

Testing, testing.

Excuse me?

The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, Washington DC, April 12, 1983. Interview with Gucia Haut.
Do you want to tell me your name and spell your name for me please?

My name is Gucia. My maiden name is Scmulewicz.

First spell your name.

Scmulewicz. S-C-M-U-L-E-W-I-C-Z, Scmulewicz.

And spell your name now.

Now, in my first marriage is Fuchs. My first husband's name was Fuchs. I was married before the war. I had a little child when Hitler, he kill my child, he kill my husband. And later I have the story what was happening.

OK, and you spell Haut? Haut is the second marriage after the war.

Spell that name for me.

H-A-U-T.

OK. And where were you born? I'm born in Poland.

Where?

In the city in Belchatow.

And when were you born?

I was born in 1912, the 15th of July.

Do you want to talk about before the war, and tell me--

Before the war, my father was a teacher. His name was Josef Scmulewicz. We was living in Belchatow. And this was many kinds of time. There was poor times. There was better times in our house. I was working very hard when I was young. And my house was five children with me. And my father couldn't afford for all, because he was a teacher. In Europe, a teacher and it comes the holiday. They took home the children, and they didn't pay for this month. And this was not to make the holiday. And I grow up. I have to go to work.

I want to go to school. Like here, I see the people with education, then they will sit in the school. I worked 16 hours a day to make for shoes. And my father can't afford to make those shoes, you know? This was a very hard life in Europe. And I work seven years, 16 hours a day. In the morning, 4:30 I was in the factory. I wake up. 5:00 we start. 9 o'clock, I went out in the factory. It was very hard life.

How old were you then?

From 12 to 17 years, I worked with this machine. Later, I learned some other trade. This was weaving. Before I was in a different kind of work. It was much easier. Anyway, I learned myself, when I worked with weavers. And I bring him the spools, and I learned myself weaving. After I work eight hours. I have a big day.

You were a weaver.

As a weaver. I don't talk so good English.

To machines, and I have so much time. So I started to sew. I was a tailor, later, for me, for my mother, for myself. And I work until I was married, and I was pregnant. And I should have the child in the factory, you know? I worked so hard at this time.

I cleaned the machines. Both. This was a very hard job just to clean every week. When I come home, I should have the baby. I don't know what is happening with me. I think, but I call my sister. My older sister, she was married. She said, what you did? You should lie in bed. This is--

You were in labor.

This was something, but you should lie, not to stay. You have to recall in Europe there was not a hospital to go or something else. You call not a doctor, but she was a lady.

A midwife.

But she was really educated about this. And she come. She says, just to lie. And I was lying three days. But I born this, my first child, my little boy. And he was 4 and 1/2 years when Hitler take him and they kill him.

What happened?

This was during the war, during the Second World War. This was 1942. And I was in Belchatow in 1942 during the war. It was a very bad, a hard time. Every day they come to us in the rooms. They look for everything. In the beginning, they take what we have, beginning. And after they take the furniture, they took everything from us, there Germans what they want.

Even your clothes.

Who took it, the soldiers or the people?

The soldiers, this from the German army. They go in, and we was nothing. We have nothing to say. They do what they want to do. And they took the husbands, and they took him for work, and some they killed, and some they go to work. And they come back, so they put the bad dogs to--

Bite them.

The clothes, they took from them like that. It was a terrible time in Belchatow. Later in 1942, they said they we will go in a better place. The children, they will have a good place for children home. This was in the morning. We were sleeping. We went out. It's full in the city. And they said I don't know what is happening. And my child was sleeping. I said, I want not to go down.

My husband said, come, because if my husband was working, he make this for shoes, the tops.

Yeah.

And the Germans, they like very good this leather, leather things he make, bags. So they he like, and he work for them, my husband is-- I could not look in this. When they come in, he was so nervous, but he works for them. And he thinks, and we didn't know that we go also out in this, to go out from the city. So my husband was staying with his friends, what he worked with these.

And I was staying with the women, with the children, with the older people with all. and the other people were saying, I

want to know what is happening with us. And my child was staying with me. I could not go over with the child. And my parents was on the other side, and my sisters-- I had three sister.

