

Yeah, this is what I told you about this. I'm telling you the name. It was Bauer. It was in Basel.

We didn't have it on the tape. This is the second tape of an interview with Bella Adler.

The Holocaust.

Start again.

Yes, Professor Bauer, I think it's Bauer if I'm not mistaken, has lectured about the Holocaust in Basel.

Last year?

I think it was last winter. I don't know. This is what is also going on with me that I'm mixing up the time, it was this winter or last winter. I think it was this winter. And he spoke about the refugees in Shanghai. And he said about a young student, he called him student. Because my husband was always very elegantly dressed. And he came up with a wonderful idea to go to the consulate of how do you call the-- of Curacao to ask for a visa.

And the consul told him that to Curacao they don't need any visas. So he came up with a wonderful idea to ask him to write it down in his passport, and give it a stamp, to stamp it down. Yes, he said. This he can do for me. And when he came home with this, he went to the Japanese, and he got a permit.

And professor Bauer knew this and told this story? Well he was talking.

Yeah, he told the story about the young student. And I know it because it was Leo Adler, my husband. And I was the first person to whom he came. And he was laughing and telling me the whole story, what kind of idea he had and what he did. And he showed me that he got this idea and this visa. The Japanese visa.

The stamp.

And the stamp, and he went immediately--

And when you told this to Professor Bauer--

When I told this to Professor Bauer, he said-- I went to Professor Bauer because I was sitting in the first row. And I told him, I know the name of this young student, because this young student was Leo Adler. So he said, OK. And turned away, and didn't even speak to me to want more because this was not interesting. So either he should have find out maybe I am making a mistake, maybe I'm doing something what is not right, or ask me something more details about.

And you were very disappointed that he didn't care--

I was very disappointed.

--to have you have you tell your story.

Yes, and I am myself a historical student and so far and so far. And I was very, very insulted, not for myself, but for all the people who are gone, and about them he's nothing to care, and they're going to make from the Holocaust not a history which is true, but writing something what something makes up.

And that's why you came to tell your story now.

That's what I decided it's absolutely impossible that I should not do, although he don't like to do it. And it is very hard for me.

I understand.

Because my husband passed away a couple of years ago. And it's such a terrible shock for me that I cannot get over it.

But tell us how you lived the rest of the time in Kazakhstan, and how did you find your husband again?

The rest of the time I lived in Kazakhstan was a lot to tell you. It's very hard. We have very bad conditions. I didn't tell you something what happened to me. It was-- you see how much I'm forgetting. What happened to me when we have been in Aranki. And I was once in the yard, where they have been in the yard. And I see a girl going through the yard, a girl who she was working in NKVD.

And this was a girl from Kovno. And she knew me very well because she was a student, and she used to come in the gymnasium where I was a teacher. And she asked me, I should give her students, private students, to tutor them. Because she has all these students who needed help.

Yes.

And she was NKVD?

And she was working as a donoschik in the NKVD probably. And she all of a sudden saw me. And I saw how she was surprised that she saw me. And a couple of hours later, I had been asked to come to the NKVD. It was Aranki. This I remember. I came over to the NKVD, and he said the first thing what he said, first of all, he said, Mrs. Adler, usually they said you and this is it.

I was surprised. And he said, we know who you are. You know everything about you. And I know that your place is in my chair, but not to be with those people. It means this garbage together. And I am going now to Moscow. And I will try everything that you have to leave this place. It is because this girl knew me from Kovno. She knew first of all that I am not a burzhui.

So it's another human being who tried to do something for you?

Yes, and I very happy to hear it. But he left. And he probably was not going to Moscow immediately on the--

Front.

--on the front and was probably killed. But it was all of us. But through this, they find out that I have a diploma, that I was a gymnasium teacher, that I am a teacher at all the pedagogues, that I finished university, and who I am. Of course I'm telling you this is important because when we came to Karaganda, all of a sudden and the typhoid just took me very long. I told you that they I got sick with typhoid. But it came in. It was probably June or July. I don't know really the month, probably June.

