

--of Washington DC. This is at the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, April 12th, 1983. I want you to start anywhere.

Anything? Do you have any question?

What we want is as much detail as possible, starting before the war, where you were born, your family members.

I see. I was born in Ujpest. My family number is Dicker. And I was the fourth child in the family. All my sisters and brothers escaped from the Holocaust, because they were hiding and two was in Russian [INAUDIBLE].

And I had a son who was born in 1944, January. My husband went to the forced labor in April, after March, where the German occupied Hungary. And then I went to the ghetto with my son. And suddenly came an order that we will be transported somewhere, unknown place.

I took my little son and my rucksack in 1944 in June, and then they transported us to Auschwitz. First, they transport to the-- how do you call it? big brick-- I don't know how do you call. They make the brick.

Oh, I don't know. A brick factory.

Brick factory, yes. And I was there with that work for about 1 and 1/2 weeks, and then they transport us to Auschwitz.

Did you work in the brick factory?

No.

All the district in my place, they were transferred to the brick factory. There it was a terrible nightmare, no coat, no walls, only the top of us was a little roof. And then it was, there is no water. All the people were, especially the old were laying down without food, without water. And it was a terrible night.

Finally, on Thursday they took us to the train with my sister-in-law. And they took us to Auschwitz. We arrived in Auschwitz in the night about 2 o'clock. And then when the wagon was opened, then there were striped dressed men. And we jumped down from the wagon. One of them told me that I should give my child to my mother. I was screaming, I don't have mother.

Then give it to your relative. I don't have relatives. Then give it to somebody who will take care of the child. And I gave it to the old lady. My sister-in-law took back, and I took back from him, and I gave it her. And then we were marched. We were marching about a mile. And there was soldiers, German soldiers, and these were after us.

My son was taken away from me already. And she took him to one side. And we went to the other side. I was there for six weeks in Auschwitz. And I was crying always that I wanted to go and find my son.

And then after six weeks, it was a terrible life in Auschwitz. In Auschwitz, we were laying down on the C Lager, on the 30 block. The number was 30, 32. And first we were three days and three nights in the [NON-ENGLISH] Lager.

There was no toilet. It was only holes. And then I don't know. What shall I tell you? It was terrible. And I said, let's go. And I was taken to Frankfurt am Main. And I was there three months. It was very, very hard labor.

How did you get out of Auschwitz? You volunteered to go to a labor camp?

No, no, no. They selected us. They selected us, Mengele selected us. I was very heavy, and I was walking with my tiptoes, to show that I am not so heavy. And then they started to whip me, and started to-- schnell, schnell, schnell-- fast, fast, fast. And we were taken to Frankfurt am Main.

I was working there for three months-- very, very hard labor. After Frankfurt am Main--

What did you do hard labor?

We were carrying the forest-- the forest was cut up. The trees were cut. I am not so good in English.

That's OK. You carried the actual timber from the forest, the trees.

Right. About 50, 60 woman was carrying one trunk, one tree. And then we were making tanks also, to hiding for them the oil. It was we were making the airport in Frankfurt am Main. And then I'm telling you I lost 30 kilogram in under three months.

Then after Frankfurt am Main, they took us to Ravensbrück. I was there too also, coal shoveling, and something like that. One day, I shoveled from the car, the trucks, coal. And I wanted to open the chain that was holding the two sides of the truck. And my fingers went between in the hook. I was screaming, help! Help!

And the German woman said, cut off the finger. And then suddenly, there came over the French, and the other forced labor, and they pushed the side of the truck and then I could take off my finger. It is only, what I am saying to you, it is only a very, very small thing. I cannot tell you everything. I had written down, it may be it is much better to read it.

After Ravensbrück, we were taken to Zillertal. It was in December. And I remember because we went for three days, three nights, in the wagons and it was perfectly white inside from the ice. It was so cold. In Zillertal, we got the first food and the first piece of sugar. It was a weaving factory where we had to work.