What other side?

And I was the third. I was the youngest. And I left my child with my neighbor, and the sisters with the mother. And we know then this place. And I went to my husband. I ask him something. I come out, out of this, the wagons, big wagons, now it is trucks. And they said, up. We have to go up on this. My husband was up. And I want to go to with my child. They let me not to go.

And I go up in this bus. And we're going then to the Lodz ghetto. I think my child come also. I didn't see any more my child. And I didn't know what I can do. I think they all go down. After there come people in this side, I met people. They said that my child was with my sister. And they wait for me. And anymore, I didn't see my child.

That was very hard.

This was after I come to the Lodz ghetto.

And you were all alone?

And my husband was, with my first husband. He was working very hard, 12 hours a day. We had very little food, one bread for all week. And 2 pounds potatoes, 3 pounds potatoes all month. A little bit of oil for all week. We was so hungry, when a sick people, they get a [NON-ENGLISH], a ticket, for the skin from the potatoes, to get. And a doctor give him a [NON-ENGLISH]. He is sick. He cannot have to take this. He cannot, just this what you get.

We were so hungry. And we work. ,

You were in the ghetto now?

I was in the Lodz ghetto I was with my husband. He works also. And one time, we came home somebody opened the door and steal us. This was I had for all month food. What we do? My husband, he was working also with a factory where they sew the leathers. He cut it. He was a cutter. He was a very good worker, very good worker. He was in the top workers. He got two soups a day. One soup he bring home, and we share. One soup a day, for all day.

We had no bread. We had nothing. They steal out. Twice opened the door, and I know what who did. This was the man was watching the house. He watch when me go out. And he has a key, and he opened the door, and closed it. And nothing was in it. It was so much terrible, you know?

But I have a lot of hope. And I hope I will see my child. And I must live. And after in the ghetto, also people what was better people, they have perfection, you know? They have much better life. We was-- we have nothing. We was in-- for this list. They put the list, when they have to send people to the concentration camps, for die, they put these people like me.

For three times they put me in the list to go. Yeah. But my husband has worked in this factory, and they need him. So his manager, the head from this factory send him with a letter. Don't let this lady go. I need this husband, and she have to be with him to watch him. Three times they put me in the list. And I saved my life in this way. After 1944, in the Lodz ghetto we went to Auschwitz.

Oh, you went.

Auschwitz, they sent us to Auschwitz. You know what is Auschwitz, the concentration camp, very bad.

You went with your husband?

And I come here in this concentration camp, I think we go together, they said. We put everything what we have. We have not too much clothes. But what we slept, we think from everything they took us, nothing. The hair, they cut like that. When you have golden teeth, they took it out. And they have [INAUDIBLE], the all clothes. We went to a bath. They took every clothes. And we go out, we take a bath, a shower I remember a shower. We get just one piece, not underwear, not shoes, nothing.

When two sisters go out, one or the other didn't recognize. but she has no hair. She has no clothes. She has nothing, without shoes, without-- She has one piece. Could be a big girl, and she has a clothes like that. A small girl, could have like that a piece. And we was no more people, no more. Just a piece. We was was a piece.

And they gave you clothes, it didn't matter what size they were, or--

Size? Nothing. Just and we stayed outside. Here the music plays, the Germans. They dance and play. This was so cold, and this is at night. And we stay. We freeze. And we stay. We don't know what. After, they put us in a barrack, a big-- and the horses were staying in this before the war, it was for horses. The floor was stone, and thousands of women on the floor were sitting.

Not the place where they sleep, but where they sit, so one and the other here on the floor. So a lady said to me, you know, I sit here. I was here a week. I said, are you alive a bit? My mother learned me when you sit in a stone, in the cold, you died, you're cold. And I said, and you're alive a week, you can be here? But it's no other way. And I have to sit in this. And we was there a night, one night.

After, they send us to other barracks. And this was from wood, they make with pritsches to sleep, you know?

Yeah, bunks. Bunks.

