

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:13,490

2

00:01:13,490 --> 00:01:15,380

So when we finished  
last we were talking

3

00:01:15,380 --> 00:01:18,470

about your life in the convent,  
and you were telling me

4

00:01:18,470 --> 00:01:20,018

what a typical day was like.

5

00:01:20,018 --> 00:01:21,560

I was wondering if  
you could tell me,

6

00:01:21,560 --> 00:01:25,640

what was it like to be  
Jewish in a convent?

7

00:01:25,640 --> 00:01:30,410

Well, first of all it  
was different for me

8

00:01:30,410 --> 00:01:35,090

because I felt  
Jewish, of course,

9

00:01:35,090 --> 00:01:37,820

because that's why I was there,  
because I had to be hidden.

10

00:01:37,820 --> 00:01:40,670

But once I got  
into the convent, I

11

00:01:40,670 --> 00:01:45,500

assimilated myself very  
easily to the Christian life

12

00:01:45,500 --> 00:01:48,710

because most of the  
girls there, except I

13

00:01:48,710 --> 00:01:51,980

think there were 40  
Jewish children hidden,

14

00:01:51,980 --> 00:01:56,480

because I told you from the  
age of 6 to the age of 16.

15

00:01:56,480 --> 00:02:00,380

And most of us, I think  
there were three or four that

16

00:02:00,380 --> 00:02:03,020

didn't convert,  
that just pretended,

17

00:02:03,020 --> 00:02:04,950

but the majority converted.

18

00:02:04,950 --> 00:02:10,280

And everybody says to me, did  
the nuns force you to convert?

19

00:02:10,280 --> 00:02:13,820

And I say, no, they did not.

20

00:02:13,820 --> 00:02:19,940

I just kind of fell into it  
because, as I mentioned to you,

21

00:02:19,940 --> 00:02:22,010

I felt safe.

22

00:02:22,010 --> 00:02:24,380

I felt safe being a Christian.

23

00:02:24,380 --> 00:02:27,980

I liked the going to the chapel.

24  
00:02:27,980 --> 00:02:30,390  
It was very peaceful.

25  
00:02:30,390 --> 00:02:32,450  
I liked the service.

26  
00:02:32,450 --> 00:02:34,700  
I liked the pomp  
and circumstance

27  
00:02:34,700 --> 00:02:37,770  
that went with it, because  
in the Catholic religion

28  
00:02:37,770 --> 00:02:42,980  
there is much more  
fanfare than in Judaism,

29  
00:02:42,980 --> 00:02:44,690  
as far as I could see.

30  
00:02:44,690 --> 00:02:47,250  
And I really liked it.

31  
00:02:47,250 --> 00:02:48,770  
And so did all my friends.

32  
00:02:48,770 --> 00:02:53,870  
We thought this was like maybe  
we thought we were play acting.

33  
00:02:53,870 --> 00:02:56,780  
But we felt extremely  
comfortable.

34  
00:02:56,780 --> 00:03:00,530  
And a lot of them  
stayed Catholic

35  
00:03:00,530 --> 00:03:05,310  
for a long time afterwards,

some for years, some for months.

36

00:03:05,310 --> 00:03:09,620

I think I stayed Catholic  
for a good year after.

37

00:03:09,620 --> 00:03:11,630

I went every Sunday to church.

38

00:03:11,630 --> 00:03:17,730

I was very more strict  
than the Catholics.

39

00:03:17,730 --> 00:03:20,610

And to this day, I  
have to be honest

40

00:03:20,610 --> 00:03:24,060

with you, I've been invited  
to Catholic weddings

41

00:03:24,060 --> 00:03:26,970

or other Christian weddings,  
I feel very comfortable

42

00:03:26,970 --> 00:03:28,080

walking in a church.

43

00:03:28,080 --> 00:03:32,340

I don't have that feeling  
of, what's all this about?

44

00:03:32,340 --> 00:03:36,150

Or like some people when  
they see Jesus on the cross.

45

00:03:36,150 --> 00:03:39,100

That doesn't upset me at all.

46

00:03:39,100 --> 00:03:43,050

And so some of it  
is left with me.

47

00:03:43,050 --> 00:03:49,230

And for a long time I did  
not know is my faith Judaism

48

00:03:49,230 --> 00:03:52,950

or is my faith Catholicism?

49

00:03:52,950 --> 00:03:54,750

But I, of course,  
I returned back

50

00:03:54,750 --> 00:04:00,720

to Judaism because  
this was my heritage.

51

00:04:00,720 --> 00:04:04,530

But probably if I had married  
a Catholic or Christian man

52

00:04:04,530 --> 00:04:08,900

I could very easily  
have stayed Catholic.

53

00:04:08,900 --> 00:04:12,510

Like I said, not in  
our particular convent

54

00:04:12,510 --> 00:04:15,960

but I know some of the girls  
that were hidden in a convent,

55

00:04:15,960 --> 00:04:19,140

some of them became nuns and  
some of them became priests.

56

00:04:19,140 --> 00:04:23,400

And I told you the  
one cardinal of Paris

57

00:04:23,400 --> 00:04:26,370

after the war  
stayed a Christian.

58

00:04:26,370 --> 00:04:32,820

And you know I forgot his  
name but he stayed a Catholic.

59

00:04:32,820 --> 00:04:36,300

So I felt very comfortable  
with Catholicism.

60

00:04:36,300 --> 00:04:38,220

And the other day it was funny.

61

00:04:38,220 --> 00:04:42,510

Saturday night we were  
invited to my daughter's best

62

00:04:42,510 --> 00:04:44,280

girlfriend's mother's  
birthday party.

