

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,930

2
00:00:03,930 --> 00:00:07,050
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:07,050 --> 00:00:09,580
Memorial Museum
Volunteer Collection

4
00:00:09,580 --> 00:00:11,370
interview with Madeleine Sigel.

5
00:00:11,370 --> 00:00:13,980
This is track number two.

6
00:00:13,980 --> 00:00:18,670
And you were talking about
being in the quarantine.

7
00:00:18,670 --> 00:00:20,400
Coming into Panama.

8
00:00:20,400 --> 00:00:23,310
And so then when we were
permitted to go out.

9
00:00:23,310 --> 00:00:30,210
We went to Panama and saw a
lot of interesting things.

10
00:00:30,210 --> 00:00:34,920
Panama then was a small
city, and the only thing

11
00:00:34,920 --> 00:00:39,370
that was air conditioned
was the Kodak store.

12
00:00:39,370 --> 00:00:47,760

And the bus went through
what would be called what?

13
00:00:47,760 --> 00:00:50,450
The red light district,
at this point.

14
00:00:50,450 --> 00:00:53,940
And my mother always
engaged me in conversation,

15
00:00:53,940 --> 00:00:57,330
because she never wanted me
to see the women sitting out

16
00:00:57,330 --> 00:00:59,460
there, and I would
ask questions,

17
00:00:59,460 --> 00:01:02,940
which I saw anyway,
and did ask questions.

18
00:01:02,940 --> 00:01:04,230
I never got an answer.

19
00:01:04,230 --> 00:01:06,950

20
00:01:06,950 --> 00:01:09,900
And anyway it was interesting.

21
00:01:09,900 --> 00:01:13,700
And the city itself
was interesting.

22
00:01:13,700 --> 00:01:17,800
And they had ruins
from the pirate Morgan,

23
00:01:17,800 --> 00:01:21,930
who had apparently
destroyed part of the city.

24
00:01:21,930 --> 00:01:24,720
When I now see pictures
with the skyscrapers,

25
00:01:24,720 --> 00:01:27,840
I can't believe that
this is the same place.

26
00:01:27,840 --> 00:01:31,530
But anyway, to go back
to being able to go out,

27
00:01:31,530 --> 00:01:37,580
across the quarantine
station there was a building,

28
00:01:37,580 --> 00:01:40,470
and it was called the
Sailfish [? Forum. ?]

29
00:01:40,470 --> 00:01:46,950
And it was a building where
the people in the quarantine--

30
00:01:46,950 --> 00:01:50,280
in the Canal Zone had a club.

31
00:01:50,280 --> 00:01:52,260
And if they wanted
to go fishing,

32
00:01:52,260 --> 00:01:55,050
then they would
rent boats there.

33
00:01:55,050 --> 00:02:01,140
And the man and woman who ran
the club came over to say hello

34
00:02:01,140 --> 00:02:02,970
and to talk to us.

35

00:02:02,970 --> 00:02:06,330

And since I spoke English,
I was the translator

36

00:02:06,330 --> 00:02:09,240

for a lot of people,
and they were very nice.

37

00:02:09,240 --> 00:02:14,220

And so when we could go
out, we would go over there,

38

00:02:14,220 --> 00:02:16,560

and they would give us--

39

00:02:16,560 --> 00:02:21,170

invite us for dinner, take us
out for a ride in the boat.

40

00:02:21,170 --> 00:02:24,690

And then he would also take us
on the other side of the canal,

41

00:02:24,690 --> 00:02:26,370

where there was a beach.

42

00:02:26,370 --> 00:02:28,500

And he was very nice.

43

00:02:28,500 --> 00:02:30,360

They were very nice people.

44

00:02:30,360 --> 00:02:32,340

And the kids-- and
they had a daughter who

45

00:02:32,340 --> 00:02:35,580

was in school, who was my age.

46

00:02:35,580 --> 00:02:39,750

And then they had an adult,
who was I think she was married

47
00:02:39,750 --> 00:02:41,340
and had a son.

48
00:02:41,340 --> 00:02:45,010
Anyway, the Barlow
family was very nice.

49
00:02:45,010 --> 00:02:47,850
And we became very good
friends and saw them

50
00:02:47,850 --> 00:02:50,760
afterwards in the States.

51
00:02:50,760 --> 00:02:54,930
They came-- they moved back
to the States, to New Jersey.

52
00:02:54,930 --> 00:02:56,700
And so we saw them when we--

53
00:02:56,700 --> 00:02:58,250
Did you go to school?

54
00:02:58,250 --> 00:03:00,450
No, no school.

55
00:03:00,450 --> 00:03:01,630
No school.

56
00:03:01,630 --> 00:03:06,300
And I did babysitting for
a colonel, a lieutenant

57
00:03:06,300 --> 00:03:08,880
colonel in the army.

58
00:03:08,880 --> 00:03:14,700
See, the quarantine station,
it was attached to a fort,

59

00:03:14,700 --> 00:03:17,560

Fort Amador, where the
army was stationed.

60

00:03:17,560 --> 00:03:20,700

61

00:03:20,700 --> 00:03:23,440

And I have no idea
how this occurred.

62

00:03:23,440 --> 00:03:26,190

63

00:03:26,190 --> 00:03:30,710

There was a Jewish community
in Panama, Panama City.

64

00:03:30,710 --> 00:03:35,240

And they came and we talked
with them, and they came.

65

00:03:35,240 --> 00:03:38,180

And maybe they had something up.

66

00:03:38,180 --> 00:03:42,260

Anyway, I got a job to
babysit for a lieutenant

67

00:03:42,260 --> 00:03:45,840

colonel in Fort Amador.

68

00:03:45,840 --> 00:03:51,020

And the only thing I remem--

69

00:03:51,020 --> 00:03:54,080

I got the job, but in
order to get the job,

70

00:03:54,080 --> 00:03:57,390

I had to have a blood test.

71

00:03:57,390 --> 00:04:02,540

And so they took me
into a room, into a lab,

72

00:04:02,540 --> 00:04:04,850

to take a blood, which
I had never seen.

73

00:04:04,850 --> 00:04:08,690

So I watched them do it
and promptly passed out.

74

00:04:08,690 --> 00:04:14,220

And so I remember that
the guys, very young guy,

75

00:04:14,220 --> 00:04:15,400

they were all shocked.

76

00:04:15,400 --> 00:04:18,350

What do we-- I can still
hear them saying, "what do we

77

00:04:18,350 --> 00:04:20,329

do with her?"

78

00:04:20,329 --> 00:04:23,930

But obviously I woke
up, and I got a job

79

00:04:23,930 --> 00:04:26,510

with the little girl,
who was very cute.

80

00:04:26,510 --> 00:04:31,920

And at \$0.50 a night.

81

00:04:31,920 --> 00:04:37,070

And so I knew nothing.

82

00:04:37,070 --> 00:04:38,870

What do I know about

taking care of her?

83

00:04:38,870 --> 00:04:40,050

But it worked out.

84

00:04:40,050 --> 00:04:41,870

I was there.

85

00:04:41,870 --> 00:04:44,660

One night I was there
and a bat flew around,

86

00:04:44,660 --> 00:04:48,200

and I was scared silly.

87

00:04:48,200 --> 00:04:49,640

It didn't sit in my hair.

88

00:04:49,640 --> 00:04:51,710

All I could remember
is people saying

89

00:04:51,710 --> 00:04:55,030

that bats go into your hair.

90

00:04:55,030 --> 00:04:58,490

I was really very
upset, but that worked.

91

00:04:58,490 --> 00:05:01,310

And then there was a little
episode which I really

92

00:05:01,310 --> 00:05:05,870

have to mention, because
it was a highlight of one

93

00:05:05,870 --> 00:05:08,240

of my things.

94

00:05:08,240 --> 00:05:13,640

Jascha Heifetz, the

violinist, came to--

95

00:05:13,640 --> 00:05:18,500
it was announced that he would
give a concert in Panama City.

96

00:05:18,500 --> 00:05:23,600
And so I told--

97

00:05:23,600 --> 00:05:29,690
so there was a young man
who came to visit always.

98

00:05:29,690 --> 00:05:31,610
He was a young man.

99

00:05:31,610 --> 00:05:34,490
I think he was 30, and I was 15.

100

00:05:34,490 --> 00:05:35,630
But he came.

101

00:05:35,630 --> 00:05:38,360
He was Jewish, I think.

102

00:05:38,360 --> 00:05:43,430
He worked in the Canal
Zone, and he would come in

103

00:05:43,430 --> 00:05:49,190
and he would take me to the
movies and show me around.

104

00:05:49,190 --> 00:05:54,260
And so he took tickets to
Jascha Heifetz concert.

105

00:05:54,260 --> 00:05:57,080
And I told the lady--

106

00:05:57,080 --> 00:06:00,140
so she said to me on

such and such a date

107
00:06:00,140 --> 00:06:02,160
I need you at such
and such a time.

108
00:06:02,160 --> 00:06:06,750
And I said, oh, I was just
going to tell you, I can't come.

109
00:06:06,750 --> 00:06:09,290
I'm busy that time.

110
00:06:09,290 --> 00:06:10,910
She wanted to know
what I was doing,

111
00:06:10,910 --> 00:06:12,530
and I don't know
what I told her,

112
00:06:12,530 --> 00:06:14,330
but anyway I didn't
tell her that I

113
00:06:14,330 --> 00:06:16,330
was going to the concert.

114
00:06:16,330 --> 00:06:19,070
Or maybe I didn't even know.

115
00:06:19,070 --> 00:06:19,880
Whatever.

116
00:06:19,880 --> 00:06:24,310
Anyway, so she apparently
got somebody else.

117
00:06:24,310 --> 00:06:28,590
So when we went to
the concert, they

118

00:06:28,590 --> 00:06:30,960
were sitting in
sort of the back,

119
00:06:30,960 --> 00:06:34,350
and he had taken tickets
in the second row.

120
00:06:34,350 --> 00:06:39,240
And so I passed by and sat
down in the second row.

121
00:06:39,240 --> 00:06:41,790
And I thought-- I
could tell, I was just

122
00:06:41,790 --> 00:06:43,710
looking out of the
corner of my eyes

123
00:06:43,710 --> 00:06:47,580
that she had a conniption fit.

124
00:06:47,580 --> 00:06:53,510
And afterwards she was never
as nice as she was before.

125
00:06:53,510 --> 00:06:56,325
Anyway, but I thought
this was just terrific.

126
00:06:56,325 --> 00:07:00,180

127
00:07:00,180 --> 00:07:06,630
And I even cashed in on this
triumph a few years later

128
00:07:06,630 --> 00:07:11,880
when I was in New York, and
among a crowd, older crowd,

129
00:07:11,880 --> 00:07:16,110

and a guy said that
Jascha Heifetz is coming.

130
00:07:16,110 --> 00:07:19,260
And I said, I heard
him play in Panama,

131
00:07:19,260 --> 00:07:22,470
and he played L'apres
Midi d'un Faune.

132
00:07:22,470 --> 00:07:26,770
And the guy said, Jascha
Heifetz wouldn't play that.

133
00:07:26,770 --> 00:07:28,410
So I said, well, I'll show you.

134
00:07:28,410 --> 00:07:32,825
So the next time I saw
him, I brought the program.

135
00:07:32,825 --> 00:07:33,450
I can prove it.

136
00:07:33,450 --> 00:07:34,420
I said, see here.

137
00:07:34,420 --> 00:07:35,070
He played.

138
00:07:35,070 --> 00:07:36,790
Oh, OK.

139
00:07:36,790 --> 00:07:41,820
But that was my second
trifle of Jascha Heifetz.

140
00:07:41,820 --> 00:07:43,480
Never forget it.

141
00:07:43,480 --> 00:07:44,460

Anyway--

142
00:07:44,460 --> 00:07:48,930
So anyway, then when he came
close, when the war broke

143
00:07:48,930 --> 00:07:51,000
out and then it came--

144
00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:56,190
things became sort of
a bit more difficult--

145
00:07:56,190 --> 00:08:01,920
oh, and then they had the
[INAUDIBLE] it was a destroyer,

146
00:08:01,920 --> 00:08:03,090
I think, or a ba--

147
00:08:03,090 --> 00:08:08,130
it was sunk near in the
Caribbean or somewhere.

148
00:08:08,130 --> 00:08:10,650
So anyway, we couldn't get out.

149
00:08:10,650 --> 00:08:12,360
They closed the
quarantine station.

