

--after school. And I'm here today instead of a lady who usually comes to introduce the speaker. And she has done an awful lot of work in New Jersey. She is the daughter of two Holocaust survivors. Does everybody know what the Holocaust is? OK. Willful destruction of 6 million Jews. OK.

She was born in this country, this young woman. And her two parents came from Hungary and were in concentration camps. And she has made it part of her life to let people know about the Holocaust so that it would never happen again. She feels a commitment to people to have education.

And so she told me a couple of things that she usually says. My passport for being here today is that I survived Kristallnacht. That's the Night of the Broken Glass on November 9 to November 10, 1938. I was approximately your age.

And the Broken Glass night was really the beginning of the formal Holocaust. It was five years after Hitler came to power in Germany, and about six months after he came to Austria. There was a world incident that created a free-for-all for all the people of Germany. And they looted and robbed and killed and murdered.

I just want to say one thing in terms of my having lived close to Germany as a young kid and in Hitler-dominated Austria as a youngster, that these are things that occur incrementally. You don't even know. First, there's a legal something that deprives you of your right to go to school. Then my father wasn't allowed to go to his job. He was a lawyer. He wasn't allowed in court.

Then they begin to take your home away. You just have to move. Eventually, the Jews had to move into ghettos. From the ghetto, they were sent to parts of Poland after Hitler had invaded Poland. And then came the concentration camps, about which Frida will tell you much more.

Just a couple of words about why should you care about this? There's no intent to scare you. But some of the things that you will hear are so dreadful that it is almost hard to believe them. But you're mature enough to begin to make up your own mind and to know that you have to do something about the horrible things that may happen in this world.

I don't know whether you listen to the media. But racism, antisemitism are words that occur all the time in the reports we hear. And you have to nip them in the bud. That's very important because it may start as small, horrible acts of one person against another. It may lead to total destruction of the whole people and to the willful destruction of the whole people.

There's one thing that is said that is important that history repeats itself unless we are watchful. And so you must learn and know in order to prevent horrible things from happening again. One more word about revisionists. There are people, some of them very intelligent, very erudite college professors that claim that the Holocaust never occurred.

I don't know their motivation. It may be antisemitism. It may be that it is too horrible to believe that anything like this can happen.

But that's why it is particularly important that survivors, as long as they are here and as long as they're alive, come to tell you about it. And you may find that some people in your own families and among your friends and their families may have known about this and haven't talked about it for the last 50 years. And what all the survivors tell us is that it is important, utmost, of the utmost importance, to tell the story, to give testimony, to bear witness.

And so Frida has come as one of the people who will bear witness to what has happened to her. So that you can begin to make up your own mind about what can happen and what people can survive. It's a story of strength and a story of horror that few could endure.

My name is Frida Herskovits. I live in Clearbrook. That's Monroe Township. I'm a Holocaust survivor.

I was born in Czechoslovakia. We lived in Czechoslovakia in 1944-- till 1944. That was we lived in a small town. We

were a family. We had 10 children and my mother and father.

And we lived in peace. There was no problem. It was a beautiful area. We were different religion. We got along fine. We were good citizens. We didn't commit any crime.

Everything was fine till the Germans came in and gave us order. They had rifles and dogs. And they came like monsters. And they gave us orders to pack and gave us two hours and leave everything, the property, the house, everything. And we had to pack and follow what they tell us to do.

My youngest sister was seven years old. They took us to a factory where they made bricks, a little bit far from the house. We stayed there for a few weeks. We were there-- it was just a roof, because the bricks where they were holding the bricks, there on the floor we slept.

And from there, they put us in trains. And they sent us to Auschwitz. We didn't know that there is a crematorium, didn't know that they're going to kill us. We felt that they take us to a camp, and we're going to go to work and be together with the family.

And when we arrived to-- we were in the train. They put us in a train, in a cargo train where they put certain things-- not for human. And they put so many people in one train that the people didn't have even place to move. No food, no water. We were there for a few days till we arrived to Auschwitz.

