apartment in Vienna.

141  
00:07:42,917 --> 00:07:44,000  
You lived in an apartment?

142  
00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:45,930  
We lived in an apartment.

143

00:07:45,930 --> 00:07:52,310

And the second memory  
is after the Anschluss.

144

00:07:52,310 --> 00:07:55,910

And when you're a toddler  
you're a certain height,

145

00:07:55,910 --> 00:07:59,510

and so I remember leather  
boots of the Nazis.

146

00:07:59,510 --> 00:08:03,860

And I remember hiding in a  
closet with my parents as well.

147

00:08:03,860 --> 00:08:08,480

I guess we were visiting and  
some Germans came to visit,

148

00:08:08,480 --> 00:08:11,180

necessitating our  
hiding in the closet.

149

00:08:11,180 --> 00:08:16,410

And I remember my father holding  
his finger up to be quiet.

150

00:08:16,410 --> 00:08:17,602

And the third--

151

00:08:17,602 --> 00:08:19,310

So you were like three  
or four years old?

152

00:08:19,310 --> 00:08:22,050

I was close to four.

153

00:08:22,050 --> 00:08:25,160

I must have been three  
and a half at the time

154

00:08:25,160 --> 00:08:28,530  
because we left when I was four.

155  
00:08:28,530 --> 00:08:30,240  
And the next memory--

156  
00:08:30,240 --> 00:08:31,424  
Do you remember if--

157  
00:08:31,424 --> 00:08:33,299  
and again, you were a  
child-- do you remember

158  
00:08:33,299 --> 00:08:37,890  
if your parents explained  
anything to this toddler

159  
00:08:37,890 --> 00:08:41,970  
about why he had to hold  
his finger up to his mouth?

160  
00:08:41,970 --> 00:08:43,843  
I don't remember an explanation.

161  
00:08:43,843 --> 00:08:44,760  
That's understandable.

162  
00:08:44,760 --> 00:08:48,010  
It may be that they  
wanted to spare a toddler,

163  
00:08:48,010 --> 00:08:51,230  
or feared what a  
toddler might divulge.

164  
00:08:51,230 --> 00:08:52,440  
Right, of course.

165  
00:08:52,440 --> 00:08:54,560  
So you and your folks  
hid in the closet.

166

00:08:54,560 --> 00:08:55,253  
Yeah.

167  
00:08:55,253 --> 00:08:57,000  
Must have been very frightening.

168  
00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:58,200  
Very frightening time.

169  
00:08:58,200 --> 00:08:59,820  
Because it was dark, I assume.

170  
00:08:59,820 --> 00:09:00,570  
Dark.

171  
00:09:00,570 --> 00:09:04,800  
And the sounds outside  
the closet, and the fear

172  
00:09:04,800 --> 00:09:08,560  
transmits itself to a  
child, so you could feel it.

173  
00:09:08,560 --> 00:09:10,980  
And then my last  
memory of Vienna

174  
00:09:10,980 --> 00:09:14,940  
is our getting into  
a taxi very hurriedly

175  
00:09:14,940 --> 00:09:19,330  
and my asking, why isn't my  
grandmother coming with us?

176  
00:09:19,330 --> 00:09:21,270  
And the reason we  
were leaving so

177  
00:09:21,270 --> 00:09:24,450  
hurriedly was that  
morning we had

178

00:09:24,450 --> 00:09:29,540  
received a notice from the  
Nazis to report to camp.

179

00:09:29,540 --> 00:09:33,580  
So we left quite  
hurriedly in the taxi.

180

00:09:33,580 --> 00:09:39,400  
My father had been trying  
to leave Vienna since 1932

181

00:09:39,400 --> 00:09:41,800  
when he saw what was  
happening in Germany.

182

00:09:41,800 --> 00:09:43,342  
Even before Hitler  
became Chancellor.

183

00:09:43,342 --> 00:09:45,130  
Even before Hitler  
became Chancellor,

184

00:09:45,130 --> 00:09:49,450  
he watched what was happening  
in Germany and warned the family

185

00:09:49,450 --> 00:09:55,210  
and went to his siblings  
and his father and said,

186

00:09:55,210 --> 00:09:56,650  
we should leave.

187

00:09:56,650 --> 00:09:59,270  
Let's all go to South America.

188

00:09:59,270 --> 00:10:02,280  
And the family said, no,  
nothing's going to happen here.

189



00:10:02,280 --> 00:10:03,220  
It's Germany.

190  
00:10:03,220 --> 00:10:05,350  
It will straighten itself out.

191  
00:10:05,350 --> 00:10:09,400  
We have our businesses  
here and our houses.

192  
00:10:09,400 --> 00:10:13,810  
And so, my father continued  
to persist for his own family.

193  
00:10:13,810 --> 00:10:18,250  
He would go every day to the  
American Consulate in Vienna,

194  
00:10:18,250 --> 00:10:22,740  
but there were no visas  
to be given at the time.

195  
00:10:22,740 --> 00:10:26,210  
And finally, his  
uncle in Taunton,

196  
00:10:26,210 --> 00:10:33,470  
whose name was Moshe  
Grundberg, obtained a visa

197  
00:10:33,470 --> 00:10:38,180  
for only three members.

198  
00:10:38,180 --> 00:10:42,440  
He had to choose which of  
his family should get them.

199  
00:10:42,440 --> 00:10:45,750  
And because my  
parents were cousins,

200  
00:10:45,750 --> 00:10:49,640  
he figured this was the

greatest remnant of both sides

201  
00:10:49,640 --> 00:10:52,150  
that he was saving.

202  
00:10:52,150 --> 00:10:54,870  
So that's how we got the visas.

203  
00:10:54,870 --> 00:10:58,710  
But there was no money because  
the Nazis had shut down

204  
00:10:58,710 --> 00:11:01,590  
my parents' grocery store  
and there was no way

205  
00:11:01,590 --> 00:11:06,660  
to earn a living, except that  
my father secretly took apart

206  
00:11:06,660 --> 00:11:11,490  
the shells in the grocery store  
and made trunks for those Jews

207  
00:11:11,490 --> 00:11:13,530  
who were able to migrate.

208  
00:11:13,530 --> 00:11:16,380  
And the neighbors in  
the house were very fine

209  
00:11:16,380 --> 00:11:19,560  
because they didn't  
report us to the Germans.

210  
00:11:19,560 --> 00:11:21,540  
They must've heard  
the hammering.

211  
00:11:21,540 --> 00:11:23,010  
These are non-Jewish neighbors?

212

00:11:23,010 --> 00:11:26,880

These were non-Jewish neighbors.

213

00:11:26,880 --> 00:11:31,890

So, that's how he was able  
to earn a bit of money

214

00:11:31,890 --> 00:11:33,360

to support us.

215

00:11:33,360 --> 00:11:35,430

With the store closed  
there was no other--

216

00:11:35,430 --> 00:11:37,140

Do you know when  
the store closed?

217

00:11:37,140 --> 00:11:40,200

In 1938, right  
after the Anschluss.

218

00:11:40,200 --> 00:11:44,890

219

00:11:44,890 --> 00:11:47,200

I presume that  
after a while even

220

00:11:47,200 --> 00:11:51,520

that way of earning  
a living petered out,

221

00:11:51,520 --> 00:11:54,730

because we had no  
money after a while,

222

00:11:54,730 --> 00:11:58,850

to the point that we had  
to eat in the soup kitchen.

223

00:11:58,850 --> 00:12:01,100

And I discovered this

only from the notes

224

00:12:01,100 --> 00:12:04,520

that Harris was able to get  
from the Holocaust Museum, which

225

00:12:04,520 --> 00:12:08,210

has the records, apparently,  
of the Jewish Council, who

226

00:12:08,210 --> 00:12:10,780

were given the  
unpleasant job in Vienna

227

00:12:10,780 --> 00:12:15,690

of deciding which Jews could  
leave and which could not.

228

00:12:15,690 --> 00:12:18,960

And my father, when he  
went to the Jewish Council,

229

00:12:18,960 --> 00:12:21,880

said that he could support  
himself because his skill was

230

00:12:21,880 --> 00:12:23,100

as a trunk maker.

231

00:12:23,100 --> 00:12:27,090

That's what he had done before  
he opened the grocery store.

232

00:12:27,090 --> 00:12:29,100

And he wanted to take  
with him, in addition

233

00:12:29,100 --> 00:12:34,170

to his wife and daughter,  
his mother-in-law

234

00:12:34,170 --> 00:12:37,920

and his niece, Susan.

235

00:12:37,920 --> 00:12:42,390  
And the Jewish Council, because  
they were limited by the Nazis,

236

00:12:42,390 --> 00:12:45,960  
couldn't allow  
his mother-in-law,

237

00:12:45,960 --> 00:12:49,260  
who is over the age limit--  
the age limit was 70

238

00:12:49,260 --> 00:12:52,410  
and she was 72.

239

00:12:52,410 --> 00:12:57,840  
And they denied also  
Susan coming with him.

240

00:12:57,840 --> 00:13:02,730  
So Susan escaped with her mother  
and father and brother Max

241

00:13:02,730 --> 00:13:06,060  
to Belgium, and from  
there to France.

242

00:13:06,060 --> 00:13:09,360  
And they were imprisoned  
by Klaus Barbie.

243

00:13:09,360 --> 00:13:12,022  
So they never made it.

244

00:13:12,022 --> 00:13:13,230  
They did not survive the war.

245

00:13:13,230 --> 00:13:16,000  
They did not survive the war.

246

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:17,460

No one else did survive.

247  
00:13:17,460 --> 00:13:19,890  
None of the brothers  
or sisters really

248  
00:13:19,890 --> 00:13:24,020  
survived, with the  
exception of one brother,

249  
00:13:24,020 --> 00:13:25,890  
and I'll tell you  
the story of that.

250  
00:13:25,890 --> 00:13:32,100

251  
00:13:32,100 --> 00:13:35,170  
I've lost track of,  
how I was going--

252  
00:13:35,170 --> 00:13:37,490  
What you were leaving, you--

253  
00:13:37,490 --> 00:13:38,510  
Oh, we left Vi--

254  
00:13:38,510 --> 00:13:40,260  
The day that you got  
the notice to report.

255  
00:13:40,260 --> 00:13:41,610  
Oh, we got the notice, yes.

256  
00:13:41,610 --> 00:13:44,850  
By that time, once  
we had the visa,

257  
00:13:44,850 --> 00:13:47,640  
we had no money because  
of the store closure.

258

00:13:47,640 --> 00:13:48,360  
Right.

259  
00:13:48,360 --> 00:13:54,930  
So, my father's uncle, my  
great-uncle, Moshe in Taunton

260  
00:13:54,930 --> 00:13:59,490  
went to a philanthropist  
by the name of Dewey Stone.

261  
00:13:59,490 --> 00:14:04,500  
And Dewey Stone was  
a behind-the-scenes

262  
00:14:04,500 --> 00:14:07,980  
philanthropist, and  
he made available \$400

263  
00:14:07,980 --> 00:14:11,760  
for us to get passage on a ship.

264  
00:14:11,760 --> 00:14:13,830  
Now, where did Dewey Stone live?

265  
00:14:13,830 --> 00:14:15,480  
I believe he lived in Brockton.

266  
00:14:15,480 --> 00:14:18,030  
It was somewhere outside Boston.

267  
00:14:18,030 --> 00:14:19,560  
And he was one of  
these people that

268  
00:14:19,560 --> 00:14:23,670  
helped found the Weitzman  
Institute and brought--

269  
00:14:23,670 --> 00:14:24,330  
In Israel.

270

00:14:24,330 --> 00:14:25,710  
In Israel.

271  
00:14:25,710 --> 00:14:31,500  
And helped to bring President  
Harry Truman's partner

272  
00:14:31,500 --> 00:14:37,020  
to Washington to convince Harry  
Truman to recognize Israel.

273  
00:14:37,020 --> 00:14:38,520  
Partner from the  
haberdashery store.

274  
00:14:38,520 --> 00:14:40,640  
Partner from the  
haberdashery store.

275  
00:14:40,640 --> 00:14:41,610  
From Missouri.

276  
00:14:41,610 --> 00:14:48,630  
And so, with that money in hand,  
the \$400 bought our passage.

277  
00:14:48,630 --> 00:14:55,930  
And we went in that taxi to the  
train station, and from there

278  
00:14:55,930 --> 00:14:57,160  
to Trieste.

279  
00:14:57,160 --> 00:14:59,020  
Do you remember this?

280  
00:14:59,020 --> 00:15:05,590  
I remember the boat trip,  
which was the Saturnia.

281  
00:15:05,590 --> 00:15:08,650  
But we were not in  
the upper decks.



282  
00:15:08,650 --> 00:15:10,530  
We were in the lower level.

283  
00:15:10,530 --> 00:15:12,250  
Did you take anything special?

284  
00:15:12,250 --> 00:15:14,065  
You were a little girl.

285  
00:15:14,065 --> 00:15:15,190  
What did you take with you?

286  
00:15:15,190 --> 00:15:17,290  
My parents brought  
several pieces

287  
00:15:17,290 --> 00:15:21,730  
of silver, which I've since  
distributed to our children,

288  
00:15:21,730 --> 00:15:24,020  
and a feather bed.

289  
00:15:24,020 --> 00:15:24,520  
Feather bed.

290  
00:15:24,520 --> 00:15:26,470  
Feather duvet.

291  
00:15:26,470 --> 00:15:27,400  
A duvet.

292  
00:15:27,400 --> 00:15:32,320  
And the candlesticks,  
which had been passed down

293  
00:15:32,320 --> 00:15:35,300  
from mother to daughter.

294  
00:15:35,300 --> 00:15:38,950

I am guessing from  
these candlesticks--

295  
00:15:38,950 --> 00:15:40,990  
they're very heavy brass--

296  
00:15:40,990 --> 00:15:45,700  
that they, about 1860, were  
passed down from mother

297  
00:15:45,700 --> 00:15:46,827  
to daughter to grand--

298  
00:15:46,827 --> 00:15:48,160  
Were these Shabbat candlesticks?

299  
00:15:48,160 --> 00:15:50,170  
These were Shabbat candles.

300  
00:15:50,170 --> 00:15:57,500  
And so, those we brought with  
us, and very little clothing,

301  
00:15:57,500 --> 00:16:00,160  
very little money, if any.

302  
00:16:00,160 --> 00:16:02,410  
And we sailed on the Saturnia.

303  
00:16:02,410 --> 00:16:03,580  
From?

304  
00:16:03,580 --> 00:16:06,210  
From-- does Trieste sound right?

305  
00:16:06,210 --> 00:16:06,710  
Yep.

306  
00:16:06,710 --> 00:16:08,480  
From Trieste, then.

307

00:16:08,480 --> 00:16:12,260  
And onboard the ship  
were two young boys

308  
00:16:12,260 --> 00:16:14,600  
from the Vienna, whose  
parents could not

309  
00:16:14,600 --> 00:16:18,290  
get visas for themselves, but  
could get it for the boys.

310  
00:16:18,290 --> 00:16:21,650  
And so the captain of  
the ship put these boys

311  
00:16:21,650 --> 00:16:27,800  
in charge of my parents, and my  
parents took care of those boys

312  
00:16:27,800 --> 00:16:29,330  
on the trip.

313  
00:16:29,330 --> 00:16:31,940  
Harris later found  
those two boys,

314  
00:16:31,940 --> 00:16:36,440  
who are now living in Florida  
and now own nursing homes.