Yeah, three, with no nothing, just one blanket to cover. There's 12 ladies in one this bed. This was just wood. And like sardines in a box. When one turn, every six had to turn over. But you have no place to lie and to cover. On the other side, also, this 12. It comes 2 o'clock at night, they call us appell.

What?

Appell, to go on appell. You know what this means? They want to see if we are all.

They want to count you.

Yeah, five in a line. We have to stay. You can stay at night from 2 o'clock to 4:00. This comes a German and to see where everyone is. And it was so cold. And everyone want to stay in the middle, so it would warm a bit between, and not in the end, this and this.

You take turns standing in the middle.

It was so cold, and nothing clothes, just one piece in this night. And you feel so bad. And after we go in, you can go out when you need something. Then all will go. You have to go out. We have to wait. And we will not to go in, in some place, just in a field, and to stay like that, like animal. This was this life.

And when you got food, the one pot soup. To everyone that you couldn't take like here a piece. This was the soup. And this was the meal, everyone five in a pot. That we were stay in the line. We ate. This was this meal. In one time, you got a little piece a bread of like that, and a little piece margarine. They give before the margarine, a little piece like a half a finger. So we ate the margarine. You cannot wait until the bread. We were so hungry. This was the food for all day. I was--

Were you sick? How did you feel? Were you sick? Did you get sick?

I was lucky, it was four weeks in Auschwitz. This was in block 19 I was. And I was for a week, because I look over, and who has something, you know, like something in the skin or something else. They go in oven. If there's a little girl, my friend, she was 18 years old, a beautiful girl. They make her of the skin a little pit, like she went in the other side. And they put her in the oven, in the gas. In a lot a lot of people, my whole family goes in this way.

Your mother and your father?

Yeah, because my parents was on the other side. They come no more to the ghetto. But they went in another side. They went to Chelmno, because they have wagons with gas. And later, after the war, I find out where they--

You didn't know when you were in Auschwitz.

No, during the war, I had hope. And I was living with hope I must see my child. I must see my parents. But I didn't see. But later, I find out where this transport goes in the other side. But we, the youngest and the strongest they sent for work to the ghetto. And after to the concentration camps, to Germany. In 1944 I went to Germany. They sent us.

We went also in a barrack. And the girls what they work in this barrack, said, no. Nobody is alive. Everyone goes in the ovens here. And I was hoping. No, I cannot believe that, I said. I could not believe. I had a lot of hope. And they picked me up to Germany. There was many kinds of women, but everything was nice and clean. And I went. They sent us work to Germany. This was 1944.

In Germany was also a very hard life. In beginning, we started to work by airplanes. We come in a big house. But this house was with air conditioning, with steam. This was the pole. And we worked by airplanes, by this-- I cannot tell you in English how they called it.

Runway?

This was from the airplanes they--

Landed on the runways, the roads that the airplanes were on.

There was a piece, a big piece, like a big hole.

A runway.

And we--

A hangar?

With-- what you take this--

A part of the airplane, was it a part?

No. We make this [NON-ENGLISH].

For the airplane?

For the airplanes, yeah, for this. But I didn't work so much what I should work. I watched the meister. When he didn't look, I didn't work, because you don't eat. And you have to work hard, you cannot be alive. I watch him. If he don't look, I didn't work. When he take a look, I work.

Yeah.

Some people they work hard, and they could not go, and they died doing the work. After they come to this place, in

another factory to machines, they look for smart people to go along by a machine to work. And I want not to go. I want to stay near this work, because I work not alone, and I have not to make more. And they work by machine very hard.

Later, this was very bad. And we sleep in a room. There's very bad as you know, worms in the wall. It's full. And we sleep three lines beds. And when I take, like that, the [INAUDIBLE] sat down, and we have no more-- like one shirt. Nine months, and every day, I went to the factory by steam, near the [NON-ENGLISH], the radiators. I wash my shirt into the sink. And put it on there, the radiators. And I make it there, and every day I come home have I have a clean shirt, nine months in one shirt.