63

00:04:44,280 --> 00:04:46,440

And there was a  
gentleman from New York,

64

00:04:46,440 --> 00:04:51,120

and my daughter had told him  
that I was a hidden child and I

65

00:04:51,120 --> 00:04:54,210

was in the Catholic convent  
because they're Catholics.

66

00:04:54,210 --> 00:04:56,890

And he was so surprised.

67

00:04:56,890 --> 00:05:01,200

He said, you mean you  
liked Catholicism?

68

00:05:01,200 --> 00:05:04,500

I can't understand how  
you could like that.

69

00:05:04,500 --> 00:05:07,110  
He was shocked.

70  
00:05:07,110 --> 00:05:08,880  
But I did.

71  
00:05:08,880 --> 00:05:13,890  
I liked actually my  
years in the convent.

72  
00:05:13,890 --> 00:05:17,140  
As strict as it was, I liked it.

73  
00:05:17,140 --> 00:05:19,935  
I felt very safe,  
like a safe place.

74  
00:05:19,935 --> 00:05:23,670

75  
00:05:23,670 --> 00:05:27,490  
Do you remember your first mass?

76  
00:05:27,490 --> 00:05:28,870  
Well, we arrived.

77  
00:05:28,870 --> 00:05:32,370  
I think I went into  
a convent I think

78  
00:05:32,370 --> 00:05:33,620  
it was the middle of the week.

79  
00:05:33,620 --> 00:05:35,410  
Now I wish I could give you--

80  
00:05:35,410 --> 00:05:40,000  
I mean, we're going  
back 60 years almost.

81  
00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:43,570  
I remember the next morning

the Mother Superior.

82

00:05:43,570 --> 00:05:47,230

I remember when we entered  
the convent with this woman

83

00:05:47,230 --> 00:05:50,800

and she took us to the Mother  
Superior's private quarters.

84

00:05:50,800 --> 00:05:55,070

And the Mother Superior, I  
remember telling us in French,

85

00:05:55,070 --> 00:05:58,540

now you are one of us.

86

00:05:58,540 --> 00:06:02,920

You forget whatever  
you have learned as far

87

00:06:02,920 --> 00:06:05,200

as your religious background.

88

00:06:05,200 --> 00:06:07,240

You're a Catholic.

89

00:06:07,240 --> 00:06:08,650

And we are going to have--

90

00:06:08,650 --> 00:06:12,670

Every night they have vestibule  
service at 5 or 6 o'clock,

91

00:06:12,670 --> 00:06:14,680

and that's when I went.

92

00:06:14,680 --> 00:06:18,280

And I sat, and you know in  
those days it was all in Latin.

93

00:06:18,280 --> 00:06:21,910



By the way, we learned  
Latin in school

94  
00:06:21,910 --> 00:06:24,670  
because the mass  
was done in Latin.

95  
00:06:24,670 --> 00:06:27,340  
And I went with a bunch of kids.

96  
00:06:27,340 --> 00:06:29,350  
It's like going to a party.

97  
00:06:29,350 --> 00:06:31,690  
What did I know?

98  
00:06:31,690 --> 00:06:35,410  
Then the next morning, the only  
thing I didn't like about mass

99  
00:06:35,410 --> 00:06:37,540  
you had to get up so early.

100  
00:06:37,540 --> 00:06:43,120  
And then I used to  
sing in the choir.

101  
00:06:43,120 --> 00:06:45,400  
We had a choir, kids.

102  
00:06:45,400 --> 00:06:48,130  
We sang in the church choir.

103  
00:06:48,130 --> 00:06:52,170  
And all this, like I said again,  
the pomp and circumstance,

104  
00:06:52,170 --> 00:06:55,300  
this was all very exciting.

105  
00:06:55,300 --> 00:06:57,250  
You didn't look on

the religious aspect.

106

00:06:57,250 --> 00:07:00,270

107

00:07:00,270 --> 00:07:02,190

How did they explain  
the fact that--

108

00:07:02,190 --> 00:07:03,630

You didn't know very much.

109

00:07:03,630 --> 00:07:06,390

Did someone explain it to you?

110

00:07:06,390 --> 00:07:13,150

No, you have catechism every day  
which teaches you Catholicism.

111

00:07:13,150 --> 00:07:16,270

Like kids go here to  
catechism, it teaches you.

112

00:07:16,270 --> 00:07:22,750

And in those days  
they really emphasized

113

00:07:22,750 --> 00:07:27,520

that Christ was killed by Jews.

114

00:07:27,520 --> 00:07:31,930

The old catechism said  
that he was denounced

115

00:07:31,930 --> 00:07:37,690

by a Jew, which  
in history you've

116

00:07:37,690 --> 00:07:42,850

learned where supposedly he  
denounced Jesus to the Romans.

117

00:07:42,850 --> 00:07:45,890

118  
00:07:45,890 --> 00:07:48,100  
How did you react to that?

119  
00:07:48,100 --> 00:07:50,580  
I listened to it and I  
thought maybe that's true.

120  
00:07:50,580 --> 00:07:55,570

121  
00:07:55,570 --> 00:07:58,290  
It was like a story.

122  
00:07:58,290 --> 00:08:00,540  
You learn a story  
and you listen.

123  
00:08:00,540 --> 00:08:07,740  
I mean, look at when  
they made Oliver Twist.

124  
00:08:07,740 --> 00:08:14,450  
The Jew was the mercenary,  
that Fagin, you know the part,

125  
00:08:14,450 --> 00:08:18,420  
so I figured that  
was the way it was.

126  
00:08:18,420 --> 00:08:29,240

127  
00:08:29,240 --> 00:08:31,190  
Did you speak to the  
other Jewish kids

128  
00:08:31,190 --> 00:08:32,450  
who were hiding there?