As soon as we came down from Auschwitz, the SS was standing there with rifles, with dogs. And they said, left and right, and left and right. And we didn't know what means left or right.

So the young people who they felt that they could still work, they went in one side. And the older people, the kids, especially, even when people were young, but when they had-- like my mother was 40 years old, but she had a little child and she was seven years old. So they took her straight to the crematorium.

We didn't know that a crematorium existed. And they took us near the crematorium in a different building. And we heard screams. So somebody who was there working for a long time in Auschwitz, they told us that there is a crematorium. And the people, they are all burning, the children and the parents that they burning them.

We had to take off all our clothes, naked. They shaved us. And they gave us-- they took away all the things that we have. And they gave us a certain kind of clothes to put on. And even our private-- I'm very shaky-- even private part of the body, men were shaving. And we didn't have no choice. We couldn't do nothing.

After that, they put us in barracks. And we had bunk beds. In the bunk beds, they put so many people that we didn't have place to straighten up. We had to put our head and our legs one on top of the other.

From there, we got once a day food. And they send us to work. We worked very hard work. They put us-- not everybody worked that kind of labor. But the place where I was, I was very heavy labor.

We made highways. We were working on field. We did a lot of heavy work.

We came home. And then we got the meal, but a little water and some kind of-- I don't know what they put in very-- things that it's unbelievable to give a human being food like that.

And a lot of time at night time, they came in, and everybody had to get up and go outside and knee on rocks because that was fun for them to watch-- people torture and people suffer for no reason. We didn't do nothing. And every day we walked in five in a line to work. And at the two sides, we had dogs and SS. That went on for a few months.

Now, every few weeks, we had to undress and stay outside. And they checked. And anybody who they didn't like, they put straight to the crematorium. And they burned them.

Anybody got sick went straight there. Anybody didn't obey what they did, they took the dog. And the dog tore apart the person. And we had to watch.

In December of 1944, we were in Auschwitz. And the Russians were close to Auschwitz. So we had to leave Auschwitz and walk-- Auschwitz is in Poland. And it's very cold there. And in the winter, it snow.

And we didn't have no coat, no socks. And I don't even remember what kind of shoes we had, we were dressed. And most of the people who walked was hungry. No food. Day and night they had to walk.

So they were-- on the side, they were shooting the people. The people were begging, please don't kill me. I want to live. They just like-- even a dog, a person wouldn't do. They just shot the person, left them on the side of the street, kicked them and left them there. They were dead.

After a few days, we stopped over in a stable for one night. And after that they put us in a train, open cargo train. In the daytime was raining. So we got wet. At night time, it was very cold. So the clothes was frozen stiff.

We arrived to Bergen-Belsen. In Bergen-Belsen, as soon as we arrived, people were all over. Dead people was on the street, on the sides because no food, no water.

They put us in a room, in a small room. It just had the roof. It didn't have concrete. And it didn't have carpet, just had soil on the ground. The soil was there.

And we had to lay there. But they didn't give us enough place even on the-- there to have enough place to lay down. So we were on top of each other, people with typhus, with all kinds of diseases. When we woke up in the morning, people dead. People were on top of dead people. Dead people were on top of me. And it was unbelievable.

We walked down the street. People were falling down half dead. One was just-- the whole street was like somebody poisoned the people. And they falling like flies. But there they were-- the reason that they were dying like that is because no food and no water.

Once in three days, they gave us a little water and a little piece of bread. And but we had one wish. We wanted to have just enough water and bread. Then we didn't-- I said, I don't care when I die, but that's all that was my wishes because we were so hungry and dirty. No showers, nothing.

My sister came in there later on. And she went to look for me because she heard that I went to Bergen-Belsen. And she-- I was right-- she was right next to me. She didn't recognize me because I was skin and bone. You could count every bone, every rib on my body.

I'm going to go back to-- I just went through a flu. So my head-- I'm usually better. But I can't--

You're fine.