And then suddenly, we heard it that the Russians or the Americans are coming. And we had to evacuate the whole place. And then they took us. It is a very, very long way. If you will follow me on the map, that it was a big, a terrible big trip. They took us from Ravensbrück to Zillertal. From Zillertal to Nordhausen.

Did you walk or in a train?

No. We were walking. We were walking a lot, days and days. And nights we could sleep on the beton, on the streets or something, no bed or nothing. And then from Nordhausen, Nordhausen, we get a place in the top of the barn. And one day, we were sleeping on the straw. One day, they took us to work.

And it was the most beautiful what I ever saw it. It was the Harz mountains. If you heard about that mountain?

I've heard of them, yes.

Yes? So and--

This is Austria?

Pardon?

Where is it? Is it Austria or Germany?

In--

When?

No, where.

I don't know, Austria. No, I don't think so it was in Austria. I don't know. Maybe it was in somewhere in Sudeten place. I don't know. The name of the concentration camp was Dora, D-U-R-E.

If you read about this one. It was the most gorgeous thing, by this rock in German, they opened the mountains, and they went into the mountains, and they made a factory. I think so. It was some secret, secret weapons there they made. And when we came out from the factory, the Nordhausen was no more a place, because it was bombed out. I remember we were jumping from one crater to the other crater. I could escape. But everybody could escape because the Germans were not-- they couldn't follow us.

But I was thinking that what shall I do in a strange German country. They will kill me right away if I am knocking a door to entry.

Then he went back. But it was a saddest thing what happened. When we went into the factory into the mountains, we went beside a block that was full with Jewish men who were sitting, I think it was a warehouse or something like that. They are sitting on beton, and they are looking outside. And we saw them. When we came out the next day from the mountain, I mean the factory, it was no more. They bombed all the [INAUDIBLE], the whole concentration camp.

So after Nordhausen, they took us. This is a long story, walking, and you have time?

I have all the time. I want to be sure that we have enough--

OK, I will be ready very soon.

No, no. When this is finished, we turn it over. So I just don't want you to be talking and have the tape stop.

It is only the-- I don't know how should I describe. This is only, things what happened with me, but the real what happened I cannot tell you. It is so terrible. It was just terrible. Without hair, without clothes, it's winter time. I have to stay outside in the ice, on the ice and on the snow, and frozen, no food, which is terrible.

After Nordhausen, they took us bus, not bus, a truck, open truck. And walking a lot. And then we were taken to airplane factory. And I was working there for a month. And they hit us with every day. After it was [NON-ENGLISH], the name of the city. After [NON-ENGLISH], they took us to Mauthausen. It was in March, in March 1945.

In Mauthausen I was there until the liberation of the American army. And I get typhus first. All the people, all the people that were taken away from Mauthausen to [PLACE NAME] camp, and because I had typhus-- you know what is typhus? We remained over there, only were people in the Revier, in the not hospital, but another block. You call it Revier. And then April, April 23, they took us from the barrack, to the other barracks. And there were 680 steps up to the top of the [? valley. ?]

And I asked my-- how do you call it? A Yugoslav, a Yugoslav, a nurse, a man, he was also a prisoner. I asked him to, they are going to exterminate us now? And then he said, no. From 1942, there are no exterminations. They wanted to calm me down. He wanted.

And then from April 23 in 1945, May 5, the Americans liberated us. But it is only a sketch what I am telling you. What I went through, the suffering, so it's a bit pain. So it's kicking these heels, and no food, and cold, and no dress, without hair, without any underwear, nothing. It was just unbelievable.

And then in-- I think so, I am married two times. Because my late husband was killed also in 1944. My mother was too, and my son. So it was my happiest day I think so in my life. And I saw the white car, a white car with white black. And follow it four American tanks covered with American flag.