129

00:08:32,450 --> 00:08:35,630

Did you acknowledge the  
fact that you were Jewish?

130

00:08:35,630 --> 00:08:37,820

Yeah, but we knew--

131

00:08:37,820 --> 00:08:40,940

I mean, like especially the girl  
June that I'm so close with,

132

00:08:40,940 --> 00:08:44,450

and Edith and Ruth and  
Laurette, the four of us,

133

00:08:44,450 --> 00:08:45,540

we knew we were.

134

00:08:45,540 --> 00:08:49,100

But we all became Catholic  
so we were very comfortable.

135

00:08:49,100 --> 00:08:51,420

And my friend Ruth  
who lives in Paris,

136

00:08:51,420 --> 00:08:53,760

she was Catholic  
for many, many years

137

00:08:53,760 --> 00:08:55,340

till she married a Jewish man.

138

00:08:55,340 --> 00:09:01,640

139

00:09:01,640 --> 00:09:05,900

So no, we thought this was--

140

00:09:05,900 --> 00:09:08,390

Again, you have to realize  
too, and which I even

141

00:09:08,390 --> 00:09:10,940

told the children  
at Sacred Heart,

142

00:09:10,940 --> 00:09:17,300

you have to realize  
to be safe and not

143

00:09:17,300 --> 00:09:21,170

to worry about being  
killed or executed,

144

00:09:21,170 --> 00:09:22,265

you would accept anything.

145

00:09:22,265 --> 00:09:24,885

146

00:09:24,885 --> 00:09:26,510

You know when people  
say, I would never

147

00:09:26,510 --> 00:09:27,950

do that, don't say that.

148

00:09:27,950 --> 00:09:31,710

149

00:09:31,710 --> 00:09:34,050

Do you remember any of  
the nuns specifically?

150

00:09:34,050 --> 00:09:37,860

Oh sure, I remember Sr.  
Helene, Sister Helen.

151

00:09:37,860 --> 00:09:41,550

She was to me God.

152

00:09:41,550 --> 00:09:43,560

She was the most wonder--

153

00:09:43,560 --> 00:09:48,420

Not only was she like the  
principal I would say,

154

00:09:48,420 --> 00:09:50,550

but she was our sister.

155

00:09:50,550 --> 00:09:53,220

She treated us so wonderful.

156

00:09:53,220 --> 00:09:55,920

She was also our  
teacher in class.

157

00:09:55,920 --> 00:09:58,825

Because you have to  
remember it's not like here

158

00:09:58,825 --> 00:10:00,510

where you had this  
period that period.

159

00:10:00,510 --> 00:10:03,100

You stay with the same  
teacher most of the time,

160

00:10:03,100 --> 00:10:06,870

except we had two other  
teachers for home economics

161

00:10:06,870 --> 00:10:08,490

and for foreign language.

162

00:10:08,490 --> 00:10:12,150

Otherwise, the same teacher  
teaches you everything.

163

00:10:12,150 --> 00:10:14,100

And she was wonderful.

164

00:10:14,100 --> 00:10:18,990

And her sister, by the way,

was married to a Jewish man.

165

00:10:18,990 --> 00:10:24,550

And her sister had  
converted to Judaism.

166

00:10:24,550 --> 00:10:28,230

So whatever happened  
to them I don't know,

167

00:10:28,230 --> 00:10:30,340

but she was wonderful.

168

00:10:30,340 --> 00:10:32,790

She was like a mother to us.

169

00:10:32,790 --> 00:10:35,910

And when I went  
back in '69 and I

170

00:10:35,910 --> 00:10:39,720

took my daughter to the  
convent, she was still alive.

171

00:10:39,720 --> 00:10:43,110

And she treated my  
daughter and I wonderful.

172

00:10:43,110 --> 00:10:45,010

Took us to their  
private dining room.

173

00:10:45,010 --> 00:10:46,980

We had lunch out there  
and was wonderful.

174

00:10:46,980 --> 00:10:49,570

The Mother Superior  
was still there.

175

00:10:49,570 --> 00:10:54,930

And then we had one sister,  
Sister Denise, she was young

176  
00:10:54,930 --> 00:10:57,720  
and she was so beautiful.

177  
00:10:57,720 --> 00:11:01,230  
And we liked her a lot too  
because she treated us--

178  
00:11:01,230 --> 00:11:05,700  
We were like her friends  
because we were the older girls.

179  
00:11:05,700 --> 00:11:08,670  
But I understand she  
died shortly after.

180  
00:11:08,670 --> 00:11:12,630  
She developed TB and died, but  
she was such a beautiful person

181  
00:11:12,630 --> 00:11:13,260  
too.

182  
00:11:13,260 --> 00:11:15,330  
Then we had one we  
didn't care for.

183  
00:11:15,330 --> 00:11:16,950  
Her name was Victoire.

184  
00:11:16,950 --> 00:11:19,410  
She was the director  
of the school

185  
00:11:19,410 --> 00:11:23,040  
and she was very strict,  
very, very strict.

186  
00:11:23,040 --> 00:11:25,920  
And then there was  
one, Sister Pauline,

187



00:11:25,920 --> 00:11:28,410  
and we were scared  
of her because we

188  
00:11:28,410 --> 00:11:35,100  
knew if she knew we were Jewish  
she would treat us like dirt.

189  
00:11:35,100 --> 00:11:37,410  
She was anti-Semitic.

190  
00:11:37,410 --> 00:11:39,180  
You know how you hear people.