It shakes me up anyway a little bit. But because of that, I'm a little bit not myself. I'm going to go back to Auschwitz because I left out certain things in Auschwitz.

Auschwitz, when we came-- when we were working, a lot of time people came in with a train. And then because they didn't have food and it was all different-- people got sick. So they just threw them in an open car, in a big truck, like a potato you throw on the truck. That's the way they did the human being. And they took them straight to the crematorium.

But after a while, they didn't have enough gas-- oh, when the people came in in the crematorium, it was built like you go in to take a shower. They had everything planned that people shouldn't get panicky because otherwise the people would get panicky and they would have problems.

So the people went in and took off their clothes and went to take a shower. They didn't know till the last minute. Instead of the shower coming out water, came out gas. And they fell on the floor. And they will still half alive. So they-- I don't know exactly because I wasn't in the crematorium. It opened up, and they fell in or how they put them in the oven. And when they start burning them, they still were alive. So that's the screams what we heard.

One time we worked on the field-- that was all in Auschwitz-- on the field, and we heard shooting. And so we were happy because figured maybe somebody is going to come and free us. But when we came closer, we saw that there was about 300 people. They shot them.

And the people who they shot, they lined them up in a line. And we had to pass and see that they killed the people because they tried to run away. That was the people who were working in the crematorium.

In crematorium, the people were working. And every three months, they killed the people who were working there. And they took the new people who came in. And the one day they were there for three months, they killed them. So they knew they don't have nothing to lose.

We were surrounded with an electric wire, Auschwitz. So somebody gave them-- there was like partisan. And they gave him something. And they cut the wire, the electric wire they cut. So when they cut the electric wire, they start to run away. But they caught all the people, and they killed them.

A lot of time people were working in the crematorium. And the parents and the children didn't come in at the same time. A lot of time children were there when they brought in the parents, and they had to burn their own parents. Or the parents were there and the children came in separate because they were married, and they had to do burn their own children. It was unbelievable.

They took twins. And they made experiments on them. And they cut them open. They tried with a lot of people to cut open, take out certain organs and experiment how long a person could live without a certain organ or how long a person could survive and bleed to death. And they were watching that.

For us in the food, they put in something. We didn't know what date it is. We didn't know what day it is. We didn't know. I was a teenager just like you, maybe just 17. I was 17 years old. I just remembered, my 18 year I was in Auschwitz because my birthday is in August. So the 18th birthday is in Auschwitz.

Children who were few months old, they didn't do nothing. And they burned them alive. In the end, they didn't have enough gas because they were losing the war. So they took the people and had a pit, like a big swimming pool, made. They pushed in the people, put over gasoline, and burned them alive. And the screams was unbelievable.

The ashes-- in Auschwitz was a little water we passed by once because we didn't know we passed by. And we saw the crematorium and the ashes, the water and the ashes with the people went in the water. And so we passed by. So somebody said, this is all the ashes, what they burn in the people.

They took a lot of people and took off the skin of the people and made lampshades. They used soap the people made. They have in Israel a lampshade what is made of human skin. They did a lot of things what I-- not what-- I mean, I don't know everything, but a lot of things was unbelievable-- to take a dog and tear a person and watch it.

Or when we walked, and thousands of people they killed before my eyes. I had to watch how they were shooting people. And people were begging, please don't kill me. And was young people, teenagers, people, 18, 14, 15. And it's just unbelievable that there are monsters like this exist because any human being to do that, it's unbelievable that a human being could do that to another human being.

And in Bergen-Belsen, they didn't know what to do with dead people because there were so many dead. So they put in the bread poison. That was before we got free. And they wanted to poison the people so they would die, and around the camp explosive so the whole camp, they wanted to get rid of that because they couldn't bury so many people. It was too many.

But they didn't have time because the British came in in April the 15th. And they freed us, the few what was left. And it was very difficult. Certain things what they did, it's unbelievable that people could do something like that.

And so we have to be aware. Now, most of them was young children who they killed. It was 6 million Jews. There was some that wasn't-- non-Jews that they killed, for no reason, Gypsies or any other religion, just because they felt like doing that. There was no reason that they did that. They looked for excuse, but they didn't have really.