This was clean. Mine was clean. Who was not clean, has a lot of trouble. They cutting one more the hair when you go up. When you go up a little bit, and they took everything, there was a lot of trouble. But I was clean. Later when we have not this house, they make us outside in a very cold barrack with no steam, you have to wash outside myself with cold water with hand, no soap.

And we wash. And I go every day after my work, I go outside I took off my clothes. And I wash and I took my clean shirt.

How old were you now?

How old were you at that time? I was young. I was 12 year--

12?

The 12, I am born. You know this is in 39. You know? I was not old. I must be clean. I could not be there. I do it every day. I must be, I said. But I have a lot of hope. I hope. I must be. I hope all the time when I was in the worst situation, the Germans must fall, and I must live, and I must see its end, and I must see the victory. And this was--

That was the story in your mind.

And this was the end, and I saw everything before. And who could not this have hope? My husband, the first husband he said nothing we could believe. We could be alive. He was very nervous. He worked, he worked, he worked. He said, he could not believe she will be alive after this war. And I said when I would be together with him, maybe he would not die. When we come to Auschwitz, they put with my husband's, the men in another place and the women in different place. And I didn't see him anymore.

And I had a lot of hope. And it was a very bad situation. They give you a very bad hard life. They let us not sleep. They wake up every two hours, another company to go to work. When you fall asleep, when you have, now these worms, they bite you. And you know this the bugs in the walls. Yeah. You know this. I don't know how to call in English.

Lice, bugs. You know, lice, right?

Right. Later we have a cold place. It was not. Before it was very bad.

Yeah.

With this.

What happened to your husband?

My husband, I didn't saw him anymore this husband. You see, we separate. I think I hope I will be seeing him, but after the war I could not hear anymore from him. And I didn't know. Exactly, I don't know where he is. But when I would be alive, I would hear from him. We had a very good life. We was eight years together.

So you made it through. What happened at liberation? What happened?

And after we were there in Germany, we worked very hard. We has a very bad life but we hope. Helped me some girls they want to help themselves and they go down for the kitchen to catch some food. They--

Did they get slapped?

They beat them very hard. I want to lie better. I said to relax this time, when I have time a little bit. It'll be better like to go and to get nervous more. Then the end of the war was worse. The bombs were falling in all places. And we was in the factory. So they closed downstairs to these people. And they went to the shelters. But us, they put downstairs. And the old ladies was nearing the door and they want to go out. But they was nervous.

And I went on the machine. And I went to sleep. So they come to me, how you can do that? In this time here, there is a fire, here is a bomb. I said, when they fell the bomb, I didn't feel when I sleep. Even no, I relax this time. And I wake up. And maybe it will be after the world. But I have trouble with the bombs. But that should be that would be. So they could not understand me, how I do. And this saved my life.

I have good in hope, and I want just to relax this time. But I couldn't help it, and not to be so much nervous. And these girls what they worked too hard for the machines, when I worked by the machine, when they come in-- this is before. When they come in they can affect another. They want to took the smart people to work by machines. They need a lot of workers, the good workers. So at the beginning, I want not to go. So I closed my eyes like. They look at me they think I am crazy or I'm blind or something. They didn't take me.

But later, I want to go out, I opened my eyes, and I look in this side. He said come, come, come. They find out I can do. And they send me to a little machine to work, screws to the airplanes I work. So also I watched the meister. When he didn't see, I didn't work. Long time comes a man, and he measured the time with a watch, something special to measure the time. He was an engineer. He was staying in a place. But I didn't see him. But he see me and he watch me. And after he called the meister. He said, she sleeps by his work.

And the meister comes to me. He asked me, when he complain about me, how you sleep, you don't work? I said, Herr meister, I have to do three goods or 10 bads during the hour. You make three goods, he said to me.

Three good ones.

If I said, when I make, it will no longer be good. They said, do what I can. And I did not work more. Therefore, I saved my life.

And later, when they started the bombing, they send us-- this was the end in the war it was in 1944 in April, April of '45.

Yeah.

This was German was all done. So they want to send us to concentration camps also to the ovens. But this was too late. This was here fires, here fires, here fires. So they put this in tanks, from coal. It was so black the floor, we was lying in the floor. The hands were so black like the coals. And they give us one cup like a drink cup of coffee, for drinking, for washing, for all day, and no food.

