

My name is Sam Weisfeld. And I'm original now from Baltimore. I've been born in Poland, in Łódź. And I coming from family, from eight children, and a father, and a mother. 1939, we came into the Łódź ghetto. They got us quiet there in the Łódź ghetto. I've been working as instructor in [INAUDIBLE]. For the Germans, we've been working there.

And in 1940, everybody knows, we had a hard time to live in the ghetto. We haven't got enough food, no wood to burn, anything. So I'm trying to organize a little bit lumber to heat up our house. So the Jewish police caught me. And they put me in jail. And I've been deported to Posen, to a lager there, to a concentration lager, to Posen. And I've been working there under the Germans.

After six-seven months being there, it's a city by the name Zdunska Wola, they demanded some working people back from the lagers. So lagerführer, selected 40 people from our lager. And they deported us to Zdunska Wola. I came to Zdunska Wola. I been there for a few months. And then they deported the whole city. The middle of the night, they were shooting, killing.

And they got us to the cemetery, the Jewish cemetery, for the whole night. In the morning, by the name a German Fuchs, which he's still alive now in German, he selected us on the cemetery. And there 12,000 people, so they selected left and right. And I came out I don't remember to which side. And anyways to the side that I will shipped back to Łódź ghetto.

And in the Łódź ghetto, I've been an instructor working again in the [INAUDIBLE] because I am a professional saddle-maker, to say in English. I came back to Zdunska Wola to Łódź ghetto. I discovered my whole family was taken to Treblinka-- my wife, my son, three sisters, two brothers, my father, and mother. They all went to the gas chamber.

So I went in the Łódź ghetto, working on this shop till the end of the Łódź ghetto. They transported us to Auschwitz. So I been there for a short time. After this, they took us to a lager, concentration lager by the name Kaufering. It's between Landsberg and Munich. There I've been in lager 2 for a long time.

And then get it closer and closer, they took us out. And we've been walking day and night for days, and weeks, and days, and weeks till we come to Allach. Lager Allach-- this is not far from Dachau, from Munich. And there, the Americans come and free us.

But after the freeing, when we got free from the Americans, I've been in German a little while. And then I emigrate to Sweden. And I spent five years in Sweden, the city Boras. After this five years being in Sweden, I emigrated to Canada. I find my mother's sister. They maked us papers-- they make me papers. And I emigrate from Sweden to Canada.

In the meantime, I have to mention that I got married again in Sweden, born a son by the name Max Weisfeld. And we emigrate with a 18-month-old little boy to Toronto, Canada. He growed up there. 1963, I emigrate to United States.

And I had another, and a son. He graduated in America, which I'm very grateful. He is a doctor. And he's successful, had a family from three children. My daughter is finish speech communication. My daughter is speech therapy. My son-in-law is computer scientist. And I got a grandchild for him too.

And I'm a very lucky man now. And I got a beautiful family. This is all the things United States for giving me the opportunity to have such a four, nice, educated children. Myself, I am now a professional house painter and decorator, inside and outside. And I gave up my painting.

And I went to the United States and a little business-- excuse me-- by the name Sam's Fried Chicken, like Kentucky Chicken. I opened a market, in a market, a place. And I've been very successful. I maked enough to educate my kids. I saved enough up to be comfortable with my wife. We're living now in Baltimore, Maryland. We have our own home. And I'm glad to see pleasure for my whole family.

Do you have any message for future generations?

Yes, I have.

From your experience?

Yes. I would like to see my children have enough education to take care for the horrible what we had before, that they wouldn't allow to come through such a thing like we had before. When you factor that my daughter is speaking Jewish perfectly, what I am speaking, my son is speaking Jewish that I am speaking, and they know my history. And they know their grandfathers' and grandmothers' history, they went to the chamber, the gas chamber. And they know the mother's history.

And in fact that they were taking to history to the school, and the teacher took them away the papers because it was so good that they took him away the papers. They didn't give him back. And this was done again and again in the school. They been reading these.

And I would like to say that this wouldn't be happening again. We shouldn't allow it to be happen this again, and never again. Because we have enough. And it should be for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. And I'm teaching my children to be proud to be Jewish, not to hide that they are Jewish.

Matter of fact, my son is very, very proud of his Jewishness. He's coming in places where they don't know that a boy is a Jew because he's blond. He's a young doctor. And if he got any occasion to speak to his patients in Yiddish, he was more happy than anything. And to his father and mother, he speak Yiddish, no English at all. Not to daughter and not to son. He speak Yiddish to us over the phone, little conversation.

And we proud of them. We love them. They've been here on the Holocaust to gathering. I got my daughter here today. She got a little baby from 18 months. She left her by a babysitter. My son comes from Baltimore, left the office, he come here.

My son-in-law, matter of fact, is here today here. He's a computer scientist. He works for the Navy company. He came here. And we are proud of the whole family. And I wish that they going to go our footsteps to continue to be Jewish and to fight against the Ku Klux Klan, against the Nazis, and that this shouldn't be happen, and a free United States, which we love so much.

Was your wife a survivor?

Was survivor too.

But you met her after the war?

I met her after the war in Sweden. And we got 1946, we got married. And our son was born 1948, November the 20th. And that's how our life is now continuing. And that's the way I'll be thinking about.

You seem really happy.

I am happy, very happy. I got a nice family. And they go through the footsteps from father and mother to be Jewish. My son is a very good nature. He donating to Israel a lot. He's donating to the shul, which he's not even a member. I am just there a member. He's donating a lot of money to the shul.

Matter of fact, he bought it the last month, I think, was it, he told me, Daddy, you go in the lobby, you will see what I hanged up there in the synagogue. And there are two beautiful Israeli pictures for \$700. And I proud of him, very proud. He got there a little plate. It says, Dr. Weisfeld. And Ms. Weisfeld donated big donation. And this makes me happy. And he never will give up on Jewishness.