150
00:08:12,360 --> 00:08:14,940
We couldn't go out anymore.

151
00:08:14,940 --> 00:08:17,880
And so--

152
00:08:17,880 --> 00:08:21,960
By that time, the war had
broken out in the fall of '39,

153
00:08:21,960 --> 00:08:26,620

and we were still
there the whole winter.

154
00:08:26,620 --> 00:08:27,400
After that.

155
00:08:27,400 --> 00:08:28,320
After that.

156
00:08:28,320 --> 00:08:30,240
What was it like
for you when you

157
00:08:30,240 --> 00:08:31,620
heard that the war broke out?

158
00:08:31,620 --> 00:08:32,140
Did your parents talk about it?

159
00:08:32,140 --> 00:08:32,799
Oh, yeah.

160
00:08:32,799 --> 00:08:36,990
We gathered around the
one radio every night.

161
00:08:36,990 --> 00:08:40,929
And everybody wanted to
hear what was going on.

162
00:08:40,929 --> 00:08:42,450
What was your parents' reaction?

163
00:08:42,450 --> 00:08:43,429
Do you remember?

164
00:08:43,429 --> 00:08:45,390
Listening.

165
00:08:45,390 --> 00:08:46,120
Oh, good.

166

00:08:46,120 --> 00:08:48,930

You know, everybody thought they were going to win right there.

167

00:08:48,930 --> 00:08:50,070

Yeah, right.

168

00:08:50,070 --> 00:08:53,990

So then I think when Dunkirk came, and I said, I don't know,

169

00:08:53,990 --> 00:08:55,200

it was pretty bad.

170

00:08:55,200 --> 00:08:56,740

Yeah.

171

00:08:56,740 --> 00:09:01,960

But the following happened.

172

00:09:01,960 --> 00:09:04,630

They all of a sudden, the powers-that-be

173

00:09:04,630 --> 00:09:06,130

became very upset.

174

00:09:06,130 --> 00:09:09,850

Not upset, but concerned that they had all these enemy

175

00:09:09,850 --> 00:09:12,070

aliens sitting on the canal.

176

00:09:12,070 --> 00:09:14,150

So what to do with them?

177

00:09:14,150 --> 00:09:19,370

So what they did was, they gave everybody a visa to the US.

178

00:09:19,370 --> 00:09:25,170
Now, at the very same time, my
uncle, after all these years,

179
00:09:25,170 --> 00:09:29,440
sent an affidavit, because
a friend of my father's

180
00:09:29,440 --> 00:09:32,800
went to see him
and said look, I'll

181
00:09:32,800 --> 00:09:38,080
guarantee that I will take over
for them if they need any help.

182
00:09:38,080 --> 00:09:41,690
All you have to do is
send the affidavit.

183
00:09:41,690 --> 00:09:45,520
And I will do everything
else that needs--

184
00:09:45,520 --> 00:09:50,110
So he sent the affidavit, and we
got our visa at the same time,

185
00:09:50,110 --> 00:09:54,180
they were giving visas
to the other people.

186
00:09:54,180 --> 00:09:57,410
So then the question was
how do we get to the States?

187
00:09:57,410 --> 00:09:59,460
You had to pay.

188
00:09:59,460 --> 00:10:03,540
Well, they had arranged
for a troop transport

189

00:10:03,540 --> 00:10:08,370
to transport everybody
to Ellis Island.

190
00:10:08,370 --> 00:10:13,600
And again, my father
persuaded the powers-that-be,

191
00:10:13,600 --> 00:10:20,280
the Colonel [? Odom, ?] that
could we go on the troop

192
00:10:20,280 --> 00:10:23,970
transfer, even though we have
the visa not through them

193
00:10:23,970 --> 00:10:25,440
but from--

194
00:10:25,440 --> 00:10:28,660
So they permitted us to do that.

195
00:10:28,660 --> 00:10:31,080
So we all got on
the troop transport.

196
00:10:31,080 --> 00:10:32,340
This is all 70?

197
00:10:32,340 --> 00:10:32,970
All 70.

198
00:10:32,970 --> 00:10:37,200
Well, by then it had dwindled
a little, because some of them

199
00:10:37,200 --> 00:10:41,520
had gotten affidavits over the
months and were able to go.

200
00:10:41,520 --> 00:10:44,220
And went to Ellis Island.

201
00:10:44,220 --> 00:10:46,920
Got off in Ellis Island.

202
00:10:46,920 --> 00:10:50,760
And that was pretty
unpleasant, I must tell you.

203
00:10:50,760 --> 00:10:52,860
Ellis Island, it was--

204
00:10:52,860 --> 00:10:55,440
Arriving in the United States?

205
00:10:55,440 --> 00:10:57,060
Yeah.

206
00:10:57,060 --> 00:10:59,370
Yes, it was.

207
00:10:59,370 --> 00:11:02,610
You saw that-- did we even
see the-- yeah, we did.

208
00:11:02,610 --> 00:11:06,260
We saw the Statue of
Liberty, and everybody read.

209
00:11:06,260 --> 00:11:08,130
It was fine arriving.

210
00:11:08,130 --> 00:11:14,400
But then being in Ellis Island
was pretty fairly unpleasant.

211
00:11:14,400 --> 00:11:18,630
They closed-- they separated
the men of the women,

212
00:11:18,630 --> 00:11:22,120
and you had to--

213

00:11:22,120 --> 00:11:25,550
and by 9:00, you had
to be in that room

214
00:11:25,550 --> 00:11:30,700
where they had four or five
women, double bed bunks.

215
00:11:30,700 --> 00:11:33,180
You had to take all
your luggage along.

216
00:11:33,180 --> 00:11:36,120
Well, there was a lot
of luggage that you

217
00:11:36,120 --> 00:11:38,670
had to take into the room.

218
00:11:38,670 --> 00:11:43,060
And all the men were separate,
so my father took it.

219
00:11:43,060 --> 00:11:48,540
And then the next day you
went out into the hall again,

220
00:11:48,540 --> 00:11:51,630
and you sat around
with your luggage.

221
00:11:51,630 --> 00:11:57,950
And I don't-- oh, I think the
hall had the food tables there.

222
00:11:57,950 --> 00:12:00,290
I don't remember how that went.

223
00:12:00,290 --> 00:12:01,850
What month?

224
00:12:01,850 --> 00:12:02,690
That was September.

225

00:12:02,690 --> 00:12:08,090

It was September 1940 we
had been there a year,

226

00:12:08,090 --> 00:12:13,530

from May '39 until
September 1940.

227

00:12:13,530 --> 00:12:17,630

But you know, the choice--

228

00:12:17,630 --> 00:12:18,170

Right.

229

00:12:18,170 --> 00:12:18,720

Right.

230

00:12:18,720 --> 00:12:22,220

I mean, nobody
complained, really.

231

00:12:22,220 --> 00:12:25,010

I mean, and by then
we really didn't

232

00:12:25,010 --> 00:12:27,080

know what was going to happen.

233

00:12:27,080 --> 00:12:29,570

Right.

234

00:12:29,570 --> 00:12:32,300

Did you know anything up
to that time about what

235

00:12:32,300 --> 00:12:34,290

was happening to the Jews?

236

00:12:34,290 --> 00:12:35,780

No, that's what I'm saying.

237

00:12:35,780 --> 00:12:40,210

I mean, you knew that this
was this terrible persecution,

238

00:12:40,210 --> 00:12:42,490

but you didn't know
about Auschwitz.

239

00:12:42,490 --> 00:12:45,280

Or you know about
concentration camps.

240

00:12:45,280 --> 00:12:48,180

You know where they are,
but not what was happening.

241

00:12:48,180 --> 00:12:50,790

No, we had no idea.

242

00:12:50,790 --> 00:12:56,010

But even the other stuff
would have been terrible.

243

00:12:56,010 --> 00:13:00,580

I mean, even thinking about
going back and being--

244

00:13:00,580 --> 00:13:04,000

obviously we didn't
let these people in,

245

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:07,990

they were going to go
to a camp or something.

246

00:13:07,990 --> 00:13:11,020

So anyway, so my uncle--

247

00:13:11,020 --> 00:13:16,270

I just must add to this story,
my uncle came to pick us up.

248

00:13:16,270 --> 00:13:21,010
Two days before he had bought
a Packard, a black Packard.

249
00:13:21,010 --> 00:13:24,160
To show, I guess, that
how well he is doing.

250
00:13:24,160 --> 00:13:27,220
Which apparently he wasn't
doing all that well.

251
00:13:27,220 --> 00:13:32,670
But he drove us, took
us from Ellis Island.

252
00:13:32,670 --> 00:13:36,330
So you passed the test or
whatever at Ellis Island,

253
00:13:36,330 --> 00:13:38,090
when you said you were waiting.

254
00:13:38,090 --> 00:13:38,590
Yeah.

255
00:13:38,590 --> 00:13:39,060
Yeah.

256
00:13:39,060 --> 00:13:39,893
Well, Ellis Island--

257
00:13:39,893 --> 00:13:41,660
Did they examine you at all?

258
00:13:41,660 --> 00:13:42,660
Yeah.

259
00:13:42,660 --> 00:13:43,350
Yeah, sure.

260
00:13:43,350 --> 00:13:45,810

They examined you, and they--

261

00:13:45,810 --> 00:13:47,400

So you passed all the questions?

262

00:13:47,400 --> 00:13:50,200

All the questions and the past--

263

00:13:50,200 --> 00:13:50,700

you know.

264

00:13:50,700 --> 00:13:53,890

And then if you got
picked up by somebody--

265

00:13:53,890 --> 00:13:58,410

I think they were the early--
we left early because he

266

00:13:58,410 --> 00:14:01,020

came and picked us up.

267

00:14:01,020 --> 00:14:03,053

So we went down the
West Side Highway.

268

00:14:03,053 --> 00:14:04,470

I don't know if
you know New York.

269

00:14:04,470 --> 00:14:04,970

I do.

270

00:14:04,970 --> 00:14:07,650

Yeah, West Side Highway.

271

00:14:07,650 --> 00:14:08,150

And--

272

00:14:08,150 --> 00:14:13,180

What did the United States
mean to a young teenager?

273
00:14:13,180 --> 00:14:15,390
Oh, well, I had read some books.

274
00:14:15,390 --> 00:14:17,830
It must be OK.

275
00:14:17,830 --> 00:14:19,610
It was fine.

276
00:14:19,610 --> 00:14:20,660
But then I was--

277
00:14:20,660 --> 00:14:21,490
16.

278
00:14:21,490 --> 00:14:23,080
No, I wasn't 16 yet.

279
00:14:23,080 --> 00:14:25,660
I turned 16 in
the United States.

280
00:14:25,660 --> 00:14:27,760
No, I turned 16 down there.

281
00:14:27,760 --> 00:14:29,450
Yes, of course, we had--

282
00:14:29,450 --> 00:14:32,150
everybody said sweet 16.

283
00:14:32,150 --> 00:14:35,770
I didn't know what they
were talking about.

284
00:14:35,770 --> 00:14:36,370
So I was 16.

285
00:14:36,370 --> 00:14:38,440
Yeah, of course I was 16.

286
00:14:38,440 --> 00:14:40,880
But did it mean anything
special, the United States,

287
00:14:40,880 --> 00:14:41,630
to you?

288
00:14:41,630 --> 00:14:42,190
Oh, yeah.

289
00:14:42,190 --> 00:14:46,330
It was the golden country,
I mean, even before.

290
00:14:46,330 --> 00:14:49,970
It was OK.

291
00:14:49,970 --> 00:14:53,080
Anyway, we came down
the West Side Highway.

292
00:14:53,080 --> 00:14:58,300
And he was pointing
things out, and then he

293
00:14:58,300 --> 00:15:03,060
says, oh, there is the Empire
State Building on Thoidy-thoid

294
00:15:03,060 --> 00:15:04,600
Street.

295
00:15:04,600 --> 00:15:09,290
And me, big shot,
said Thoidy-thoid?

296
00:15:09,290 --> 00:15:11,770
You mean 33rd Street?

297
00:15:11,770 --> 00:15:15,190
Well, that was the end

of this relationship

298

00:15:15,190 --> 00:15:20,260

as you can imagine.

299

00:15:20,260 --> 00:15:22,990

Anyway, we continued
riding down the highway

300

00:15:22,990 --> 00:15:26,870

and ended up in Mount Vernon,
where he had his store.