And we go out when we need something to do, so you find under the trains, there was potatoes was lying, potatoes. And we catch a potato. We come in and we share. We cut pieces with a piece of glass to cut we have no knives, nothing. So one time I catch a potato that the [NON-ENGLISH] me like that, in two hours, nothing [INAUDIBLE] to take it.

And when the wagons, the train stops and we see people, they ask the people what they work to give something, sometimes somebody gives something in. When I go out, one time for this what we needed, they take grass, grass, with the [NON-ENGLISH]. And I want to have something in stomach. You have nothing.

You ate the grass.

And after we come in Czechoslovakia. [NON-ENGLISH] And the people were very good people. They bring for the trains were stopping there. And they bring for the Germans a lot of cakes, a lot of food. To let go to us, and to give it. So they bring coffee. And they bring for us some dinner. Oh, we were so thankful for this. It saved our life.

Did you get sick from eating it?

And this was during the war. They want to go with us in our concentration camps to the gas ovens. But this was too late. They send us to Mauthausen. Mauthausen is in Austria, also a concentration camp. But this was a camp with men just before. And they took us, they clothe us. And we got just underwear from men's. They give you just the underwear from men's. This was our clothes. We was lying in a little straw on the floor in this concentration camp.

So it's a bad time. And sick, and this was in May 1945. The 5th of May, they come in the Americans. They make us free. I were so sick.

You were sick.

I have two swollen feet. I didn't see. I didn't hear. Even one week more, I would be no more. I weighed 70 pounds. And after, they take us when we were down in the barracks. They says, here's a place to stay where the Germans leaving. [INAUDIBLE] They was living upstairs. They run away, but they was afraid. This was after the war. And they took us, like in a hospital in this part where the German has.

We has no sheets. We has no pillows. We had nothing. Just a little bit straw. We have a white sheets. I said, oh. How good this is. But I could not eat. We have nothing to eat. But they give us, it was very hard. I was living with a girl in concentration camp. And I could not walk. She walk out, and the Germans, they're all in this place. They would run away, but they were afraid, the people were still in there.

So the people that they could walk, they go in these rooms and they want to take some food to bring. She went also. And she met a man. And they brought up in a room. And they went in. So the man took the food. And she took the clothes. And after, and she had some cans with food. And after she come run away with this food, she had some cans from the Germans. She brought me liverwurst, a little can.

And I have nothing to eat. And I was inside very in so much years hungry. And I ate this. I got here a fire inside. It was -

It burned you?

Yeah.

It burned you?

And when I called, when comes the doctor, the doctor--

[AUDIO OUT]

The doctor said, he want not to talk-- he think maybe what I have here, he was afraid to look in me. And I try to tell him what has happened with me. I ate this, but I could not swallow nothing. I have a very bad time. And I have here with my stomach blood.

And I see, I go to die. But I want to live. I leave my child, I said. I want to live. I start to cry. This was a young doctor from Paris. And he looked for the girls. He don't look for the sick people so much, but he was also in concentration camp. And I said to him, I want in Europe, we take there's a special oil for stomach, to clean up the stomach. Because it's [NON-ENGLISH] in Jewish. I didn't know in English how to call, it's special.

I said, give me one spoon of this. I feel-- so they give me something to hold on, a block or some things. A medicine, this was bad for me. I cry. I said, you [NON-ENGLISH]. [NON-ENGLISH] is nervous.

I said, no. I feel I go-- I am finished. And I want to see my child and my parents. Give me. I said, tomorrow [NON-ENGLISH]. And tomorrow he came, and he gave me this. What I find it out, in many days they gave me this, what they was much worse. And this makes me clean up my stomach. And I feel much better.

Yeah.

But I could not swallow. So when they gave me a piece of bread, and I take water, and I take with my finger and I put this down. I said, I must have something stomach or I die. In this way--

Pushing it down with your finger.