And I left, it was already after Stalingrad.

Yeah.

And I was all the time with the baby in the hospital. And the only thing what I could do it was they used to give us some bread to eat. So in the hospital, they used to give us there a little sugar we used to get every day, a teaspoon taken, only a teaspoon, not a [NON-ENGLISH] what means a lot. They used to cut the bread in little pieces.

We'll get you on here.

With the sugar on top of this bread and these little pieces of bread to put on his tongue to give him a treat. So I used to call it [NON-ENGLISH]. You understand? And this is what I used to give him to eat when he was with me. And all the time he was with me in the barrack with typhoid. And he probably also had it.

Surely.

And then one day I felt better. It was every 3 and 1/2 weeks for half an hour I used to get 76 and 8 temperature.

A temperature.

So but it took me only 6 hours or 12 hours. And afterwards again, they call it was [NON-ENGLISH], it is the typhoid who comes back. And this is why it took me so long. And when I once had normal temperature, he threw me immediately out. They even didn't believe me about the temperature already anymore. And they used to watch me.

To see that you weren't making it up.

Making up. So they threw me out and I came to the barrack with this little baby who was so tiny and sick. And I don't remember, the same night or the next night, all of a sudden the child begins to breathe very badly and he's crying. But not crying, but like a cat meow, meow, meow, meow, meow. Cannot swallow, cannot breathe. And I don't know what to do.

And he doesn't get better, not nothing, what I'm giving him to eat he cannot eat. And he's only this way, and it began about in the middle of the night. And I don't know what to do with this child. And this, as I told you, this princess-- this [NON-ENGLISH], was near me. And she was like a mother, or even older. She was an old lady. She tried to take care of me and the child. But both of us couldn't do anything. And we didn't know anything what we can do here.

And he's worse and worse and worse, and doesn't breathe. And all of a sudden, he's quiet. So I got so scared. The moment he was quiet, all the time we wanted to make him quiet, to make him relax a little bit. But in the moment, he stopped I got so it was pure instinct. And I still feel today, I think it's purely mother instinct.

I got so scared and I began to throw him back and forth and back, and shake him. That it's such a force. And so terrible much that they thought I'm crazy. This woman near me that I told you, this princess, she wanted to take away the child from me. And I didn't give it to her. The only thing is all my strength-- with all my strength I tried to get him--

Breathing again.

To get him to cry. But he didn't cry. But all of a sudden, I thought like a glass of milk spilled out all over. Now, and I didn't know what it is. I could tell you all the literature of the world literature, everything you wanted about this here, and this here, and this, but I didn't know that this is diphtheria. And the stench.

Surely.

And it was white, white like milk, gray even. And all over and he began to breathe. And he got quiet. And he fell asleep. The woman in the barrack already, they couldn't sleep. They didn't care what happened to the child. But they were angry that they couldn't sleep. They told the doctor what's happening here with a child. It's terrible. And she came from the hospital. And she made the whole barrack sick.

And coming in the doctor. He said, you are going to the hospital. I come to the hospital. There was the doctor which I told you from Vienna. He was a Dr. Winter, his name. And he said he didn't even think too much. He took one with a piece of wood, and looked him in the throat, and yes, he has diphtheria. But we don't have anything against it.

And then comes the Russian doctor. I want to describe you, a small woman, blonde, looks wonderful, like a little girl. She's a doctor. And he tells her. He says, a diphtheria. And we don't have anything against it. And this Russian woman took us horse and the sleds, puts two or three scarves around, and sat down herself. And went to Karaganda 40 kilometers away. And came in the evening with a serum that you use for diphtheria. In couple of days the child was OK.

Another fantastic example of someone who behaved like a human being.

I don't know. You can't say. When I say, I have my son here. I just want to tell you that he is himself a professor, a medical director of medicine in the Hospital Maimonides. He is now in California. If I wouldn't be here, I would be with him in California where he is getting accepted as a fellow to the doctors and physicians there. I don't know what it is anyway, a very high degree. And he is well.