Like Hitler, he had problems in Germany. So he looked somebody to blame. So he said the Jews the problem. But it's just an excuse.

And it doesn't matter what religion a person is, a person should respect each other's religion. And it's wonderful to have a religion. And religion doesn't make a person bad or good. When a person is nice and has a good character and a good foundation-- the Foundation is very important because when a person has a good foundation, it's just like when you build a house. When you build a house, the foundation, you make a strong foundation. It holds up the house.

The same thing, when children have a good foundation, it stays with them all their life. It doesn't disappear. This is somebody nobody could take away.

See, I suffered all that-- somebody asked me, how come that you believe still in religion? I'm even stronger believe because I suffered all that just because I'm Jewish. So I'm even a stronger Jew now.

And I respect everybody's religion. And doesn't matter what color, what religion people are. People who hate, they miserable because it makes them miserable. And when people care for other people and like people, it makes them happy. And it gives them a certain satisfaction in life. And I think that's very important.

How long do I have? Do I have enough place? Time?

If you want to-- but we can ask--

Yeah, I'm a little bit because I have Saturday I was very sick. And I have very-- I think that my--

Give them more time to ask questions.

That's fine.

OK. I'm just one of the survivors. There is not too many. And we older now. And we're not too many around. So it's very important that you should be aware that things like that could happen because we weren't.

And when today something would come and do what they did then, I would fight. And I would rather die on the spot, like go the way I went. Because at that time, we didn't have television. We didn't have radio. And it was very difficult. Like today, we know everything what's going on. We didn't know.

And we would know at that time, we wouldn't go the way we went. So I'm just one of few survivors. And I'm very happy that I had a chance to talk a little bit about it. And thank you for listening.

[APPLAUSE]

Do you have any questions?

This might be sort of on the personal side.

Could you speak up a little bit louder?

It may be on the personal side. So if you don't want to answer, you don't have.

No, I will answer. No problem.

When you were in Auschwitz and those other camps, did you ever say, where is God now? Why isn't He helping these Jewish people?

Yes, I did. Yes, I did. I did. But there is no answer. And I'm not looking for one. But I said, how could God watch doing what they do? But I don't think there is an answer for it. I didn't get the answer.

Anybody else?

Anybody else?

Anybody has any questions?

I'm sure you do. Are you ready? I think you're kind of--

Yeah--

Trying to absorb it. It's very difficult to do this. But I'm sure that whatever questions you might have--

You could ask any question, any person, any question you have, it wouldn't bother me. I'd be glad to answer in case you have anything. OK.

Did you ever feel like you should just give up?

No, I'm a fighter. When I would give up, I wouldn't be alive today. And I wouldn't be around. Because I was in such a dangerous places, the bombs were falling, and the earth was shaking, and people dying all around me, I wasn't the-- I'm not the type of person to give up.

There was a question here.

Yes.

Hitler were now and he were apologizing, would you be able to forgive him?

No. No, I would put him through what he put through the people. When a person commits a crime, he should pay for it. And he should be tortured just the way he tortured other people. He should be taught a lesson how it give him a feeling what he did to others.

I have to tell you that I do differ from this because I feel that it is not undoing the tremendous suffering that you have been put through. And I think-- I mean, I wish I weren't put through the test because I don't know what I would do with it. But I think to do unto him, the inhuman things that he did to the Jews, is not going to help the Jews, the dead Jews. I would want him to-- I don't know-- repent and work for the reconstruction of all the things he destroyed. I would like him to do something to make-- there is no making good for the kinds of things that were done.

I feel that before people commit crimes, they should be-- they should think what they would try to do something bad to somebody else, they should think, how would they feel when somebody else would do that to them. And when you don't like to do something-- when you wouldn't like somebody should do it to you that hurt you, you don't hurt other people.