191  
00:11:39,180 --> 00:11:42,240  
Because I remember the  
Mother Superior said,

192  
00:11:42,240 --> 00:11:44,370  
the only ones who  
know you're Jewish

193  
00:11:44,370 --> 00:11:48,045  
are these one, two,  
three, four, whatever.

194  
00:11:48,045 --> 00:11:52,440

195  
00:11:52,440 --> 00:11:57,000  
When you arrived at the convent,  
did the Mother Superior give

196  
00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:00,000  
you any, like when  
you lived in Brussels,

197  
00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:02,047  
the landlord would call up--

198  
00:12:02,047 --> 00:12:02,880  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

199

00:12:02,880 --> 00:12:03,990

Were there any similar--

200

00:12:03,990 --> 00:12:08,820

No, except that day when  
the parachuters landed.

201

00:12:08,820 --> 00:12:13,230

She had an assembly and all  
of us were put in the attic,

202

00:12:13,230 --> 00:12:16,410

all the children, because  
she was afraid if they came

203

00:12:16,410 --> 00:12:21,030

in, the Gestapo and the SS, they  
would go ch-ch-ch-ch-ch and did

204

00:12:21,030 --> 00:12:24,760

everybody if they thought  
the man was there.

205

00:12:24,760 --> 00:12:28,500

And I told you, to this day we  
do not know whether he really

206

00:12:28,500 --> 00:12:32,380

was there, if he wasn't there.

207

00:12:32,380 --> 00:12:36,150

It's just that somebody  
denounced the convent

208

00:12:36,150 --> 00:12:39,600

that they were hiding  
American parachuters.

209

00:12:39,600 --> 00:12:41,130

And that was right after D-Day.

210

00:12:41,130 --> 00:12:45,643

211  
00:12:45,643 --> 00:12:47,060  
And you said that  
during this time

212  
00:12:47,060 --> 00:12:48,800  
your father came  
and visited you.

213  
00:12:48,800 --> 00:12:49,700  
Occasionally.

214  
00:12:49,700 --> 00:12:50,960  
Right, occasionally.

215  
00:12:50,960 --> 00:12:53,630  
I went home a couple of times.

216  
00:12:53,630 --> 00:12:56,450  
Before my mother came  
into the convent,

217  
00:12:56,450 --> 00:12:59,360  
I went home maybe  
once every two months.

218  
00:12:59,360 --> 00:13:03,980  
But then after the incident  
when the girl was picked up

219  
00:13:03,980 --> 00:13:07,070  
my father said, no  
more coming home.

220  
00:13:07,070 --> 00:13:11,030  
I would go take the tram  
and go into Brussels

221  
00:13:11,030 --> 00:13:14,180  
and visit my parents  
at the attic.

222

00:13:14,180 --> 00:13:18,320

But then afterwards, after  
that incident, my dad said,

223

00:13:18,320 --> 00:13:20,030

you're not coming in.

224

00:13:20,030 --> 00:13:24,860

I'll try to come out  
occasionally with false papers.

225

00:13:24,860 --> 00:13:27,050

Like I told you, he  
had false papers.

226

00:13:27,050 --> 00:13:29,150

Because you never  
knew in those days

227

00:13:29,150 --> 00:13:35,120

if you walk down the street  
if an SS man walked down

228

00:13:35,120 --> 00:13:36,950

the street, or a Gestapo--

229

00:13:36,950 --> 00:13:38,930

Gestapo never wore a uniform.

230

00:13:38,930 --> 00:13:41,930

They only wore regular  
plain clothes like the FBI.

231

00:13:41,930 --> 00:13:43,940

They don't wear a uniform.

232

00:13:43,940 --> 00:13:48,440

And they could stop you  
at any time of the day

233

00:13:48,440 --> 00:13:51,410

and say, papers.

234  
00:13:51,410 --> 00:13:53,570  
Papier, as they say.

235  
00:13:53,570 --> 00:13:57,920

236  
00:13:57,920 --> 00:14:02,060  
When he came to visit, did  
you ever discuss with him

237  
00:14:02,060 --> 00:14:02,900  
your interests?

238  
00:14:02,900 --> 00:14:05,030  
Oh, he knew I became a Catholic.

239  
00:14:05,030 --> 00:14:05,840  
Yeah.

240  
00:14:05,840 --> 00:14:09,515  
And he said, you know,  
used to say, so--

241  
00:14:09,515 --> 00:14:13,850

242  
00:14:13,850 --> 00:14:17,700  
You got to do what you have to  
do, and that was the end of it.

243  
00:14:17,700 --> 00:14:19,910  
He understood.

244  
00:14:19,910 --> 00:14:22,970  
Except when I came  
home and the war

245  
00:14:22,970 --> 00:14:28,640  
was over in 1945, when the war  
was declared over, he says,

246

00:14:28,640 --> 00:14:29,600  
now is enough.

247

00:14:29,600 --> 00:14:34,350

248

00:14:34,350 --> 00:14:38,490  
But I still went to church off  
and on and he didn't object.

249

00:14:38,490 --> 00:14:45,120  
But he felt I should  
go back to what I was.

250

00:14:45,120 --> 00:14:47,235  
Because he said that was  
then and this is now.

251

00:14:47,235 --> 00:14:55,620

252

00:14:55,620 --> 00:14:59,460  
And then you will moved  
after that parachute

253

00:14:59,460 --> 00:15:00,876  
to a different location.

254

00:15:00,876 --> 00:15:02,010  
A convent.

255

00:15:02,010 --> 00:15:04,260  
Yes, I can't remember.

256

00:15:04,260 --> 00:15:07,740  
We were trying to remember  
the name of that convent.