301

00:15:26,870 --> 00:15:30,670

He had a store with
children's clothes.

302

00:15:30,670 --> 00:15:34,510

And he said very
sweetly, "Well, I

303

00:15:34,510 --> 00:15:38,270

rented a room for you
in a hotel for one week,

304

00:15:38,270 --> 00:15:40,500

and then you're on your own."

305

00:15:40,500 --> 00:15:41,140

OK.

306

00:15:41,140 --> 00:15:44,950

And then misery began.

307

00:15:44,950 --> 00:15:50,380

We found a room in
somebody's private house

308

00:15:50,380 --> 00:15:53,420

that actually had a
kitchen in the room.

309

00:15:53,420 --> 00:15:55,030
It was a large room.

310
00:15:55,030 --> 00:15:59,100
And I guess my--

311
00:15:59,100 --> 00:16:00,970
Did your parents speak English?

312
00:16:00,970 --> 00:16:03,710
No, a little bit.

313
00:16:03,710 --> 00:16:05,800
Hardly any.

314
00:16:05,800 --> 00:16:08,520
And--

315
00:16:08,520 --> 00:16:10,650
Was he able to get a job?

316
00:16:10,650 --> 00:16:11,610
[LAUGHTER]

317
00:16:11,610 --> 00:16:15,410
I'll tell you in a minute.

318
00:16:15,410 --> 00:16:18,735
So anyway, we went to--

319
00:16:18,735 --> 00:16:21,450

320
00:16:21,450 --> 00:16:23,470
we had friends in New York.

321
00:16:23,470 --> 00:16:26,180
And we had-- in New York.

322
00:16:26,180 --> 00:16:27,520
In New York City.

323
00:16:27,520 --> 00:16:34,220
And so my mother got a job.

324
00:16:34,220 --> 00:16:38,090
There was an agency,
Jewish organization.

325
00:16:38,090 --> 00:16:40,040
I think it was ORT.

326
00:16:40,040 --> 00:16:43,310
And so she got a
job in a household

327
00:16:43,310 --> 00:16:46,130
with a young couple
who just had a baby,

328
00:16:46,130 --> 00:16:48,530
and she was going to
take care of that.

329
00:16:48,530 --> 00:16:53,510
And they treated her terribly.

330
00:16:53,510 --> 00:16:56,790
And she absolutely could
not deal with that.

331
00:16:56,790 --> 00:16:59,840
So that took care of a
week, and by then she

332
00:16:59,840 --> 00:17:02,120
was through with it.

333
00:17:02,120 --> 00:17:05,950
And my father and
I went to New York.

334
00:17:05,950 --> 00:17:09,184

335
00:17:09,184 --> 00:17:12,910
And do you know this--

336
00:17:12,910 --> 00:17:14,130
do you know New York?

337
00:17:14,130 --> 00:17:15,430
I mean, you're from New York?

338
00:17:15,430 --> 00:17:17,500
You know Barton Chocolates?

339
00:17:17,500 --> 00:17:21,760
OK, there was another
one, Gregor chocolates.

340
00:17:21,760 --> 00:17:27,579
And he was a Viennese who
delivered chocolates and stuff

341
00:17:27,579 --> 00:17:29,470
to my father in the store.

342
00:17:29,470 --> 00:17:35,200
And don't ask me how
they found each other.

343
00:17:35,200 --> 00:17:37,600
Maybe through the Aufbau.

344
00:17:37,600 --> 00:17:40,150
Do you remember
that paper, where

345
00:17:40,150 --> 00:17:42,080
you're always searching for--

346
00:17:42,080 --> 00:17:46,540
Anyway-- anyway, he
offered me a job.

347
00:17:46,540 --> 00:17:48,460
I was the only one
who spoke English.

348
00:17:48,460 --> 00:17:50,360
I've got to have a job.

349
00:17:50,360 --> 00:17:51,750
So I was working--

350
00:17:51,750 --> 00:17:54,560
so he offered me a
job at his store.

351
00:17:54,560 --> 00:17:57,490
He had two or three
stores by then.

352
00:17:57,490 --> 00:18:02,110
And he had a store on 42nd
Street and Times Square,

353
00:18:02,110 --> 00:18:03,210
and I was--

354
00:18:03,210 --> 00:18:05,450
and he offered me a job there.

355
00:18:05,450 --> 00:18:10,780
So I went to work at
42nd and Times Square.

356
00:18:10,780 --> 00:18:15,760
The ride from Mount Vernon
was first with a bus and then

357
00:18:15,760 --> 00:18:17,470
from 240--

358
00:18:17,470 --> 00:18:21,520
241st Street on the

Lexington, over two hours

359
00:18:21,520 --> 00:18:23,080
till I got there.

360
00:18:23,080 --> 00:18:29,180
And then the hours were
from 1:00 to 10:00 at night.

361
00:18:29,180 --> 00:18:36,520
And so I worked there
for a year in that store.

362
00:18:36,520 --> 00:18:37,267
Maybe a year.

363
00:18:37,267 --> 00:18:38,350
Yeah, something like that.

364
00:18:38,350 --> 00:18:39,880
So you had no more schooling.

365
00:18:39,880 --> 00:18:41,320
No more school.

366
00:18:41,320 --> 00:18:43,010
That's another story.

367
00:18:43,010 --> 00:18:48,140
And so I was miserable.

368
00:18:48,140 --> 00:18:50,770
I mean, really miserable.

369
00:18:50,770 --> 00:18:54,040
The whole time when
all this started,

370
00:18:54,040 --> 00:18:57,760
I was never as miserable
as I was the first six

371

00:18:57,760 --> 00:18:59,180
months in New York.

372

00:18:59,180 --> 00:19:02,810
Because I had no friends,
nobody to talk to,

373

00:19:02,810 --> 00:19:07,420
and only going back and
forth to this miserable job.

374

00:19:07,420 --> 00:19:13,310
Anyway, so I did that.

375

00:19:13,310 --> 00:19:17,570
Then my father got a job.

376

00:19:17,570 --> 00:19:21,350
Somebody told him be
a Fuller Brush man.

377

00:19:21,350 --> 00:19:22,400
So he did.

378

00:19:22,400 --> 00:19:24,200
He got all the
stuff, the brushes.

379

00:19:24,200 --> 00:19:28,395
And they gave him the
territory in New Rochelle,

380

00:19:28,395 --> 00:19:30,680
because he was out of Vernon.

381

00:19:30,680 --> 00:19:33,250
How he sold anything
I don't know,

382

00:19:33,250 --> 00:19:37,310
because his English
was really not--

383
00:19:37,310 --> 00:19:40,230
practically nonexistent.

384
00:19:40,230 --> 00:19:42,960
But he managed somehow,
but not very much.

385
00:19:42,960 --> 00:19:47,780
I was the one who
got some money.

386
00:19:47,780 --> 00:19:50,510
Like some money, \$10 a week.

387
00:19:50,510 --> 00:19:54,530
And then he raised
me to \$12 a week.

388
00:19:54,530 --> 00:20:00,230
And then somehow or other, we
still lived in Mount Vernon.

389
00:20:00,230 --> 00:20:04,100
And then I made contact with
some people through the Aufbau

390
00:20:04,100 --> 00:20:06,500
and discovered who
was here, and I

391
00:20:06,500 --> 00:20:09,700
discovered there
was a club actually

392
00:20:09,700 --> 00:20:14,600
of Austrian young people my age.

393
00:20:14,600 --> 00:20:17,150
So then life began to look up.

394
00:20:17,150 --> 00:20:21,890

I still had to go in two hours,
but I had people to talk to.

395
00:20:21,890 --> 00:20:23,850
In fact, one was a close--

396
00:20:23,850 --> 00:20:27,320
a friend of mine from
school, from Vienna.

397
00:20:27,320 --> 00:20:31,700
So it was already better
as long as I had--

398
00:20:31,700 --> 00:20:34,820
and then I don't remember
how the next thing occurred,

399
00:20:34,820 --> 00:20:38,120
but we moved to New York.

400
00:20:38,120 --> 00:20:40,250
I don't know how
he finagled that.

401
00:20:40,250 --> 00:20:46,280
And we got an apartment on
96th Street and near river--

402
00:20:46,280 --> 00:20:48,470
it's the last house on
the Riverside Drive.

403
00:20:48,470 --> 00:20:52,610
Not on the Riverside, to
Riverside, which was a walk up.

404
00:20:52,610 --> 00:20:56,360
And we had a walk up onto
the fifth floor, which

405
00:20:56,360 --> 00:20:58,250
was a beautiful view.

406
00:20:58,250 --> 00:21:02,390
He got it because you
could see the Riverside

407
00:21:02,390 --> 00:21:06,590
Drive and the river
and New Jersey across.

408
00:21:06,590 --> 00:21:08,918
And it had air.

409
00:21:08,918 --> 00:21:10,740
There was no air.

410
00:21:10,740 --> 00:21:11,450
Some air.

411
00:21:11,450 --> 00:21:15,530
It was under the roof, so the
air didn't help very much.

412
00:21:15,530 --> 00:21:17,650
But anyway, it was
a little apartment.

413
00:21:17,650 --> 00:21:19,190
It was fine.

414
00:21:19,190 --> 00:21:20,820
And so we moved to New York.

415
00:21:20,820 --> 00:21:22,490
And then he had--

416
00:21:22,490 --> 00:21:26,510
Gregor had a store
on 93rd and Broadway.

417
00:21:26,510 --> 00:21:31,400
So he nicely transferred
me to that store.

418
00:21:31,400 --> 00:21:34,130
So already life
started looking up.

419
00:21:34,130 --> 00:21:39,500
But I still had to work nights,
evenings, four or five times

420
00:21:39,500 --> 00:21:40,760
a week.

421
00:21:40,760 --> 00:21:43,610
And then, let's see,
what else did happen?

422
00:21:43,610 --> 00:21:45,110
Oh, and then one evening--

423
00:21:45,110 --> 00:21:47,420
I don't know when this
happened, whether this

424
00:21:47,420 --> 00:21:50,810
was while he was
still in Mount Vernon,

425
00:21:50,810 --> 00:21:55,340
but my father went,
discovered the movie theaters

426
00:21:55,340 --> 00:22:00,110
on 42nd street where
he went every day

427
00:22:00,110 --> 00:22:05,670
and sat from whenever it
started till the evening.

428
00:22:05,670 --> 00:22:09,090
And that's how he
picked up his English.

429

00:22:09,090 --> 00:22:12,520

Because he heard the same
film over and over again

430

00:22:12,520 --> 00:22:17,750

and the words and he
picked up his English.

431

00:22:17,750 --> 00:22:26,010

And he got a job in the
packing department--

432

00:22:26,010 --> 00:22:26,720

what you call it?

433

00:22:26,720 --> 00:22:27,790

Whatever you call it.

434

00:22:27,790 --> 00:22:29,050

I can't think now.--

435

00:22:29,050 --> 00:22:31,370

at Gimbel's.

436

00:22:31,370 --> 00:22:33,470

And he--

437

00:22:33,470 --> 00:22:34,190

Shipping?

438

00:22:34,190 --> 00:22:35,400

Shipping department.

439

00:22:35,400 --> 00:22:36,440

Thank you.

440

00:22:36,440 --> 00:22:40,100

Couldn't think of-- in
the shipping department

441

00:22:40,100 --> 00:22:41,280

at Gimbel's.

442

00:22:41,280 --> 00:22:46,910

And so I got a job at
the candy department

443

00:22:46,910 --> 00:22:51,620

in Gimbel's, because I had
such experience with candy.

444

00:22:51,620 --> 00:22:53,810

That, of course,
was great because I

445

00:22:53,810 --> 00:22:55,110

didn't have to work nights.

446

00:22:55,110 --> 00:22:59,270

So maybe one night they
were open and we took turns.

447

00:22:59,270 --> 00:23:00,780

And so then I started--

448

00:23:00,780 --> 00:23:04,350

I went to business school.

449

00:23:04,350 --> 00:23:07,030

I was not very good.

450

00:23:07,030 --> 00:23:11,760

I learned typing and shorthand.

451

00:23:11,760 --> 00:23:14,100

That's what you learned then.

452

00:23:14,100 --> 00:23:16,050

And I went to business school.

453

00:23:16,050 --> 00:23:21,390

And then as you lived
there, you made contacts

454
00:23:21,390 --> 00:23:22,470
with all the people.