--comes better. Comes better. I had a friend, a girl there with 18 years. But she ate some wrong things, make a bitter stomach, and she died. She was hoping to come with me. She was, no way her husband, I didn't know if he went alive. She go with me. And she was happy with me. And she died near me. But I was working so hard in mine. I cannot help her, but she had a typhus, you know. It's a very bad sickness.

So they took her away. And I fight. And I had 70 pounds. Did I tell you? And I start to come with me to my back.

You were getting healthier?

To alive, yeah. And after I was lying in bed, I have nobody to bring me something. I have no a little bit milk, I needed, an egg. I have nothing. I start to earn something. But I like to work to do. I'm not a tailor. But I know how to sew. With the underwear from the men's was the underwear. And the girls have no socks. I turn up the other pieces in this way, here is a like a sock. Here I show the finger. And I make them socks. I make them here a belt to the stockings. I make here a piece of material. Here I make a button. And they have two socks.

I make socks from pieces of material. And therefore, they bring me a little bit warm water, sometimes a little bit milk. And I feel I get better.

Yeah.

I was lying in bed.

How long did it take for you to get better after?

Oh, when the Americans were staying there, I would not go out. The Americans they hold in this-- they make more X-rays, and more and more and more and more. And bother too much the sick people. Come in the Russian people. The Americans go in another way. And the Russians come in. Who can a little bit work, out from bed.

Oh, really?

Yeah. And this was good. And they send us in a place also in Austria. But it was like a motel. And we was working. They gave us food, right? And I was a little better by this time. But I was not strong to work. But it takes a few weeks. And I get better. I went to the Consul, to the Polish Consul. But they want me take to Israel, this time to Italy. I said, no. I leave my husband. I leave my child. I leave my sister. Where I go? What I need? I need my family.

Yeah.

I want to go to Poland. I want to go back.

Did you go back?

I went to Polish Consul. They have a special place. And I went there. There was there [INAUDIBLE] After they have a lot of more people, they send us in 1945, this is the ninth month of-- it was September, October or September, in '45. I went to Poland to look for my family. I come to Poland in the city where I was living. So I will not go, because I come to Łódź before. Łódź was when I was in the ghetto.

And Łódź was a big city. We come before and after we come to Poland, then we stopped in Czechoslovakia. They said, where are you go? But they kill in Poland so much people. This was in--

They're killing the people who came back?

In pogroms, so of the people was coming back. In I forgot the place. But they kill a lot of Jews, maybe Polish Jews. Where you go? They kill you. So we just stopped. We stopped in Czechoslovakia. We stayed there. You have a motel. And they get us food, which was very dirty there. They are not his fault, but the people they come from the concentration camps. This was no bathrooms. Everything was closed, so terrible and the pots and everything you see, when we open this closet. It's terrible there.

But we stayed. But I want to go back to Poland. And after I go back to Poland, I stay a few weeks. And I go to look, but I didn't find nobody. It was a very hard life. I have no shoes. I don't like to hear people they come to government, they pay. I just got 50 zlotys for a white bread, Italian bread, like Italian bread. 50 zlotys I bought. This I got. I take a piece of material. I sew me a pair of shoes. I work with a button with a belt you know.

And I had just a jacket which I bring from concentration camp. I get just a jacket and a dress. And they give us a room. The window is broken. And we got just one blanket. We line a piece of paper on the floor. And the blanket we covered. And we sleep there. But the people that they go to Belchatow, when I was born, they said they come in. And they ask the Polish people, the landlady, she was in the front of the house. They gave her a little room. She put this blanket what she has, this little clothes what she have.

She go out to buy food some. She has a few zlotys. She come in. They steal everything. She has nothing. And who come into Belchatow, they steal everything. You know, but I couldn't stay there, so I didn't go.

Yeah.

And I was in Lodz. This was very hard to start.

You were all alone. I was alone and I start to sew. You know and I find some people, if you go together, we take in a room, apartment. It's very hard to get apartment. You go together a few ladies.

Yeah.

And I sew. And I start to earn something. Then we go on the Jewish committee to meet people. And this was years later, two years later. I got a friend. Later, we were married. And it was important, I want go out. I won't go to Israel. I want to go. We cannot go. In 1956, I could go out in Poland to get papers to go out. But before I had my child born, I want to go. He was six years when we go out from Poland.