257

00:15:07,740 --> 00:15:09,960  
For the life of me  
I can't remember.

258

00:15:09,960 --> 00:15:12,990

All I knew were the addresses.

259

00:15:12,990 --> 00:15:16,980

And it was a reform  
school for bad girls.

260

00:15:16,980 --> 00:15:18,510

What was a typical  
day like there?

261

00:15:18,510 --> 00:15:22,020

Oh gosh, you got  
up at 5:00 there.

262

00:15:22,020 --> 00:15:26,340

And first you were deloused  
because a lot of the kids

263

00:15:26,340 --> 00:15:27,660

had lice.

264

00:15:27,660 --> 00:15:28,800

That was so terrible.

265

00:15:28,800 --> 00:15:29,610

I remember.

266

00:15:29,610 --> 00:15:31,680

June was telling  
me she can always

267

00:15:31,680 --> 00:15:34,980

remember how every night I  
would cry myself to sleep.

268

00:15:34,980 --> 00:15:36,900

I was so unhappy there.

269

00:15:36,900 --> 00:15:40,920

And it was school, and  
it was very, very strict.

270  
00:15:40,920 --> 00:15:42,480  
You didn't open your mouth.

271  
00:15:42,480 --> 00:15:46,470  
And I mean you used to get  
like porridge in the morning,

272  
00:15:46,470 --> 00:15:50,100  
like those stories you see.

273  
00:15:50,100 --> 00:15:53,910  
And very, very strict.

274  
00:15:53,910 --> 00:15:55,740  
Couldn't have visitors.

275  
00:15:55,740 --> 00:15:57,810  
I mean, it was a reform school.

276  
00:15:57,810 --> 00:16:03,150  
And we were put with kids  
that were bad kids, bad girls.

277  
00:16:03,150 --> 00:16:04,680  
But I guess that's  
the only place

278  
00:16:04,680 --> 00:16:08,500  
they felt we would be safe.

279  
00:16:08,500 --> 00:16:10,300  
You were the only  
Jewish students?

280  
00:16:10,300 --> 00:16:10,800  
Yeah.

281  
00:16:10,800 --> 00:16:14,220  
There were about, I  
think, for what I remember



282

00:16:14,220 --> 00:16:16,380  
they put about 20 of us there.

283

00:16:16,380 --> 00:16:20,280  
And then some went  
to other places.

284

00:16:20,280 --> 00:16:24,285  
But like I said, thank God  
it only lasted for six weeks.

285

00:16:24,285 --> 00:16:31,000

286

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:33,870  
Do you remember any  
specific nuns there?

287

00:16:33,870 --> 00:16:34,440  
No.

288

00:16:34,440 --> 00:16:35,880  
No, they were all mean.

289

00:16:35,880 --> 00:16:37,650  
That's all I remember was--

290

00:16:37,650 --> 00:16:39,390  
Well, they had to be mean.

291

00:16:39,390 --> 00:16:42,132  
There was only one,  
only the Mother Superior

292

00:16:42,132 --> 00:16:43,215  
there knew we were Jewish.

293

00:16:43,215 --> 00:16:59,940

294

00:16:59,940 --> 00:17:02,400

Were you ever punished?

295

00:17:02,400 --> 00:17:03,350

At the convent?

296

00:17:03,350 --> 00:17:04,829

Yeah, I told you

we were punished

297

00:17:04,829 --> 00:17:07,650

when we read that book

about a boy kissing

298

00:17:07,650 --> 00:17:09,630

the girl on the cheek.

299

00:17:09,630 --> 00:17:14,310

That was at the good

convent we were punished.

300

00:17:14,310 --> 00:17:17,940

We could not have

any fun activities

301

00:17:17,940 --> 00:17:20,760

like listening to music.

302

00:17:20,760 --> 00:17:22,950

I mean, there were

radios, listening to music

303

00:17:22,950 --> 00:17:27,060

or participating in our

drama unit for so many days.

304

00:17:27,060 --> 00:17:30,300

We had to do kitchen work,

which we usually had to do.

305

00:17:30,300 --> 00:17:33,090

We had to take turns to

do kitchen work every day,

306

00:17:33,090 --> 00:17:36,600  
but we had to do it straight  
for one week and get up at 5:00

307

00:17:36,600 --> 00:17:38,760  
in the morning and do extra.

308

00:17:38,760 --> 00:17:41,730  
In the other  
convent, if one girl

309

00:17:41,730 --> 00:17:47,580  
in the correctional institution,  
if one girl goofed off,

310

00:17:47,580 --> 00:17:50,640  
we were all punished.

311

00:17:50,640 --> 00:17:53,550  
No evening.

312

00:17:53,550 --> 00:17:58,950  
After dinner into bed,  
no lights, no nothing.

313

00:17:58,950 --> 00:18:03,920  
Even if it wasn't us, they  
would punish the whole group.

314

00:18:03,920 --> 00:18:05,500  
Were you ever physically--

315

00:18:05,500 --> 00:18:06,150  
No.

316

00:18:06,150 --> 00:18:07,420  
No, never.

317

00:18:07,420 --> 00:18:07,920  
Never.

318

00:18:07,920 --> 00:18:13,880

319  
00:18:13,880 --> 00:18:14,410  
OK.

320  
00:18:14,410 --> 00:18:17,690  
And you were there  
for a few months

321  
00:18:17,690 --> 00:18:20,340  
and then Belgium was liberated?

322  
00:18:20,340 --> 00:18:21,205  
Right, September.

323  
00:18:21,205 --> 00:18:22,480  
Do you remember it?

324  
00:18:22,480 --> 00:18:23,530  
September 2nd.

325  
00:18:23,530 --> 00:18:24,980  
I sure do.