455
00:23:22,470 --> 00:23:24,390
And the cafeteria was there.

456
00:23:24,390 --> 00:23:27,450
Again, they gathered the
men there and talked.

457
00:23:27,450 --> 00:23:30,900
So anyway, a very good
old friend of ours,

458
00:23:30,900 --> 00:23:34,860
who had a daughter whom I knew
well, lived on 86th Street.

459
00:23:34,860 --> 00:23:39,450
And we-- and so the whole
thing became much more livable.

460
00:23:39,450 --> 00:23:44,750
And he worked for a shipping--

461
00:23:44,750 --> 00:23:51,410
for a ship building
office downtown in--

462
00:23:51,410 --> 00:23:53,255
On Moore Street,
near the Bowery.

463
00:23:53,255 --> 00:23:55,780

464
00:23:55,780 --> 00:23:58,370
And I was-- in business school.

465
00:23:58,370 --> 00:24:00,560
So anyway, he

needed an assistant.

466
00:24:00,560 --> 00:24:03,390
So he said, why
don't you come down

467
00:24:03,390 --> 00:24:05,990
and you can have the job, maybe?

468
00:24:05,990 --> 00:24:12,080
And so I had an interview,
and I got the job.

469
00:24:12,080 --> 00:24:20,561
And fortunately, I didn't have
to take dictation and typing.

470
00:24:20,561 --> 00:24:22,160
It was only--

471
00:24:22,160 --> 00:24:27,060
So anyway, but then I worked
with him in cost accounting,

472
00:24:27,060 --> 00:24:30,890
so I learned some other
stuff and really became

473
00:24:30,890 --> 00:24:35,930
his assistant, and didn't
have to do any typing.

474
00:24:35,930 --> 00:24:42,060
But it also gave me time
to go to take some classes.

475
00:24:42,060 --> 00:24:47,060
So I ended up at the New
School and New York University,

476
00:24:47,060 --> 00:24:50,070
but I only audited classes,
because I didn't want

477
00:24:50,070 --> 00:24:53,510
to take any tests and stuff.

478
00:24:53,510 --> 00:24:56,370
And it was very interesting.

479
00:24:56,370 --> 00:25:00,560
I was able to get
some different things.

480
00:25:00,560 --> 00:25:04,730
And I only took classes
that interested me.

481
00:25:04,730 --> 00:25:10,870
I didn't have to take
physics and chemistry, which

482
00:25:10,870 --> 00:25:12,810
I hated when I did that.

483
00:25:12,810 --> 00:25:19,860
Anyway, so life became-- and
the group, the Austrian group,

484
00:25:19,860 --> 00:25:23,370
we did a lot of things
together, and I had a boyfriend,

485
00:25:23,370 --> 00:25:28,022
and the whole thing
became livable.

486
00:25:28,022 --> 00:25:29,730
Did you know what was
happening in Europe

487
00:25:29,730 --> 00:25:30,647
during the early '40s.

488
00:25:30,647 --> 00:25:32,240

Of course, of course.

489
00:25:32,240 --> 00:25:34,990
I was a-- so this is--

490
00:25:34,990 --> 00:25:39,110
there were all these service
men, and you went to canteens,

491
00:25:39,110 --> 00:25:43,100
and then they tell you to write
to servicemen, write letters,

492
00:25:43,100 --> 00:25:45,320
and they gave you addresses.

493
00:25:45,320 --> 00:25:50,150
And I would sit in my
lunch hour writing letters.

494
00:25:50,150 --> 00:25:56,840
And so this girl I got very
friendly with in the office,

495
00:25:56,840 --> 00:25:58,430
she was not--

496
00:25:58,430 --> 00:26:00,200
she was already married.

497
00:26:00,200 --> 00:26:02,180
And we got very close.

498
00:26:02,180 --> 00:26:06,700
She was very nice and very
helpful when I first came.

499
00:26:06,700 --> 00:26:08,800
There was a bitch
there, a woman,

500
00:26:08,800 --> 00:26:11,750

and she would always
give me stuff.

501
00:26:11,750 --> 00:26:13,850
And Rhoda would
say, don't worry.

502
00:26:13,850 --> 00:26:14,940
I'll do it.

503
00:26:14,940 --> 00:26:20,510
So anyway, she saw me writing
letters during the lunch hour.

504
00:26:20,510 --> 00:26:23,490
So she says, you know,
my brother is in England.

505
00:26:23,490 --> 00:26:24,960
Why don't you write to him?

506
00:26:24,960 --> 00:26:26,720
I said, fine, I'll write to him.

507
00:26:26,720 --> 00:26:34,010
So we started a correspondence,
which developed into marriage.

508
00:26:34,010 --> 00:26:36,750

509
00:26:36,750 --> 00:26:39,560
He was a lieutenant in the Navy.

510
00:26:39,560 --> 00:26:45,860
And he was stationed then
in England before D-Day.

511
00:26:45,860 --> 00:26:51,290
And he had already
been in the invasions

512

00:26:51,290 --> 00:26:54,890
in Africa, and in
Italy, and in Sicily.

513
00:26:54,890 --> 00:26:59,240
And then he was a small
boats officer on an LST.

514
00:26:59,240 --> 00:27:01,700
And he was in England.

515
00:27:01,700 --> 00:27:04,980
The only problem was,
he was seasick a lot.

516
00:27:04,980 --> 00:27:07,850
But that was taken care of.

517
00:27:07,850 --> 00:27:09,200
He survived all that.

518
00:27:09,200 --> 00:27:12,190

519
00:27:12,190 --> 00:27:20,740
And in May of '45, the ship
came back to the States.

520
00:27:20,740 --> 00:27:23,560
And he came to his
sister's, and we met.

521
00:27:23,560 --> 00:27:28,600
And by then I had met most of
his parents and some cousins,

522
00:27:28,600 --> 00:27:31,660
because Rhoda and
I were very close,

523
00:27:31,660 --> 00:27:40,610
and she had a baby that spring,
just after he came back.

524
00:27:40,610 --> 00:27:41,140
Yeah.

525
00:27:41,140 --> 00:27:42,550
And his name?

526
00:27:42,550 --> 00:27:45,400
Stanley Sigel.

527
00:27:45,400 --> 00:27:47,220
And her name was Rhoda Sigel.

528
00:27:47,220 --> 00:27:50,410
And they lived-- he
grew up in Boston.

529
00:27:50,410 --> 00:27:53,410
And he grew-- he
was born in Boston,

530
00:27:53,410 --> 00:27:56,490
and grew up in Maine,
in Portland, Maine.

531
00:27:56,490 --> 00:28:03,250
And she had met her husband at
a wedding of a cousin in Boston,

532
00:28:03,250 --> 00:28:06,280
and married and
moved to New York.

533
00:28:06,280 --> 00:28:08,940
But the parents were
still in Portland.

534
00:28:08,940 --> 00:28:10,010
Portland.

535
00:28:10,010 --> 00:28:13,090
And so anyway, so we

started to go out,

536
00:28:13,090 --> 00:28:18,600
because he was stationed
in Lido Beach for a while.

537
00:28:18,600 --> 00:28:23,500
And then he was down in
Norfolk when he left,

538
00:28:23,500 --> 00:28:24,760
and then he went back.

539
00:28:24,760 --> 00:28:25,830
Oh, and he's a Harvard--

540
00:28:25,830 --> 00:28:27,970
he was a Harvard graduate.

541
00:28:27,970 --> 00:28:28,950
OK.

542
00:28:28,950 --> 00:28:32,750
And when I first
heard about him,

543
00:28:32,750 --> 00:28:37,000
I said to myself, a Harvard
graduate and a lieutenant

544
00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:37,690
in the Navy?

545
00:28:37,690 --> 00:28:40,210
Couldn't be so bad.

546
00:28:40,210 --> 00:28:42,520
To myself.

547
00:28:42,520 --> 00:28:45,970
Turned out it was bad.

548

00:28:45,970 --> 00:28:47,050

Anyway, so--

549

00:28:47,050 --> 00:28:50,500

550

00:28:50,500 --> 00:28:51,960

When did you get married?

551

00:28:51,960 --> 00:28:55,570

We got married two
years later, in '47.

552

00:28:55,570 --> 00:28:57,160

Yeah, he had gotten--

553

00:28:57,160 --> 00:29:01,510

he went back to Harvard
and got his master's.

554

00:29:01,510 --> 00:29:06,580

And I always say the
PhD was my second child.

555

00:29:06,580 --> 00:29:09,940

And Joan is my third child.

556

00:29:09,940 --> 00:29:12,850

But she's my second child.

557

00:29:12,850 --> 00:29:14,260

And so--

558

00:29:14,260 --> 00:29:16,000

What is his field?

559

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:16,700

Economics.

560

00:29:16,700 --> 00:29:17,200

Economics.

561
00:29:17,200 --> 00:29:20,596
He was with the Federal
Reserve for 40 years.

562
00:29:20,596 --> 00:29:22,290
Oh, my.

563
00:29:22,290 --> 00:29:23,700
So yeah.

564
00:29:23,700 --> 00:29:26,810
So before the war was
over, were your parents

565
00:29:26,810 --> 00:29:29,060
hearing things and you hearing
things about what was--

566
00:29:29,060 --> 00:29:30,940
Oh, oh.

567
00:29:30,940 --> 00:29:36,040
My parents were living
and they heard--

568
00:29:36,040 --> 00:29:38,950
they got-- there
was correspondence

569
00:29:38,950 --> 00:29:41,440
that took forever.

570
00:29:41,440 --> 00:29:43,900
Both there was the
correspondence from Panama

571
00:29:43,900 --> 00:29:45,220
to Israel.

572
00:29:45,220 --> 00:29:52,210
And my grandfather-- my

grandfather never got out.

573

00:29:52,210 --> 00:29:56,280

But he had a housekeeper
for many years

574

00:29:56,280 --> 00:29:59,350

who was not Jewish,
before Hitler came.

575

00:29:59,350 --> 00:30:01,690

She was like a
member of the family.

576

00:30:01,690 --> 00:30:10,870

And somehow he ended up in the
Jewish old age home in Vienna.

577

00:30:10,870 --> 00:30:13,820

We have no idea how
she arranged that.

578

00:30:13,820 --> 00:30:18,250

And he died in
the home, in 1942,

579

00:30:18,250 --> 00:30:23,650

and is buried in the family
grave, where his wife is.

580

00:30:23,650 --> 00:30:28,120

How this all came about
under these circumstances

581

00:30:28,120 --> 00:30:33,460

I have no idea, but I presume
Frau Else, as we called her,

582

00:30:33,460 --> 00:30:35,630

somehow managed that.

583

00:30:35,630 --> 00:30:36,820

So did you lose any--

584
00:30:36,820 --> 00:30:41,260
Yes, my grandmother
was in Vienna.

585
00:30:41,260 --> 00:30:45,450
And there was always this
thing, it's we'll go first,

586
00:30:45,450 --> 00:30:48,730
and you go first, and
then we'll get you, yeah?

587
00:30:48,730 --> 00:30:51,010
So she and her
sister, her sister

588
00:30:51,010 --> 00:30:54,310
lived with her at
the time, unmarried.

589
00:30:54,310 --> 00:30:56,930
She was a widow for many--

590
00:30:56,930 --> 00:30:59,930
she was widowed when I knew her.

591
00:30:59,930 --> 00:31:01,860
All my life she was single.

592
00:31:01,860 --> 00:31:04,862
But she lived there
with her after.

593
00:31:04,862 --> 00:31:07,760
After Hitler, I
think she moved in.

594
00:31:07,760 --> 00:31:15,270
And they then had to move out
of this fancy apartment into--

595

00:31:15,270 --> 00:31:18,990
the 2nd District was
a ghetto sort of--

596
00:31:18,990 --> 00:31:20,820
into some apartment.

597
00:31:20,820 --> 00:31:25,530
And then there were
cousins, Bonyhady cousins

598
00:31:25,530 --> 00:31:29,220
who lived in Graz, who
had to move into Vienna.

599
00:31:29,220 --> 00:31:31,110
So they moved into
their apartment.

600
00:31:31,110 --> 00:31:34,360
So I don't know how this--

601
00:31:34,360 --> 00:31:37,170
And so we had still
correspondence.

602
00:31:37,170 --> 00:31:42,600
And my aunt, that was my mother
and a brother and a SISTER

603
00:31:42,600 --> 00:31:45,900
neither one of
whom had offspring.