315  
00:16:36,440 --> 00:16:39,690  
They were met by their  
relatives in New York,

316  
00:16:39,690 --> 00:16:43,280  
and we went on to  
Taunton, Massachusetts.

317  
00:16:43,280 --> 00:16:45,200  
What were their  
names, do you know?

318

00:16:45,200 --> 00:16:47,690  
I don't remember, unfortunately.

319  
00:16:47,690 --> 00:16:49,550  
I must give you  
information on that.

320  
00:16:49,550 --> 00:16:53,540  
I'll dig up and we'll  
fill the record.

321  
00:16:53,540 --> 00:16:57,890  
As a small child, did you take  
any special toys with you?

322  
00:16:57,890 --> 00:16:59,450  
Did you bring a  
doll or anything?

323  
00:16:59,450 --> 00:17:02,610  
I don't believe I  
brought any special toys.

324  
00:17:02,610 --> 00:17:03,110  
Nothing.

325  
00:17:03,110 --> 00:17:08,869  
After my father died  
I found a package that

326  
00:17:08,869 --> 00:17:11,900  
consisted of the clothing  
I had when we came.

327  
00:17:11,900 --> 00:17:16,839  
It was a lovely hand-embroidered  
dress with a Viennese store

328  
00:17:16,839 --> 00:17:18,432  
label inside.

329  
00:17:18,432 --> 00:17:19,640  
This was for a four-year-old.

330  
00:17:19,640 --> 00:17:21,410  
For a four-year-old.

331  
00:17:21,410 --> 00:17:26,089  
And black Mary Jane shoes.

332  
00:17:26,089 --> 00:17:28,790  
I sent those to  
Tammy, our daughter,

333  
00:17:28,790 --> 00:17:31,400  
who will be the curator.

334  
00:17:31,400 --> 00:17:35,180  
And some embroidery that my  
mother embroidered beautifully.

335  
00:17:35,180 --> 00:17:38,030  
And I don't know whether it  
was embroidery that she did

336  
00:17:38,030 --> 00:17:41,600  
or that her mother did, but  
it's Eastern European style

337  
00:17:41,600 --> 00:17:43,970  
and Eastern European  
colors, so I

338  
00:17:43,970 --> 00:17:46,490  
tend to think that it may  
have been her mother who

339  
00:17:46,490 --> 00:17:49,340  
embroidered it in the Ukraine.

340  
00:17:49,340 --> 00:17:54,590  
So, those were the minimal  
things that we brought.

341  
00:17:54,590 --> 00:17:57,950

Any other memories  
of the voyage?

342  
00:17:57,950 --> 00:18:01,910  
Only being on board that ship.

343  
00:18:01,910 --> 00:18:05,150  
My father bought an  
English newspaper

344  
00:18:05,150 --> 00:18:07,070  
and an English dictionary.

345  
00:18:07,070 --> 00:18:09,890  
And on that journey, which I  
think must have taken a week

346  
00:18:09,890 --> 00:18:12,890  
and a half or so, I  
don't remember how long,

347  
00:18:12,890 --> 00:18:15,230  
he taught himself English.

348  
00:18:15,230 --> 00:18:16,650  
What about your mother?

349  
00:18:16,650 --> 00:18:19,400  
My mother spoke many languages.

350  
00:18:19,400 --> 00:18:22,700

351  
00:18:22,700 --> 00:18:24,410  
I think English was  
difficult for her,

352  
00:18:24,410 --> 00:18:26,810  
but I think she spoke  
enough, because when

353  
00:18:26,810 --> 00:18:28,250

we came to this  
country they both

354  
00:18:28,250 --> 00:18:30,680  
went to work in a  
factory to earn a living,

355  
00:18:30,680 --> 00:18:36,320  
and my mother managed to  
communicate in that way.

356  
00:18:36,320 --> 00:18:40,400  
Do you remember docking  
in the United States?

357  
00:18:40,400 --> 00:18:41,430  
Yes, I do.

358  
00:18:41,430 --> 00:18:42,810  
And I remember Ellis Island.

359  
00:18:42,810 --> 00:18:43,310  
I believe--

360  
00:18:43,310 --> 00:18:44,227  
Can you describe that?

361  
00:18:44,227 --> 00:18:46,310  
It was Ellis Island.

362  
00:18:46,310 --> 00:18:50,930  
I don't remember the  
actual docking itself.

363  
00:18:50,930 --> 00:18:54,320  
One sees pictures of immigrants  
waving flags and looking

364  
00:18:54,320 --> 00:18:57,120  
at the Statue of Liberty,  
but I don't remember that.

365

00:18:57,120 --> 00:18:58,700  
Yeah, well, you were so young.

366  
00:18:58,700 --> 00:19:03,470  
I do remember going  
through immigration

367  
00:19:03,470 --> 00:19:05,260  
and the procedures that were--

368  
00:19:05,260 --> 00:19:06,710  
What was that like?

369  
00:19:06,710 --> 00:19:10,130  
One had to strip  
completely, and I

370  
00:19:10,130 --> 00:19:13,250  
remember feeling a sense of  
humiliation from my mother.

371  
00:19:13,250 --> 00:19:13,890  
Not from me--

372  
00:19:13,890 --> 00:19:15,140  
Even though you were so young.

373  
00:19:15,140 --> 00:19:16,310  
Even though I was so young.

374  
00:19:16,310 --> 00:19:18,380  
Feeling a little angry,  
also, that she had

375  
00:19:18,380 --> 00:19:21,860  
to go through that kind of--

376  
00:19:21,860 --> 00:19:26,630  
But it was a quick  
passage, and we must have

377  
00:19:26,630 --> 00:19:29,000



gotten onboard a train or bus.

378

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:30,350

That part I don't remember.

379

00:19:30,350 --> 00:19:33,140

Was it frightening,  
a frightening thing?

380

00:19:33,140 --> 00:19:34,920

Did you know where you were?

381

00:19:34,920 --> 00:19:39,230

Did you have any idea  
of what American was?

382

00:19:39,230 --> 00:19:40,438

No, I only knew--

383

00:19:40,438 --> 00:19:41,480

Again, you were so small.

384

00:19:41,480 --> 00:19:43,730

I only knew it was a transition.

385

00:19:43,730 --> 00:19:45,980

And I knew it was a big  
transition because we

386

00:19:45,980 --> 00:19:49,220

left behind Vienna, and  
we're in a new country

387

00:19:49,220 --> 00:19:54,670

where strange language  
and strange phrases--

388

00:19:54,670 --> 00:19:58,580

but I don't remember  
the other part--

389

00:19:58,580 --> 00:19:59,960

Yeah, such a small child.

390  
00:19:59,960 --> 00:20:02,480  
OK, so now you get  
up to Massachusetts?

391  
00:20:02,480 --> 00:20:03,920  
We got up to Massachusetts.

392  
00:20:03,920 --> 00:20:06,080  
Did anybody meet you  
in New York, at all?

393  
00:20:06,080 --> 00:20:07,310  
No, I don't believe so.

394  
00:20:07,310 --> 00:20:09,830  
It may have been HIAS.

395  
00:20:09,830 --> 00:20:13,150  
I know my parents always  
felt grateful to HIAS.

396  
00:20:13,150 --> 00:20:14,900  
And it may have been  
someone met us there,

397  
00:20:14,900 --> 00:20:16,760  
but I truly don't remember that.

398  
00:20:16,760 --> 00:20:18,620  
Somehow you three  
got on a train.

399  
00:20:18,620 --> 00:20:21,710  
Somehow we got to  
Taunton, Massachusetts,

400  
00:20:21,710 --> 00:20:25,860  
where we stayed with my  
uncle for a week or two.

401

00:20:25,860 --> 00:20:30,380  
He had obtained for my father  
a job in the US Trunk Company,

402  
00:20:30,380 --> 00:20:32,490  
so that we could earn  
a living when we came,

403  
00:20:32,490 --> 00:20:36,290  
because at that time you were  
not allowed in the country

404  
00:20:36,290 --> 00:20:38,990  
unless you could ascertain  
and support yourself,

405  
00:20:38,990 --> 00:20:42,380  
and that you wouldn't be  
a drain on the government.

406  
00:20:42,380 --> 00:20:45,540  
What month did you arrive here?

407  
00:20:45,540 --> 00:20:50,290  
I believe it was  
October '39, because--

408  
00:20:50,290 --> 00:20:51,330  
October '38?

409  
00:20:51,330 --> 00:20:52,590  
'39. '39.

410  
00:20:52,590 --> 00:20:55,380  
You said you left right  
after the Anschluss.

411  
00:20:55,380 --> 00:20:57,240  
It was a year after on  
the Anschluss, sorry.

412  
00:20:57,240 --> 00:20:57,990  
Oh, a year after--

413  
00:20:57,990 --> 00:20:59,640  
Yes, thank you for that.

414  
00:20:59,640 --> 00:21:02,470  
No, a year after-- we lived  
under the Anschluss for a year.

415  
00:21:02,470 --> 00:21:03,600  
I see.

416  
00:21:03,600 --> 00:21:07,700  
And my father was  
beaten by the Gestapo.

417  
00:21:07,700 --> 00:21:09,070  
How did that happen?

418  
00:21:09,070 --> 00:21:11,040  
I don't remember  
the circumstance.

419  
00:21:11,040 --> 00:21:12,370  
I don't know the circumstance.

420  
00:21:12,370 --> 00:21:16,410  
He never told me why.

421  
00:21:16,410 --> 00:21:18,600  
It was in the  
store, and I suspect

422  
00:21:18,600 --> 00:21:22,710  
that it had something to do  
with maintaining the store.

423  
00:21:22,710 --> 00:21:27,210  
So, we arrived in  
October of 1939

424  
00:21:27,210 --> 00:21:30,750  
because in November

of 1939 I turned four.

425

00:21:30,750 --> 00:21:33,870

So that is how I remember.

426

00:21:33,870 --> 00:21:37,210

Even though the war had started in Poland in September?

427

00:21:37,210 --> 00:21:37,710

Yes.

428

00:21:37,710 --> 00:21:39,750

'39-- you were able to get out.

429

00:21:39,750 --> 00:21:41,710

We were able to get out.

430

00:21:41,710 --> 00:21:45,090

I think we were one of the few at the last minute

431

00:21:45,090 --> 00:21:47,220

to get out of Vienna.

432

00:21:47,220 --> 00:21:51,120

Since you said you were there for a year after the Anschluss,

433

00:21:51,120 --> 00:21:55,710

any other experiences you had during that year that--

434

00:21:55,710 --> 00:21:57,330

you were such a young child.

435

00:21:57,330 --> 00:21:58,500

Such a young child.

436

00:21:58,500 --> 00:22:00,660

I don't remember.

437

00:22:00,660 --> 00:22:01,715

I simply don't remember.

438

00:22:01,715 --> 00:22:03,840

The boots-- you said you remember seeing the boots.

439

00:22:03,840 --> 00:22:07,080

I remember the boots because they were toddler height.

440

00:22:07,080 --> 00:22:10,530

Did you hear marching noises as the troops

441

00:22:10,530 --> 00:22:11,870

marched through the town?

442

00:22:11,870 --> 00:22:13,420

Did you--

443

00:22:13,420 --> 00:22:16,040

I may have, but it doesn't register.

444

00:22:16,040 --> 00:22:17,090

OK.

445

00:22:17,090 --> 00:22:17,800

OK.

446

00:22:17,800 --> 00:22:20,630

So we're now in Massachusetts.

447

00:22:20,630 --> 00:22:22,690

We're now in Massachusetts.

448

00:22:22,690 --> 00:22:27,500

My great-uncle wanted my parents and me to stay longer,

449

00:22:27,500 --> 00:22:30,940  
but my father felt he  
wanted to begin working

450  
00:22:30,940 --> 00:22:35,380  
and be independent  
as soon as possible.

451  
00:22:35,380 --> 00:22:39,010  
So we came to Fall  
River, Massachusetts,

452  
00:22:39,010 --> 00:22:43,170  
where this trunk  
factory was located,

453  
00:22:43,170 --> 00:22:49,080  
and got a first-floor tenement  
owned by a Polish woman,

454  
00:22:49,080 --> 00:22:50,718  
who was lovely because she--

455  
00:22:50,718 --> 00:22:51,510  
A Polish Christian?

456  
00:22:51,510 --> 00:22:53,100  
A Polish Christian.

457  
00:22:53,100 --> 00:22:56,430  
She owned the house,  
but she took care of me

458  
00:22:56,430 --> 00:22:58,200  
while my parents worked.

459  
00:22:58,200 --> 00:23:02,530  
Took me to church, and  
I remember the incense

460  
00:23:02,530 --> 00:23:05,900  
and going up with  
her to the altar.

461  
00:23:05,900 --> 00:23:10,050

462  
00:23:10,050 --> 00:23:14,490  
And she was what the  
French call a bricoleur.

463  
00:23:14,490 --> 00:23:16,800  
She made use of what there was.

464  
00:23:16,800 --> 00:23:18,870  
I remember sitting  
with her in the park,

465  
00:23:18,870 --> 00:23:21,440  
and she had bought  
some vegetables,

466  
00:23:21,440 --> 00:23:24,360  
some carrots, and I suppose  
I was hungry at the time.

467  
00:23:24,360 --> 00:23:27,300  
She wanted to clean the carrots,  
so she bent down, picked up

468  
00:23:27,300 --> 00:23:30,780  
a piece of broken glass,  
washed it in the fountain,

469  
00:23:30,780 --> 00:23:33,310  
and scraped the carrot for me.

470  
00:23:33,310 --> 00:23:38,580  
And this was the very  
practical way that she lived.

471  
00:23:38,580 --> 00:23:42,900  
She raised chickens, and I,  
being a naughty four-year-old,

472



00:23:42,900 --> 00:23:44,930  
used to love to  
chase the chickens.

473  
00:23:44,930 --> 00:23:46,740  
The rooster would get  
very angry with me

474  
00:23:46,740 --> 00:23:48,930  
that I was chasing  
his flock, but that

475  
00:23:48,930 --> 00:23:50,750  
was my early childhood there.

476  
00:23:50,750 --> 00:23:55,710

477  
00:23:55,710 --> 00:23:57,710  
If we can go back to  
Vienna for a minute--

478  
00:23:57,710 --> 00:23:58,835  
Sure, of course, of course.

479  
00:23:58,835 --> 00:24:01,200  
I'd like to tell you the  
story of my Aunt Toni, who

480  
00:24:01,200 --> 00:24:04,410  
was in the Resistance.

481  
00:24:04,410 --> 00:24:09,300  
Toni was the child of the second  
wife of my paternal grandfather

482  
00:24:09,300 --> 00:24:11,570  
and his second wife.

483  
00:24:11,570 --> 00:24:14,280  
Toni was in the  
resistance, and they

484

00:24:14,280 --> 00:24:18,600

lived in an apartment  
house where the postmaster

485

00:24:18,600 --> 00:24:20,610

and his family lived.

486

00:24:20,610 --> 00:24:22,380

One day there was a  
knock on the door--

487

00:24:22,380 --> 00:24:29,010

and I believe this was in  
1938 or maybe toward 1939--

488

00:24:29,010 --> 00:24:32,700

and there was the postmaster  
in Gestapo uniform.