It was unbelievable. It was such a wonderful-- I was already crazy. I was mental, mentally sick. Because of the terrible suffering. And then I told in the barrack, and I ran back to the barrack. And I told to my terrible sisters, somebody happened. The Americans are here. They told me I am crazy. You are just crazy. And I start to scream, look at, look at the cars. And we are liberated. So what shall I tell you more? This was a story only what I went through what, with the effective what happened to us.

We had to carry heavy, heavy boxes, full with nails. And we carried the heavy trees, and showering. I don't know how deep we made places for the oil tanks. It was just--

What kind of food did they give you? What kind of food did they give you?

It was depended on where we were. In Auschwitz, we had terrible food. The first good food was the last night when we were taken away from Auschwitz, was our first food.

How often did you eat, once a day, or once every other day?

Once a day. They took from the kitchen a big jar, big heavy, like here is a garbage can. And then everybody had what he had, she had. A piece of-- a thing or I don't know. I don't know, a piece of plate. And then we ate it with hands. Or we made some spoon from wood that we could find a little piece of wood, they made some spoon. That was in Auschwitz.

In Ravensbrück, you cannot imagine what was in Ravensbrück. I was one month long, and we were in a big tent, like a circus tent. Tents, you know what this means?

Sure.

And it was no lavatory. There was nothing. We had outside on the tent, we had some garbage cans. But it was very soon full. And everything was floating into [INAUDIBLE] straw where we are sleeping. And they had a big holes for the how do you call it?

Latrine?

No, no, no. Big holes for the bowel movement.

And we'd say a latrine. L-A-T-R-I-N-E. Just a hole in the ground.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

And they put down the garbage can there was this hole. They counted us every day. You know what was a zahlappell? Did you ever heard of that? Zahlappell.

I didn't hear that.

They counted. They counted us. But they made us suffer everything. From everything they wanted us to suffer. We had to go inside to the tent in a small place, small way, and there's two sides. It was--

Latrines.

And the people were pushing. You know, hungry. It was cold. But whenever, it was in November. Yes. They're pushing each other. They fall into--

Fall into the latrine.

Yeah, it was terrible, terrible. We pushed them-- So, and it was in end of the November when they selected us, about 100 people to go to Zillertal, what I told you. It was very big factory, 100 only. Because Zillertal's camp was only 400. It was a regulation. If 500, had to be in a camp. And 100 people went from Ravensbrück to Zillertal. And it was the

first day when we get work called. It was a weaving factory, barracks.

It was terrible. And then we were sleeping. When they took us from one place to the other place, we were walking miles and miles and miles. When we arrived somewhere we had to sleep on the sidewalk on the beton.

Did you ever have water to wash?

Yes. Yes, but it was ice cold, and you had to take off everything what you had. And the [NON-ENGLISH]. I don't know it-- what is the German. He was a colonel or [NON-ENGLISH] German. He was standing there with a whip. If you didn't wash yourself totally naked, then you were hit.

In the ice cold, ice cold weather.

How often did you have to bathe?

No, I was not bathing the whole month. I didn't have any bath. Maybe I washed my face or my hands. We had a lot of lice, millions. And we had, because we ate and we find raw potato skin, we ate it. And then from that raw potato skin we get a rash. And then they didn't let us eat even the raw potato.

Do you remember names of people you knew at the camps?

Yes. Every oldest woman, I was old already, 32 years old. And I was old. And I adopted a girl from Budapest, from where I was coming. She was 18 years old. She was beautiful. And she had a beautiful voice. And I adopted her. It is not adoption, but I took care of her.

What was her name?

Steiner, Valeria Steiner. And I was together with her the whole year. And also I know one woman from the same place where I was born. And her name is Judith Laszlo. She was living in Chicago. This other girl, my adopted daughter, she is living in Australia, Sydney. So nobody else I know. Anybody, I cannot find anybody who was in this group from Auschwitz to Frankfurt, it was 1,700. I cannot find not one more [INAUDIBLE]. I'm looking all over.