And well, I'm telling him that you are doing too much, and you are giving too much [INAUDIBLE] or something. So he said, Mommy, I can't understand you. Do you think that God wanted me to be a rich man in America when he saved me from so many dangers?

It's fantastic. How did he keep that humanity? How did you keep? Why weren't you bitter and angry?

I was not bitter. I was not angry. I was happy that I have this child. And after all these things, how was the life in Karaganda, I have to make the long story a little bit shorter.

Yes, tell us--

And it's very interested he's going to--

Contact you.

Look for me, contact me, only I have to tell you why I told you about my degrees and my everything what they found out about me. It was when I came to Karaganda. But some come to Politruk and said, Stalin said that on the Russian territory of the USSR, there cannot be even one child without a school. And we have so many children in the camp. And you are going to make a school.

And I didn't want to. Because I knew the less you are involved, the better. So he said you know everything. You are the only teacher who has all the degrees for the teacher has to have. You can take some help if you want. But you are going to make the school here. Because we know everything about you. And he said everything about you and everything. I knew from where it is, that he told him.

Yes.

And so I said it's OK. I'll do it. But the only one condition that I shouldn't live in the barrack.

So you could get out of there.

Because the child get, his impressions of what is going on in the barrack, in the woman barrack, when everybody is hungry. And they're saying [NON-ENGLISH] that this is much worse. The human being is much worse than a lupus. Believe me, when he's hungry and when he's so unhappy like we were. And I didn't want he should hear what's going on and see what's going on. So I said because all the pedagogical things have been falling in my head and how important it is for the education of a child, et cetera, et cetera.

So I said this is the only condition. He said, OK. You are going to have in the school where is going to be a teacher's room, one little corner. And there you can stay. So this is the only condition. I don't want anything. OK, I had a school. And the school had been all the children from the camp. At the end of the war it was 99 children.

From all different places?

No. From this--

But from all different countries.

Yeah, from all different places, yeah. And the kindergarten also had, because after once, after the Russians began to get

help from the states, they tried to make the people who had been working skeletons workers, so they began to give better food and to make them work. And they give them a lot of industry there, our people. Because they knew how to work from the other countries. They had a lot of experience. And they made such real factories there.

But we had a little bit more food. At the moment we had a little bit of food, more surround some certain women, and men, et cetera, et cetera. And there began to be children. And this later had a kindergarten.

So how many years was this that you did this?

I came in '41. And I came to America in '48 or '47, '48 I think.

You skipped something. How did you get to America?

Oh, this is what I'm telling you. I have a lot to tell you. This is a lot of things involved with NKVD, involved with the American Consulate and involved here with me. And I said a lot of things once upon a time in Israel. They're having Yad Vashem, because Yad Vashem is working with one man who was together with me in camp. And now he's a director of the Yad Vashem. His name is Rosenkranz. And he knows a lot about me. He know how the behavior was.

To make you a long story short, all the German Jews and all the [NON-ENGLISH] worshiped me by the end of the war, and they found out that I am not an enemy, and I am not a spy, and I'm not doing anything. And I did a lot of help for them. Because I knew Russian and a little bit maybe education, I don't know. And by the end of the war, they have been taken away. And because the Russians said that after the war the Germans have to build up everything what they ruined in Russia. And 400 Jews have also to be between this building up of Russia.

And they sent them after the world war and after so much anger to be in their coal mines. And this means a death sentence, the coal mine, because the SS people didn't hold out more than three months. And they came with another supply of strength.

So I was the one who wrote this-- how do you call it? Wrote to Stalin, it never came to Stalin. But it came very high. And there came a commission and they came. And they sent me to speak to this commission. And I had to make this commission of NKVD clear what the difference is between Germans and Jews with German passports. And it was, believe me, a very hard job.