489

00:24:32,700 --> 00:24:35,340

And my grandfather  
said, Herr so-and-so,

490

00:24:35,340 --> 00:24:37,320

you've joined the Gestapo.

491

00:24:37,320 --> 00:24:41,070

And the postmaster said, I  
had to, to protect my family.

492

00:24:41,070 --> 00:24:43,210

But I've come to  
warn you, the Gestapo

493

00:24:43,210 --> 00:24:45,480

is coming for your daughter.

494

00:24:45,480 --> 00:24:47,460

She must leave immediately.

495

00:24:47,460 --> 00:24:50,160

So Toni ran down the back steps.

496  
00:24:50,160 --> 00:24:54,690  
Around the corner, the Gestapo  
were putting her compatriots

497  
00:24:54,690 --> 00:24:58,380  
in the Resistance into the car.

498  
00:24:58,380 --> 00:25:02,190  
She escaped and was sent  
later by the Russians

499  
00:25:02,190 --> 00:25:04,980  
to a camp in Siberia.

500  
00:25:04,980 --> 00:25:07,830  
She played the mandolin  
there, Russian music,

501  
00:25:07,830 --> 00:25:10,960  
and worked in the camp  
that the Russians had sent.

502  
00:25:10,960 --> 00:25:16,670  
And one day, she was  
walking back from work

503  
00:25:16,670 --> 00:25:18,400  
and this man followed her.

504  
00:25:18,400 --> 00:25:20,150  
And he said, I don't  
mean to frighten you,

505  
00:25:20,150 --> 00:25:21,830  
but you look very  
familiar to me.

506  
00:25:21,830 --> 00:25:22,820  
Where are you from?

507  
00:25:22,820 --> 00:25:23,930

She said, Vienna.

508

00:25:23,930 --> 00:25:26,780

He said, what street?

509

00:25:26,780 --> 00:25:28,760

The same street.

510

00:25:28,760 --> 00:25:30,590

What number house?

511

00:25:30,590 --> 00:25:35,090

It turned out to be Adolf,  
my father's eldest brother.

512

00:25:35,090 --> 00:25:38,300

And because he had  
with his siblings

513

00:25:38,300 --> 00:25:41,000

left the house at  
an early stage, when

514

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:46,110

the stepmother came in, they  
hadn't recognized each other.

515

00:25:46,110 --> 00:25:50,030

Adolf, too, had been sent by  
the Russians to this camp.

516

00:25:50,030 --> 00:25:52,400

Adolf unfortunately died.

517

00:25:52,400 --> 00:25:56,660

Typhoid was endemic in the  
camp, and he died of typhoid.

518

00:25:56,660 --> 00:26:02,030

Toni met her future  
husband there, Eli,

519

00:26:02,030 --> 00:26:05,690  
and they migrated  
to Israel in 1948.

520  
00:26:05,690 --> 00:26:07,820  
And they lived in  
these primitive huts

521  
00:26:07,820 --> 00:26:14,380  
that Israel had set up, and  
later moved to Nazareth Illit.

522  
00:26:14,380 --> 00:26:19,420  
Eli and Toni had two  
children, Soshe and Jacob,

523  
00:26:19,420 --> 00:26:21,520  
named after their grandfather.

524  
00:26:21,520 --> 00:26:28,540  
And Soshe became the principal  
of a high school in Nahariyya.

525  
00:26:28,540 --> 00:26:31,220  
She was the principal  
of the high school.

526  
00:26:31,220 --> 00:26:34,210  
She thought her charges  
should see Europe, where

527  
00:26:34,210 --> 00:26:39,670  
they came from, and she took  
them to Poland, Auschwitz,

528  
00:26:39,670 --> 00:26:40,720  
and visited.

529  
00:26:40,720 --> 00:26:43,270  
And then on the way  
they stopped in Vienna,

530  
00:26:43,270 --> 00:26:45,520

and they wanted  
souvenirs to bring back

531  
00:26:45,520 --> 00:26:49,300  
to families in Israel.

532  
00:26:49,300 --> 00:26:51,430  
And they went into  
a candy store,

533  
00:26:51,430 --> 00:26:54,400  
and who should be the  
owner of that candy store?

534  
00:26:54,400 --> 00:26:58,760  
The daughter of  
the postmaster who

535  
00:26:58,760 --> 00:27:03,620  
had warned Toni and his family.

536  
00:27:03,620 --> 00:27:05,860  
And so they had a  
marvelous reunion.

537  
00:27:05,860 --> 00:27:09,010  
I suppose that they started  
talking, where are you from,

538  
00:27:09,010 --> 00:27:13,480  
my mother Toni is from  
Vienna, and the rest followed.

539  
00:27:13,480 --> 00:27:19,680  
And my aunt actually went from  
Israel to Vienna to visit Ami.

540  
00:27:19,680 --> 00:27:22,670  
Ami unfortunately died  
before we got to Vienna,

541  
00:27:22,670 --> 00:27:25,210  
so I didn't have a

chance to meet her.

542  
00:27:25,210 --> 00:27:29,530  
So that was the amazing  
coincidence there.

543  
00:27:29,530 --> 00:27:31,630  
But life is full of  
coincidences, isn't it?

544  
00:27:31,630 --> 00:27:32,980  
It's amazing.

545  
00:27:32,980 --> 00:27:36,940  
So, we came to America, and  
I enrolled in public school

546  
00:27:36,940 --> 00:27:39,590  
there.

547  
00:27:39,590 --> 00:27:41,920  
Were you able to pick  
up English quickly?

548  
00:27:41,920 --> 00:27:45,040  
Yes, a child can pick  
it up fairly quickly.

549  
00:27:45,040 --> 00:27:47,860  
I couldn't pick up  
certain phrases.

550  
00:27:47,860 --> 00:27:51,910  
Colloquialisms were  
difficult to absorb.

551  
00:27:51,910 --> 00:27:53,650  
And I remember  
the woman upstairs

552  
00:27:53,650 --> 00:27:58,160  
in the tenement showing  
me a picture of Roosevelt,

553

00:27:58,160 --> 00:28:00,100

who was treated as an  
icon because there was

554

00:28:00,100 --> 00:28:03,070

a sheaf of grain underneath  
it, much the way people

555

00:28:03,070 --> 00:28:05,420

put a sheaf of grain  
in their icons.

556

00:28:05,420 --> 00:28:07,810

There was a sheaf of grain  
under Roosevelt's picture,

557

00:28:07,810 --> 00:28:10,250

and she said, do you  
know who this is?

558

00:28:10,250 --> 00:28:13,030

And I don't remember  
whether I knew at the time

559

00:28:13,030 --> 00:28:17,480

that it was Roosevelt. And  
I said something or other,

560

00:28:17,480 --> 00:28:19,170

and she said, how come?

561

00:28:19,170 --> 00:28:22,450

And this phrase would not  
translate itself in my mind--

562

00:28:22,450 --> 00:28:23,740

how come?

563

00:28:23,740 --> 00:28:24,850

How come?

564



00:28:24,850 --> 00:28:27,250  
And this was how I  
began to learn English,

565  
00:28:27,250 --> 00:28:28,720  
with its colloquialisms.

566  
00:28:28,720 --> 00:28:29,430  
Idioms, yeah.

567  
00:28:29,430 --> 00:28:30,040  
Its idioms.

568  
00:28:30,040 --> 00:28:32,770

569  
00:28:32,770 --> 00:28:39,580  
We lived in Fall  
River till I was 17,

570  
00:28:39,580 --> 00:28:41,440  
and I had met Harris  
that time because he

571  
00:28:41,440 --> 00:28:42,650  
lived in New Bedford.

572  
00:28:42,650 --> 00:28:43,270  
OK.

573  
00:28:43,270 --> 00:28:47,350  
Let's go back here, now--  
starting kindergarten,

574  
00:28:47,350 --> 00:28:49,600  
how did the other  
children treat you?

575  
00:28:49,600 --> 00:28:51,100  
Do you have any memories?

576  
00:28:51,100 --> 00:28:59,670

I think I was a bit different  
because I wasn't essentially

577  
00:28:59,670 --> 00:29:00,400  
an American.

578  
00:29:00,400 --> 00:29:01,590  
Right.

579  
00:29:01,590 --> 00:29:04,560  
Did you dress differently  
than the other children?

580  
00:29:04,560 --> 00:29:05,730  
Good question.

581  
00:29:05,730 --> 00:29:08,580  
I think I must have been because  
I think some of the clothing

582  
00:29:08,580 --> 00:29:10,370  
I had were hand--

583  
00:29:10,370 --> 00:29:11,420  
handovers?

584  
00:29:11,420 --> 00:29:11,920  
Handout?

585  
00:29:11,920 --> 00:29:12,840  
Hand-me-downs.

586  
00:29:12,840 --> 00:29:15,240  
Hand-me-downs, yes.

587  
00:29:15,240 --> 00:29:18,480  
Here we go again, with idioms.

588  
00:29:18,480 --> 00:29:21,240  
I remember the butcher,  
the kosher butcher,

589

00:29:21,240 --> 00:29:23,190  
very kindly giving me clothing.

590

00:29:23,190 --> 00:29:24,930  
I think my mother  
may have refused it

591

00:29:24,930 --> 00:29:29,520  
because she felt some pride  
in not having to take it,

592

00:29:29,520 --> 00:29:33,720  
but I think my clothes were  
not fully American style yet.

593

00:29:33,720 --> 00:29:35,580  
And my language  
wasn't yet fully--

594

00:29:35,580 --> 00:29:40,350  
and my mannerisms weren't  
really fully, fully American.

595

00:29:40,350 --> 00:29:45,060  
But I was able to  
make friends, and I

596

00:29:45,060 --> 00:29:48,300  
became Americanized over time.

597

00:29:48,300 --> 00:29:52,380  
Obviously your parents  
were aware of what

598

00:29:52,380 --> 00:29:54,150  
was happening in Europe--

599

00:29:54,150 --> 00:29:57,650  
Well, that was a very difficult  
time because my parents--

600

00:29:57,650 --> 00:29:59,040

How much did you know, also?

601

00:29:59,040 --> 00:30:03,630

I knew what was going on  
because it was an unhappy time.

602

00:30:03,630 --> 00:30:06,960

My parents continually  
were trying to find out

603

00:30:06,960 --> 00:30:09,200

what happened to the family.

604

00:30:09,200 --> 00:30:12,780

My parents actually  
wrote to John F. Kennedy,

605

00:30:12,780 --> 00:30:17,160

who was senator at the time,  
or had something to do with--

606

00:30:17,160 --> 00:30:18,100

some sort of liaison--

607

00:30:18,100 --> 00:30:21,020

608

00:30:21,020 --> 00:30:24,150

Now, you're talking  
about your father?

609

00:30:24,150 --> 00:30:28,380

John F. Kennedy, who later  
became the President,

610

00:30:28,380 --> 00:30:32,420

was working in Massachusetts  
as a representative.

611

00:30:32,420 --> 00:30:33,740

And so, I remember my parents--

612

00:30:33,740 --> 00:30:35,220  
Because he was in the war.

613  
00:30:35,220 --> 00:30:35,910  
He was in the Navy  
during the war.

614  
00:30:35,910 --> 00:30:36,810  
Oh, that's right.

615  
00:30:36,810 --> 00:30:40,015  
This must have  
been after the war.

616  
00:30:40,015 --> 00:30:41,390  
I'm talking about  
during the war.

617  
00:30:41,390 --> 00:30:43,060  
Oh, during the war itself.

618  
00:30:43,060 --> 00:30:47,250  
Well, they were continually  
writing to Europe.

619  
00:30:47,250 --> 00:30:51,450  
I know my parents, in the  
early years of the war,

620  
00:30:51,450 --> 00:30:53,580  
were sending what  
money they could

621  
00:30:53,580 --> 00:31:02,055  
and clothing and food to try to  
reach their parents in Vienna.

622  
00:31:02,055 --> 00:31:05,300

623  
00:31:05,300 --> 00:31:09,500  
And the letters that came from  
my mother's sister, Regina,

624  
00:31:09,500 --> 00:31:12,110  
who was at the time  
in France, saying

625  
00:31:12,110 --> 00:31:14,030  
that they were being deported.

626  
00:31:14,030 --> 00:31:17,480  
And that was the last we heard.

627  
00:31:17,480 --> 00:31:22,080  
Did they share any information  
with you as a young child?

628  
00:31:22,080 --> 00:31:23,770  
No.

629  
00:31:23,770 --> 00:31:26,930  
That was a period, and  
I think it was common

630  
00:31:26,930 --> 00:31:29,240  
among refugee families,  
that you didn't

631  
00:31:29,240 --> 00:31:31,130  
say very much to the children.

632  
00:31:31,130 --> 00:31:34,700  
It was a difficult time  
and a lot was held back.

633  
00:31:34,700 --> 00:31:37,250  
But I do remember the  
atmosphere in the house,

634  
00:31:37,250 --> 00:31:42,260  
and it was difficult. It  
was difficult. It was sad.

635  
00:31:42,260 --> 00:31:44,120

You could sense the sadness.

636  
00:31:44,120 --> 00:31:47,900

637  
00:31:47,900 --> 00:31:51,470  
Then my mother  
died when I was 12.

638  
00:31:51,470 --> 00:31:53,240  
So that was 1947?

639  
00:31:53,240 --> 00:31:56,480  
That was 1947, I believe.

640  
00:31:56,480 --> 00:32:03,280  
So, what were your memories of  
when the war was over, in '45?

641  
00:32:03,280 --> 00:32:06,430  
Anything special,  
any celebration?

642  
00:32:06,430 --> 00:32:10,120  
Do you have any memories  
of the war being over?

643  
00:32:10,120 --> 00:32:11,260  
You were 10, right?

644  
00:32:11,260 --> 00:32:13,900  
You were 10 years old.

645  
00:32:13,900 --> 00:32:17,590  
I remember the  
general jubilation

646  
00:32:17,590 --> 00:32:23,320  
in the city, left town  
of Fall River but--

647  
00:32:23,320 --> 00:32:24,580

Nothing special.

648  
00:32:24,580 --> 00:32:28,510  
Nothing beyond  
that of the family.

649  
00:32:28,510 --> 00:32:31,750  
I think we still hadn't known  
what happened at that time,

650  
00:32:31,750 --> 00:32:37,240  
and the tension of that  
still prevailed in the house.

651  
00:32:37,240 --> 00:32:39,520  
When did you start  
feeling American?

652  
00:32:39,520 --> 00:32:42,990

653  
00:32:42,990 --> 00:32:47,220  
I think in my teens I  
began to feel American.

654  
00:32:47,220 --> 00:32:51,180  
I think up to that time,  
I was still very European.

655  
00:32:51,180 --> 00:32:56,250  
But in my teens I  
joined Young Judaea,

656  
00:32:56,250 --> 00:33:01,110  
which was a great  
help in assimilating

657  
00:33:01,110 --> 00:33:04,710  
into American society.

658  
00:33:04,710 --> 00:33:08,370  
So, when you were here, how  
religious were your parents



659  
00:33:08,370 --> 00:33:10,120  
when you came to Massachusetts?

660  
00:33:10,120 --> 00:33:13,260  
Did they keep up observances?

661  
00:33:13,260 --> 00:33:14,640  
Did you--

662  
00:33:14,640 --> 00:33:15,570  
Very little.

663  
00:33:15,570 --> 00:33:18,470  
Very little.