So what is interesting? What is it? There's suffering. When I was liberated? Yes, I was 35 kilograms. I was 70 pounds. And when they took me to Auschwitz, I was almost 200 pounds. You can imagine. My hair was so short. And I was praying that I was an old woman.

But you're fine now.

I am fine. I have a beautiful daughter, three gorgeous grandchildren. They know it.

Tell us the names of your family now.

My daughter's name is Dr. Maria Burka. And my grandchildren names, one is Jacqueline, Michael, and Jennifer.

I wanted to tell you something. And you will get goose--

Goose bumps.

When my little grandson was born, he was born six years ago. I was working. The telephone was ringing in the morning on my desk. My son-in-law, mama, you have a grandson. And oh, my goodness I was happy, terribly, I was living in New York. And I ask, what is his name? He said, Michael Chandler. Chandler is a Hungarian name. My son's name was Chandler.

He was born in July 14, six years ago now, maybe seven years, six or seven. And I said to my son-in-law, Bob, at 12

o'clock I'm going to Washington. And I was happy. And I was crying. And then my controller saw me, and what happened? And said what happened. You have to go right away to Washington.

And I was thinking, I was sitting on the chair. I still had time to reach the train. And Michael Sandor. he said it. And my son who was killed, his name was Sandor. And the Jewish name was Michael.

Did they know?

They didn't know.

They didn't know?

They didn't know exactly his Jewish name was Michael. And then I was thinking what day is today? July 14. Six years, no not six, 1944, and this day he was killed. I started to scream. It is a reincarnation. He came back. Can you imagine the same day and the same name, but opposite.

Yes.

And they didn't know. They didn't know that my son's name was Michael Jewish name. It is really when I am thinking about the same day, I cannot go back. How many distances? How many? 35 years or 34 years distance. But the same day when he was killed, he was born, my grandson.

It's a miracle.

Isn't it? I cannot forget. And I wrote it down every single thing that happened. And here is my [INAUDIBLE]. It is now it is Hungarian. But I have another book that was translated. But I want to give it to somebody who will make a story. The people has to know it what happened, because they can't believe it. They don't believe it. Nobody believe it.

And this is happened with me. It was about five years ago. I saw the Holocaust at this time.

No, it's OK. It's still moving. I wanted to be sure.

I saw the Holocaust. And after the picture, it was an interview on the channel five. You don't remember?

I don't. I remember the movie, but I don't remember the interview. It was an interview with a Jewish-- two Jewish professors in the yeshiva. And three survivors of the Holocaust. And then when they gave the interview, they told what happened with them. And when they finished, they came in too a Nazi. [INAUDIBLE] And the Jewish professor said to him, don't you see that I don't shake your hand? I don't want to stay with you in one room. I don't want to breathe the air with you.

And he said, he said it is everything is a lie. Nothing happened, he said. Nothing. You know what? I started to scream. And I said to myself, I will write it down. The world has to see, have to know what happened. And I would like to tell you that up till on this time, up till this interview, I couldn't sleep. I was not sleeping. One night, I was screaming every night. And I was back in this special year. I forget everything. I forget all my life. This year, I will never forget.

And I start to write down my story. And you may not believe it. I am cured. I am not screaming anymore, because everything is came out. Everything is written down what happened, what the Germans did with us. It was just terrible. And the world, they don't want to suffer. Nobody wants to suffer with the other people.

My children, my son-in-law, he is the most wonderful boy in the whole world. He knows. He knows. He knows all what we went through. But mostly the Americans they were living very nice.

[AUDIO OUT]

--because I was so strong. I was a sports child when I was young. I came from a very wealthy family and my father let us do every sport. I was playing tennis, ice-skating, gymnastics, row-boating, and I was very strong. And therefore I could work so hard. I took always the hardest part of the tree with another girl. Her name was Blanca from [NON-ENGLISH]. I bet you don't know this. From Transylvania--

That's Romania, right?