And if you are going to say that there is a certain human way of doing things, so I have to tell you that there was somebody speaking in me, if I could persuade these people that the Jews have nothing to do with this military. And then 400 Jews have been saved. He was one of them. And this has to be saved for the Yad Vashem.

Record, yes.

And maybe we can meet maybe. I'll come to you even to Washington if you are interested to find out a lot more.

Well, tell me more. The war was over. And you somehow without knowing where your husband was.

Yeah, not now. I will only tell you a little story how it was, as to my husband, he didn't know where I am, and I didn't know where my husband is. And I didn't know what happened in Lithuania. And people have been from our camp walking outside. So I used to give them letters, and write on the address of my parents to Lithuania. Because Lithuania was already nothing, absolutely nothing.

So I decided I'm going. OK. I don't know where my parents are. But maybe they made it in the city. You might find them. So I wrote a letter to the mayor of the city. And you believe it or not, I got an answer. And this letter I have. And this is going to be the way which I'm going to write down in my testament that this letter has to be put in my grave together with me. Although I know that in Jewish law it is prohibited.

I myself [INAUDIBLE] We have to inform you with our deepest feelings that on the 29th of August, I think, I now have

counted out, despite the days in Elul, your whole family, and your parents and brothers have been killed by the Nazis. And they can only express to you and all the other Jews of your city, our deepest sincerest feelings with you. And this is it.

So I have been sitting shiva for him for an hour. And afterwards, even the color of my face was changed. I was not any more depressed. And then I find out that this was already in '47 or '46, I don't know. But they didn't let me out. And with force I stand up, and I try to do something for the Jews who have been taken out to work in the mines. I got suspicious for the Russians.

And there was another thing where I got suspicious. When the whole camp was almost-- not a whole camp but all the Jews went home. I was kept, because they didn't know what to do with me. And they said they're going to send me to Lithuania. And I said I am not going to Lithuania. First of all, I can't find there anything on the graves. Secondly, I'm sure that I'm going to see it, I'm not going to live anymore because I cannot take it anymore.

And they kept me all the time like a German. I also want to be now a German. If I was a German for you all those terrible years, I am now a German too. And they had a hard time with me. And then they decided they're going to send me in some camp where it is maybe they want to decide. They have people who were taken out from jails, for example, Italian who killed his wife. And there were other people. So they have sent us all too. We should have been gone. I think we should have begun to Kyiv or something where is a central camp for all the people who they don't know decide to do.

But on the way, the criminals were with us, like Italians is what I told you. There were two. Now they had set down with the people, the soldiers who were--

Taking you

Taking-- who were with us. Who have been how do you say? [NON-ENGLISH]. And they have been sitting and playing cards all night and drinking and they stole the documents from them.

So they couldn't have any proof that they were criminals?

And it was gone. And when the Russians said what they have to do, there is nothing. So instead of bringing them to one place, brought us to Odessa. And from there, they began to make new documents for everybody, with who and what's what. And I have been staying in Odessa. And it was a very hard time. The children got [NON-ENGLISH] how do you say?

Measles?

Measles. And I was very much afraid, because they got it in the train. The travel from Karaganda till Odessa, it was can write a book about only this. And I tried to take care, good care of a sick child who is so weak. And I know that I had a wonderful, wonderful for 24 people a tablecloth still. Because I had what they didn't take. So I gave to one Russian woman, and she brought me a lemon for it.

It was all hand embroidered for 24 people in a camp. For \$10,000, you cannot get such a thing now. It was done years and years of wonderful-- and she brought me a lemon from someplace that I could have for the child. But she tried to help me. This I have to say this woman. And in Odessa, I saw that people, women are coming out from the villages and bringing in something to sell.

And if you're going out from the camp, so here was our camp. And here on the other side was the Russian commandant or the Russian all this. So you have to get out from this camp and to come in the other one. But how can you go out? So I decided, if I'm going to say that I'm going to be the cleaning woman in this [NON-ENGLISH] they called it. So I'll go out. And when I'm going out I can buy something for the child, for the baby.