And when you want to be respected, you respect other people. You get respect back. And that works in every way that you do. I would never hurt anybody. When I could help, I would go out of my way to help somebody. But I wouldn't try to hurt people because I don't want nobody should ever hurt me. So why would I do that to somebody else? It's not fair.

Yes.

Yeah. Some of the-- we talk in the class the other day. And some of the questions that came up was, did you know Anne Frank? Or did you see--

No. No, I was never in there. And I never met her. No, I don't know-- I just know what I read about her.

Did you have a-- yeah.

Yes.

Did any of the guards or SS men or soldiers ever show any compassion to you or--

Not really, no. They were trained. Like robots, they were trained. When they were very young, they start to train them. And they brainwashed them. And they didn't.

When we were in Bergen-Belsen, there was one who spoke Hungarian, because I speak about five, six languages. They spoke Hungarian. And one guy said, "Just be strong. You're going to be free soon." That was in the end. There was one guy. But I don't think he was a real Nazi. He was a different type of human being. Yes. Yes.

Were you able to develop any friendships among the prisoners?

No.

And what kind of support did you have with the other prisoners? Any?

Oh, you mean with the-- that we--

With the other people that were like you.

We just went to work. We really-- we knew each other. We slept in the same bunk, one on top of each other. But I can't remember that much. It's 49 years ago. And it's very difficult to-- but we all suffered. We were all in the same place and the same suffering we went through. It was very, very difficult for all of us.

There are some things that come through in the literature of the Holocaust that seem very important. One is that the friendships or helping each other that happened even in the worst deprivation was one of the things that seems to have sustained survivors.

Anybody else?

One other thing is that-- and again, I'm checking it out with you, having--

The kids--

--what they were talking about is that the wish to tell the world what happened also helped people to survive.

See, we were in a home just like you are living now with parents and children and your nice family. And we had-- it's a beautiful place in a small town. And we had a beautiful life. We didn't hurt nobody. We didn't bother nobody. We lived together. We were like family. It didn't matter that the person was different from religion like we were. We were trusting each other and was very nice there.

And we lived like on a farm with fruit trees and all kind of fruits. And the air was-- there are forests. And it was just beautiful there. And nobody bothers us. We didn't bother nobody else. And that's it. So there was no reason that they

killed people who lived in peace.

They just came from nowhere. So that's why it's so important that everybody should be around-- look around all the time and be alert that should never happen again something like that. Is there anybody who has--

There's a question right here.

Yes.

After it was all over and you were liberated--

Yes.

Where could you go?

OK. My sister-- I was liberated with my sister. And my sister got typhus. And they didn't have enough people help. So I went in the hospital, and I helped the sick people. There was a whole room. It was like a school they put it in. It was, I don't know, about 35, 40 people. I helped out for the sick people. And I helped my sister.

After a while, I got sick, I got water in my lungs. And I was very sick. So they took me-- we went to Sweden.

Sweden was very nice country. They took us in. And I was in Sweden for a year in a sanatorium till I got better. I gained weight, and I got better. And my sister came too.

In Sweden, we wanted to go to a home where nobody would bother us and we would have a Jewish land. At that time, it was Palestine, and the British was there. So we were in Sweden. We made papers to go to Cuba in Sweden.

But we left Sweden in 1947. I forgot I left that out. In '47, we left Sweden. And we went on a ship. We were six weeks on the ocean.

The middle of the ocean, we turned around. And instead of going to Cuba, we went to Israel. We came in all the way to Haifa. And it was already in the dry sand. But the British saw us on the ocean. And they came with planes and ships.

But we didn't give in. We were fighting. We had cans. We didn't want to give in. But in the end, they threw tear bombs. And we had to give in. And they took us to Cyprus.

In Cyprus was a military camp. And they put us in Cyprus in the military camp. We were there for a year. In there, they took a certain amount of people every month, and they went into Israel.

So when we came into Israel, the British were still there. And we came in, and the British was watching us. They take us in. And the Arabs said that they are going to cut off our heads. That's what they showed us when we came down. They're going to kill us and cut off our heads. But we ignored them. So we came to--

You are a tough lady.