Huh? It's in Romania, yes. And we took the part that was the heaviest part. And I told you about my adopted daughter, and she had a beautiful voice. And we had some men from the army who was a foreman. He was watching us. And she was singing. And they gave the food. Apples and potatoes. And we shared it. We shared it.

We didn't eat one piece of [? butter. ?] We cut it for 18 pieces. I never forget that. And one day I told him that his name is Adam, Adam Karsch. He was a German soldier. And I told him, we need bread. We need some [INAUDIBLE]. We need some heavy food, something to eat.

One day, it was two brothers-- Adam Karsch and John Karsch, I think so the other one. They gave us two [NON-ENGLISH] breads, [INAUDIBLE]. And I will never forget. I will never forget them. He gave it to me, that I have to give it to the others. I didn't get one piece. I gave it all to them. I remember I was screaming so terrible, because it was such a feeling that we got some help. I remember that I was kneeling in the snow under the pine trees on the fields when we were working. And I was thanking, thanking God that there was something, something helped.

I never forget his name and his address in Germany.

Do you know what happened to him?

No.

No, I went never back to Germany, never. I didn't want to see. Even I told to my daughter, surely you have to speak anytime.

Do you believe in God still?

Pardon?

Are you still a religious Jew?

No. And I lost my faith. Perfect, I lost my faith. But it came back. I believe in God. But I'm not religious. Anyway no more. I believe that God is something, but nothing else. And I believe only one thing, to be good to your neighbor, to your sisters and brothers. Then you are a good Jew. You only have to be good.

This is exactly what someone else I talked to said. The last woman I talked to she too said that she can't believe in God anymore. But she believes, she teaches her children to be good too.

Only to be good, nothing else. I lost everything. I light my Friday night light. But I'm not religious, no, never more.

Do you just have one daughter now?

Yes, one daughter.

Is she religious or--

She is religious. She is religious. I don't know why. I didn't talk to her. I didn't show her anything. And she is religious. And she's a very good child. My son-in-law is very good. My children, my grandchildren are going to the Sunday school. They are very, very good Jews. All my three grandchildren, I never taught them, because I don't believe it. I

believe God, OK. That's it.

When did you meet your second husband?

Oh, it was introduced. Because I was alone, in 1947, I was alone. He lost his wife in Bergen-Belsen. He was alone. And then some friends introduced to each other.

Was this here in the States or in Europe? When did you come to the States?

1958. So where were you in '47.

1947, we got married in 1948, [INAUDIBLE]. That's my story. And I'm saying thank God that I am cured. I don't cry. I have no nightmares anymore. It was 35 years where I had my nightmares every night. Every night I was over there somewhere, some place, where I suffered much, every night. And I'm not crying anymore. Maybe the time helped me. But I think so it was it was helping me that I wrote it down.

And I'm cured.

Why did you-- go ahead, and light your cigarette. I'm sorry.

Yes?

Why did you come to America?

Oh, my husband had relatives. America is a wonderful country, an opportunity to live for a nice life, working. You have to work. I was working all my life. I was working very hard. Thank you. And now it is sorry that my husband has Alzheimer's disease. You know what this is?

Yes. I do.

And he's in the nursing home. And I lost again everything. I lost three times everything, in 1942, in 1944, in 1956 when I left everything. I closed the door, and I lost everything to start always again. But now I am older. I cannot start. I cannot work. I'm sick. And I will manage. My children will have.

Can I ask you to say the names of your parents and brothers and sisters?

My parents name?

Yeah.

Oh, yes. Izidor Dicker. My father died, thank God, in 1940. My mother was taken. All my sisters and brothers were hiding with false papers. And she went home. We were in Ujpest [INAUDIBLE]. And my mother went along to send them food. And the police and the fascists, they took her to the prison. And they shot her. They shot her to death. We don't know when.

And my mother's name was Maria. My sister's name?

Yes. One sister is living in New York. Her name is Magda Simon. My other sister is living in Budapest. I think brothers are living in Budapest, in Hungary.