664  
00:33:18,470 --> 00:33:26,570  
I remember unpacking Passover  
dishes, and the special feeling

665  
00:33:26,570 --> 00:33:28,060  
of special foods.

666  
00:33:28,060 --> 00:33:30,630  
Did you go to Hebrew  
school or anything?

667  
00:33:30,630 --> 00:33:34,280  
No, I never did because  
there was not money for it.

668  
00:33:34,280 --> 00:33:37,280  
When I was 12 years  
old, I had a friend

669  
00:33:37,280 --> 00:33:41,120  
who went to Temple Beth  
El in Fall River, who

670  
00:33:41,120 --> 00:33:43,310  
did go to Hebrew School.

671

00:33:43,310 --> 00:33:46,760

And she told me about  
the religious school,

672

00:33:46,760 --> 00:33:50,760

and I decided I would  
like to go at age 12.

673

00:33:50,760 --> 00:33:54,120

Having no money, I  
went to see the rabbi.

674

00:33:54,120 --> 00:33:57,690

Rabbi Ruderman was his name.

675

00:33:57,690 --> 00:34:03,640

He was a very severe  
figure to the congregants,

676

00:34:03,640 --> 00:34:07,630

but he was the loveliest,  
kindest individual.

677

00:34:07,630 --> 00:34:11,650

And he said to me, if I would  
learn Hebrew over the summer,

678

00:34:11,650 --> 00:34:17,590

he would accept me and I could  
go gratis to Hebrew School

679

00:34:17,590 --> 00:34:20,420

and graduate from Hebrew School.

680

00:34:20,420 --> 00:34:23,980

So I had a book of Hebrew,  
and that summer I sat down

681

00:34:23,980 --> 00:34:26,260

and learned the Hebrew print.

682

00:34:26,260 --> 00:34:31,150

To this day, I cannot read the  
script because I was in a hurry

683  
00:34:31,150 --> 00:34:36,000  
with the summer months to learn  
the Hebrew capital letters.

684  
00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:39,070  
And so, I can read  
the capital letters,

685  
00:34:39,070 --> 00:34:41,679  
and I read for the  
rabbi in September,

686  
00:34:41,679 --> 00:34:46,449  
and he accepted  
me, and the rest--

687  
00:34:46,449 --> 00:34:47,909  
and it was lovely.

688  
00:34:47,909 --> 00:34:51,580  
I learned history,  
which I knew a bit.

689  
00:34:51,580 --> 00:34:55,750  
My mother would occasionally  
tell me Bible stories.

690  
00:34:55,750 --> 00:34:59,230  
But I really didn't know  
very much about history,

691  
00:34:59,230 --> 00:35:04,480  
and it was at the Temple Beth  
El Hebrew School in Fall River

692  
00:35:04,480 --> 00:35:05,980  
that I learned.

693  
00:35:05,980 --> 00:35:10,930  
When you were in

elementary school,

694

00:35:10,930 --> 00:35:14,110

did the other children,  
American children,

695

00:35:14,110 --> 00:35:16,400

ask you about where  
did you come from?

696

00:35:16,400 --> 00:35:17,950

Did you tell them?

697

00:35:17,950 --> 00:35:20,410

Were you open about  
your background?

698

00:35:20,410 --> 00:35:21,130

Yes.

699

00:35:21,130 --> 00:35:24,340

You remind me of an  
incident, because I

700

00:35:24,340 --> 00:35:26,140

don't think we had  
been in this country

701

00:35:26,140 --> 00:35:29,710

more than a year when I  
went to the playground.

702

00:35:29,710 --> 00:35:32,560

And there were two Christian  
children in the playground.

703

00:35:32,560 --> 00:35:35,470

I remember I was  
swinging by myself,

704

00:35:35,470 --> 00:35:37,690

and these two children  
came over and said,

705  
00:35:37,690 --> 00:35:40,090  
do you believe in  
the Virgin Mary?

706  
00:35:40,090 --> 00:35:42,970  
And do you believe  
in Jesus Christ?

707  
00:35:42,970 --> 00:35:44,800  
And having just  
escaped the Nazis

708  
00:35:44,800 --> 00:35:50,410  
and learned to be very quiet in  
what I say, I said, yes, I do.

709  
00:35:50,410 --> 00:35:53,010  
And they left me alone,  
saying, oh, she's all right.

710  
00:35:53,010 --> 00:35:55,570

711  
00:35:55,570 --> 00:35:58,990  
And when I went to  
elementary school,

712  
00:35:58,990 --> 00:36:01,250  
I think I must have been  
a little bit different.

713  
00:36:01,250 --> 00:36:04,690  
And it was largely the teachers  
who would say to the children

714  
00:36:04,690 --> 00:36:09,650  
that I was from Vienna, I  
had escaped from the war,

715  
00:36:09,650 --> 00:36:13,210  
and I was welcome  
in the classroom.

716  
00:36:13,210 --> 00:36:14,955  
So the teachers were  
warm and welcoming.

717  
00:36:14,955 --> 00:36:21,950  
The teachers were welcoming  
and warm and understanding.

718  
00:36:21,950 --> 00:36:25,200  
So, now it's the  
late '40s, let's say,

719  
00:36:25,200 --> 00:36:28,550  
and you're getting  
to be a teenager.

720  
00:36:28,550 --> 00:36:29,540  
Yes.

721  
00:36:29,540 --> 00:36:34,070  
Were you active in  
other activities?

722  
00:36:34,070 --> 00:36:37,670  
In the drama club  
and in the band.

723  
00:36:37,670 --> 00:36:39,020  
I took up the flute.

724  
00:36:39,020 --> 00:36:40,670  
You said that's when  
you first started

725  
00:36:40,670 --> 00:36:41,670  
really feeling American.

726  
00:36:41,670 --> 00:36:43,580  
Really feeling an American.

727  
00:36:43,580 --> 00:36:45,400

I took up the flute.

728

00:36:45,400 --> 00:36:49,670

I didn't play well, but it  
was fun being in the band

729

00:36:49,670 --> 00:36:53,900

and with the band  
members, and Young Judaea.

730

00:36:53,900 --> 00:36:58,170

And later, at age  
14, I met Harris,

731

00:36:58,170 --> 00:37:01,790

who became my husband because--

732

00:37:01,790 --> 00:37:05,310

I think it was a  
Young Judaea function.

733

00:37:05,310 --> 00:37:10,440

And I drove-- no, I must  
have been driven at 14--

734

00:37:10,440 --> 00:37:12,570

into New Bedford,  
where he lived.

735

00:37:12,570 --> 00:37:13,560

And that's how we met.

736

00:37:13,560 --> 00:37:15,274

That's how you met.

737

00:37:15,274 --> 00:37:17,310

Did your mother work?

738

00:37:17,310 --> 00:37:23,730

She worked in the factory making  
clothing, and at that time,

739

00:37:23,730 --> 00:37:25,540  
there was a shortage of workers.

740  
00:37:25,540 --> 00:37:29,058  
And since she could always  
sew, she was given this job.

741  
00:37:29,058 --> 00:37:30,225  
I think later that factory--

742  
00:37:30,225 --> 00:37:32,325  
Did she start working as  
soon as she came to America?

743  
00:37:32,325 --> 00:37:32,825  
Yes.

744  
00:37:32,825 --> 00:37:36,210  
She started working as soon  
as she came to America, as did

745  
00:37:36,210 --> 00:37:39,060  
my father in the trunk factory.

746  
00:37:39,060 --> 00:37:43,380  
And after a few years,  
they saved enough money

747  
00:37:43,380 --> 00:37:48,705  
to buy a house, and  
we moved out of that--

748  
00:37:48,705 --> 00:37:51,990  
it was more a blue  
collar neighborhood--

749  
00:37:51,990 --> 00:37:59,260  
into, how should I put  
it without sounding--

750  
00:37:59,260 --> 00:38:00,010  
More middle class.



751

00:38:00,010 --> 00:38:02,610

More middle class  
neighborhood, yes.

752

00:38:02,610 --> 00:38:06,470

And we lived on the first  
floor and rented out

753

00:38:06,470 --> 00:38:11,210

the other floors, and in that  
way we could manage to live.

754

00:38:11,210 --> 00:38:15,770

When your parents found out what  
happened to their relatives--

755

00:38:15,770 --> 00:38:21,470

are there any lasting  
impressions that you have,

756

00:38:21,470 --> 00:38:23,650

when they heard the sad news?

757

00:38:23,650 --> 00:38:26,820

I think my mother died  
before they found out.

758

00:38:26,820 --> 00:38:33,400

But I'm not sure if it was  
1947 or it may have been 1946.

759

00:38:33,400 --> 00:38:37,930

She died before we found  
out what happened fully.

760

00:38:37,930 --> 00:38:41,490

And I think my father  
later found out

761

00:38:41,490 --> 00:38:45,130

that his sister Clara  
had died in Treblinka,

762

00:38:45,130 --> 00:38:46,770

and I don't think  
he ever found out,

763

00:38:46,770 --> 00:38:48,900

nor did we ever find  
out, what happened

764

00:38:48,900 --> 00:38:53,390

to his brother Benjamin, who  
had a clock shop in Vienna.

765

00:38:53,390 --> 00:38:58,650

And Adolf, we learned, had been  
in the Russian camp and died.

766

00:38:58,650 --> 00:39:00,915

Any other relatives  
you know about?

767

00:39:00,915 --> 00:39:05,130

Any other extended relatives  
that you can say their names

768

00:39:05,130 --> 00:39:10,190

and what happened to  
them, that you know of?

769

00:39:10,190 --> 00:39:12,630

The other relatives died.

770

00:39:12,630 --> 00:39:15,830

On my father's side,  
there were some cousins

771

00:39:15,830 --> 00:39:19,340

that made it to America, who  
lived in America, and South

772

00:39:19,340 --> 00:39:21,530

America also.

773

00:39:21,530 --> 00:39:26,830  
But the immediate family  
all died in the Holocaust.

774  
00:39:26,830 --> 00:39:30,410

775  
00:39:30,410 --> 00:39:34,410  
Were there other  
refugees in Fall River

776  
00:39:34,410 --> 00:39:38,560  
that you were friendly with,  
other refugee children,

777  
00:39:38,560 --> 00:39:39,940  
or were you the only one?

778  
00:39:39,940 --> 00:39:43,850  
I seem to be the only one.

779  
00:39:43,850 --> 00:39:44,680  
That you knew of.

780  
00:39:44,680 --> 00:39:46,920  
That I knew of.

781  
00:39:46,920 --> 00:39:49,900  
The other Jewish  
children were already

782  
00:39:49,900 --> 00:39:51,320  
from well-established families.

783  
00:39:51,320 --> 00:39:54,850

784  
00:39:54,850 --> 00:39:58,340  
Did you think about Vienna?

785  
00:39:58,340 --> 00:40:01,700  
I think I was too young

to think about Vienna.

786  
00:40:01,700 --> 00:40:04,370  
And once my mother died,  
we switched completely

787  
00:40:04,370 --> 00:40:06,980  
from German and Yiddish  
to speaking English.

788  
00:40:06,980 --> 00:40:08,180  
Oh.

789  
00:40:08,180 --> 00:40:10,100  
So that probably  
helped in my feeling

790  
00:40:10,100 --> 00:40:12,970  
more like an  
American from 12 on.

791  
00:40:12,970 --> 00:40:14,630  
So you and your  
father lived together?

792  
00:40:14,630 --> 00:40:20,120  
My father and I lived  
together and spoke English

793  
00:40:20,120 --> 00:40:22,860  
to each other, yes.

794  
00:40:22,860 --> 00:40:25,110  
And then you went off after--

795  
00:40:25,110 --> 00:40:27,630  
you went to a  
public high school?

796  
00:40:27,630 --> 00:40:29,310  
Public high school.

797

00:40:29,310 --> 00:40:34,330  
And then, from there went  
to NYU for two years.

798  
00:40:34,330 --> 00:40:36,900  
And when I became  
engaged to Harris,

799  
00:40:36,900 --> 00:40:39,660  
I went to school at  
Boston University

800  
00:40:39,660 --> 00:40:41,550  
so that I could be near him.

801  
00:40:41,550 --> 00:40:45,350  
And then we were married  
when I was 20 and he was 21.

802  
00:40:45,350 --> 00:40:48,340  
Oh, my.

803  
00:40:48,340 --> 00:40:51,280  
And then, where did  
you live after that?

804  
00:40:51,280 --> 00:40:55,120  
We lived in Cambridge,  
Massachusetts,

805  
00:40:55,120 --> 00:41:00,250  
because Harris was going  
to MIT at the time.

806  
00:41:00,250 --> 00:41:01,240  
As an undergraduate?

807  
00:41:01,240 --> 00:41:02,570  
As an undergraduate.

808  
00:41:02,570 --> 00:41:06,340  
He finished his  
year and then went

809  
00:41:06,340 --> 00:41:08,440  
for his master's in mathematics.

810  
00:41:08,440 --> 00:41:11,680  
And we lived in  
student housing, which

811  
00:41:11,680 --> 00:41:17,770  
had been condemned in 1940,  
but we lived in it in 1956

812  
00:41:17,770 --> 00:41:19,520  
for \$300 a month--

813  
00:41:19,520 --> 00:41:23,350  
or 30-- oh, I added  
a digit. \$30 a month,

814  
00:41:23,350 --> 00:41:28,720  
we managed to live  
in that house.

815  
00:41:28,720 --> 00:41:32,800  
When you were a  
young wife, did you

816  
00:41:32,800 --> 00:41:37,430  
think about your family history  
before you had children?

817  
00:41:37,430 --> 00:41:41,396  
And you were just a  
young married couple.

818  
00:41:41,396 --> 00:41:43,110  
Did you think about Vienna?

819  
00:41:43,110 --> 00:41:44,490  
Did you think about the war?

820  
00:41:44,490 --> 00:41:47,070

Did you think about what happened to extended family?

821  
00:41:47,070 --> 00:41:49,110  
Was that a part of your thought process?

822  
00:41:49,110 --> 00:41:50,470  
It was a part.

823  
00:41:50,470 --> 00:41:54,330  
It's a part of the thought process that never leaves you.

824  
00:41:54,330 --> 00:41:58,200  
I did, but as a young wife and then later a mother,

825  
00:41:58,200 --> 00:42:06,120  
I was so busy trying to raise a family in happy circumstances.

826  
00:42:06,120 --> 00:42:09,500  
The children knew that family had been in Vienna

827  
00:42:09,500 --> 00:42:11,550  
and that I was from Vienna, and they

828  
00:42:11,550 --> 00:42:14,790  
were aware of the circumstances of the war.

829  
00:42:14,790 --> 00:42:21,190  
But we tried to make it a happy American family.

830  
00:42:21,190 --> 00:42:23,040  
Now, did your husband's family--

831  
00:42:23,040 --> 00:42:27,300  
were any of them survivors?

832  
00:42:27,300 --> 00:42:28,080  
Yes.

833  
00:42:28,080 --> 00:42:32,970  
His grandfather came  
in 1890 from Lithuania

834  
00:42:32,970 --> 00:42:39,100  
and settled at an early time  
in New Bedford, Massachusetts,

835  
00:42:39,100 --> 00:42:43,180  
where he had a peddler's cart.

836  
00:42:43,180 --> 00:42:45,610  
And it's very interesting  
that New Bedford had

837  
00:42:45,610 --> 00:42:48,880  
quite a large ethnic  
group, partly because it

838  
00:42:48,880 --> 00:42:53,860  
had been a whaling town, and so  
many people of many ethnicities

839  
00:42:53,860 --> 00:42:56,070  
came, including Japanese.