I don't speak no Polish. I'm from Poland. I hate to speak Polish. And we don't speak Polish in our house. And matter of fact that I am here in the Holocaust together, and people speaking Polish, and I interrupting them. I say, we haven't got no right to speak Polish because they helped the Nazis. They helped the Nazis to kill us. They helped them. They helped them, not like they had here. In some speeches, they say, well, the Poles helped the Jews. It's like we say, one in a million.

Also, they give them away all the goodness, all the jewels, all the goods, all the diamonds, everything to hold them in someplace in a bank and sit there for a certain time. And if they have got nothing to give it to them, they took them out and they done shot any of us. They give to the German.

So now, we haven't got too much, no right at all to speak about Poland. They were not friends of ours. I've been born there. I served the army there. I served during the war. And I can't hear anything anymore to speak Polish. It's again against my will, my wish.

It's just against your grain to compromise?

Right, about Poland. I feel very comfortable to speak about Americans, what they give us, really according to the speeches what they had. And this is two things, they give us freedom. We were reached a big point here. We got our homes. We are secure if we get any sickness.

They give us an opportunity to educate the kids, which I will never dream in my life, or my parents would never dream in their life that they will have a grandchild a doctor or they will have such an educated girl like my daughter is. Such a high educated girl like my daughter there is, son-in-law, where can you get this in Europe? Where can you find any place like United States? You can't.

We all appreciate it. I hope that everyone has the same mind like we got. My son loves America. You can't tell him anything against America. He loves it. I just-- he's a very soft-spoken man. He's not against any nation, any color, any religion. It's equal right for him. He's a nice, nice [INAUDIBLE], 33 years old boy. He's a very nice boy.

He came this week here from Baltimore, where he'd been, and where the president was speaking. And he sit there through 12 o'clock. And he went home. And I'm proud of him. Mother kissed him very much, which he works. I'm proud of him that he did it. Yes, you should.

And you should be active, taking part in this organization. You the people that you have to take care now of the future. We are past ours. We 68, 69 years old, another few years, every one of us going to go. And I'm proud being here and seeing with my eyes how many young people here, like you are here.

And me and my wife talking every day in the hotel, look how proud we should be. The youngsters took over. And they have such a beautiful organization, such a brilliant speakers, educated people. This is a lot to do. Of course, that's what we need.

I'm trying to persuade my son to go to Israel to visit. He's never been. Said, Daddy, I going to go. But the three children are small-- seven, five, and three years old. He said, I can't go. So we decided to take babysitting for two weeks at least. I say, Max, take Sandy and go. Go for two weeks. See what you can see from the Jewish state. And maybe they will decide there and they will go. That's our continuation of our life, happiness.

Are you finished?

Well, I think so.

You think so? You're not sure?

Well, whatever, if you would ask me any more questions maybe.

How would you say that being a survivor has affected raising your children, would you say?

Well, it affect me and it affected a little bit because I feel that I was not enough educated to grow my children to be so highly educated like they are because I am not educated. I haven't got no school, maybe one grade or even not. But I learned a lot in America. I went here three years to school, night school. I learned a little bit.

I'm reading here American paper very fluently, very fluently, a newspaper, a book. And I am reading that I know what I am reading. I like a lot to read about politic, what goes on in the country. I'm not a sport man. I don't need no sport, very little advertising. I'm not too much interested. But I read important things what goes on in the world, what goes on in the United States.

And I feel that I am guilty that I haven't got education, which I would maybe give the children when they've been small more than I give them. But we tried the best. We tried the best, sent them to the schools, get into the college, and high school, get into the college, provide them with the best opportunities what could be happen. And that's the mine opinion that I would be more educated. Maybe it would be much better.

But I have to admit that I am coming from a very, very, very, very poor family. We haven't got enough to eat. It was eight small children, the father couldn't make a living. He couldn't make a living in Poland to give us to eat. So we haven't got even a pencil, nothing like American kids got pencils and paper, they give them, and transportation to the school, and back from the school, and everything. And if they haven't got, even clothing you getting, everything.

But we have got this stuff in then. I haven't got no pencil. I haven't got no paper. There was not enough money to buy for the father for children every-- we been stages two years in apart. And he couldn't make it. He couldn't make it. So that's the problem. Any more questions? I'm willing to answer.

I don't think so. I just wanted you to be able to share whatever you wanted to share with me.

Yeah, I'm sharing. Like I say, again, I'm sharing with the Holocaust gathering, which I'm very proud of you young people. I'm sharing with United States for being such a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful country for us.

Well, I just want to thank you for-- because I see that you sharing with me as a direct contribution to my life. And I just want you to know that you've really contributed to me.

And I give you credit for it, that you taking your time.

Thank you. Thank you.

You sitting down with people and interviewing. And I'm very glad. And the fact that I came to Baltimore, we're having a group playing bingo every night. And I'm going to-- and the people what they've been up here, I'm going to tell them everything, that I saw things that I was never, never be able to think that so many youngsters, second generation, took part in this together. It was thousands of you, was thousands of people, the youngsters. And they still are here. And that's very nice.

Together with families, single one, matter of fact that I got a couple, they are not survivors, they are only Americans, born, we were sitting close to them where the presidents been and a couple center. And we ask him, why they came for Poland? They said, well, we're not survivors. My father and mother was born here. And I am born here. But I am obligated, my obligation is to be here because I am a Jew. It's nice too, young couple, maybe 28 years old. And this was nice.

That is.

So it's a lot to talk about, the gathering. And I would say thank you for mine interview.

Thank you.