[LAUGHTER]

I'm not afraid from war. And I could go in the biggest war. I'm not afraid to-- because I feel that I'm alive today, it's a miracle. And I believe in miracles. And when I have years to live, I could be in the middle of the fire and the fire didn't touch me. And I'm still here.

So somebody is afraid to go because it's the war. I would go in the biggest war. Where I go, I don't have no fear because when I went through and I'm here. So there's no fear.



So we went to Israel. And in Israel, when I came, I went into another war because at that time the Arabs came and bombed. And I was working. And we had to run out. And I had to watch people were killed and half-- the blood was running and they were taking them. So after one war I went into the other one till we got down to Israel and the British left. But till then we had had a hard time.

And I hope that one day, they have their peace, because that's what we're hoping, because that's a terrible thing what's going on. I would like very much and the whole world, every place should be peace because that's the best thing. But it's very difficult to achieve that.

And then what brought you here?

Israel was very hard at that time because it was a new country, and it was a very hard. And my husband said we suffered so much, and the United States, it's one of the best country that you could find. And he had his relatives, and he wanted to come out. So he came out.

In the 10 children that we were in Europe, seven children, and my mother and father, they killed, they burned them. My mother was 40 when they burned them. My father and all my sister and my brother. I have a brother in Israel, my oldest one, and I have a sister in Israel. The rest of my family money was all burnt and killed.

So we came here to this country. I came here in 1955. And since then I have a son. My son is 43. And I have a daughter. She's 36. And I have one granddaughter. And she's 13. And her name is Stacy. And she's wonderful. And that's-- anybody else for question?

Yes.

Are you happy that you survived?

Excuse me.

Are you happy that you survived?

I can't hear you.

Are you happy that you survived?

Yes. Yes, I'm happy. Yeah. It seems somebody wants me around. And that's why I survived. And I'm even today-- I'm a very strong-minded person. And a lot of people get lost. And I could handle problems.

Frida, I'd like to ask you a question--

Yes.

--following up on that young woman's question.

Yes.

There's something called survivor guilt, which means that so many people died, and yet here you are, a survivor. I was wondering how you feel about that? Do you-- well--

I don't feel guilty because I said, it doesn't have nothing to do with me. It has to do with God. And it seems God wanted me to be around. And it's not up to me. It wasn't-- I didn't make the decision who should live and who should die. It was God. So I don't really feel guilty. I felt that he had a purpose to have me around. Yes.

Have you ever thought about writing your memoirs?

Somebody told me to do that. So far I didn't do it. But maybe one day, when I'm still around and I have time, I might.

I'd like to interject that these tapes. Frida speaks at other schools also. And they make tapes. And the tapes are being sent to the Holocaust Museum, the new museum that's being built in Washington, so that people, like Frida's story, will be there for future generations.

Now, I saw last time a tape. I didn't have my VCR at that time. And I couldn't tape it on the Discovery Channel, on 24-- on Bergen-Belsen exactly what I went through and what I was talking about. There was people like a big apartment building, so high they had dead people. And they had all that on tape. I'm going to look into get a tape from that.

I'm pretty sure that there is certain places that you could get a copy. But I was talking that the people were on the streets all over, dead people, it's on the tape because it seems the British when they freed us, they took movies. And it's around. And sometimes they show it on television, but not that often. Anybody else? Yes.

About six years ago, there was an enormous survivors reunion in Israel. Did you go to that?

No. No, I didn't.

It was supposed to have been absolutely fantastic.

Did you go?

I didn't. But I know people who were there. And it was incredible because some people, some very few, that thought the other person was dead found each other. And also, of course, having gone through some of the same experiences.

I do want to mention, because you were talking about fighting, that there were many places where Jews tried to fight. It didn't help them much. But it's not-- on the other hand, you have to remember, if there are 10 men with guns, and you see that if you say, I don't want to go, your family gets killed, you think again before you're going to fight. So that the reality was really--

I wouldn't think a minute I'm different because what I went through, and I know what they did to my family. And they didn't have a chance. And they burned them. And they burned them alive. And they did all that. I wouldn't think a minute. I would fight.