326  
00:18:24,980 --> 00:18:25,930  
I sure do.

327  
00:18:25,930 --> 00:18:29,240  
Everybody came running  
down this street.

328  
00:18:29,240 --> 00:18:34,510  
We heard, la liberation,  
which means the liberation,

329  
00:18:34,510 --> 00:18:41,380  
and we all ran out and  
I remember the woman--

330  
00:18:41,380 --> 00:18:44,230  
Then it didn't matter

you were Jewish or not,

331

00:18:44,230 --> 00:18:45,910

we all hugged and we--

332

00:18:45,910 --> 00:18:48,640

333

00:18:48,640 --> 00:18:52,930

How I remember my dad  
coming and looking for me

334

00:18:52,930 --> 00:18:59,070

and taking me home, because  
that was right in Brussels.

335

00:18:59,070 --> 00:19:03,040

That was about 15  
minutes away by streetcar

336

00:19:03,040 --> 00:19:04,700

from where I lived.

337

00:19:04,700 --> 00:19:07,370

And he came to meet me  
because he knew where I was.

338

00:19:07,370 --> 00:19:11,750

Of course, he could  
never visit me there.

339

00:19:11,750 --> 00:19:15,610

And we all went, I  
remember my mother was home

340

00:19:15,610 --> 00:19:18,190

but she wasn't doing  
that well, but we all

341

00:19:18,190 --> 00:19:22,900

went to this complatz and they  
danced on the street all night

342

00:19:22,900 --> 00:19:24,895  
and celebrated for days.

343

00:19:24,895 --> 00:19:28,950

344

00:19:28,950 --> 00:19:32,800  
Then afterwards I remember  
I developed some kind,

345

00:19:32,800 --> 00:19:36,420  
whether it was nerves or  
whether I picked something up

346

00:19:36,420 --> 00:19:42,240  
at that correctional school, I  
developed this horrible eczema

347

00:19:42,240 --> 00:19:44,490  
all over my body.

348

00:19:44,490 --> 00:19:45,660  
Oh, it was awful.

349

00:19:45,660 --> 00:19:49,170  
I had these terrible  
blats all over me.

350

00:19:49,170 --> 00:19:51,660  
And I had to have  
special treatment

351

00:19:51,660 --> 00:19:55,050  
where they would put  
you in hot sulfur baths

352

00:19:55,050 --> 00:19:58,200  
because I guess they didn't  
have antibiotics and those.

353

00:19:58,200 --> 00:20:00,030  
And it was awful.

354  
00:20:00,030 --> 00:20:03,990  
And I don't know, I  
never had a diagnosis

355  
00:20:03,990 --> 00:20:05,980  
whether it was something  
I picked up there,

356  
00:20:05,980 --> 00:20:08,040  
or whether it was nerves.

357  
00:20:08,040 --> 00:20:10,770  
Probably now that  
I think back it

358  
00:20:10,770 --> 00:20:16,020  
probably was a nervous outbreak.

359  
00:20:16,020 --> 00:20:18,240  
And I remember my dad had  
a very good friend who

360  
00:20:18,240 --> 00:20:21,810  
was a physician, his  
name was Dr. Goldstein,

361  
00:20:21,810 --> 00:20:25,290  
and he could not  
practice during the war.

362  
00:20:25,290 --> 00:20:28,660  
They took away from the  
Jewish doctors their license.

363  
00:20:28,660 --> 00:20:30,660  
But then when the  
war was over, he

364  
00:20:30,660 --> 00:20:34,350  
regained it and he treated me.

365

00:20:34,350 --> 00:20:36,510  
He sent me to a special place--

366  
00:20:36,510 --> 00:20:40,480  
it's coming back-- to  
have hot sulfur baths.

367  
00:20:40,480 --> 00:20:42,960  
It would be like  
a mud or sulfur.

368  
00:20:42,960 --> 00:20:46,740  
I remember the smell of  
sulfur being so strong.

369  
00:20:46,740 --> 00:20:48,420  
And it finally cleared off.

370  
00:20:48,420 --> 00:20:51,210  
Because you know today they  
give you antibiotics and things

371  
00:20:51,210 --> 00:20:51,930  
like that.

372  
00:20:51,930 --> 00:20:56,400  
But they didn't  
treat you like today.

373  
00:20:56,400 --> 00:21:00,150  
But I never knew  
why I got it and how

374  
00:21:00,150 --> 00:21:04,770  
I got it, because I don't  
think eczema you pick up.

375  
00:21:04,770 --> 00:21:09,780  
I think it could have been a  
nervous reaction to everything

376  
00:21:09,780 --> 00:21:10,640  
finally broke.



377  
00:21:10,640 --> 00:21:13,990

378  
00:21:13,990 --> 00:21:18,460  
That was right after  
the liberation,

379  
00:21:18,460 --> 00:21:20,330  
maybe a week or so after.

380  
00:21:20,330 --> 00:21:22,810  
I had to go, I remember,  
two or three times a week

381  
00:21:22,810 --> 00:21:25,600  
and take those baths,  
and I used to hate it.

382  
00:21:25,600 --> 00:21:29,410

383  
00:21:29,410 --> 00:21:31,040  
After that what happened?

384  
00:21:31,040 --> 00:21:33,020  
Did you go back to school?

385  
00:21:33,020 --> 00:21:33,670  
Yes.

386  
00:21:33,670 --> 00:21:39,170  
What I did is I worked at the  
American Joint Distribution

387  
00:21:39,170 --> 00:21:39,670  
Committee.