But I didn't have any money anymore. So I sold, I had not the Persian, but the silk.

The silk.

A silk one. I still had from that. So I sold it for a doctor. I don't know how much money they gave me, a couple of thousand rubles I think. And I used to work to clean this and that. And on the way back I used to buy some fruit, some vegetables, some carrots for the child. This was how.

This way I knew already all the officers and mayors who have been working there. The Russians, they had a lot of doctors and officers who have been Jews. They respected me very much because in Odessa we had been staying in a hospital, and there have been Germans too. And I never looked in the side where a German is. The opposite I was a woman too. When they see me, they flip to some. So they had extremely much respect for me.

The head of this hospital was a man by the name Waxman. You can imagine who it was, Waxman. He was to say hello to me and everything very nicely. But I didn't know anything. And on Friday, just I'm mixing up a lot of things. And there a lot of things what there has to be put in, and this Mr. Waxman, this Mr. Waxman saw me, and when I one Friday went over to wash the floors-- it has to be washed twice a day and to bring the water up and down and so on and so forth.

So I'm coming over Friday about 2 o'clock to wash the second time the floors. And he's coming the head of the staff, Polkovnik Fridman and he says to me. He said Madam Adler, Madam Adler, come with me. And I'm coming in his room. He said, sit down. I have very good news for you.

One day all the Austrian people are going to be sent to Austria. And you are going to be sent too. I say, I'm sorry. But you cannot send me because I am a German, not an Austrian. He said, you have to go. And he only said because nobody was there. After a while we hear what's going on. It was Friday.

Sunday in the afternoon, about 5:00, 6 o'clock, was coming a very small little woman, like a child, dark, skinny. And she's looking for me. Would you please to come in the room of Dr. Waxman?

I said, OK. I'm coming up. And she has to make an [NON-ENGLISH] to fill out, at least. It is in Russia very often you have to write and write and write and write without end. So I was not surprised anymore because of this. And she writes my name and so on and so. And asked me. When it comes to citizenship, she doesn't ask me. She writes Avstrijskoe.

So she knew to fill it in.

No. So I saw what she's writing. I said, you write it, but I see what you are writing and I'm going to tell you that I'm not going to sign it because it's not true. But she [INAUDIBLE] she stopping writing, she looks at me and she says, this was dura, it means fool. So you don't understand. They want to save you? [RUSSIAN] it means to save, this word.

[AUDIO OUT]

And this is side two.

And he told Dr. Waxman what's going on. They found a Jewess. She was Jewess, this little girl, a little woman. It was a woman that nobody should know. You see, it was such a whole chain and they made it between himself to save me. I didn't know. And so then [NON-ENGLISH], and I went with all of them to Austria.

To Vienna?

To Vienna.

Still not knowing?

Yeah, I knew that I'm going with them. But I wasn't sure that on the border they're going to send me back. And I was so

much excited. And I didn't know what to do that really the first time through all these years I really got a nervous breakdown when we have been in Baden already, near Vienna before we came to Vienna. And I got so hysterical that one other woman, she was from Latvia, [NON-ENGLISH], came over to me and she gave me one and two over the face. Now, you're going to be quiet or not?

This was the woman whom I would kiss the hand today.

Yes.

I was so panicked. And this somehow they brought me out. Now, you want to know--

But you didn't know where your husband was still?

No. By this time I knew. But how I knew this, what I have to tell you. In the school we had a lot of children, I told you how many there were, and from all countries. Between them was one Finnish, girl Anushka. She was my pupil. She began to learn with me from ABC and she finished all the program of all the four grades. Her mother was a very plain, uneducated, illiterate woman. And her daughter was already now, and the Finns had been the first one to get free, because they signed the treaty the first.

And all day, we find out that this girl with her mother are going to leave. Everybody who was in camp wrote letters and gave addresses.

To get mail out to see if someone-- I see.