604
00:31:45,900 --> 00:31:49,530
My uncle left, also
came to the States.

605
00:31:49,530 --> 00:31:52,620
And my aunt went to England.

606
00:31:52,620 --> 00:31:56,580
And so I have the correspondence

from my grandmother

607
00:31:56,580 --> 00:32:00,990
to my aunt in England, which
I have never really read.

608
00:32:00,990 --> 00:32:03,210
I can't deal with this.

609
00:32:03,210 --> 00:32:14,380
And so they, of course, were
carted off to Auschwitz in 1942

610
00:32:14,380 --> 00:32:16,470
somewhere we checked it out.

611
00:32:16,470 --> 00:32:17,080
Yeah.

612
00:32:17,080 --> 00:32:19,020
What were their names?

613
00:32:19,020 --> 00:32:20,260
Bonyhady.

614
00:32:20,260 --> 00:32:21,242
Yeah.

615
00:32:21,242 --> 00:32:24,320
And the first name?

616
00:32:24,320 --> 00:32:25,470
[? Kaete. ?] [? Kaete ?].

617
00:32:25,470 --> 00:32:26,340
Katherina.

618
00:32:26,340 --> 00:32:28,920
Kaete Bonyhady.

619
00:32:28,920 --> 00:32:35,674

And my aunt, my great-aunt,
her sister was Petronella Cohn.

620
00:32:35,674 --> 00:32:36,600
Oh, my.

621
00:32:36,600 --> 00:32:40,745
So my older daughter is
named Karen Patricia.

622
00:32:40,745 --> 00:32:42,480
Oh, yeah.

623
00:32:42,480 --> 00:32:44,770
So anyway--

624
00:32:44,770 --> 00:32:47,030
Yeah.

625
00:32:47,030 --> 00:32:50,060
How did your family
find out about this?

626
00:32:50,060 --> 00:32:51,110
Only afterwards.

627
00:32:51,110 --> 00:32:59,950
My father found out about his
father from the Red Cross.

628
00:32:59,950 --> 00:33:02,310
I still have a letter somewhere.

629
00:33:02,310 --> 00:33:04,090
They said he deceased.

630
00:33:04,090 --> 00:33:07,390
They wrote that he
deceased in 1942.

631
00:33:07,390 --> 00:33:08,770
He could never get out.

632
00:33:08,770 --> 00:33:13,630
I don't remember what it was
with the visa got filed that he

633
00:33:13,630 --> 00:33:16,340
was supposed to go to Israel.

634
00:33:16,340 --> 00:33:19,030
My aunt-- my uncle left.

635
00:33:19,030 --> 00:33:21,160
My uncle left with--

636
00:33:21,160 --> 00:33:24,670
left with the
wife, with the son.

637
00:33:24,670 --> 00:33:27,430
And the other son
had gone earlier.

638
00:33:27,430 --> 00:33:29,600
And the daughter
had gone to England.

639
00:33:29,600 --> 00:33:31,600
She was in England during the--

640
00:33:31,600 --> 00:33:33,160
my cousin.

641
00:33:33,160 --> 00:33:36,620
She was the oldest, and she was
in England all during the war.

642
00:33:36,620 --> 00:33:38,500
She was a nurse.

643
00:33:38,500 --> 00:33:42,640
And then she went to
Israel and had a family.

644

00:33:42,640 --> 00:33:46,480

So you got married, and where
did you live after that?

645

00:33:46,480 --> 00:33:49,860

We lived-- well, we lived
in Cambridge for six months,

646

00:33:49,860 --> 00:33:51,360

and then we moved down here.

647

00:33:51,360 --> 00:33:54,380

I've been here since 1947.

648

00:33:54,380 --> 00:33:55,810

Oh, wonderful.

649

00:33:55,810 --> 00:33:57,230

You have how many children?

650

00:33:57,230 --> 00:33:58,360

Two daughters.

651

00:33:58,360 --> 00:33:59,290

Two daughters.

652

00:33:59,290 --> 00:34:00,400

Yes.

653

00:34:00,400 --> 00:34:00,940

OK.

654

00:34:00,940 --> 00:34:04,380

And we lived in--

655

00:34:04,380 --> 00:34:06,780

first we lived
right close by here,

656

00:34:06,780 --> 00:34:10,980

because a friend of
Stan's at the board

657
00:34:10,980 --> 00:34:14,980
got another woman who was
going on vacation to lend us

658
00:34:14,980 --> 00:34:16,750
her house for four weeks.

659
00:34:16,750 --> 00:34:20,130
They were leaving for
four weeks, the people.

660
00:34:20,130 --> 00:34:24,870
So we lived here on the
River Road without a car.

661
00:34:24,870 --> 00:34:27,409
It was a little difficult.

662
00:34:27,409 --> 00:34:30,889
He walked to the
bus on Western--

663
00:34:30,889 --> 00:34:34,330
on Western and got a ride.

664
00:34:34,330 --> 00:34:37,330
And I was stuck in
without anything.

665
00:34:37,330 --> 00:34:41,350
And the neighbor
took me to the store.

666
00:34:41,350 --> 00:34:46,929
And then we would take a bus
and carry groceries around.

667
00:34:46,929 --> 00:34:51,280
Oh, and then my brother-in-law
and sister, Rhoda,

668
00:34:51,280 --> 00:34:52,179
came to visit.

669
00:34:52,179 --> 00:34:53,980
They had a car and stuff.

670
00:34:53,980 --> 00:34:56,679
So anyway, we lived here,
we spent most of our time

671
00:34:56,679 --> 00:34:59,140
in town looking for
a place to live.

672
00:34:59,140 --> 00:35:01,090
And we found a place.

673
00:35:01,090 --> 00:35:04,060
We had to move out, of
course, when they came.

674
00:35:04,060 --> 00:35:09,820
And we found a place near
DuPont Circle, on P Street,

675
00:35:09,820 --> 00:35:12,760
with a woman, very convenient.

676
00:35:12,760 --> 00:35:19,060
She was a telephone operator
at the Fairfax Hotel.

677
00:35:19,060 --> 00:35:22,840
And the night operator,
which was very good.

678
00:35:22,840 --> 00:35:26,550
Because the apartment was
like a railroad apartment,

679
00:35:26,550 --> 00:35:27,860

like you used to have.

680
00:35:27,860 --> 00:35:29,530
And you opened
the door and there

681
00:35:29,530 --> 00:35:32,770
was a bathroom in front of you.

682
00:35:32,770 --> 00:35:34,150
There's a big corridor.

683
00:35:34,150 --> 00:35:35,230
The bathroom in front.

684
00:35:35,230 --> 00:35:38,950
To the right were two rooms.

685
00:35:38,950 --> 00:35:42,040
And to the left were two rooms.

686
00:35:42,040 --> 00:35:44,080
And she had the
rooms to the right,

687
00:35:44,080 --> 00:35:47,530
and we had the two rooms to
the left with the kitchen.

688
00:35:47,530 --> 00:35:54,760
And she had breakfast at the
hotel before she came home.

689
00:35:54,760 --> 00:35:55,830
And we left.

690
00:35:55,830 --> 00:35:58,750
And by the time we came home,
she went back to have dinner

691
00:35:58,750 --> 00:36:01,790
and spent the night

there as night operator.

692
00:36:01,790 --> 00:36:03,830
So this worked out very well.

693
00:36:03,830 --> 00:36:07,810
And I got a job
with FAO, the Food

694
00:36:07,810 --> 00:36:10,360
and Agriculture Organization.

695
00:36:10,360 --> 00:36:13,390
And so I only walked
down the street.

696
00:36:13,390 --> 00:36:20,030
They had-- their offices
were next to the Mayflower.

697
00:36:20,030 --> 00:36:27,770
And I got a job as
a translator of--

698
00:36:27,770 --> 00:36:29,770
well, that's not the
job I got it for,

699
00:36:29,770 --> 00:36:32,590
but that's what it ended up in.

700
00:36:32,590 --> 00:36:37,750
I was translating stuff,
Scandinavian languages,

701
00:36:37,750 --> 00:36:42,140
because, well, I'm
good in languages.

702
00:36:42,140 --> 00:36:49,660
So when you know German and you
know English and you know what

703

00:36:49,660 --> 00:36:54,610

the subject matter is, which
is just agricultural food,

704

00:36:54,610 --> 00:37:01,080

I mean generally, I was
able to put together

705

00:37:01,080 --> 00:37:05,310

some kind of translation
of what the thing meant.

706

00:37:05,310 --> 00:37:07,940

And we did that.

707

00:37:07,940 --> 00:37:13,010

And then friends of ours who
lived out in Mount Rainier,

708

00:37:13,010 --> 00:37:17,690

in Kaywood Gardens, which was
then a very-- it probably still

709

00:37:17,690 --> 00:37:20,150

is garden apartments,
but probably

710

00:37:20,150 --> 00:37:22,760

not as nice as it was then.

711

00:37:22,760 --> 00:37:26,250

They managed to get
us an apartment.

712

00:37:26,250 --> 00:37:28,520

We moved there,
and they had cars,

713

00:37:28,520 --> 00:37:30,860

so we were able to go to work.

714

00:37:30,860 --> 00:37:33,910

If we wanted to stay in
the city, we took the bus.

715
00:37:33,910 --> 00:37:38,390
Then at one point, we got a car.

716
00:37:38,390 --> 00:37:42,560
Can we talk now a little
bit about your thoughts

717
00:37:42,560 --> 00:37:44,420
and your feelings?

718
00:37:44,420 --> 00:37:48,950
Do you feel very
Viennese, very Austrian?

719
00:37:48,950 --> 00:37:51,170
I wouldn't say that, no.

720
00:37:51,170 --> 00:37:55,940
But I still have somewhat
of a connection of feelings

721
00:37:55,940 --> 00:37:57,185
to Vienna, the city.

722
00:37:57,185 --> 00:38:00,113

723
00:38:00,113 --> 00:38:01,100
I--

724
00:38:01,100 --> 00:38:02,330
Have you been back?

725
00:38:02,330 --> 00:38:04,640
Oh, I've been back
quite a few times.

726
00:38:04,640 --> 00:38:07,880

727
00:38:07,880 --> 00:38:12,580
Mainly because I had a
childhood friend there.

728
00:38:12,580 --> 00:38:13,680
And I don't know.

729
00:38:13,680 --> 00:38:16,190
I can tell you very
quickly the story.

730
00:38:16,190 --> 00:38:23,310
She was Jewish, but
her husband, who was--

731
00:38:23,310 --> 00:38:27,540
we would all grow up together,
her husband, and she,

732
00:38:27,540 --> 00:38:30,790
and some other friends of ours.

733
00:38:30,790 --> 00:38:37,690
And his mother had, as I would
now say, as I mentioned before,

734
00:38:37,690 --> 00:38:39,020
like a daycare.

735
00:38:39,020 --> 00:38:42,640
You'd go afterwards to her
house, and we would make--

736
00:38:42,640 --> 00:38:43,970
do homework.

737
00:38:43,970 --> 00:38:48,510
But we had to take piano
lessons and exercise at home.

738
00:38:48,510 --> 00:38:50,140

A woman would come to do--

739

00:38:50,140 --> 00:38:55,280

you had to do exercise,
gymnastics and stuff.

740

00:38:55,280 --> 00:38:56,770

So we were all there.

741

00:38:56,770 --> 00:39:04,340

And so her husband, Hans,
and his brother, they

742

00:39:04,340 --> 00:39:07,750

were this woman's sons.

743

00:39:07,750 --> 00:39:13,450

And so she was Jewish, and
her ex-husband was not.

744

00:39:13,450 --> 00:39:16,690

They got divorced
before Hitler came.

745

00:39:16,690 --> 00:39:19,860

And the father was
a very nice guy.

746

00:39:19,860 --> 00:39:21,880

I mean, I met him and stuff.

747

00:39:21,880 --> 00:39:25,930

When Hitler came and
he made every effort

748

00:39:25,930 --> 00:39:28,720

not only for his
ex-wife to go to England

749

00:39:28,720 --> 00:39:30,130

but to take the boys.

750

00:39:30,130 --> 00:39:33,490
He did not want to have
the sons in Vienna.

751
00:39:33,490 --> 00:39:36,070

752
00:39:36,070 --> 00:39:42,560
Hans was 18 by then, and
the other one was 15.

753
00:39:42,560 --> 00:39:43,990
He didn't want that.