840  
00:42:56,070 --> 00:42:58,620  
And so, Harris's  
grandfather's picture

841  
00:42:58,620 --> 00:43:00,820  
is in the New Bedford  
Whaling Museum,

842  
00:43:00,820 --> 00:43:04,180  
along with the other ethnic  
groups, the Italians, Scots,

843



00:43:04,180 --> 00:43:06,450  
the Japanese.

844  
00:43:06,450 --> 00:43:11,230  
It's a lovely little memento  
of New Bedford's time.

845  
00:43:11,230 --> 00:43:14,540  
Did he have any extended  
family who didn't leave Europe

846  
00:43:14,540 --> 00:43:16,900  
and who did not  
survive the Shoah?

847  
00:43:16,900 --> 00:43:19,120  
Not that he learned  
of till many years

848  
00:43:19,120 --> 00:43:22,570  
later, in fact, just  
about five years later,

849  
00:43:22,570 --> 00:43:24,970  
when we went to  
Lithuania on a trip,

850  
00:43:24,970 --> 00:43:27,490  
and he learned that there  
was some distant relatives.

851  
00:43:27,490 --> 00:43:30,310  
But most of his extended  
family and his mother--

852  
00:43:30,310 --> 00:43:32,560  
his grandmother  
had 11 children--

853  
00:43:32,560 --> 00:43:33,820  
lived in New Bedford.

854  
00:43:33,820 --> 00:43:36,760

So it was a very  
close-knit family.

855  
00:43:36,760 --> 00:43:41,410  
And it was an unusual thing for  
me, to go from no family at all

856  
00:43:41,410 --> 00:43:43,825  
to this great extended family.

857  
00:43:43,825 --> 00:43:48,020

858  
00:43:48,020 --> 00:43:52,630  
So then you finished  
in Cambridge,

859  
00:43:52,630 --> 00:43:54,040  
and then what happened?

860  
00:43:54,040 --> 00:43:56,950  
Then we moved to New  
York because Harris

861  
00:43:56,950 --> 00:43:59,797  
got his master's in  
math and decided that he

862  
00:43:59,797 --> 00:44:00,880  
would like to be a lawyer.

863  
00:44:00,880 --> 00:44:04,220  
There were seven  
lawyers in his family,

864  
00:44:04,220 --> 00:44:08,470  
so I guess it was in the DNA.

865  
00:44:08,470 --> 00:44:10,900  
He was accepted  
at Harvard, he was

866

00:44:10,900 --> 00:44:12,610  
told, if he would wait a year.

867  
00:44:12,610 --> 00:44:15,280  
But we were 26 at  
the time and needed

868  
00:44:15,280 --> 00:44:18,770  
to get going rapidly  
in our lives,

869  
00:44:18,770 --> 00:44:21,610  
and so he was  
accepted at Columbia.

870  
00:44:21,610 --> 00:44:24,970  
I got a teaching job  
in New York after,

871  
00:44:24,970 --> 00:44:28,000  
and in Massachusetts I worked  
as a training instructor

872  
00:44:28,000 --> 00:44:31,300  
at John Hancock  
Insurance Company.

873  
00:44:31,300 --> 00:44:35,730  
But we left Cambridge  
and moved to New York.

874  
00:44:35,730 --> 00:44:38,980  
And we had an old  
Nash at the time,

875  
00:44:38,980 --> 00:44:41,770  
and we loaded meager  
belongings on it,

876  
00:44:41,770 --> 00:44:46,120  
including a mattress on  
top of the roof of the car.

877

00:44:46,120 --> 00:44:49,810  
And the sticker said  
"MIT" on the Nash,

878  
00:44:49,810 --> 00:44:53,070  
and it was quite another  
transition to make.

879  
00:44:53,070 --> 00:44:54,700  
And I remember saying  
to Harris, do you

880  
00:44:54,700 --> 00:44:56,800  
know what MIT stands for?

881  
00:44:56,800 --> 00:44:58,280  
Madhouse In Transit.

882  
00:44:58,280 --> 00:44:59,370  
Ha ha.

883  
00:44:59,370 --> 00:45:00,940  
That's wonderful.

884  
00:45:00,940 --> 00:45:04,150  
But we moved into New  
York, into an apartment,

885  
00:45:04,150 --> 00:45:09,490  
and I got a job teaching  
public school, PS 141.

886  
00:45:09,490 --> 00:45:12,475  
And Harris was in law school.

887  
00:45:12,475 --> 00:45:13,600  
He was a full-time student.

888  
00:45:13,600 --> 00:45:15,630  
Full-time student.

889  
00:45:15,630 --> 00:45:17,100

And no children yet?

890

00:45:17,100 --> 00:45:18,730

No children yet.

891

00:45:18,730 --> 00:45:21,640

In my third year of  
teaching I became pregnant

892

00:45:21,640 --> 00:45:27,820

with our daughter, and the  
principal of the school

893

00:45:27,820 --> 00:45:30,620

very kindly kept me on  
till the end of the year.

894

00:45:30,620 --> 00:45:33,120

He was a lovely  
man, Mr. Robinson.

895

00:45:33,120 --> 00:45:34,810

I've never forgotten him.

896

00:45:34,810 --> 00:45:40,600

The vice principal  
was a very staid,

897

00:45:40,600 --> 00:45:48,110

prim spinster, whose  
brother was the bishop of--

898

00:45:48,110 --> 00:45:49,950

I believe it was in New York.

899

00:45:49,950 --> 00:45:53,600

And at the time,  
Christian schoolchildren

900

00:45:53,600 --> 00:45:55,970

were dismissed from school  
for religious school.

901

00:45:55,970 --> 00:45:59,300

The Jewish children waited  
till the end of the school.

902

00:45:59,300 --> 00:46:02,900

The dictum came down from  
the Board of Education

903

00:46:02,900 --> 00:46:06,200

that children were no longer  
be to be dismissed early.

904

00:46:06,200 --> 00:46:07,850

I had a student  
in my class named

905

00:46:07,850 --> 00:46:12,800

James, who was used to being  
dismissed for Christian class.

906

00:46:12,800 --> 00:46:16,860

He came up to me and said, Mrs.  
Weinstein, I have to leave.

907

00:46:16,860 --> 00:46:20,150

And I said, terribly  
sorry, James.

908

00:46:20,150 --> 00:46:22,250

The ruling from the  
Board of Education

909

00:46:22,250 --> 00:46:27,680

says you need to stay till  
the end of the school day.

910

00:46:27,680 --> 00:46:30,420

He came back the next week  
and said, Mrs. Weinstein,

911

00:46:30,420 --> 00:46:31,730

I need to leave.

912  
00:46:31,730 --> 00:46:34,790  
And my priest says that  
if you don't let me go,

913  
00:46:34,790 --> 00:46:38,600  
he will report  
you to the bishop.

914  
00:46:38,600 --> 00:46:43,550  
I went down to Miss Flannelly,  
his sister, the vice principal,

915  
00:46:43,550 --> 00:46:45,320  
and I said, Miss  
Flannelly, you're

916  
00:46:45,320 --> 00:46:50,300  
going to get a very bad report  
about me from your brother,

917  
00:46:50,300 --> 00:46:52,310  
and I need to tell  
you about this.

918  
00:46:52,310 --> 00:46:55,070  
It was the only time  
in the entire time

919  
00:46:55,070 --> 00:46:58,940  
that I worked in that  
school that I saw her laugh.

920  
00:46:58,940 --> 00:47:01,820  
And she said, don't  
worry about a thing.

921  
00:47:01,820 --> 00:47:03,950  
I will take care of it.

922  
00:47:03,950 --> 00:47:08,600  
And from then on, poor  
James never came up to me.

923

00:47:08,600 --> 00:47:12,710

But I felt very badly because  
I was a Jew telling him

924

00:47:12,710 --> 00:47:14,720

that he couldn't be excused.

925

00:47:14,720 --> 00:47:18,620

But I had to follow the  
ruling of the school board.

926

00:47:18,620 --> 00:47:21,860

Did the other faculty and  
staff know your background?

927

00:47:21,860 --> 00:47:22,760

No.

928

00:47:22,760 --> 00:47:23,420

They did not?

929

00:47:23,420 --> 00:47:24,440

They did not.

930

00:47:24,440 --> 00:47:27,090

Did you have any  
accent at that point?

931

00:47:27,090 --> 00:47:31,280

I had no accent except a  
slight Massachusetts one.

932

00:47:31,280 --> 00:47:34,880

But no European accent  
that they could detect.

933

00:47:34,880 --> 00:47:39,120

So you never talked about your  
experiences and the Anschluss?

934

00:47:39,120 --> 00:47:43,160

No, no, I never never



mentioned it to them.

935  
00:47:43,160 --> 00:47:45,920  
I was just another  
member of the faculty.

936  
00:47:45,920 --> 00:47:49,625  
As your father aged, did  
he talk about his losses

937  
00:47:49,625 --> 00:47:51,050  
and what he went through?

938  
00:47:51,050 --> 00:47:53,420  
He didn't talk about his losses.

939  
00:47:53,420 --> 00:47:55,610  
He was a stoic in that way.

940  
00:47:55,610 --> 00:47:59,900  
But he did tell us, and  
I've told the children

941  
00:47:59,900 --> 00:48:02,330  
and he told the children,  
and he would tell people

942  
00:48:02,330 --> 00:48:05,460  
how he had, very  
early on in 1932,

943  
00:48:05,460 --> 00:48:08,300  
detected what was  
going to happen.

944  
00:48:08,300 --> 00:48:12,860  
And at the last stage  
of our being in Vienna,

945  
00:48:12,860 --> 00:48:15,980  
before we got the visa and  
when he was continually

946

00:48:15,980 --> 00:48:19,040

denied the visa from  
the American Consulate,

947

00:48:19,040 --> 00:48:23,030

he was prepared to walk us over  
the mountains to Switzerland.

948

00:48:23,030 --> 00:48:27,460

But fortunately, that visa  
finally came through, yes.

949

00:48:27,460 --> 00:48:30,570

950

00:48:30,570 --> 00:48:37,230

So, now you're in New York,  
finished your three years.

951

00:48:37,230 --> 00:48:39,210

You got pregnant, you said?

952

00:48:39,210 --> 00:48:43,680

And Harris got a job  
clerking for Judge Hastie

953

00:48:43,680 --> 00:48:45,220

in Philadelphia.

954

00:48:45,220 --> 00:48:46,732

He was a lovely man.

955

00:48:46,732 --> 00:48:47,940

So you moved to Philadelphia?

956

00:48:47,940 --> 00:48:51,520

And we moved to  
Philadelphia, to Elkins Park.

957

00:48:51,520 --> 00:48:55,620

And when our daughter was born,  
Harris went to the synagogue

958

00:48:55,620 --> 00:48:59,490  
there in Elkins Park, which was  
designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

959

00:48:59,490 --> 00:49:02,520  
And if you go to the Museum  
of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv,

960

00:49:02,520 --> 00:49:05,010  
there is a model of  
the Frank Lloyd Wright.

961

00:49:05,010 --> 00:49:07,770  
It's a beautiful--  
you've seen it.

962

00:49:07,770 --> 00:49:14,510  
And we lived there a  
year, and moved from there

963

00:49:14,510 --> 00:49:18,063  
to Washington when Harris got  
a job at the law firm here.

964

00:49:18,063 --> 00:49:19,730  
Then he joined a law  
firm in Washington.

965

00:49:19,730 --> 00:49:21,188  
He joined a law  
firm in Washington.

966

00:49:21,188 --> 00:49:23,490  
And did you have  
any other children?

967

00:49:23,490 --> 00:49:26,870  
Yes, we had our daughter  
in Philadelphia,

968

00:49:26,870 --> 00:49:31,150  
and then in Washington

we had our son, Josh,

969

00:49:31,150 --> 00:49:35,410

who is named after Harris's  
grandfather, Moses Joshua

970

00:49:35,410 --> 00:49:36,430

Weinstein.

971

00:49:36,430 --> 00:49:40,720

And then we had Jacob, who is  
named after my grandfather.

972

00:49:40,720 --> 00:49:44,080

And so he and my cousin in  
Israel have the same name,

973

00:49:44,080 --> 00:49:46,970

and it's Jacob  
Solomon Weinstein.

974

00:49:46,970 --> 00:49:48,790

I remember one of  
Harris's cousins,

975

00:49:48,790 --> 00:49:50,860

who lived at the  
time in Washington

976

00:49:50,860 --> 00:49:53,440

when our son was named.

977

00:49:53,440 --> 00:49:55,670

He said, are you going to  
give him boxing gloves?

978

00:49:55,670 --> 00:49:58,520

Because he's going to  
need it with that name.

979

00:49:58,520 --> 00:50:00,560

And do you have  
any grandchildren?

980  
00:50:00,560 --> 00:50:01,960  
We have six grandchildren.

981  
00:50:01,960 --> 00:50:04,780  
Our son lives in Santa Monica.

982  
00:50:04,780 --> 00:50:06,340  
He's a comedy writer.

983  
00:50:06,340 --> 00:50:09,850  
And he has twins, a boy  
and a girl, who are 14.

984  
00:50:09,850 --> 00:50:15,600  
Our daughter lives in  
Wilmette, Illinois,

985  
00:50:15,600 --> 00:50:19,100  
and she has two grown  
sons, one of whom

986  
00:50:19,100 --> 00:50:21,770  
is married to a Romanian girl.

987  
00:50:21,770 --> 00:50:27,320  
And we have our son Jacob  
and his wife Lauren,

988  
00:50:27,320 --> 00:50:31,310  
who live in London, and  
they have two children.

989  
00:50:31,310 --> 00:50:33,030  
Wonderful.

990  
00:50:33,030 --> 00:50:35,940  
Let's talk now about  
some of your thoughts

991  
00:50:35,940 --> 00:50:37,590  
about what you went through.

992  
00:50:37,590 --> 00:50:40,350  
Number one, you  
feel very American?

993  
00:50:40,350 --> 00:50:41,370  
Oh, yes.

994  
00:50:41,370 --> 00:50:46,920  
I remember my father saying  
he was on a trolley, and--

995  
00:50:46,920 --> 00:50:49,350  
this was years after  
we came, and someone

996  
00:50:49,350 --> 00:50:51,120  
asked him directions.

997  
00:50:51,120 --> 00:50:53,340  
And my father gave him  
directions, and he said,

998  
00:50:53,340 --> 00:50:55,670  
I feel like an American.

999  
00:50:55,670 --> 00:51:00,480  
And I feel the same way, America  
has given us this opportunity

1000  
00:51:00,480 --> 00:51:05,400  
to live, and I have this  
feeling of gratitude.

1001  
00:51:05,400 --> 00:51:08,430  
And this is why I so much  
enjoy the work I'm doing now.

1002  
00:51:08,430 --> 00:51:09,040  
Which is?

1003  
00:51:09,040 --> 00:51:11,640

Which is teaching and nursing in retirement homes.

1004  
00:51:11,640 --> 00:51:16,290  
We began a program 22 years ago, which

1005  
00:51:16,290 --> 00:51:19,260  
is now called the Himmelfarb Mobile University, which

1006  
00:51:19,260 --> 00:51:23,010  
goes to senior sites--

1007  
00:51:23,010 --> 00:51:27,630  
runs the spectrum from retirement homes,

1008  
00:51:27,630 --> 00:51:32,820  
senior centers to nursing homes and Alzheimer's units.