I knew that this woman is not going to do anything because she can't do anything. So I just decided that I'm not going to do anything. What can she do for me? What can she do for me? All of a sudden, about 5 o'clock, she had to go out already almost from the camp. She's coming, not the girl, not my pupil, but her mother is coming in. She said, I can't understand you.

Why don't you give a letter?

Why don't you give a letter? Now, what I'm going to tell you. All the letters what I have here so much, they are going to be in the closet, the toilet before I'm leaving. You think I'm such a fool to risk my freedom because of these letters? But if I'm going to take a letter, it's only yours because I know, an illiterate woman, plain, plain, plain and ugly woman says to me that for you I'm going to do everything in the world. Because I know what I want.

I can't write and can't read. But my Anushka is going out now a literate person and you did it. So I'm going to do for you everything. Sit down and write a letter. I'll take it. I took out from my school a little paper. And I took. It was a written paper. I scrubbed it out, and I wrote a letter to my cousin. I don't have anything what to-- how to do it. I wrote this letter. And I made it this way.

Mrs. Adler is folding a piece of paper to look like an envelope. And this is what I did with a little bit of bread--

As glue.

As glue, and I wrote down the address. This was very happily I knew the address of my cousin who left before me to the States to join her husband with her two boys, one Meyer and the other Julius. And this Julius Berman is the president who had the speech now. And he wasn't 4 years old when they left for the States. And she wrote the letters. And she has a handwriting, a very straight one. And I remember the address.

You remembered the address after all those years?

Yes, because his handwriting was such a clear one. Bolden Street 10 Hartford, Connecticut.



My God.

And I wrote this letter and I wrote Bolden Street 10 Hartford, Connecticut. And I gave it to this woman, not even thinking once that this letter is going to come once to the States.

Unbelievable.

But this cousin is now here with me. And I have now a very bad conscience that she is alone here, and I now with you.

We'll go find her in a minute.

Yes. And I have the letter. I found it at my cousin's. And I wrote this letter, and I gave it to her. One day my cousin is cleaning her house, like every day, and dusting, and she has a wonderful plate, a black plate with red roses. And she said, [NON-ENGLISH]

And she's crying the whole morning because she's sure I am not alive. The same morning is coming the mailman on Bolden Street 10, and looking around where is this and Mrs. Sara Berman. And he looks all over and he doesn't see any. He is about to go away with this letter in his pocket, all of a sudden comes down an old sweet woman, Mrs. Wilson, illiterate old Jewish woman.

And she says, hello, how are you today. He said, fine but I have here a letter to some Mrs. Berman, and I don't see her any. Oh, she said, she doesn't live here anymore. She's living now in Florence street. But if you want, I'll take it to her. Because I'm going there. The cousin's husband is a shochet. And he's bringing for her meat. And she's an old woman and a poor woman, and this makes out for her relatives she's getting meat for half a price.

So I'm going today to Mrs. Berman anyway. I can take it. And she's coming to my cousin with this piece of paper, not even a letter. Because something like this you put in the garbage. And she forgot already about it. And she sees my cousin is standing and dusting the house, and she's crying bitterly. Also it was raining. So she says, even my [INAUDIBLE] left and so and so. But she says, I don't know. I find a letter I have for you. The mailman brought today in Bolden Street.

And she opens this letter from me. She immediately took her coat. And went to the station to go to New York. Because in New York was the uncle of my husband, still alive. And a friend of him from [NON-ENGLISH] yeshiva who came before. And between them was a cousin of my husband.

And she knew this?

No, a cousin of theirs, Rabbi Bender who was a cousin of her husband.

But she knew that your husband's relatives were in?

Yeah, just before she knew this.

OK.

Because it was time before the war broke out and before I was taken to write to them. And she went to New York. And she visited her cousin, the Rabbi Bender. And she tells him that I am alive. And she went to call the uncle of my husband and he wrote a letter. She called my husband's uncle and he immediately gave a telegram to my husband in Shanghai.

In Shanghai?