754
00:39:43,990 --> 00:39:46,570
So they went to England.

755
00:39:46,570 --> 00:39:49,810
And Susie and her
mother went to England.

756
00:39:49,810 --> 00:39:53,320
And then Susie and Hans
connected again, of course,

757
00:39:53,320 --> 00:39:55,390
and they got married.

758
00:39:55,390 --> 00:39:58,180
And they had a child in England.

759
00:39:58,180 --> 00:39:59,080
Now.

760
00:39:59,080 --> 00:40:04,090
During the war, the refugees,
many joined the army.

761
00:40:04,090 --> 00:40:06,500
But the other thing
they wanted them for

762

00:40:06,500 --> 00:40:08,410
was to work on the farm.

763
00:40:08,410 --> 00:40:13,140
And Hans went to work on a
farm with wife and child.

764
00:40:13,140 --> 00:40:15,090
And when the war
was over and he'd

765
00:40:15,090 --> 00:40:20,130
been in touch with his father,
of course, all along somehow.

766
00:40:20,130 --> 00:40:22,890
Anyway, the father wrote--

767
00:40:22,890 --> 00:40:25,740
said or called, and
said to him, "look,

768
00:40:25,740 --> 00:40:28,540
you're going to be a
farmhand all your life.

769
00:40:28,540 --> 00:40:31,840
I have a growing
business, and it is yours.

770
00:40:31,840 --> 00:40:35,520
So why don't you come back
and see what you can--

771
00:40:35,520 --> 00:40:37,180
whether you would like to?"

772
00:40:37,180 --> 00:40:40,260
So they came back, and he
took over the business,

773
00:40:40,260 --> 00:40:42,900
and they had a wonderful

life in Vienna.

774

00:40:42,900 --> 00:40:44,610

They had another son.

775

00:40:44,610 --> 00:40:48,722

And so they lived there
for all their life,

776

00:40:48,722 --> 00:40:49,680

the rest of their life.

777

00:40:49,680 --> 00:40:52,740

She died a couple of weeks ago.

778

00:40:52,740 --> 00:40:57,025

And the big joke always was that
I was a week older than she.

779

00:40:57,025 --> 00:41:00,790

Our mothers pushed us
in the baby carriage.

780

00:41:00,790 --> 00:41:02,080

What was her maiden name?

781

00:41:02,080 --> 00:41:05,210

Her name was Wardak.

782

00:41:05,210 --> 00:41:06,720

Susie Wardak.

783

00:41:06,720 --> 00:41:11,460

Her father had a mental illness,
and I never knew her father.

784

00:41:11,460 --> 00:41:15,040

He was in an institution.

785

00:41:15,040 --> 00:41:18,510

So I was asking if you feel
Austrian, if you feel Viennese.

786
00:41:18,510 --> 00:41:20,570
I don't feel Austrian at all.

787
00:41:20,570 --> 00:41:22,770
No.

788
00:41:22,770 --> 00:41:27,300
I still have a sort of a
feeling when there is something

789
00:41:27,300 --> 00:41:30,240
Viennese and something.

790
00:41:30,240 --> 00:41:33,750
And going back to
Vienna was easy for me,

791
00:41:33,750 --> 00:41:36,330
because I stayed with
her all the time.

792
00:41:36,330 --> 00:41:40,740
I didn't have to deal with
any of these miserable people.

793
00:41:40,740 --> 00:41:42,240
Why do you say
"miserable people"?

794
00:41:42,240 --> 00:41:48,000
Well, didn't they all get them
happy that they had him in?

795
00:41:48,000 --> 00:41:52,200
I mean, things have changed
now, but I went back to Vienna--

796
00:41:52,200 --> 00:41:55,200
well, the first time
we went is in 1967.

797

00:41:55,200 --> 00:42:02,100
Had a visit to I don't
know how many countries

798
00:42:02,100 --> 00:42:10,370
to see the heads of
the banks and stuff.

799
00:42:10,370 --> 00:42:14,880
And I went with him, and
one of them was Vienna.

800
00:42:14,880 --> 00:42:22,880
And so we stayed with Susie
then, which was about 20 years.

801
00:42:22,880 --> 00:42:26,660
What are your thoughts
about Germany?

802
00:42:26,660 --> 00:42:30,640
They don't exist, as
far as I am concerned.

803
00:42:30,640 --> 00:42:35,260
They are-- the Viennese
never liked the Germans.

804
00:42:35,260 --> 00:42:38,450
I mean, generally, sort of.

805
00:42:38,450 --> 00:42:44,300
Particularly the--
particularly the Viennese Jews,

806
00:42:44,300 --> 00:42:46,440
but I don't know if
it was only the Jews.

807
00:42:46,440 --> 00:42:49,950
There was always
jokes about Germans.

808

00:42:49,950 --> 00:42:53,260
Except when they came
in, they loved them.

809
00:42:53,260 --> 00:42:54,200
Right.

810
00:42:54,200 --> 00:42:55,810
So you know it's--

811
00:42:55,810 --> 00:42:56,880
Have you been to Germany?

812
00:42:56,880 --> 00:43:01,130
No, I wouldn't set
foot in Germany.

813
00:43:01,130 --> 00:43:02,820
Absolutely not.

814
00:43:02,820 --> 00:43:04,110
So you've never been?

815
00:43:04,110 --> 00:43:06,930
No, the only thing, I've
been on the Autobahn,

816
00:43:06,930 --> 00:43:09,420
because we lived
in Paris, and we

817
00:43:09,420 --> 00:43:11,940
had to get from
Paris to Salzburg,

818
00:43:11,940 --> 00:43:15,780
and Stan insists that the only
way to go is on the Autobahn,

819
00:43:15,780 --> 00:43:17,400
and you don't have to stop.

820

00:43:17,400 --> 00:43:19,500

And I said, what
if I have to pee?

821

00:43:19,500 --> 00:43:22,318

Well, then we have to stop.

822

00:43:22,318 --> 00:43:24,360

But when you were growing
up, you had never gone?

823

00:43:24,360 --> 00:43:27,180

No, never.

824

00:43:27,180 --> 00:43:29,490

How do you feel speaking German?

825

00:43:29,490 --> 00:43:30,690

Oh, I speak Viennese.

826

00:43:30,690 --> 00:43:33,210

I don't speak German.

827

00:43:33,210 --> 00:43:33,710

No.

828

00:43:33,710 --> 00:43:35,168

It's German with
a Viennese accent?

829

00:43:35,168 --> 00:43:37,440

No, it's a softer German.

830

00:43:37,440 --> 00:43:38,310

Softer German?

831

00:43:38,310 --> 00:43:42,670

I speak-- well, my parents lived
here, we only spoke German.

832

00:43:42,670 --> 00:43:46,020

And I with Susie I spoke German.

833
00:43:46,020 --> 00:43:50,130
She spoke English fluently,
but when we talked on the phone

834
00:43:50,130 --> 00:43:53,140
all the time, when I went--

835
00:43:53,140 --> 00:43:55,500
I speak German very well.

836
00:43:55,500 --> 00:43:56,490
OK.

837
00:43:56,490 --> 00:43:58,070
What about reparations?

838
00:43:58,070 --> 00:43:59,930
Did your parents
ever get reparations?

839
00:43:59,930 --> 00:44:01,450
Yeah, we got reparations.

840
00:44:01,450 --> 00:44:06,525
Yes, my cousin here, who is
here, we worked together,

841
00:44:06,525 --> 00:44:10,600
and we did not very
well, but we did fine.

842
00:44:10,600 --> 00:44:13,170
I mean, they gave us stuff.

843
00:44:13,170 --> 00:44:18,890
Well, they had the compound.

844
00:44:18,890 --> 00:44:22,020
The villa in Baden
was a big deal.

845

00:44:22,020 --> 00:44:27,470
And then my uncle had a couple
of houses, I think, in Vienna.

846

00:44:27,470 --> 00:44:32,790
I have a cousin who lives
here, in Washington.

847

00:44:32,790 --> 00:44:35,270
So we got some reparations, yes.

848

00:44:35,270 --> 00:44:37,680
Have you been to Israel?

849

00:44:37,680 --> 00:44:40,985
We've been to Israel about 50--

850

00:44:40,985 --> 00:44:41,610
more than that.

851

00:44:41,610 --> 00:44:42,620
Yeah, 50 years.

852

00:44:42,620 --> 00:44:46,220
When we lived in
Paris, we went to--

853

00:44:46,220 --> 00:44:49,280
you could then go
to Israel by boat.

854

00:44:49,280 --> 00:44:55,460
And we went by ship, and
we spent a month in Israel,

855

00:44:55,460 --> 00:44:57,710
in August.

856

00:44:57,710 --> 00:45:00,210
My aunt and uncle
were still alive,

857

00:45:00,210 --> 00:45:05,420

and my cousin had
the two little girls.

858

00:45:05,420 --> 00:45:07,880

And so we were there.

859

00:45:07,880 --> 00:45:09,560

But we have not gone back.

860

00:45:09,560 --> 00:45:12,640

861

00:45:12,640 --> 00:45:17,330

We like to travel the world,
and our feeling always

862

00:45:17,330 --> 00:45:19,570

was, we've been in Israel.

863

00:45:19,570 --> 00:45:23,380

And it's now to see the rest.

864

00:45:23,380 --> 00:45:26,330

Obviously, we
didn't see the rest.

865

00:45:26,330 --> 00:45:30,470

I mean, we were in Europe
a lot, and in Australia.

866

00:45:30,470 --> 00:45:33,652

I have cousins in Australia
on my mother's side.

867

00:45:33,652 --> 00:45:35,010

Oh, my.

868

00:45:35,010 --> 00:45:39,820

So it was very nice.

869

00:45:39,820 --> 00:45:42,900
But you know.

870
00:45:42,900 --> 00:45:48,480
Do you feel that your
childhood experiences

871
00:45:48,480 --> 00:45:49,910
made you more Jewish?

872
00:45:49,910 --> 00:45:50,900
My what?

873
00:45:50,900 --> 00:45:54,632
Your childhood, what are your
thoughts about being Jewish?

874
00:45:54,632 --> 00:45:56,340
And considering what
you went through and

875
00:45:56,340 --> 00:45:57,370
your father losing his--

876
00:45:57,370 --> 00:46:01,080
Yeah, I obviously
feel Jewish and stuff.

877
00:46:01,080 --> 00:46:05,360
My childhood, I
mean, being Jewish,

878
00:46:05,360 --> 00:46:07,940
the festivals were part of it.

879
00:46:07,940 --> 00:46:09,407
But I--

880
00:46:09,407 --> 00:46:10,740
How did you raise your children?

881
00:46:10,740 --> 00:46:13,200

Were they Jewishly affiliated?

882

00:46:13,200 --> 00:46:17,206

Well, they were in Beth-El for--

883

00:46:17,206 --> 00:46:17,990

Sunday school?

884

00:46:17,990 --> 00:46:23,010

No, my daughter Karen was in

Beth-El until we went to Paris.

885

00:46:23,010 --> 00:46:25,780

We lived in Paris for two years.

886

00:46:25,780 --> 00:46:32,010

And when we came back,

I did not rejoin Beth-El

887

00:46:32,010 --> 00:46:35,470

because they started

a building fund.

888

00:46:35,470 --> 00:46:40,530

And they started with

bat mitzvahs for girls.

889

00:46:40,530 --> 00:46:43,090

And I didn't grow up

with bat mitzvahs.

890

00:46:43,090 --> 00:46:45,480

No girls had bat mitzvahs.

891

00:46:45,480 --> 00:46:50,580

I was not going to take my

children to Sunday school

892

00:46:50,580 --> 00:46:53,640

and all that Hebrew school.

893

00:46:53,640 --> 00:46:57,640

It was enough I had to
take Karen before we left,

894
00:46:57,640 --> 00:46:59,270
but that was just Hebrew school.

895
00:46:59,270 --> 00:47:00,270
Fine.

896
00:47:00,270 --> 00:47:05,395
But I did enroll Joan into the--

897
00:47:05,395 --> 00:47:06,450
what was it called?

898
00:47:06,450 --> 00:47:10,140
The Bethesda Chevy Chase
Jewish Community Group,

899
00:47:10,140 --> 00:47:15,510
which is the oldest Jewish
group in Montgomery County.

900
00:47:15,510 --> 00:47:16,830
And they had--

901
00:47:16,830 --> 00:47:19,860
I don't know what they have
now, but they had Sunday school.