The problem was that we weren't aware of things what's going on. We weren't aware that there is a crematorium, wasn't aware of what their plans were. Because otherwise, we wouldn't go that nice and we would cause-- at least we would die, but we would die in a fighting way and not going you know under the knife so nice.

What I wanted to mention is that this-- in April, on April 19 is the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. And there were a bunch of young Jews who started to fight. And the world, the Nazis, but the whole world thought that in a couple of hours or the most in a day, it would all be over. And they fought hour after hour, day after day, for weeks and for a couple of months. And again, it's a tremendous amount of heroism in an attempt to fight back against tremendous odds.

Excuse me, does anybody else have some questions?

You're so quiet.

I'm so--

Do you have any like nightmares or anything like that after what's happened?

The thing is that when I went through, you see, the picture is there. There is nobody in the whole world that could take

that away, or wipe that out. All the people that I saw killed before my eyes, it's like you have a picture. And it's there. And it stays all my life there.

There is nothing that nobody could do. You could go to a psychiatrist. There is no cure for that. They can't take that away.

I have to be strong enough and learn to live with all that what I saw and what I went through. It doesn't go away. But especially when you talk about it, it shakes you up and it brings up all the things. But I don't mind because to me it's very important that the young generation should know what went on.

Over here.

Yes.

If you have a chance, would you go back to the places that you were?

Auschwitz? Yes. I want to go back because that's to me, a cemetery. Auschwitz is a cemetery. There are so many millions of people there. It's like you go to a very big cemetery.

My whole family is there. And my parents are there. So far, I didn't have a chance yet to go back. But the first chance I have, I'm going to-- that's my plans to go there. I don't have a grave what where my mother or my sisters are buried because they're not buried no place. And even when the wind blow apart the ashes in Auschwitz they're still there someplace.

So I'm not getting any money from Germany. But now, there is some new law that I might get. The first money I get, I go to Auschwitz. That's my first plan.

Yes.

I would think that would be extremely difficult to do.

And I would cry. It's just like you go visit a grave when the whole family. And it's very important to me. And it would give me a certain satisfaction, like I want something to achieve. And that's one thing that I would like very much. Yeah. It's very important to me. That I never had in 49 years, I don't have a chance to go to see them. And I feel I would go like I go in the cemetery to visit somebody to the grave.

Anybody else? Frida?

Yes.

Is your husband a survivor also?

Yes, he is a Holocaust survivor. But he was in different camps, not in the camp that I was. But they killed his family too. And he is a survivor too. Yes.

Where after did you meet?

He's my second cousin. And we met in Israel. And we got married. And we married 44-- 43 years. 43 years.

It's really unbelievable that they could take young teenagers and kids and family who doesn't hurt nobody and good citizens and doesn't commit a crime and just try to help people and do good things for people. And then somebody like that comes, a monster like that, and does-- yes.

Did any of your neighbors or friends try to help you?

There was nothing they could do. We had neighbors, non-Jewish, but we lived in peace. When my mother went to any place, they came and watched the kids and were in our house like family. That's the way they lived because we lived in a small town. So it was like family.

So they couldn't. Because even people who risked their life, a lot of people risked their lives and they were hiding people, they honored them. Now we're going to have the Holocaust Memorial on the 18th of next month. And they bring in people from all over who helped. And they honor them as-- because they helped out. Yes.

Did your family ever try to hide?

No. We didn't expect that they're going to kill us. We expect that we're going to some place where we're going to work they want us. So we didn't try to hide. Maybe when we would know, we would. But we didn't. That was the biggest problem that we didn't know. Yes.

If somebody were to come and somebody like a friend of yours like in the book I'm reading, a man, he went and he went and he survived. And he came back and he told his village. And they said they didn't believe him. And then--

A lot of people don't believe. And I cannot understand because there is proof. There is-- I mean, the survivors are proof. But there is people who were soldiers and freed the camps. And they go to schools and they speak about it now. And then people come out and tell that never existed. So--

[BUZZING]

That's OK. It's all right.