388  
00:21:39,670 --> 00:21:44,050  
But before I got the job I  
went to a business school

389

00:21:44,050 --> 00:21:48,100  
in Brussels to learn  
shorthand and typing.

390

00:21:48,100 --> 00:21:51,010

391

00:21:51,010 --> 00:21:54,310  
Did your family ever consider  
going back to Germany?

392

00:21:54,310 --> 00:21:55,150  
Never.

393

00:21:55,150 --> 00:21:55,720  
Never.

394

00:21:55,720 --> 00:21:59,990  
My dad said never,  
never would he go back.

395

00:21:59,990 --> 00:22:02,110  
Some people went back.

396

00:22:02,110 --> 00:22:05,300  
Like my dad said, no way.

397

00:22:05,300 --> 00:22:09,730  
So I went to like a business  
school would be like HEALS

398

00:22:09,730 --> 00:22:14,050  
here, that type of  
school, to learn business.

399

00:22:14,050 --> 00:22:17,680  
Because I had my diploma  
when the war was over.

400

00:22:17,680 --> 00:22:23,480  
The convent in Brussels gave us  
a diploma for the four years,

401  
00:22:23,480 --> 00:22:27,190  
which is equivalent to  
[NON-ENGLISH] It's equivalent

402  
00:22:27,190 --> 00:22:29,550  
to like a high school diploma.

403  
00:22:29,550 --> 00:22:32,530  
It's a little bit  
different there.

404  
00:22:32,530 --> 00:22:34,730  
There's no such  
thing as high school.

405  
00:22:34,730 --> 00:22:38,500  
And you do your [NON-ENGLISH]  
which is your finishing

406  
00:22:38,500 --> 00:22:42,050  
of your grade school type thing.

407  
00:22:42,050 --> 00:22:42,940  
And I received that.

408  
00:22:42,940 --> 00:22:46,540  
I still have my diploma  
at home from the convent.

409  
00:22:46,540 --> 00:22:48,570  
And then I went to  
business school.

410  
00:22:48,570 --> 00:22:52,540  
I did that for a year, quick  
class, and then I worked.

411  
00:22:52,540 --> 00:22:56,260  
As I said, I got a part time job  
at American Joint Distribution

412

00:22:56,260 --> 00:22:57,070  
Committee.

413  
00:22:57,070 --> 00:22:58,030  
What did you do?

414  
00:22:58,030 --> 00:23:02,020  
Just type and just file, type.

415  
00:23:02,020 --> 00:23:06,040  
And I spoke a little bit  
of English, so that helped.

416  
00:23:06,040 --> 00:23:09,850  
And of course they were  
instrumental all the refugees

417  
00:23:09,850 --> 00:23:12,400  
that came out of  
the camps had to be,

418  
00:23:12,400 --> 00:23:15,220  
all the displaced  
persons they called them,

419  
00:23:15,220 --> 00:23:20,350  
they had to place them,  
rehabilitate them.

420  
00:23:20,350 --> 00:23:23,080  
And some of them had  
visas for America,

421  
00:23:23,080 --> 00:23:28,720  
some went back to Germany,  
some went back to France.

422  
00:23:28,720 --> 00:23:32,146  
They all came from the camps.

423  
00:23:32,146 --> 00:23:35,110  
A lot from the camps  
went to Germany

424  
00:23:35,110 --> 00:23:36,580  
and then later went to Canada.

425  
00:23:36,580 --> 00:23:43,240

426  
00:23:43,240 --> 00:23:45,600  
And what happened after that?

427  
00:23:45,600 --> 00:23:48,030  
I came here to  
the United States.

428  
00:23:48,030 --> 00:23:54,680  
I came here in May of 1947.

429  
00:23:54,680 --> 00:23:57,650  
What led you to--

430  
00:23:57,650 --> 00:24:02,060  
My aunt lived here and she said  
my father contacted my mother's

431  
00:24:02,060 --> 00:24:06,410  
half sister and asked her if  
she could send an affidavit

432  
00:24:06,410 --> 00:24:08,540  
and bring me over  
because he wanted

433  
00:24:08,540 --> 00:24:15,140  
me to have a fresh start in  
a good country and be free,

434  
00:24:15,140 --> 00:24:16,980  
so to speak.

435  
00:24:16,980 --> 00:24:22,230  
So it took a while because she  
had to send me an affidavit.

436  
00:24:22,230 --> 00:24:26,840  
Then I had to go to  
the American embassy

437  
00:24:26,840 --> 00:24:34,250  
and be interviewed and also  
have a very, very, very, very

438  
00:24:34,250 --> 00:24:37,850  
strict medical  
examination that I was not

439  
00:24:37,850 --> 00:24:41,060  
bringing any diseases here.

440  
00:24:41,060 --> 00:24:43,070  
And then I obtained the visa.

441  
00:24:43,070 --> 00:24:47,990  
And then being I worked at the  
American Joint Distribution

442  
00:24:47,990 --> 00:24:50,920  
Committee, they were very nice.

443  
00:24:50,920 --> 00:24:55,040  
They helped pay for my passage  
so I didn't have to go--

444  
00:24:55,040 --> 00:24:56,180  
I went pretty nice.

445  
00:24:56,180 --> 00:25:00,410  
I came over on the Mauritania  
in second class, which

446  
00:25:00,410 --> 00:25:02,870  
in those days was pretty nice.

447  
00:25:02,870 --> 00:25:05,300  
I came with all the war brides.

448  
00:25:05,300 --> 00:25:09,020  
But it was very frightening  
for a young girl of 17

449  
00:25:09,020 --> 00:25:12,110  
to travel by herself.

450  
00:25:12,110 --> 00:25:16,190  
I found myself alone again,  
and like I said, when I arrived

451  
00:25:16,190 --> 00:25:20,150  
here I was very unhappy  
because you know why?