902
00:47:19,860 --> 00:47:21,148
You didn't have--

903
00:47:21,148 --> 00:47:22,440
She was the younger of the two?

904
00:47:22,440 --> 00:47:23,580
The younger.

905
00:47:23,580 --> 00:47:26,040
And they had Sunday school.

906

00:47:26,040 --> 00:47:28,350

And I took Joan
to Sunday school,

907

00:47:28,350 --> 00:47:33,040

to that, because I wanted her
to have some Jewish background

908

00:47:33,040 --> 00:47:34,860

and education.

909

00:47:34,860 --> 00:47:39,480

But I was not about to--

910

00:47:39,480 --> 00:47:42,900

money wasn't plentiful
at that time.

911

00:47:42,900 --> 00:47:46,020

And I was not going to
spend it on something

912

00:47:46,020 --> 00:47:52,420

that really annoyed the hell
out of me, quite frankly.

913

00:47:52,420 --> 00:47:52,920

So.

914

00:47:52,920 --> 00:47:55,260

Do you think you would have
been a different person

915

00:47:55,260 --> 00:48:00,500

today if you hadn't gone
through having to leave?

916

00:48:00,500 --> 00:48:01,560

Yeah, probably.

917

00:48:01,560 --> 00:48:03,174

In what way?

918
00:48:03,174 --> 00:48:04,010
I don't know.

919
00:48:04,010 --> 00:48:05,680
Did it strengthen you?

920
00:48:05,680 --> 00:48:06,180
Huh?

921
00:48:06,180 --> 00:48:10,290
What did they experience,
do you think, did to you?

922
00:48:10,290 --> 00:48:12,660
Make you a stronger,
more independent person?

923
00:48:12,660 --> 00:48:14,630
You said you were an
independent child.

924
00:48:14,630 --> 00:48:16,970
Yeah.

925
00:48:16,970 --> 00:48:19,430
I don't know that I would have
been more independent than I

926
00:48:19,430 --> 00:48:20,270
already was.

927
00:48:20,270 --> 00:48:21,650
Yeah, yeah.

928
00:48:21,650 --> 00:48:29,210
I mean, I would have not worked
in a candy store or anything.

929
00:48:29,210 --> 00:48:34,880
I was in a society
where, I guess,

930
00:48:34,880 --> 00:48:37,230
I would have gotten married.

931
00:48:37,230 --> 00:48:40,940
I don't know that I would have gone to university, because I

932
00:48:40,940 --> 00:48:45,410
really did not like taking exams and stuff.

933
00:48:45,410 --> 00:48:48,740
So I don't know what I would have thought.

934
00:48:48,740 --> 00:48:51,610
The only thing that--

935
00:48:51,610 --> 00:48:56,260
Susie and I felt that the only thing that Hitler did for us,

936
00:48:56,260 --> 00:49:00,010
we didn't have to take the Matura.

937
00:49:00,010 --> 00:49:03,140
Which is the final exams.

938
00:49:03,140 --> 00:49:05,700
At age 18, the baccalaureate.

939
00:49:05,700 --> 00:49:07,520
Right, right.

940
00:49:07,520 --> 00:49:13,010
I mean, neither one of us were that type of pupil.

941
00:49:13,010 --> 00:49:14,910
We were bad pupils.

942
00:49:14,910 --> 00:49:19,430
I was pretty good in
stuff that interested me.

943
00:49:19,430 --> 00:49:24,110
Were you active in the Civil
Rights movement at all,

944
00:49:24,110 --> 00:49:27,390
since your civil rights
were taken away from you?

945
00:49:27,390 --> 00:49:29,450
No, I was not.

946
00:49:29,450 --> 00:49:31,400
I mean, you were
raising children.

947
00:49:31,400 --> 00:49:36,280
I was very active, and still
am, in the Democratic Party.

948
00:49:36,280 --> 00:49:37,502
And if you were--

949
00:49:37,502 --> 00:49:39,710
well, you could come up
there, but you don't want to.

950
00:49:39,710 --> 00:49:45,180
You see him lying in
bed in the dining hall.

951
00:49:45,180 --> 00:49:52,010
You see my pictures from
Clinton and Hillary.

952
00:49:52,010 --> 00:49:56,390
And here's a picture
from Kennedy.

953
00:49:56,390 --> 00:49:58,040
So you were active in politics?

954
00:49:58,040 --> 00:49:59,210
Politics, yes.

955
00:49:59,210 --> 00:50:00,410
Behind the scenes?

956
00:50:00,410 --> 00:50:01,940
Behind the scenes.

957
00:50:01,940 --> 00:50:03,590
I didn't run for anything.

958
00:50:03,590 --> 00:50:04,400
I managed.

959
00:50:04,400 --> 00:50:05,030
Did you?

960
00:50:05,030 --> 00:50:06,530
I managed campaigns.

961
00:50:06,530 --> 00:50:10,440
This picture from Kennedy
is my pride and joy.

962
00:50:10,440 --> 00:50:18,620
Unfortunately, the tub--
no, the toilet got stuck,

963
00:50:18,620 --> 00:50:20,330
and the water ran down.

964
00:50:20,330 --> 00:50:22,880
And while you can see
his writing, which

965
00:50:22,880 --> 00:50:26,360
says "to Madeleine, with

thanks and best wishes,"

966
00:50:26,360 --> 00:50:28,820
you can see the
imprint of the writing.

967
00:50:28,820 --> 00:50:30,880
The ink is washed out.

968
00:50:30,880 --> 00:50:31,940
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

969
00:50:31,940 --> 00:50:34,850
Much to my chagrin.

970
00:50:34,850 --> 00:50:40,580
So do you think you were active
in politics because you--

971
00:50:40,580 --> 00:50:41,260
No, I think--

972
00:50:41,260 --> 00:50:44,280
--it was a country where
you were deprived of your--

973
00:50:44,280 --> 00:50:47,850
No, I was active in
politics because I

974
00:50:47,850 --> 00:50:49,390
liked what the Democrats were--

975
00:50:49,390 --> 00:50:53,730
I was interested in what they
were doing, stuff from day one.

976
00:50:53,730 --> 00:50:55,453
I mean--

977
00:50:55,453 --> 00:50:57,370
I'm just saying, you

would have more awareness

978

00:50:57,370 --> 00:51:00,150

than someone who was born here
and wasn't subject to what

979

00:51:00,150 --> 00:51:02,730

you were subject to as a--

980

00:51:02,730 --> 00:51:03,318

Maybe.

981

00:51:03,318 --> 00:51:03,860

I don't know.

982

00:51:03,860 --> 00:51:09,540

I mean, I never thought of
it in that connection at all.

983

00:51:09,540 --> 00:51:11,770

Have you been to the Holocaust
Museum in Washington?

984

00:51:11,770 --> 00:51:12,900

No.

985

00:51:12,900 --> 00:51:14,370

Because you don't have the time?

986

00:51:14,370 --> 00:51:15,600

I don't want to see it.

987

00:51:15,600 --> 00:51:16,740

Because?

988

00:51:16,740 --> 00:51:18,210

I don't want to.

989

00:51:18,210 --> 00:51:19,560

Too painful?

990

00:51:19,560 --> 00:51:20,610
Too painful.

991
00:51:20,610 --> 00:51:23,950
I don't want to deal with it.

992
00:51:23,950 --> 00:51:25,880
I don't have to see it.

993
00:51:25,880 --> 00:51:27,860
It's for people to see who--

994
00:51:27,860 --> 00:51:28,690
Who don't know.

995
00:51:28,690 --> 00:51:29,660
Who don't know.

996
00:51:29,660 --> 00:51:30,730
It's not for me.

997
00:51:30,730 --> 00:51:31,800
Right.

998
00:51:31,800 --> 00:51:34,010
I mean, even though
I was lucky, I never

999
00:51:34,010 --> 00:51:37,100
considered myself a
Holocaust survivor.

1000
00:51:37,100 --> 00:51:41,410
I would say a Holocaust refugee
maybe, but not a survivor.

1001
00:51:41,410 --> 00:51:44,870
Survivor are the ones
who survived the camps,

1002
00:51:44,870 --> 00:51:48,984
as far as I'm concerned.

1003
00:51:48,984 --> 00:51:51,320
Anybody whose life
was changed or life

1004
00:51:51,320 --> 00:51:53,250
was in danger, like yours.

1005
00:51:53,250 --> 00:51:58,050
Yeah, but you know,
it's no comparison.

1006
00:51:58,050 --> 00:52:01,040
Do you read about the
Holocaust or see movies?

1007
00:52:01,040 --> 00:52:01,790
Not much.

1008
00:52:01,790 --> 00:52:04,180
No, this is just
too much for me.

1009
00:52:04,180 --> 00:52:04,940
Too much.

1010
00:52:04,940 --> 00:52:06,860
I can't, really.

1011
00:52:06,860 --> 00:52:07,850
Yeah.

1012
00:52:07,850 --> 00:52:10,200
Do you do you have
any grandchildren?

1013
00:52:10,200 --> 00:52:16,070
I have one grandson, who
is absolutely adorable.

1014
00:52:16,070 --> 00:52:18,800
And he has taped all of

this that I have told.

1015
00:52:18,800 --> 00:52:19,740
I was going to say.

1016
00:52:19,740 --> 00:52:21,290
And you've told him your story.

1017
00:52:21,290 --> 00:52:22,785
Yes, he knows my story.

1018
00:52:22,785 --> 00:52:26,210

1019
00:52:26,210 --> 00:52:28,310
Are you more
comfortable with people

1020
00:52:28,310 --> 00:52:31,970
who came from Europe than you
are with native Americans?

1021
00:52:31,970 --> 00:52:35,100
Not particularly.

1022
00:52:35,100 --> 00:52:37,060
Not particularly.

1023
00:52:37,060 --> 00:52:41,900
I'm comfortable
with all Americans.

1024
00:52:41,900 --> 00:52:43,390
With anybody.

1025
00:52:43,390 --> 00:52:44,560
Not with anybody.

1026
00:52:44,560 --> 00:52:50,270
I mean, that's-- you
know just living.

1027

00:52:50,270 --> 00:52:52,070

Well, is there anything
else you wanted

1028

00:52:52,070 --> 00:52:55,710

to add that we haven't covered?

1029

00:52:55,710 --> 00:52:57,590

I can't think of anything.

1030

00:52:57,590 --> 00:53:02,270

I could tell you how my father
proceeded in the United States.

1031

00:53:02,270 --> 00:53:04,195

Well, we have a few
minutes, if you--

1032

00:53:04,195 --> 00:53:04,820

If you want to.

1033

00:53:04,820 --> 00:53:05,320

Sure.

1034

00:53:05,320 --> 00:53:07,220

It's quite a story, too.

1035

00:53:07,220 --> 00:53:08,030

Yeah.

1036

00:53:08,030 --> 00:53:09,400

It's still going, the tape?

1037

00:53:09,400 --> 00:53:10,980

It's still going.

1038

00:53:10,980 --> 00:53:13,440

Well, how are you going to
erase all this other stuff

1039

00:53:13,440 --> 00:53:14,920

about Netanyahu.

1040
00:53:14,920 --> 00:53:17,770
Can't erase it.

1041
00:53:17,770 --> 00:53:19,420
So what your father--

1042
00:53:19,420 --> 00:53:23,280
OK, so my father, he--

1043
00:53:23,280 --> 00:53:24,020
Yeah, keep going.

1044
00:53:24,020 --> 00:53:24,520
Yeah.

1045
00:53:24,520 --> 00:53:27,330

1046
00:53:27,330 --> 00:53:32,700
I got married, and
I left, moved away.

1047
00:53:32,700 --> 00:53:36,030
And I guess it finally
hit him that he really

1048
00:53:36,030 --> 00:53:38,660
has to do something.

1049
00:53:38,660 --> 00:53:43,250
So far I was there, and
money was coming in.

1050
00:53:43,250 --> 00:53:44,640
I mean, he was, too.

1051
00:53:44,640 --> 00:53:47,640
He worked in the shipping
department in Gimbel's,

1052
00:53:47,640 --> 00:53:49,660
and then in a
shipping department

1053
00:53:49,660 --> 00:53:54,270
at Hattie Carnegie and stuff.

1054
00:53:54,270 --> 00:53:58,450
And then they were still
gathering at the cafeteria

1055
00:53:58,450 --> 00:54:00,780
of the Viennese.