So a lot of-- last time, somebody said that there were soldiers who were soldiers in the war and they went to school and spoke to kids just the way I do because when they read-- yes.

If you weren't Jewish and you were in a situation and your neighbors came and they were Jewish and they ask you for help, would you help them?

Yes. Yes. I'm the type of person I would go out of my way at any time-- even now, people know me, even in the middle of the night and anybody knocks on my door and need help because I know what help is when you give because we were suffering so much. And really nobody came to help. And United States too, when the president-- he was Roosevelt at that time. He knew what went on. And they didn't do nothing.

I have another questions though.

Yes.

If you had to do it all, what would you have changed like--

When I would have again, when I--

Change about what you did.

What do you mean, what I did?

Would you have fought more or would you have--

I would fight. I would rather be killed on the spot and I wouldn't go. I would fight because the thing is that not-- when I would know that they're going to kill me and they're going to do that, I would fight. Yes.

If someone came and told you that they were coming at your village, what would you have done first? Would you have gone into hiding or left the country or fought?

We couldn't leave the country really, because there was no way to go. I don't really-- but they would tell us that they-- it was very difficult because there wasn't really where to go to hide. It wasn't too many places to go to hide. So it was very difficult. I don't really know what I would do.

There was some people went to the forest. They had forest. And they went there. And they were living in the forest or run away. So a lot of young people did that, and some of them survived.

One of the reasons why it's so important to talk to folks like you again, who have the world ahead of them, is that the rest of the world did not do very much to welcome Jews. So there weren't many places that were open to go to.

Some people walked across the border. I had a friend who swam on the Danube from Vienna to Budapest at the time, before he got into Hungary, and saved his life that way. And there were some that went illegally into Switzerland and skied, et cetera. But those are a handful of people that managed. We're talking about millions. And no one knew what was going to happen.

Yeah. The thing is that today you know more. Yes.

Did you have to wear the yellow star?

Excuse me.

Did you have to wear a yellow star?

No, because I had a tattoo in the concentration camp. I had a number on my arm. And when I came to this country and a lot of people were asking me a lot of questions, so I went to my doctor and I asked him to remove it because I felt that I'm carrying a sign and people felt sorry for me. So I didn't want that people should feel sorry for me that I went through all that. So I took off--

I still have the scar because at that time I didn't have money. So it wasn't plastic surgery. He just cut out the skin and pulled it together. So I have a big scar. But I felt better after he took it off. Yes.

Have any of you guys ever try to get together and can you do something about it? Or are you just--

That we couldn't. Were watched 24 hours a day. We had electric wire in the concentration camp surrounded us. Every move we did, we were surrounded. We couldn't.

There's a question.

Yes.

If you could see your parents again, what would you say to them?

I think I would be the happiest person in the whole world. There is nothing what they would give me, all the whole world, just everything in this world. And they would say, just push the button, you could have everything, anything you want. I would give up everything, just have my parents and my family. There is no money in the whole world that you could give-- you would say the whole world is mine, and you could have it. I would give it up and have my family and my parents.

Maybe that's a good note on which to end.

Yeah, because money is good when we have. But there are certain things in life that you can't buy for money. And that's

the most important thing. And a lot of times, we don't value the family. We don't value the parents.

And that's the most important thing because nobody in the whole world would do what parents would do. And they do care so much for children. But usually, the children don't realize that they want the best for them. And they wouldn't hurt them in any way.

But today, the young generation thinks they're much smarter than the parents are. And that's the way it is. And you can't do that. But the older people have a lot of experience that it comes with age. And that's something that you learn as you get older.

Thank you so much for sharing.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you very much for having me. And I'm very glad that I'm one of the survivors, the few that is left, that you give me that chance to let you know what went on. And you should be alert. So we hope that never, ever happens something like that again. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]