1009  
00:51:32,820 --> 00:51:34,530  
And we are a group of teachers that

1010  
00:51:34,530 --> 00:51:39,090  
bring classes to these homes so people's minds stay active.

1011  
00:51:39,090 --> 00:51:47,040  
And I particularly love going to the army, the service, homes

1012  
00:51:47,040 --> 00:51:53,670  
and the Merchant Marine and Navy and Coast Guard,

1013  
00:51:53,670 --> 00:51:57,600  
because when I go there, to people who serve their country,

1014  
00:51:57,600 --> 00:52:00,510

I feel I'm serving  
the country, too.

1015  
00:52:00,510 --> 00:52:03,770  
So yes, I feel like  
an American now.

1016  
00:52:03,770 --> 00:52:05,820  
Did you have any  
additional education

1017  
00:52:05,820 --> 00:52:08,250  
besides your  
undergraduate degree?

1018  
00:52:08,250 --> 00:52:14,930  
I went back after our  
children were grown.

1019  
00:52:14,930 --> 00:52:20,090  
I went back for a master's  
degree in liberal arts

1020  
00:52:20,090 --> 00:52:22,340  
at Georgetown  
University, and was

1021  
00:52:22,340 --> 00:52:26,120  
lucky to have some fantastic  
teachers, including Jesuits

1022  
00:52:26,120 --> 00:52:28,190  
who are masterful teachers.

1023  
00:52:28,190 --> 00:52:32,480  
And I learned about anthropology  
because, up to that time,

1024  
00:52:32,480 --> 00:52:35,270  
I had a business  
education, which stood me

1025  
00:52:35,270 --> 00:52:38,540



in very good stead at John  
Hancock as a teacher there,

1026  
00:52:38,540 --> 00:52:42,480  
but I felt my education  
was very limited.

1027  
00:52:42,480 --> 00:52:44,390  
And by earning this  
master's degree,

1028  
00:52:44,390 --> 00:52:46,912  
it opened up a vast horizon.

1029  
00:52:46,912 --> 00:52:48,620  
And that's actually  
the subject that I'll

1030  
00:52:48,620 --> 00:52:53,010  
teach in these nursing homes,  
is anthropology itself.

1031  
00:52:53,010 --> 00:52:56,470  
So Georgetown gave  
me that opportunity.

1032  
00:52:56,470 --> 00:52:59,450  
Any more education  
after the master's?

1033  
00:52:59,450 --> 00:53:02,210  
I went for a few  
years to Catholic

1034  
00:53:02,210 --> 00:53:04,870  
to work toward a doctorate, but  
I never did get my doctorate.

1035  
00:53:04,870 --> 00:53:05,510  
Catholic University  
in Washington.

1036  
00:53:05,510 --> 00:53:06,920

At Catholic University.

1037  
00:53:06,920 --> 00:53:10,340  
But that certainly widened  
my horizons as well.

1038  
00:53:10,340 --> 00:53:11,570  
In what field?

1039  
00:53:11,570 --> 00:53:12,815  
Anthropology.

1040  
00:53:12,815 --> 00:53:14,300  
Oh, in anthropology.

1041  
00:53:14,300 --> 00:53:17,600

1042  
00:53:17,600 --> 00:53:21,980  
When your children were your  
age, when you were so little

1043  
00:53:21,980 --> 00:53:30,270  
and the Anschluss happened, when  
they were three, four, five,

1044  
00:53:30,270 --> 00:53:31,470  
did it resonate with you?

1045  
00:53:31,470 --> 00:53:34,350  
Did it bring back memories  
of what you went through

1046  
00:53:34,350 --> 00:53:38,565  
as a child, you know,  
seeing German boots

1047  
00:53:38,565 --> 00:53:39,440  
and things like that?

1048  
00:53:39,440 --> 00:53:40,140  
Yes.

1049  
00:53:40,140 --> 00:53:41,220  
Yes, yes, it did.

1050  
00:53:41,220 --> 00:53:45,450  
I wanted to protect  
them from that,

1051  
00:53:45,450 --> 00:53:51,660  
but they needed to know that, on  
a very mild, superficial scale,

1052  
00:53:51,660 --> 00:53:53,580  
that there's evil in  
the world, and that one

1053  
00:53:53,580 --> 00:53:56,430  
has to be watchful  
and careful, but not

1054  
00:53:56,430 --> 00:54:00,510  
to an extent where  
they would become

1055  
00:54:00,510 --> 00:54:04,860  
fearful or psychologically  
bothered by it.

1056  
00:54:04,860 --> 00:54:09,590  
Are there any sounds  
today or sites

1057  
00:54:09,590 --> 00:54:13,010  
that kind of remind you  
of the difficult time

1058  
00:54:13,010 --> 00:54:17,480  
you went through before  
you left Austria?

1059  
00:54:17,480 --> 00:54:18,050  
Yes.

1060

00:54:18,050 --> 00:54:22,880

I'm trying to think what sights  
and sounds they are that--

1061

00:54:22,880 --> 00:54:29,480

they do evoke a memory.

1062

00:54:29,480 --> 00:54:32,150

Marching sounds do do that.

1063

00:54:32,150 --> 00:54:33,140

Boots do that.

1064

00:54:33,140 --> 00:54:37,850

Even when state troopers  
wear their boots, it gives--

1065

00:54:37,850 --> 00:54:40,910

I have to analyze why I  
have an uneasy feeling,

1066

00:54:40,910 --> 00:54:43,430

and then I realize  
why and dismiss it

1067

00:54:43,430 --> 00:54:46,650

because this is America.

1068

00:54:46,650 --> 00:54:47,150

Right.

1069

00:54:47,150 --> 00:54:48,760

Do dogs bother you?

1070

00:54:48,760 --> 00:54:50,120

Did you see German--

1071

00:54:50,120 --> 00:54:53,480

No, no, oddly  
enough, they don't.

1072

00:54:53,480 --> 00:54:59,360  
German shepherds, perhaps when  
they bark viciously, do, but--

1073  
00:54:59,360 --> 00:55:01,400  
Do you remember seeing  
them in Austria?

1074  
00:55:01,400 --> 00:55:02,860  
No, no, I don't.

1075  
00:55:02,860 --> 00:55:06,050  
I remember pictures,  
of course, but no, I

1076  
00:55:06,050 --> 00:55:09,950  
don't remember that per se.

1077  
00:55:09,950 --> 00:55:13,070  
Did a man named Adolf Hitler  
have any meaning for you

1078  
00:55:13,070 --> 00:55:14,570  
when you were little?

1079  
00:55:14,570 --> 00:55:15,680  
Yes, it did.

1080  
00:55:15,680 --> 00:55:17,510  
And I remember  
hearing a broadcast

1081  
00:55:17,510 --> 00:55:23,240  
after we arrived  
in Massachusetts,

1082  
00:55:23,240 --> 00:55:29,220  
and there was a radio  
show where someone

1083  
00:55:29,220 --> 00:55:32,130  
talked of meeting Hitler.

1084

00:55:32,130 --> 00:55:37,490

And I suppose I  
was 5 at the time.

1085

00:55:37,490 --> 00:55:39,790

And I remember  
this person saying,

1086

00:55:39,790 --> 00:55:44,540

Hitler kissed her hand  
in this European manner.

1087

00:55:44,540 --> 00:55:47,290

And I remember  
saying, huh, if I knew

1088

00:55:47,290 --> 00:55:49,180

Hitler was going to do  
that, when I met him

1089

00:55:49,180 --> 00:55:50,650

I'd put poison on my hand.

1090

00:55:50,650 --> 00:55:55,240

1091

00:55:55,240 --> 00:56:02,620

But certainly, Hitler was a  
known name in our household.

1092

00:56:02,620 --> 00:56:04,470

And you could understand  
what he was saying.

1093

00:56:04,470 --> 00:56:12,350

And I could understand what was  
being said about Hitler, yes.

1094

00:56:12,350 --> 00:56:16,790

Are you angry that you had to go  
through those difficult times,

1095

00:56:16,790 --> 00:56:19,350  
and children in the  
United States did not?

1096  
00:56:19,350 --> 00:56:20,230  
No.

1097  
00:56:20,230 --> 00:56:20,730  
No.

1098  
00:56:20,730 --> 00:56:21,300  
No anger?

1099  
00:56:21,300 --> 00:56:26,240  
I have guilt, I think, that I  
managed to escape and others

1100  
00:56:26,240 --> 00:56:27,560  
didn't.

1101  
00:56:27,560 --> 00:56:29,450  
But I think that's  
an integral part

1102  
00:56:29,450 --> 00:56:32,420  
of what many refugees feel.

1103  
00:56:32,420 --> 00:56:39,920  
But no, no, I'm not angry that--

1104  
00:56:39,920 --> 00:56:45,710  
that's their life and they're  
entitled to their life,

1105  
00:56:45,710 --> 00:56:47,680  
so there's no anger there.

1106  
00:56:47,680 --> 00:56:54,150

1107  
00:56:54,150 --> 00:56:58,110  
There's anger at

ignorance, at revisionists

1108  
00:56:58,110 --> 00:57:02,640  
who will deny the  
Holocaust, or an ignorance

1109  
00:57:02,640 --> 00:57:05,190  
of it, which I feel  
is a worrisome thing.

1110  
00:57:05,190 --> 00:57:12,000  
But you and the Holocaust Museum  
are preventing that, hopefully.

1111  
00:57:12,000 --> 00:57:17,040  
But anger at children who  
didn't have-- no, not at all.

1112  
00:57:17,040 --> 00:57:20,390  
Did you lose a part  
of your childhood?

1113  
00:57:20,390 --> 00:57:21,750  
Yes, that's a good question.

1114  
00:57:21,750 --> 00:57:24,860  
I think I did I think I did.

1115  
00:57:24,860 --> 00:57:30,860  
But, then again, it doesn't hurt  
to lose a part of a childhood.

1116  
00:57:30,860 --> 00:57:33,770  
You just mature  
at an earlier age,

1117  
00:57:33,770 --> 00:57:39,830  
and you end up having a  
certain empathy for humanity,

1118  
00:57:39,830 --> 00:57:41,610  
whoever they may be.



1119  
00:57:41,610 --> 00:57:44,900  
So, it's not a lost  
childhood, in that sense.

1120  
00:57:44,900 --> 00:57:47,120  
You gain by it.

1121  
00:57:47,120 --> 00:57:49,480  
Also, by being stronger, you--

1122  
00:57:49,480 --> 00:57:52,720

1123  
00:57:52,720 --> 00:57:58,690  
I realized later what I do is  
what the Japanese call Bushido.

1124  
00:57:58,690 --> 00:58:01,750  
The warrior, the samurai,  
would distance themselves

1125  
00:58:01,750 --> 00:58:07,570  
from the emotion of the time  
so that they could fight.

1126  
00:58:07,570 --> 00:58:09,940  
They would distance  
themselves from fear,

1127  
00:58:09,940 --> 00:58:12,640  
anger, and simply  
concentrate on what

1128  
00:58:12,640 --> 00:58:14,440  
they had been trained to do.

1129  
00:58:14,440 --> 00:58:18,040  
And I find myself doing that  
in difficult situations.

1130  
00:58:18,040 --> 00:58:20,530  
I set myself apart

from it, don't

1131  
00:58:20,530 --> 00:58:22,750  
allow myself to  
feel the emotion,

1132  
00:58:22,750 --> 00:58:27,010  
so that I can go through  
what has to be done.

1133  
00:58:27,010 --> 00:58:30,130  
And that, I think,  
is part of my being

1134  
00:58:30,130 --> 00:58:32,000  
a refugee from those times.

1135  
00:58:32,000 --> 00:58:35,821  
So that's what I mean that  
it doesn't hurt, it helps.

1136  
00:58:35,821 --> 00:58:38,230  
It gave you skills that  
you ordinarily wouldn't

1137  
00:58:38,230 --> 00:58:40,190  
have had if you were born here.

1138  
00:58:40,190 --> 00:58:40,690  
Right.

1139  
00:58:40,690 --> 00:58:49,990  
It gives you an outlook, and  
inner and outer strength.

1140  
00:58:49,990 --> 00:58:52,330  
Inside may be turmoil,  
but you don't allow it.

1141  
00:58:52,330 --> 00:58:54,040  
Well, that was going  
to be a question I

1142

00:58:54,040 --> 00:58:56,847  
was going to ask you, which I--

1143

00:58:56,847 --> 00:58:57,930  
interested in your answer.

1144

00:58:57,930 --> 00:58:59,940  
Are you two different  
people, someone

1145

00:58:59,940 --> 00:59:05,470  
on the inside and another  
person on the outside?

1146

00:59:05,470 --> 00:59:14,900  
I think I'm a unified whole,  
but I've learned to control.

1147

00:59:14,900 --> 00:59:17,260  
So if there's anger  
at a situation,

1148

00:59:17,260 --> 00:59:19,780  
it's not anything to  
do with the Holocaust.

1149

00:59:19,780 --> 00:59:22,640  
But if there's anger  
in a situation,

1150

00:59:22,640 --> 00:59:26,170  
I've learned to cover it  
up so that I can go ahead

1151

00:59:26,170 --> 00:59:29,110  
with what needs to be done.

1152

00:59:29,110 --> 00:59:33,070  
So, there may be anger,  
but I don't show it.

1153

00:59:33,070 --> 00:59:37,090

Or there may be sadness,  
and I try not to show it,

1154  
00:59:37,090 --> 00:59:39,100  
in that sense.

1155  
00:59:39,100 --> 00:59:43,720  
But does your question mean, am  
I in turmoil because of the two

1156  
00:59:43,720 --> 00:59:45,770  
cultures that I'm straddling?

1157  
00:59:45,770 --> 00:59:50,090  
And the fact that you have  
to escape with your parents.

1158  
00:59:50,090 --> 00:59:53,980  
Well, I count myself fortunate  
that I was able to escape,

1159  
00:59:53,980 --> 00:59:57,730  
and badly that there were others  
who didn't, that we managed

1160  
00:59:57,730 --> 01:00:00,550  
to escape and unfortunately  
others didn't.

1161  
01:00:00,550 --> 01:00:02,770  
So, there's no elation over it.

1162  
01:00:02,770 --> 01:00:11,570  
There are no extremes of feeling  
over it, simply an acceptance.

1163  
01:00:11,570 --> 01:00:14,140  
It is what it is.

1164  
01:00:14,140 --> 01:00:16,450  
Are you more comfortable  
around people

1165

01:00:16,450 --> 01:00:19,228

who were refugees like  
you than people who

1166

01:00:19,228 --> 01:00:20,520

were born in the United States?

1167

01:00:20,520 --> 01:00:22,967

1168

01:00:22,967 --> 01:00:24,300

That's a good question, let me--

1169

01:00:24,300 --> 01:00:28,020

Do you feel a connection  
to someone who--

1170

01:00:28,020 --> 01:00:31,150

Well, here I think I  
straddle two cultures again.

1171

01:00:31,150 --> 01:00:35,070

If someone is European, I do  
feel a certain connection.

1172

01:00:35,070 --> 01:00:38,160

I think there's a certain  
behavior pattern of Europeans

1173

01:00:38,160 --> 01:00:39,900

that isn't American.