That I am alive, and the child is alive. Now there are people, friends of my husband in New York, who told me they are still alive. They said they have been sure that my husband got crazy, because the whole yeshiva who was absolutely sure

that I am dead.

Of course.

How can somebody survive, survive so many years? And he was the only one who said she's not dead. Because I know it. You feel if somebody is dead. But she's not dead, because I feel it. So they said he's crazy. Because how can a person say such a thing? And when he used to say to everybody that he knows that I am alive, they said he's crazy. And the friends of him say, all of these friends to whom he spoke mostly, is now a patient with my son.

We told him that my husband used to speak to him so calmly, he's living in New York. He's used to speak to him so much that his feet began to ache him, because they have been walking around. And they thought that he is crazy. And this is how my husband immediately got a telegram from his uncle that I am alive. And all day, I began to get in the camp packages. Packages.

From America?

From America. From Israel. From all over.

Because now people knew you were there.

They knew that I am alive, and this is how my husband find out that I am alive.

And he then came where? What did he do?

He was in Shanghai. And afterwards he came from Shanghai via San Francisco to the United States.

And you came?

I came much later, because they kept me in the camp till the end of '47. I came '48 in January.

And you saw your husband?

Yes. And the bris of my son was in Bedford Hospital in New York when he was seven years old.

When he was seven years old.

And then he got his name Mortrech. And I wanted to call him Mordechai because I don't believe in calling Jews not Jewish names. And I think the Jewish names are exactly as beautiful as all the others. And my husband said a name is something, but has his signs. He was a little bit mystical too. He was a very big scholar. And he said he was saved from so many dangers by the name Mark.

He's going to be Mark [PERSONAL NAME].

And what did your husband do when you lived in the States?

We had a very hard time.

Yeah.

We had a very, very hard time.

They would understand in '48 in '49. [NON-ENGLISH], from psychology, they are making how so much libraries, a lot of things would be different. We had an extremely hard time, extremely hard time. And not only monetary, monetary too, you have to use every penny to make go as long as possible. But the human dignity, we was so threaten us with

feet, you know, so dirty.

If a butcher has to tell you that you are fit to be a teacher or not. If you're coming to get a job like a teacher, what you had the best education from Germany. You have the [NON-ENGLISH] And he's taking his steady hand on his apron and he says, this is not good. What is what is your experience? The paper--

And my husband had it extremely hard. And afterwards, he was elected the rabbi of Basel.

And then you went from the States to Basel? I see. And your son was educated in Basel?

Yes he finished medical school in Basel, and then he went back to New York.

You say they.

Yeah, I got two children more.

Did you?

Yeah. Two boys. Tell me about them. They're wonderful. One is-- the oldest Mark what I told you.

Yes.

He is I told you, medical director in Maimonides Hospital. And the other is-- this what happens to me.

It's all right. Tell me in any language you want.

No. This is he is a [NON-ENGLISH] specialist.

[NON-ENGLISH] specialist, a gynecologist?

Yes.

And a very good one. And he has also an assistant professorship already, et cetera, et cetera.

Where is he?

He's in New York. He has his own practice. And he's doing research.

And the third one is David. He's a psychiatrist. And he has his own practice on Park Avenue.

And you had three sons whom you got through medical school, and who got to do this when you had so little money?

Very little money, very little patience, a lot of trouble, a lot of hardships. But I was very happy that we met again, and we have been very happy together. And it was not very easy to be happy. Because lost patients, and lost a lot of things. And I'll never forget that my husband told me, I can't recognize you. I don't believe it's you. You don't even have the same voice. You know, the dream girl from Lithuania with a lot of wonderful dreams, believing that the world is so wonderful and good.

Yes.

And to go and to fight through a lot of things, I would like to tell you another episode.

Wait, I want to ask you something.

Please.

Tell me how you think you managed to keep your humanity.

[NON-ENGLISH]

But other Jews didn't behave that way.

No.

Have you told your children these stories?

No.

They don't know.