We go. We cannot go to the United States. My husband want to go. We had here family. But we cannot go. We went to Israel. And from Israel, my husband went. He had a brother. He make him papers. And he went to the United States. And my husband was here a year, the second husband. And he works and I was with my child in Israel.

There was also a lot of-- but now I have my son, an engineer, a biomedical engineer. He's married to a doctor's daughter, a doctor surgeon. We have grandchildren, they are here. You can see them. They come and pick me up soon.

That's wonderful.

And we come together here for this.

You made a wonderful family.

This is my story. I am happy. My husband died six years. In June it will be six years. We were 30 years married. You know this was I loved my first husband. I could not even forget. He was a very young, very educated. He would smicha for my first husband. He was young, in the twenties. He was a nice, beautiful man. And a nice family, the father was a shochet, the brother was a shochet. You know what's mean shochet?

No, I don't know.

They cut a chickens, you know?

They cut chickens.

Europe was a very here like the mezuzahs, you know, the Torahs here. He was very religious, with a beard like that [INAUDIBLE].

And my father was a teacher also, very religious. He teaches Russian, Polish, and Jewish, and German. He teaches [NON-ENGLISH], girls, in big people, all the people. But we cannot make a life in this. Everything in Europe was very, very hard life. It's not government pay for this. But everything private, you have everything in your home to do. And if they want to pay, one man come to my party, he had a girlfriend. He said he didn't know how to sign his name.

He said to my father, Josef in Jewish, [NON-ENGLISH] or mister. Learn me in one day to sign a letter. I give you 100 rubles, I give you. He think in one night he learn how. He could not understand it takes us a long time. My father after writing the letters to the girl. Yeah, yeah. And this was his life.

My mother was also very religious, a very good mother. She had nine children. But the alive was five. And I was the youngest after my brother died also before the war.

How many brothers and sisters survived. When the war was, Hitler's war, we was four.

Four left out of five.

Four sisters. My oldest sister was married. She has a girl and a boy. And the other two sisters, one sister was married before the war, and the other sister was married during the war. She was one month married, and the husband takes in a concentration camp and she didn't see me anymore. She was pregnant, and she born a little child during the war. And it was so hard time. There's nothing, no doctor, nothing. She was near the other sister. She has a child in three months when they clean up the city and they send us out. And she was with this little baby.

What happened? Alone when we go out to Auschwitz, to gas them. They all went in the other-- they took us in the other side with the little children. They went to the other side. They didn't go to work. I was in the ghetto. We went in the Lodz ghetto. But before, I didn't know where they go, where we go. But later, I find out everything what was happening. I look if they're alive. And I look, but so many years. Yeah. It was very bad life.

After the war with my doctor said, you have no one piece. Everything is sick in you. I could not believe I will live a year. I could not believe. But I have a lot of hope. And the hope helped me. And I said, I must live, and I must live.

And you lived.

At nights, I didn't dream. My dream just to have a piece of bread before I die, to have not be hungry. This was a dream. Because you cannot know more. But in this time, everything was so black, and so dark our life.

But then you came here, and you had a child.

Yeah. I am very happy. United States is a very good-- the best country. I like here. And what I have, I said it's good. I see people complain. I come in the centers. They complain. I never complain. I never throw out food. I said everything is good. Also there is bad-- smells bad, I throw it out. But I like everything and I like people.

You don't like to throw food away, huh?

Yeah. I go in the centers now. I do painting. I do sculpture.

Good for you.

I make now a portrait and a girl, we make exhibit in the center. I did a lot of painting. My son I make a portrait he has in his home.

That's wonderful.

Yeah. I do a lot of things.

You should feel very proud.

Yeah.

You should be proud of yourself.

I sew everything. You see what I have, the blouse. I make--

It's beautiful, beautiful.

I do a lot of things. I do crochet. I make curtains. I make tablecloths. What I see, I do. And I am still busy. I never complain and I hope this will be better. I like it.

Oh, you're fantastic.