1174

01:00:39,900 --> 01:00:42,300

And yet, there's a certain  
behavior pattern in American

1175

01:00:42,300 --> 01:00:43,890

that isn't in European.

1176

01:00:43,890 --> 01:00:46,680

So you simply straddle  
the two cultures,

1177  
01:00:46,680 --> 01:00:48,420  
and it's not that  
you're a chameleon

1178  
01:00:48,420 --> 01:00:50,880  
and take on the  
coloration, it's simply

1179  
01:00:50,880 --> 01:00:57,876  
you have a certain empathy  
with these different cultures.

1180  
01:00:57,876 --> 01:01:00,170  
So you're comfortable  
with those who also

1181  
01:01:00,170 --> 01:01:03,190  
came from Europe, like you did.

1182  
01:01:03,190 --> 01:01:03,980  
Yes.

1183  
01:01:03,980 --> 01:01:04,850  
Yeah.

1184  
01:01:04,850 --> 01:01:05,570  
Yeah.

1185  
01:01:05,570 --> 01:01:08,930  
What are your  
thoughts about Israel?

1186  
01:01:08,930 --> 01:01:10,670  
Well, I've always  
been pro-Zionist,

1187  
01:01:10,670 --> 01:01:16,550  
and certainly my belonging to  
Young Judaea fostered that.

1188  
01:01:16,550 --> 01:01:20,200

I feel it's crucial that  
we have and Israel because

1189  
01:01:20,200 --> 01:01:24,560  
with our nomenclature  
of the Wandering Jew,

1190  
01:01:24,560 --> 01:01:27,050  
hopefully this ends that period.

1191  
01:01:27,050 --> 01:01:29,720  
And I fully believe that the  
full extent of the Holocaust

1192  
01:01:29,720 --> 01:01:32,720  
would not have happened  
had we an Israel.

1193  
01:01:32,720 --> 01:01:37,020  
A homeless, stateless people  
is a very vulnerable people.

1194  
01:01:37,020 --> 01:01:40,760  
And I remember reading about  
Hitler and the Armenians.

1195  
01:01:40,760 --> 01:01:45,830  
And when no one really came  
to the Armenian aid, Hitler

1196  
01:01:45,830 --> 01:01:48,950  
saying, the world didn't  
watch out for the Armenians,

1197  
01:01:48,950 --> 01:01:51,680  
therefore we can do  
the same with the Jews.

1198  
01:01:51,680 --> 01:01:58,370  
So, I feel that Israel is an  
essential absolute necessity.

1199  
01:01:58,370 --> 01:02:01,180

Have you been back to Vienna?

1200  
01:02:01,180 --> 01:02:04,030  
We've been back now  
five years in a row.

1201  
01:02:04,030 --> 01:02:07,570

1202  
01:02:07,570 --> 01:02:09,970  
Next spring will be the  
fifth year in a row.

1203  
01:02:09,970 --> 01:02:10,775  
I didn't go back--

1204  
01:02:10,775 --> 01:02:12,400  
In other words, you  
go back every year,

1205  
01:02:12,400 --> 01:02:13,525  
is that what you're saying?

1206  
01:02:13,525 --> 01:02:16,000  
Because Harris mentors  
his group of students

1207  
01:02:16,000 --> 01:02:20,500  
at Catholic University, and  
they go into this arbitration

1208  
01:02:20,500 --> 01:02:23,560  
debating that meets in Vienna.

1209  
01:02:23,560 --> 01:02:26,410  
So that's how we get back  
there each year, otherwise--

1210  
01:02:26,410 --> 01:02:28,270  
Had you been back before?

1211  
01:02:28,270 --> 01:02:29,800



That was your first time back?

1212  
01:02:29,800 --> 01:02:32,580  
Back in 72 years.

1213  
01:02:32,580 --> 01:02:33,910  
So what was your reaction?

1214  
01:02:33,910 --> 01:02:35,620  
Did you have memories?

1215  
01:02:35,620 --> 01:02:44,380  
It was like walking on a moving  
sidewalk because it was not

1216  
01:02:44,380 --> 01:02:46,890  
a secure feeling.

1217  
01:02:46,890 --> 01:02:49,080  
But yet, it had been home.

1218  
01:02:49,080 --> 01:02:52,470  
And so it was a strange feeling.

1219  
01:02:52,470 --> 01:02:56,040  
It is such a beautiful city  
and such a monumental city

1220  
01:02:56,040 --> 01:03:01,740  
that, after a while, I  
began to feel at home again.

1221  
01:03:01,740 --> 01:03:04,230  
We found a wonderful  
Polish driver

1222  
01:03:04,230 --> 01:03:09,680  
who chauffeured us to the  
places, the house where I had

1223  
01:03:09,680 --> 01:03:11,620  
lived in, the apartment house.

1224  
01:03:11,620 --> 01:03:12,680  
This was a Polish driver?

1225  
01:03:12,680 --> 01:03:16,820  
This was a Polish driver,  
lovely man, lovely man.

1226  
01:03:16,820 --> 01:03:17,990  
Polish driver in Austria.

1227  
01:03:17,990 --> 01:03:20,270  
And a Polish driver in Austria.

1228  
01:03:20,270 --> 01:03:22,760  
And he took us all  
around to the place

1229  
01:03:22,760 --> 01:03:25,400  
where my parents store had been.

1230  
01:03:25,400 --> 01:03:32,020  
That was in a courtyard, and  
the building had a plaque on it.

1231  
01:03:32,020 --> 01:03:35,240  
The Viennese love to put  
plaques on buildings.

1232  
01:03:35,240 --> 01:03:37,970  
And the Allies apparently  
didn't bomb Vienna

1233  
01:03:37,970 --> 01:03:40,910  
till rather late in the  
war, so the building had

1234  
01:03:40,910 --> 01:03:44,960  
a plaque on it, said, this was  
bombed by the Allies in 1943.

1235  
01:03:44,960 --> 01:03:46,510

It was 1944.

1236  
01:03:46,510 --> 01:03:48,260  
And then you enter a  
little gate and there

1237  
01:03:48,260 --> 01:03:51,200  
was a courtyard that is now--

1238  
01:03:51,200 --> 01:03:54,500  
where my parents store  
had been is now a garage.

1239  
01:03:54,500 --> 01:04:00,320  
But I felt the feeling, a  
memory, of the courtyard.

1240  
01:04:00,320 --> 01:04:04,670  
And then the Polish driver  
took us to the apartment house.

1241  
01:04:04,670 --> 01:04:06,510  
Couldn't find it.

1242  
01:04:06,510 --> 01:04:08,540  
We drove around and around.

1243  
01:04:08,540 --> 01:04:13,940  
And he finally had the  
wonderful idea to ask a postman.

1244  
01:04:13,940 --> 01:04:16,250  
And he said, oh yes,  
that building there had

1245  
01:04:16,250 --> 01:04:18,610  
been 29 Heiligstadt Strasse.

1246  
01:04:18,610 --> 01:04:20,480  
It was a new modern building.

1247  
01:04:20,480 --> 01:04:24,230

Jacob, my younger son  
who lives in London,

1248  
01:04:24,230 --> 01:04:29,600  
had gone to Vienna several years  
before and gone to that house

1249  
01:04:29,600 --> 01:04:30,965  
and taken a picture of it.

1250  
01:04:30,965 --> 01:04:32,090  
Before it was knocked down?

1251  
01:04:32,090 --> 01:04:33,215  
Before it was knocked down.

1252  
01:04:33,215 --> 01:04:35,180  
It was a lovely  
old stone building.

1253  
01:04:35,180 --> 01:04:37,490  
We had an apartment in it.

1254  
01:04:37,490 --> 01:04:41,390  
But that had been knocked  
down to make way for a clinic.

1255  
01:04:41,390 --> 01:04:46,970  
And we went into  
the clinic, and I

1256  
01:04:46,970 --> 01:04:50,840  
wanted to ascertain that  
that was the building.

1257  
01:04:50,840 --> 01:04:53,150  
And because it was a  
long line of ill people,

1258  
01:04:53,150 --> 01:04:56,330  
I didn't want to break into that  
line, so I went to an office

1259

01:04:56,330 --> 01:04:57,500

where there was no one.

1260

01:04:57,500 --> 01:05:01,550

And I said in my poor German,  
excuse me, I have a question.

1261

01:05:01,550 --> 01:05:05,660

And they looked up and  
said, get into line.

1262

01:05:05,660 --> 01:05:08,930

And I said, but I'm a tourist,  
I have only a question.

1263

01:05:08,930 --> 01:05:10,580

Get into line.

1264

01:05:10,580 --> 01:05:13,220

So, we went out of the  
building and waited

1265

01:05:13,220 --> 01:05:15,890

till a person with a  
friendly face came out.

1266

01:05:15,890 --> 01:05:18,680

And then in our bad German,  
my bad German, said,

1267

01:05:18,680 --> 01:05:20,690

can you tell us how old this is?

1268

01:05:20,690 --> 01:05:24,020

And she said, it was two  
years old, so it fit.

1269

01:05:24,020 --> 01:05:26,870

And it was perfect site  
for a medical clinic

1270

01:05:26,870 --> 01:05:31,070

because the U-bahn, the  
fantastic rail system that they

1271  
01:05:31,070 --> 01:05:33,560  
have, was just a  
door or two down,

1272  
01:05:33,560 --> 01:05:35,690  
so people could make it easily.

1273  
01:05:35,690 --> 01:05:36,410  
We went back.

1274  
01:05:36,410 --> 01:05:38,970  
We found the house where  
my grandfather had lived,

1275  
01:05:38,970 --> 01:05:43,940  
and my Aunt Toni, which is now  
in a heavily Muslim building.

1276  
01:05:43,940 --> 01:05:47,300  
A man there very kindly asked  
if we wanted to come inside.

1277  
01:05:47,300 --> 01:05:48,050  
But we didn't.

1278  
01:05:48,050 --> 01:05:49,250  
We didn't want to intrude.

1279  
01:05:49,250 --> 01:05:51,730  
We didn't know what  
apartment it was.

1280  
01:05:51,730 --> 01:05:56,840  
So then, we had another  
driver, a fellow from Turkey,

1281  
01:05:56,840 --> 01:05:58,580  
who took us to the  
Friedhoff, which

1282

01:05:58,580 --> 01:06:04,460  
is the cemetery where my  
grandmother, Rosa, is buried.

1283

01:06:04,460 --> 01:06:06,120  
This was my maternal  
grandmother,

1284

01:06:06,120 --> 01:06:08,240  
who died in the flu epidemic.

1285

01:06:08,240 --> 01:06:11,030  
And we tried to find her  
grave in the Jewish section.

1286

01:06:11,030 --> 01:06:11,990  
Could not.

1287

01:06:11,990 --> 01:06:14,330  
The Turkish driver  
was marvelous.

1288

01:06:14,330 --> 01:06:17,690  
He ran up and down the  
rows trying to find it,

1289

01:06:17,690 --> 01:06:20,240  
till we finally  
had to say, we're

1290

01:06:20,240 --> 01:06:22,760  
afraid we have to get  
to the airport, now.

1291

01:06:22,760 --> 01:06:24,200  
We need to stop.

1292

01:06:24,200 --> 01:06:25,670  
But he was willing to try.

1293

01:06:25,670 --> 01:06:27,360  
He worked very hard.

1294  
01:06:27,360 --> 01:06:28,400  
He was lovely.

1295  
01:06:28,400 --> 01:06:34,105  
In contrast, I had a  
taxi driver from Vienna--

1296  
01:06:34,105 --> 01:06:38,530

1297  
01:06:38,530 --> 01:06:41,000  
well, shall I tell  
you the story?

1298  
01:06:41,000 --> 01:06:44,530  
He was very angry that  
he had to drive me

1299  
01:06:44,530 --> 01:06:46,990  
to the Marriott, which  
was the edge of Vienna,

1300  
01:06:46,990 --> 01:06:49,030  
from the center of Vienna.

1301  
01:06:49,030 --> 01:06:52,720  
And he guessed from  
my poor German,

1302  
01:06:52,720 --> 01:06:55,960  
he understood that I  
had been there before.

1303  
01:06:55,960 --> 01:06:57,680  
And I said, yes,  
I was born there.

1304  
01:06:57,680 --> 01:06:59,440  
He said, why did  
you leave Austria?

1305



01:06:59,440 --> 01:07:01,310  
It's a wonderful country.

1306  
01:07:01,310 --> 01:07:03,930  
And I thought, ugh,  
if I have to explain,

1307  
01:07:03,930 --> 01:07:05,780  
there's no sense in it.

1308  
01:07:05,780 --> 01:07:12,700  
But that was my meeting  
with the Austrian driver.

1309  
01:07:12,700 --> 01:07:16,200  
So, we have been back  
several times since,

1310  
01:07:16,200 --> 01:07:18,400  
and I've gone to the  
wonderful museums

1311  
01:07:18,400 --> 01:07:21,760  
and it gives me a chance  
to practice my poor German.

1312  
01:07:21,760 --> 01:07:25,360  
Although, invariably  
when I speak German,

1313  
01:07:25,360 --> 01:07:27,700  
the Viennese break into English.

1314  
01:07:27,700 --> 01:07:30,610  
Shows you how bad  
my German must be,

1315  
01:07:30,610 --> 01:07:34,600  
but I try to practice it  
before we leave so that I can

1316  
01:07:34,600 --> 01:07:36,665  
at least get us about Vienna.

1317  
01:07:36,665 --> 01:07:38,590  
Did you take German  
in high school?

1318  
01:07:38,590 --> 01:07:39,670  
I did.

1319  
01:07:39,670 --> 01:07:45,040  
I took a little bit of  
German in addition to French,

1320  
01:07:45,040 --> 01:07:49,270  
and it was an easy class  
for me because of it.

1321  
01:07:49,270 --> 01:07:50,710  
And Yiddish, of  
course, stands you

1322  
01:07:50,710 --> 01:07:52,370  
in very good stead as a dialect.

1323  
01:07:52,370 --> 01:07:55,000

1324  
01:07:55,000 --> 01:07:59,350  
Because you and your family were  
deprived of your civil rights

1325  
01:07:59,350 --> 01:08:02,320  
in Austria, were  
you when you were

1326  
01:08:02,320 --> 01:08:06,760  
an adult active in  
the Civil Rights

1327  
01:08:06,760 --> 01:08:08,910  
movement here in  
the United States?

1328

01:08:08,910 --> 01:08:11,440

1329

01:08:11,440 --> 01:08:12,940

I know you had young children.

1330

01:08:12,940 --> 01:08:15,980

Well, we campaigned  
for gun control.

1331

01:08:15,980 --> 01:08:18,880

And when Martin Luther  
King was assassinated,

1332

01:08:18,880 --> 01:08:21,760

we and some friends  
went to the capital

1333

01:08:21,760 --> 01:08:24,970

to distribute gun  
control pamphlets.

1334

01:08:24,970 --> 01:08:27,670

I actually had the pamphlets  
knocked out of my hand

1335

01:08:27,670 --> 01:08:30,550

by a man who said,  
what are you, a commie?

1336

01:08:30,550 --> 01:08:33,700

But we continued to  
work for gun control.

1337

01:08:33,700 --> 01:08:38,170

Hasn't worked very well,  
but we worked in that.

1338

01:08:38,170 --> 01:08:42,430

1339

01:08:42,430 --> 01:08:45,550

When we lived in

Crestwood, our daughter

1340  
01:08:45,550 --> 01:08:49,090  
wanted to enroll  
in a brownie troop.