What are their names?

My sister's name is Elizabeth [PERSONAL NAME]. She's a lawyer. My brother's name is Dr. [PERSONAL NAME]. And my little brother, Faro [PERSONAL NAME].



Are they still Jewish in Hungary?

No, my brother is not Jewish, because he married the woman who helped him to escape and survive. And he promised with her, I will survive can I marry you? She was his girlfriend for years. My sister and my brother, they are Jewish. One brother is a physician. He is [INAUDIBLE] I don't know.

Do you ever get back to see them?

Yes, I would like to go back in this year again. I am going back every second or third year, visiting. They are all sick. They are old, like me. Everybody is sick my age. And I'm going to visit them this summer. It is up to my husband, how is he feeling. Because I am visiting him every day, not today. I skip this day to be here.

So this was what was that another thing what I have to tell you. Another thing. Auschwitz terrible place, terrible. I met my sister-in-law, who was a head doctor of the X-ray, X-ray place in Budapest. I mean she-- and she was a brilliant [INAUDIBLE]. And she was in Auschwitz. I met her. And she asked me to find her underwear for her because she was freezing. And I buy-- I bought a piece of underwear from the slice of bread. It was money, a slice of bread. And I gave it to her, and she was thankful.

And she said, do you want to come with me? We will be transferred to the other lager. I will be the doctor, and you will be the nurse. And I said, no. I don't want. She was killed. You know, sometimes the fate, sometimes you don't feel to do something. And then therefore maybe therefore I remained in my life because I didn't went with her.

We were in a block, block, do you know what is a a block?

Yes.

There were no beds. No, you know some blocks had a--

Bunk beds.

Yes. Some wood, but no bed. We were laying down on the floor. It was wood. But if the rain came in, the rain came into the barrack. We had to put up the woods, the panels, and we were standing all night. We had not so much a place to lay down straight. We were laying in this way in the [? weed ?] for each person, and one by one, like cattle, like animals, terrible.

And if you maybe you never heard it about, the zahlappell. The counting.

You said I counted you every day. You had to stand in line, right?

Stand in line, in the night. It was cold. Or in the day, it was terrible. And the people there, who was older, older or sick woman, they couldn't stand. We had to carry them. Stand up, stand up. You have to stand up. The number has to be correct. Then it was just terrible.

What did you talk about when you stood on the line?

Food. Food. And the children. And the children. I remember when we were working in Frankfurt am Main, the airplanes came in and throw down the bombs. We had to lay down, face down on the earth, on the floor, I mean on the earth, yes. On the field, but the Germans run into the forest. And then they run. The urine was floating around their pants. They was so much afraid.

And we were laughing. Look at these cowards. They are afraid. And we have to lay down here.

You had to lay out in the open.

Open here, and then after when the airplanes left, and they took us to the forest under some trees. And under the trees where hundreds and hundreds of munition, munition boxes, in wood boxes. We were sitting on the munition, and we had no scared. We were not afraid from nothing. If we get one bomb, everyone-- because we were sitting on ammunition.

We were talking. We were reading the poems. And we telling them, you know, the future you will find your son. You will find your daughter. You will do. We were not afraid, not never. I was never afraid.

And nobody from this group, this is the group that was 1,700 people, and you don't--

I told you, only these two.

Only those two people, are the only ones.

Only these two what I find. Nobody else, therefore I am looking for somebody. Because I can't remember the faces, not even the names.

We talked to a woman this morning from Hungary who was in Auschwitz.

Yeah.

Her name is Barbara Rona, I think.

Rona?

Yes. I wrote it down. I don't remember the year that she was there. Barbara Rona. But this is probably her married name.

Yeah. I can't remember what she said her maiden name was. But if you want to look, you want me to give you her? She's at this hotel, Best Western. I'll write it down for you. I don't have a pen, but I'll write it down for you.

OK, thank you.