1056
00:54:00,780 --> 00:54:05,610
On 96th Street, there was
a cafeteria on Broadway.

1057
00:54:05,610 --> 00:54:11,040
And there was a man there who
said that he had pictures.

1058
00:54:11,040 --> 00:54:18,180
And he goes into the
Catskills to the hotels,

1059
00:54:18,180 --> 00:54:20,650
and he sells these
pictures, and he has

1060
00:54:20,650 --> 00:54:23,470
some artists who paint them.

1061
00:54:23,470 --> 00:54:25,620
And then the next--

1062
00:54:25,620 --> 00:54:27,180
at some other
point, he mentioned

1063
00:54:27,180 --> 00:54:29,070
that he needed an assistant.

1064
00:54:29,070 --> 00:54:33,610
So my father decided,
said, "oh, I can help you."

1065
00:54:33,610 --> 00:54:37,380
So he started to go with
him to do the pictures.

1066
00:54:37,380 --> 00:54:42,690
Now, what I hadn't mentioned
before was that if you put--

1067
00:54:42,690 --> 00:54:43,237
never mind.

1068
00:54:43,237 --> 00:54:44,070
I'll tell you later.

1069
00:54:44,070 --> 00:54:46,610

1070
00:54:46,610 --> 00:54:54,490
So I hadn't mentioned that my
father was extremely talented.

1071
00:54:54,490 --> 00:54:56,470
He painted.

1072
00:54:56,470 --> 00:54:58,390
One picture here is his.

1073
00:54:58,390 --> 00:55:02,140
And he played piano by ear.

1074
00:55:02,140 --> 00:55:06,240
And his painting and
drawings were wonderful.

1075
00:55:06,240 --> 00:55:10,930
So he went with him, and he
saw what the man was doing.

1076
00:55:10,930 --> 00:55:13,810
And then he says, I can do this.

1077
00:55:13,810 --> 00:55:18,430
So he went and he bought a car.

1078
00:55:18,430 --> 00:55:22,660
And this was in 1950,
because my daughter was born.

1079
00:55:22,660 --> 00:55:26,935
And he appeared in Washington
with this new station wagon

1080
00:55:26,935 --> 00:55:28,240
and with pictures.

1081
00:55:28,240 --> 00:55:34,760
And he was going down to
Miami, because he had heard

1082
00:55:34,760 --> 00:55:37,310
that they have a hotel boom.

1083
00:55:37,310 --> 00:55:39,140
And he figured
that maybe he could

1084
00:55:39,140 --> 00:55:42,800
sell some pics to interior
decorators or something,

1085
00:55:42,800 --> 00:55:44,850
so he would do that.

1086
00:55:44,850 --> 00:55:47,720
So he painted some samples.

1087
00:55:47,720 --> 00:55:49,190
And I guess had them framed.

1088

00:55:49,190 --> 00:55:52,010

Anyway, he went down there
and he made contacts.

1089

00:55:52,010 --> 00:56:00,620

Well, to make a long
story short, he sold--

1090

00:56:00,620 --> 00:56:06,590

he plastered, I think, most of
the motels with his pictures.

1091

00:56:06,590 --> 00:56:11,300

He hired artists
in New York, and he

1092

00:56:11,300 --> 00:56:14,190

would tell us he had a studio.

1093

00:56:14,190 --> 00:56:18,230

They would send
up 10 or 15 easels

1094

00:56:18,230 --> 00:56:20,810

and go red, red, red,
blue, blue, blue.

1095

00:56:20,810 --> 00:56:26,270

He designed the
pictures, and the orders

1096

00:56:26,270 --> 00:56:29,510

he got to match the
pictures to the decor.

1097

00:56:29,510 --> 00:56:34,730

So they were painted yellow
and gray and blue and whatever.

1098

00:56:34,730 --> 00:56:38,210

And he sold-- he must have
sold thousands of pictures.

1099

00:56:38,210 --> 00:56:43,300

He didn't just sell in
Florida, but he went up

1100

00:56:43,300 --> 00:56:48,100

the Southern coast to Houston,
where this friend lived,

1101

00:56:48,100 --> 00:56:53,170

who got my uncle to get
the affidavit, who had

1102

00:56:53,170 --> 00:56:55,990

a cafe by that time, I think.

1103

00:56:55,990 --> 00:57:00,150

And then he went up through the
country, up through Arkansas

1104

00:57:00,150 --> 00:57:01,780

and all there, wherever.

1105

00:57:01,780 --> 00:57:07,020

And he sold pictures
here in Washington, too,

1106

00:57:07,020 --> 00:57:13,120

where the [INAUDIBLE]
furniture and stuff.

1107

00:57:13,120 --> 00:57:14,190

And he was absolutely--

1108

00:57:14,190 --> 00:57:15,070

Wonderful.

1109

00:57:15,070 --> 00:57:17,170

My mother traveled with him.

1110

00:57:17,170 --> 00:57:19,510

Oh, and they had moved.

1111

00:57:19,510 --> 00:57:22,990

After I left, they
moved from 96th Street,

1112

00:57:22,990 --> 00:57:27,820

which became a Puerto Rican
district there, to Riverdale.

1113

00:57:27,820 --> 00:57:31,750

And they had an
apartment in Riverdale.

1114

00:57:31,750 --> 00:57:34,600

Also, everything had
to overlook something.

1115

00:57:34,600 --> 00:57:38,680

Do you think your
mother was emotionally?

1116

00:57:38,680 --> 00:57:40,480

Oh, yeah, definitely.

1117

00:57:40,480 --> 00:57:42,360

Definitely.

1118

00:57:42,360 --> 00:57:44,670

I mean, there's
no doubt about it.

1119

00:57:44,670 --> 00:57:46,620

How did it manifest itself?

1120

00:57:46,620 --> 00:57:50,970

Well, when retiring, she
wasn't affected emotionally

1121

00:57:50,970 --> 00:57:53,880

once things picked up.

1122

00:57:53,880 --> 00:57:58,000

I mean, the first

few couple years,

1123
00:57:58,000 --> 00:58:03,150
especially after she
had to be a maid.

1124
00:58:03,150 --> 00:58:05,400
But I meant having
to leave Vienna.

1125
00:58:05,400 --> 00:58:06,240
Oh, no.

1126
00:58:06,240 --> 00:58:08,280
She had it by that time.

1127
00:58:08,280 --> 00:58:14,670
I mean-- and my parents
did go back to Badgastein,

1128
00:58:14,670 --> 00:58:17,550
which is a resort near--

1129
00:58:17,550 --> 00:58:21,800
in the mountains near
Salzburg every summer.

1130
00:58:21,800 --> 00:58:22,530
Oh, they moved.

1131
00:58:22,530 --> 00:58:27,020
After they lived in New
York, they moved to Miami.

1132
00:58:27,020 --> 00:58:29,220
And then he retired.

1133
00:58:29,220 --> 00:58:31,975
And every summer, they
went to Badgastein.

1134
00:58:31,975 --> 00:58:34,170

Oh, interesting.

1135
00:58:34,170 --> 00:58:36,240
The first year they
went to Israel,

1136
00:58:36,240 --> 00:58:39,530
and they went all
through Europe to see.

1137
00:58:39,530 --> 00:58:43,920
And they went to Vienna,
and they stayed at a hotel.

1138
00:58:43,920 --> 00:58:45,190
I mean, he did very well.

1139
00:58:45,190 --> 00:58:47,240
And then he invested.

1140
00:58:47,240 --> 00:58:53,860
And he really did well
in a very short time.

1141
00:58:53,860 --> 00:58:54,360
Yes.

1142
00:58:54,360 --> 00:58:57,307
Because he retired
when he was 65.

1143
00:58:57,307 --> 00:58:59,130
Oh, my.

1144
00:58:59,130 --> 00:59:07,460
And so-- Oh, so I'll just tell
you one other little story.

1145
00:59:07,460 --> 00:59:11,340
He is sitting at a
cafe in Badgastein.

1146

00:59:11,340 --> 00:59:13,280
There was a man
sitting next to him,

1147
00:59:13,280 --> 00:59:16,560
and they started to talk,
this and that and the other.

1148
00:59:16,560 --> 00:59:20,180
And it turned out the man
was the President of Austria.

1149
00:59:20,180 --> 00:59:22,310
You see, things are different.

1150
00:59:22,310 --> 00:59:24,510
And he was having his coffee.

1151
00:59:24,510 --> 00:59:27,140
My dad was having his coffee.

1152
00:59:27,140 --> 00:59:29,600
And so they became
quite friendly.

1153
00:59:29,600 --> 00:59:31,790
And every time he
went to Vienna,

1154
00:59:31,790 --> 00:59:34,520
he went to see the president.

1155
00:59:34,520 --> 00:59:36,410
Which President was this?

1156
00:59:36,410 --> 00:59:38,780
Kirchschlager.

1157
00:59:38,780 --> 00:59:41,400
He's since deceased, of course.

1158
00:59:41,400 --> 00:59:43,580

And very nice guy.

1159

00:59:43,580 --> 00:59:46,700

So next time we went to
Vienna, I wrote to him

1160

00:59:46,700 --> 00:59:49,550

and said that I would
like to meet him.

1161

00:59:49,550 --> 00:59:53,300

And so when we were
in Vienna, there

1162

00:59:53,300 --> 00:59:58,850

was an invitation waiting
at Susie's house for me

1163

00:59:58,850 --> 01:00:01,460

to come at a particular time.

1164

01:00:01,460 --> 01:00:07,040

And his office is in a palace,
the president's palace.

1165

01:00:07,040 --> 01:00:12,360

In fact, Maria Theresia's
bedroom was the anteroom.

1166

01:00:12,360 --> 01:00:18,130

So is it still going?

1167

01:00:18,130 --> 01:00:18,630

Yeah.

1168

01:00:18,630 --> 01:00:20,880

Yeah, so it was the anteroom.

1169

01:00:20,880 --> 01:00:23,790

So on the way to
walk into the palace,

1170

01:00:23,790 --> 01:00:27,970
we're on a street, Stan and
I. And a man walked up to me,

1171
01:00:27,970 --> 01:00:32,250
and he said, can you tell me
where the Fischerstiege is?

1172
01:00:32,250 --> 01:00:34,110
And I said, oh,
yeah, no problem.

1173
01:00:34,110 --> 01:00:36,720
And I showed him how to go.

1174
01:00:36,720 --> 01:00:40,380
And Stan was very surprised.

1175
01:00:40,380 --> 01:00:44,430
Anyway, we went on to have our
audience with the president.

1176
01:00:44,430 --> 01:00:47,670
And he, the president,
Kirchschlager,

1177
01:00:47,670 --> 01:00:50,160
he spoke English very well.

1178
01:00:50,160 --> 01:00:54,970
So we talked English, of
course, and all kinds of things.

1179
01:00:54,970 --> 01:00:57,930
And then he said
to me, "by the way,

1180
01:00:57,930 --> 01:01:00,150
do you still remember Vienna?"

1181
01:01:00,150 --> 01:01:01,380
And I said, "Oh, yes.

1182
01:01:01,380 --> 01:01:02,830
I remember it very well.

1183
01:01:02,830 --> 01:01:08,730
And I told him the episode that
just happened on the street."

1184
01:01:08,730 --> 01:01:12,430
And he says, "Oh, that is
really very interesting.

1185
01:01:12,430 --> 01:01:16,230
Tell me, where is
the Fischerstiege?"

1186
01:01:16,230 --> 01:01:20,022
So I had to explain
to him where it was.

1187
01:01:20,022 --> 01:01:20,730
That's wonderful.

1188
01:01:20,730 --> 01:01:23,350
That's a wonderful story.

1189
01:01:23,350 --> 01:01:28,170
So anyway, that's the story.

1190
01:01:28,170 --> 01:01:31,600
Well, thank you very much
for doing this interview.

1191
01:01:31,600 --> 01:01:34,180
Well, thank you very much.

1192
01:01:34,180 --> 01:01:35,496
And--

1193
01:01:35,496 --> 01:01:37,250
I appreciate it.

1194

01:01:37,250 --> 01:01:38,870

Yes.

1195

01:01:38,870 --> 01:01:41,414

Are we--

1196

01:01:41,414 --> 01:01:45,090

OK, this concludes the United States Holocaust Memorial

1197

01:01:45,090 --> 01:01:49,730

Museum interview with Madeleine Sigel.

1198

01:01:49,730 --> 01:01:51,000