They know a lot of things that they saw between. But I even couldn't tell it to my husband. No, I couldn't tell him. He couldn't hear it.

It's too hard for him?

Yes. Too hard for him.

And you know what once, we have been looking at the television not very long ago, a couple of years or more, six years, maybe seven. When in Holland, have been taking the--

Oh yes.

You remember?

And then they have been kept I think, I think maybe a couple of weeks.

The strange thing on the train when they hijacked the train?

Yes, hijacked the people and they didn't let them out. You remember? And then there was a professor in Holland about the psychology of these people he was speaking. And how they are going to remain from two weeks being there for the whole life what kind of psychological traumas they have. You know?

Then he said all of a sudden, look, it looks to me that you have exactly the same things. And that's when he began maybe--

No, not only maybe. But he knew that it is impossible that you are trying-- and maybe this experience what I had with my son that you have to, you have to, you have to, because you have to keep in mind maybe this I learned a certain technique, I would say.

Yeah.

You know, you have to, you have to, you have to, push it through. It was very, very hard. I had the most wonderful person you can imagine my husband was. I can't even describe to you what kind of an extremely wonderful person. But he was not-- he was a genius, he is not.

Yes.

And to make the dollar go as far as possible is even harder.

And even in Basel, things were difficult?

Even in Basel. No, in Basel we had it much easier. But in Basel, I have other things to do so. I couldn't give to my family so much time. And so much like I wanted.

Well, it sounds like--

Because I had other obligations. I had other--

I understand.

And it was not so easy. And the time what was during this time what my husband went through, is even harder than I was. And it was also not so easy because it didn't go away from him. So it left very deep signs. He began to smoke passionately when he find out that his father was in the concentration camp. And since then he couldn't do anything. He was like crazy. He adored his father. He adored his father in such a degree that I think it was not even normal anymore.

And he felt everything. He felt one night he woke up and he said, this night my father died. And he wrote down the date. And after the war, after many years, he found out it was exactly the day when he was killed in Riga. And his mother who was killed, was the first one who died in Riga on the way when she was brought from Germany. And his brother died in Minsk. And there was a little brother who was in Holland, and he was taken also to the concentration camp and killed.

And the wife and the child, he didn't know where they are. And he knew only to learn, and to learn, and he had so much humor and so much life, and so he was impersonated life, you know. And always thinking-- he has a doctorate in philosophy. He is with honors and honors and honors. He was one of the biggest speech orators you can imagine. He has immense and immense knowledge. But he couldn't take it anymore. And it was not easy, no, no.

I thank God my children are standing on their own feet. And so anyway, and my youngest son always says, Mama, you have to have decent. Go and buy another dress. Do something. We don't want you to-- you don't have to keep any money for him. And I don't have never money I have. You have to spend everything on you. So I said, you have to live for you also something.

I'm telling you now already, every penny you leave is going for stock now.

OK. Good.

That's good. This is the way I feel. I'm thinking this is what makes me proud.

I should think so.

But he is a good psychiatrist and doctor. And one day calls him up, a Hasidishe rebbe, that he wants to meet him when he can come home. So he just to tell you the education they got. They said, the rabbi is coming to me? No. You please tell me when I can visit you if you want to speak to me.

What is their connection with the Jewish community?

They are observant Jews. The youngest one is that psychiatrist, you know. I don't know if he's so strictly Orthodox. But he's very observant too. And the others are strict law too, especially this oldest, Mark.

And his Jewishness is Litvish Jewishness. My son, David.

Yes.

He was living in New Haven, Connecticut. So there was every Friday in Shabbos at least 12 people at his table, because his wife has a service for 12. She's from German origin, you know. So it's just so. And if he's going to be [INAUDIBLE] different, is very bad, but not less than 12. Also they have only three--

Are their grandchildren?

I have four grandchildren. Yes. The oldest, Mark, has two. And the second one has three. I don't have the pictures with me because it's heavy. No, maybe I do.

This is the end of this recording.