You can find out when she was there, if she knew somebody.

Yeah. Yeah, and I was-- it was only 1,700. I remember the number. And how about that, that I remember the date?

I know.

Every day.

Why do you remember? Because you have a good memory.

No, no. Because I don't remember anything else what happened with me. Nothing, never. I forget my first marriage. I forget my second marriage. I don't know the dates, only this one year.

This year you remember.

This is what I remember every day. Every day. And every place, and every name of the cities.

And you've written it all down.

Everything, everything.

Are you going to publish it? Are you going to do--

Pardon?

Are you going to make a book or did you just make it for your children?

I would like to make a book from it. Because it is a second. I wrote it down again, and again, and again. And then the last one is at home. But this is the second one. It is not so correct than the last one. But I would like to give this one somebody. Read it. Make some story about it. And I never forget it. Still I remember.

If you don't publish it, you should give it to whatever they have an archive here.

Yes, I know it. I know. I will maybe I will go now. Maybe.

Sure, just see what they have, what they do, how you get an address, so that you can send it to them if you want to.

They can get a good translator.

Right. Yeah.

And to made, it is not so big then to be a book. It is only like an autobiography or something like that, a story, what happened. And I will do it, it will pass the time.

You cannot tell it in a few minutes.

I know. I know. This is--

You cannot. You cannot.

No one will ever imagine it,

No.

We sit here and talk on two comfortable chairs in Washington is nothing to try to remember and think about what you did.

But you know what? It is good. It is good that nobody remember what not good-- how should I tell you? It is painful that the they believe it. But they don't want to share the pain and the suffering. It is a human being.

Yeah, it's human nature.

Yeah, human nature. They don't want to suffer. And I wish, I wish from all my heart, that you should-- nobody should go through such terrible things. But I am afraid the Nazis will never die. The antisemitism will never die, because we are more cultured, more smart than them. And they are envious. They want to kill us, everyone. Like it is true?

I feel the same way, that it's the--

They have envy.

The war was just one phase, and it will happen again.

Because the Jews thousands and thousands of years they were smarter, more cultural, so they are angry. They have envy. It is my feeling look at here that I don't speak about the European people, the European.

But in Europe, it was a normal thing that everybody speaks about two languages or three. And not here. Not here.

Oh, I know. Not in America. Because we don't have contact with other people who speak different languages.

This is a third language, English. You don't need another language. But in Europe, you need another language. So the head language was German.

And I was reading German books, literature, German literature. And then the second language I learned English, when I was 16 years old. But not too much, not too much, mostly grandma and that way it is not so good. My husband cannot speak English, not one word.

He never learned?

He never learned it. He was too old here.

Well, your English is almost perfect.

No.

No, it is.

You understand it. But sometimes I have a blackout, you know, and I wanted to say one word. And I cannot find it.

That's minor, if you have little vocabulary spots that you missed. No, no, no. You only miss a few. Your grammar is fine, and you--

I find another word. I find another word to explain what I want.

Right, but your grammar is fine. You just have a little bit of vocabulary that you don't know. Otherwise you're fine.

Oh, thank you.

Really. I don't know. You should be aware of it.

My grandchildren, they are laughing at me. Nagy, they called me nagy, Grandma. Nagy? What? What did you say? It did not right? You have to say this one.

Well, that's children.

Yeah, they are nice. They are. They teach me.

So this is a-- this is a reward, family, family, my children, my grandchildren. And I think so that we are continuing. We will continue the line. Right?

Yes. Yes, we won't replace the whole generation, but we will keep it going.

Keep it going. And they will never forget, even my grandchildren. My granddaughter, she is nine years old. She knows, because her mother taught her, and she knows it. My grandson also, but it was an interesting story what I told about my grandson.

Yes.

It is a true story. He is a reincarnation. Really. Beautiful.

Can I ask you? How old was your son when he died?