1341  
01:08:49,090 --> 01:08:52,470  
And we went to the  
local Baptist church

1342  
01:08:52,470 --> 01:08:55,470  
where she was a member  
of the scout troop.

1343  
01:08:55,470 --> 01:08:59,529  
Unfortunately, she  
was not made welcome.

1344  
01:08:59,529 --> 01:09:02,979  
She was the only  
white child there.

1345  
01:09:02,979 --> 01:09:06,670  
And it made very clear  
that she was not welcome.

1346  
01:09:06,670 --> 01:09:12,069  
And after a year of trying  
to participate, we left.

1347  
01:09:12,069 --> 01:09:18,460

1348  
01:09:18,460 --> 01:09:22,939  
What were your thoughts  
during the Eichmann trial?

1349  
01:09:22,939 --> 01:09:25,670  
Well, it was interesting  
to watch these trials.

1350  
01:09:25,670 --> 01:09:30,800  
I was very happy

that he was caught.

1351

01:09:30,800 --> 01:09:36,684

We support the the Wiesenthal  
Center in Los Angeles.

1352

01:09:36,684 --> 01:09:42,649

1353

01:09:42,649 --> 01:09:46,729

It was a painful trial  
but a very necessary one

1354

01:09:46,729 --> 01:09:50,479

because, as the Holocaust  
deniers come out,

1355

01:09:50,479 --> 01:09:55,610

as the Holocaust  
survivors die off,

1356

01:09:55,610 --> 01:09:58,380

without your good work  
and the Holocaust work,

1357

01:09:58,380 --> 01:10:00,320

there's a danger that  
the world will forget.

1358

01:10:00,320 --> 01:10:03,730

1359

01:10:03,730 --> 01:10:09,040

I was very glad that this  
trial was brought to bear.

1360

01:10:09,040 --> 01:10:12,370

1361

01:10:12,370 --> 01:10:14,770

Have your children been  
affected by the fact

1362

01:10:14,770 --> 01:10:18,190  
that their mother had  
to escape from Hitler?

1363

01:10:18,190 --> 01:10:19,660  
They are sensitive to it.

1364

01:10:19,660 --> 01:10:20,890  
They are sensitive to it.

1365

01:10:20,890 --> 01:10:24,400  
We never emphasized that,  
but they know from history,

1366

01:10:24,400 --> 01:10:29,170  
from our history, and so they  
are very sensitive to it.

1367

01:10:29,170 --> 01:10:34,510  
Our older daughter in particular  
because she is the first child,

1368

01:10:34,510 --> 01:10:40,350  
but the boys are quite sensitive  
to it also, quite sensitive.

1369

01:10:40,350 --> 01:10:41,970  
And as our grandchildren--

1370

01:10:41,970 --> 01:10:45,170  
I think they are being  
taught about the Holocaust.

1371

01:10:45,170 --> 01:10:49,110  
Do the older ones ask you  
about what you went through

1372

01:10:49,110 --> 01:10:50,048  
as a young child?

1373

01:10:50,048 --> 01:10:58,850

1374  
01:10:58,850 --> 01:10:59,990  
Not too much.

1375  
01:10:59,990 --> 01:11:02,150  
Not too much.

1376  
01:11:02,150 --> 01:11:07,950  
I think they see certain  
habits which come from--

1377  
01:11:07,950 --> 01:11:10,770

1378  
01:11:10,770 --> 01:11:14,070  
being hungry as a child,  
I cannot throw food away,

1379  
01:11:14,070 --> 01:11:17,730  
and they see that in me.

1380  
01:11:17,730 --> 01:11:19,600  
Food cannot be wasted.

1381  
01:11:19,600 --> 01:11:20,430  
And they know why.

1382  
01:11:20,430 --> 01:11:21,660  
And they know why.

1383  
01:11:21,660 --> 01:11:25,750  
And they know why  
because I explain why--

1384  
01:11:25,750 --> 01:11:28,880  
what it's like to be hungry.

1385  
01:11:28,880 --> 01:11:33,850  
So, I think they understand.

1386  
01:11:33,850 --> 01:11:35,660

They intuit it.

1387

01:11:35,660 --> 01:11:37,450

Yes, yes.

1388

01:11:37,450 --> 01:11:41,610

In addition, I do try to explain in a fairly light way.

1389

01:11:41,610 --> 01:11:45,860

1390

01:11:45,860 --> 01:11:50,900

Also, a degree of watchfulness is something else that I've

1391

01:11:50,900 --> 01:11:53,690

tried to instill in them.

1392

01:11:53,690 --> 01:11:59,250

You know, Jefferson said that evil

1393

01:11:59,250 --> 01:12:03,210

can prevail if enough good people don't do anything,

1394

01:12:03,210 --> 01:12:07,280

and I want them to be alert to antisemitism,

1395

01:12:07,280 --> 01:12:10,030

to wrongs done to any group.

1396

01:12:10,030 --> 01:12:14,870

Everybody's got a responsibility to watch for that.

1397

01:12:14,870 --> 01:12:15,890

But it's hard.

1398

01:12:15,890 --> 01:12:19,640



When you grow up in  
comfortable circumstances,

1399  
01:12:19,640 --> 01:12:21,290  
it's hard to imagine it.

1400  
01:12:21,290 --> 01:12:25,890  
So, we're a generation  
already removed from that.

1401  
01:12:25,890 --> 01:12:31,500  
So it's hard to  
inculcate that in a way,

1402  
01:12:31,500 --> 01:12:34,820  
but you do what you can  
when the moment comes,

1403  
01:12:34,820 --> 01:12:38,750  
without hammering it in.

1404  
01:12:38,750 --> 01:12:40,790  
Were you, do you  
think, overprotective

1405  
01:12:40,790 --> 01:12:42,290  
when you were raising  
your children?

1406  
01:12:42,290 --> 01:12:45,920

1407  
01:12:45,920 --> 01:12:48,230  
Yes, I think I tended  
to be overprotective,

1408  
01:12:48,230 --> 01:12:53,553  
and that's another common thing,  
I think, that refugees have.

1409  
01:12:53,553 --> 01:12:55,220  
That something can  
happen at any moment.

1410  
01:12:55,220 --> 01:12:57,860  
That something can  
happen any moment.

1411  
01:12:57,860 --> 01:13:00,190  
You know, I read a poet--

1412  
01:13:00,190 --> 01:13:02,900  
I wish I remember  
his name, of Israel--

1413  
01:13:02,900 --> 01:13:06,395  
he said, every Jew is born  
with a knife in his heart.

1414  
01:13:06,395 --> 01:13:09,770  
Of course, he was talking  
about Abraham and Isaac

1415  
01:13:09,770 --> 01:13:15,080  
and the sacrifice that  
didn't take place.

1416  
01:13:15,080 --> 01:13:17,150  
But I think every  
Jew feels that,

1417  
01:13:17,150 --> 01:13:18,800  
and so you worry  
that your children--

1418  
01:13:18,800 --> 01:13:22,260  
and then, it extends even  
to your grandchildren,

1419  
01:13:22,260 --> 01:13:24,500  
it never ends.

1420  
01:13:24,500 --> 01:13:25,490  
Yeah.

1421

01:13:25,490 --> 01:13:29,750  
But then, you don't  
have to be a refugee

1422  
01:13:29,750 --> 01:13:31,170  
to worry about your children.

1423  
01:13:31,170 --> 01:13:38,140  
I think an Italian can be  
a Jewish mother as well.

1424  
01:13:38,140 --> 01:13:42,980  
What are your thoughts about  
whether the world has learned

1425  
01:13:42,980 --> 01:13:45,680  
anything from the Holocaust.

1426  
01:13:45,680 --> 01:13:48,260  
I'm not sure the world  
has learned enough.

1427  
01:13:48,260 --> 01:13:49,850  
This is the concern.

1428  
01:13:49,850 --> 01:13:51,020  
This is the best--

1429  
01:13:51,020 --> 01:13:54,050  
why do things like  
Sudan or Ethiopia--

1430  
01:13:54,050 --> 01:13:57,200

1431  
01:13:57,200 --> 01:14:01,650  
Syria-- I don't think  
the world learns.

1432  
01:14:01,650 --> 01:14:04,950  
It's a part of our survival  
technique as human beings,

1433  
01:14:04,950 --> 01:14:05,760  
I think.

1434  
01:14:05,760 --> 01:14:08,020  
We are able to--

1435  
01:14:08,020 --> 01:14:09,180  
what's the word.

1436  
01:14:09,180 --> 01:14:10,092  
Categorize.

1437  
01:14:10,092 --> 01:14:10,800  
Compartmentalize.

1438  
01:14:10,800 --> 01:14:11,760  
Compartmentalize.

1439  
01:14:11,760 --> 01:14:13,200  
Thank you, that's it exactly.

1440  
01:14:13,200 --> 01:14:14,820  
We compartmentalize.

1441  
01:14:14,820 --> 01:14:19,620  
And so, we take note of  
evil when it happens,

1442  
01:14:19,620 --> 01:14:23,620  
but then we are so busy trying  
to live that we put it aside.

1443  
01:14:23,620 --> 01:14:26,040  
But I think the world  
needs to continue

1444  
01:14:26,040 --> 01:14:30,000  
and needs to be  
reminded continually.

1445  
01:14:30,000 --> 01:14:32,532

1446  
01:14:32,532 --> 01:14:33,990  
How do you feel  
about the Holocaust

1447  
01:14:33,990 --> 01:14:35,580  
Museum in Washington, DC?

1448  
01:14:35,580 --> 01:14:36,420  
Excellent.

1449  
01:14:36,420 --> 01:14:37,050  
Excellent.

1450  
01:14:37,050 --> 01:14:39,508  
It's in the United States, even  
though the war did not take

1451  
01:14:39,508 --> 01:14:40,650  
place in the United States.

1452  
01:14:40,650 --> 01:14:42,390  
It is the place.

1453  
01:14:42,390 --> 01:14:44,460  
It's the nation's capital.

1454  
01:14:44,460 --> 01:14:47,880  
People come from all over,  
and they need to come,

1455  
01:14:47,880 --> 01:14:49,800  
and they need to know.

1456  
01:14:49,800 --> 01:14:52,440  
I vividly remember,  
when we went to Krakow,

1457  
01:14:52,440 --> 01:14:57,090  
Harris was teaching a class  
there, and the Jagiolian, Jagi-

1458  
01:14:57,090 --> 01:14:57,750  
Jagiellonian--

1459  
01:14:57,750 --> 01:14:59,460  
University.

1460  
01:14:59,460 --> 01:15:01,770  
I have to take a running  
start to say that word.

1461  
01:15:01,770 --> 01:15:07,000  
It's named after Jagiello,  
the King of Poland.

1462  
01:15:07,000 --> 01:15:09,520  
And he established  
a law school there,

1463  
01:15:09,520 --> 01:15:13,335  
and we've been there several  
times for Harris to teach.

1464  
01:15:13,335 --> 01:15:14,460  
And, of course, Auschwitz--

1465  
01:15:14,460 --> 01:15:16,560  
You've been to?

1466  
01:15:16,560 --> 01:15:18,840  
I have not been.

1467  
01:15:18,840 --> 01:15:22,890  
Is a half hour to an  
hour away from Krakow.

1468  
01:15:22,890 --> 01:15:26,100  
And I remember one  
morning seeing two couples

1469  
01:15:26,100 --> 01:15:29,730  
from England, Christians,

going to Auschwitz.

1470

01:15:29,730 --> 01:15:30,660

They were laughing.

1471

01:15:30,660 --> 01:15:32,160

They didn't know what  
they were going to see.

1472

01:15:32,160 --> 01:15:33,785

I think they were  
probably going to see

1473

01:15:33,785 --> 01:15:38,820

the salt mines, which are an  
interesting thing to see also.

1474

01:15:38,820 --> 01:15:40,830

They were laughing and gay.

1475

01:15:40,830 --> 01:15:43,740

They came back utterly  
drained and gray.

1476

01:15:43,740 --> 01:15:47,370

And I said to myself, I  
know just where you've been.

1477

01:15:47,370 --> 01:15:50,880

And I think the world needs  
to see the Holocaust Museum,

1478

01:15:50,880 --> 01:15:53,670

so they know where  
the world has been.

1479

01:15:53,670 --> 01:15:55,920

So, I am thoroughly  
in favor of it

1480

01:15:55,920 --> 01:15:58,170

I'm rather glad to see--  
never mind, rather.

1481  
01:15:58,170 --> 01:16:01,980  
I am glad to see that  
there are Holocaust museums

1482  
01:16:01,980 --> 01:16:06,170  
throughout the country  
and in Europe as well.

1483  
01:16:06,170 --> 01:16:09,920  
A needed reminder-- the  
needed reminder to the world.

1484  
01:16:09,920 --> 01:16:14,450

1485  
01:16:14,450 --> 01:16:16,540  
Well is there any  
message you wanted

1486  
01:16:16,540 --> 01:16:20,130  
to leave to your grandchildren  
during this interview?

1487  
01:16:20,130 --> 01:16:23,050  
Anything you wanted  
to say to them?

1488  
01:16:23,050 --> 01:16:25,650

1489  
01:16:25,650 --> 01:16:27,600  
Stay alert and stay human.

1490  
01:16:27,600 --> 01:16:32,250

1491  
01:16:32,250 --> 01:16:35,110  
I think they're nice human  
beings to begin with,

1492  
01:16:35,110 --> 01:16:40,470



but they should remember they're  
menschlichkeit, their humanity,

1493

01:16:40,470 --> 01:16:42,960  
that they're a part  
of the human race.

1494

01:16:42,960 --> 01:16:45,880  
And we're not just Jews  
or Christians or Arabs.

1495

01:16:45,880 --> 01:16:47,130  
We're humans.

1496

01:16:47,130 --> 01:16:54,340  
We've all evolved from the  
same source, so stay human.

1497

01:16:54,340 --> 01:16:58,580  
Is there anything else you  
want to add before we close?

1498

01:16:58,580 --> 01:17:02,690  
Is there anything you think  
that I left out that I should?

1499

01:17:02,690 --> 01:17:05,640  
I'm turning it back  
with a Jewish question.

1500

01:17:05,640 --> 01:17:07,580  
Answer a question  
with a question.

1501

01:17:07,580 --> 01:17:12,314

1502

01:17:12,314 --> 01:17:15,470  
Well, thank you  
very much for doing

1503

01:17:15,470 --> 01:17:18,350  
this interview and your

willingness to be interviewed.

1504

01:17:18,350 --> 01:17:21,800

Thank you very much,  
Gail, for doing it.

1505

01:17:21,800 --> 01:17:23,780

It's a lovely thing  
that you're doing.

1506

01:17:23,780 --> 01:17:27,710

You're keeping memories alive  
for a very important reason.

1507

01:17:27,710 --> 01:17:31,770

You're keeping memories  
so that activity can stay.

1508

01:17:31,770 --> 01:17:32,270

Can follow.

1509

01:17:32,270 --> 01:17:32,980

Follow, yeah.

1510

01:17:32,980 --> 01:17:36,908

1511

01:17:36,908 --> 01:17:40,520

This concludes the United  
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1512

01:17:40,520 --> 01:17:44,960

volunteer collection  
interview with Rosa Weinstein.

1513

01:17:44,960 --> 01:17:46,000