Six months. Six months old. And they took us to the brick factory. Then I gave the breastfeeding to him. And the other woman who had no milk, and with a baby, they gave it to me, the babies. Give it to them you milk. Give it to them. And I shared my meal between my son and to the other babies.

You know, therefore I am thinking, you have to be good. You have to help each other. You have to give to everything what you have to [INAUDIBLE]. Then you are a good Jew. Nothing else. If you are saying the prayer and hit your breast, you are not a good Jew. You are continuing, you are following the what is written in the book.

I remember. I remember a lot of Jewish women, when I was together with them, and they didn't even lift their finger to help each other. They were only praying. They were caught also. They were praying and praying for them. They were killed, everybody. I never prayed. If I prayed, I pray my words, nothing else. They didn't lift a finger. They even stole our bread.

I'm telling you, they stole the bread from under our bed that we had. Once I a little in Ravensbrück. When they selected us, we went before to the office. They select us. And then we had to go inside naked. And the dress, what we had, it was in one heap. They put this in separate heaps. And when we came out, everybody find their heap. And one of my girlfriends didn't find. She doesn't naked in December. Perfect.

And she run into the block, into the cell, and we told her, wait. And we find her dresses, belongings. And I find.

Someone had taken two.

One Jewish woman. And then I find it. I never hit anybody. I was hitting. I was kicking. The blood came from her face. I said, you rotten Jew. You took her clothes off the bed. You let her stay alone, [INAUDIBLE] and without clothes. You are not a good human being. You have to die. I hit. She almost died. Because I was so much-- it was not nice. It was not good to steal the bread, the clothes, the shoes. It was a lie. It was a lie. A piece of bread.

The only thing to keep you alive.

Yes. Maybe, maybe she was right. I don't know. Maybe if she wouldn't be, the other girl remained naked, then I wouldn't hit her so much. But I was furious. You son of a bitch. You took the lot away from this girl. It was a terrible life. A terrible-- and I remember. I remember. If I started to remember in one place or other. I every day.

In Zillertal, what I told you, we were working in a weaving factory, a textile factory. And we had warm barracks, a warm place. We had a blanket, and we had a pillow. So we had our bunks, bunks. And we were telling poems and singing. We were singing and telling stories. And we had all these lice, lice all over. But I mean I lived through. I was very strong.

When I arrived back to Hungary in 1945, I thought that I will kill the first baby. The first Gentile baby that I will find, and I will it, kill him.

And then one day I was walking on the street. And I heard a baby cry. And it was I think so, they were living on the first floor. And I went there. And I was looking at the baby. And I knocked at the door. And I told the mother, I want to see the baby. I heard that he was crying. And she let me see.

Then I started to cry. And I said, thank you. And I went out. I didn't do any harm. But I wanted to kill.

Even when you were there, when you went in and you saw him, did you still feel that way?

It was my feeling this I had to kill. And then I didn't do nothing. It was an innocent baby. It didn't do anything wrong. And then it was also another thing what happened. When I came back I told to my friend, you know what? When I knew

they took my husband, my mother, and my son was killed. I said to my friend that I will be the biggest whore in the whole world. Whore, because I want to have a son.

And then my friend said, don't do that. And finally, I get married, and I get my beautiful daughter. She is gorgeous. She's beautiful. She's talented. She finished her very hard labor from us, because we came here without a penny. And we gave to her the education. She finished her high school in the Bronx High School of Science. And then she went to MIT. She finished her master's degree in chemical engineering. And then she finished her PhD in Princeton, New Jersey. You heard about this?

Yes.

So she's brilliant. She was working for the government. But she's not working, because a little baby now. And she's brilliant. She's gorgeous. I will show you the picture.

Oh, I'd love to.

I have some small picture. It was so good to speak with you.

It's been a privilege for me.

This is my daughter, my son-in-law, my three children, small. Oh, what a beautiful family.

Yeah, this is my grandson. They are living here. He is a Washingtonian.

And their name is Burka?

Burka, B-U-R-K-A.