452  
00:25:20,150 --> 00:25:26,210  
I found people treating me,  
not being able to speak English

453  
00:25:26,210 --> 00:25:31,850  
as good, the same way I was  
treated as a child in Belgium

454  
00:25:31,850 --> 00:25:33,905  
it was like again the same.

455  
00:25:33,905 --> 00:25:37,750

456  
00:25:37,750 --> 00:25:42,220  
Because again I was not  
accepted right away.

457  
00:25:42,220 --> 00:25:44,140  
I had to prove that I--

458  
00:25:44,140 --> 00:25:46,390  
That's why I never  
talked about my past.

459  
00:25:46,390 --> 00:25:48,310

I wanted to be like they are.

460

00:25:48,310 --> 00:25:52,750

I joined the Jewish Community  
Center on California Street

461

00:25:52,750 --> 00:25:55,360

and I made some  
nice, decent people.

462

00:25:55,360 --> 00:25:57,780

But it took a while  
till they accepted me.

463

00:25:57,780 --> 00:26:02,370

464

00:26:02,370 --> 00:26:05,990

Did you ever discuss your  
experiences with your aunt?

465

00:26:05,990 --> 00:26:06,800

No.

466

00:26:06,800 --> 00:26:08,660

No, she would not  
have understood.

467

00:26:08,660 --> 00:26:14,240

Because her theory would have  
been forget it, it's over.

468

00:26:14,240 --> 00:26:18,140

Her main interest was that I  
come here, that I go to work,

469

00:26:18,140 --> 00:26:20,120

and that I do not  
become a burden.

470

00:26:20,120 --> 00:26:23,270

As she used to say, you know  
I signed that you would not be



471  
00:26:23,270 --> 00:26:24,965  
a burden to the United States.

472  
00:26:24,965 --> 00:26:27,500

473  
00:26:27,500 --> 00:26:29,930  
Because when you did in  
those days an affidavit,

474  
00:26:29,930 --> 00:26:33,950  
you had to sign that  
the person was not a--

475  
00:26:33,950 --> 00:26:35,900  
Because she came  
here as a little girl

476  
00:26:35,900 --> 00:26:38,420  
because my mother was my  
mother's half sister so

477  
00:26:38,420 --> 00:26:44,930  
she couldn't understand  
what went on.

478  
00:26:44,930 --> 00:26:47,420  
She had no idea.

479  
00:26:47,420 --> 00:26:49,730  
How long did you stay with her?

480  
00:26:49,730 --> 00:26:53,150  
She also had sent  
two affidavits,

481  
00:26:53,150 --> 00:26:54,890  
one for me and for my dad.

482  
00:26:54,890 --> 00:26:57,560  
But my dad being he

was born in Lemberg,

483

00:26:57,560 --> 00:26:59,630

which was then under  
the Polish quota,

484

00:26:59,630 --> 00:27:00,980

he had to wait an extra year.

485

00:27:00,980 --> 00:27:07,620

So I stayed with my aunt from  
1947 till 1949, two years.

486

00:27:07,620 --> 00:27:11,100

And believe me, it  
was not very pleasant.

487

00:27:11,100 --> 00:27:13,080

I said, why did I come here?

488

00:27:13,080 --> 00:27:15,650

I'm going through the same  
thing as I did as a child.

489

00:27:15,650 --> 00:27:18,750

490

00:27:18,750 --> 00:27:21,950

When my dad came and he saw  
the circumstance he says,

491

00:27:21,950 --> 00:27:23,090

we get out of here.

492

00:27:23,090 --> 00:27:28,280

I was working I worked  
at National Auto Club.

493

00:27:28,280 --> 00:27:30,930

Then through them my  
English got better.

494

00:27:30,930 --> 00:27:32,960

I went at night  
time to school here.

495

00:27:32,960 --> 00:27:36,770

I took public speaking  
to learn to speak better.

496

00:27:36,770 --> 00:27:40,820

And I got a job at American  
Hawaiian Steamship Corporation,

497

00:27:40,820 --> 00:27:42,660

which was very nice.

498

00:27:42,660 --> 00:27:46,040

And then when my dad came  
he said we get out of there.

499

00:27:46,040 --> 00:27:47,330

You are like in a prison.

500

00:27:47,330 --> 00:27:49,820

You're back like worse  
than the convent.

501

00:27:49,820 --> 00:27:53,210

So we got a small apartment  
on Guerrero Street,

502

00:27:53,210 --> 00:27:56,900

and that's when I left.

503

00:27:56,900 --> 00:28:01,070

And I didn't have much contact  
with her at all anymore.

504

00:28:01,070 --> 00:28:03,800

Because she felt that I  
was not grateful to what

505

00:28:03,800 --> 00:28:04,690

she did for me.

506  
00:28:04,690 --> 00:28:08,370

507  
00:28:08,370 --> 00:28:10,380  
But again, that's  
why I say there's

508  
00:28:10,380 --> 00:28:13,530  
good and bad in all people.

509  
00:28:13,530 --> 00:28:17,550  
Maybe in her eyes she  
thought she was doing good.

510  
00:28:17,550 --> 00:28:18,420  
Who knows?

511  
00:28:18,420 --> 00:28:23,490  
May she rest in peace,  
she's gone so it's over.

512  
00:28:23,490 --> 00:28:25,930  
Did you discuss your experiences  
much with your father

513  
00:28:25,930 --> 00:28:27,900  
when he came out?

514  
00:28:27,900 --> 00:28:30,590  
He saw what was going on, sure.

515  
00:28:30,590 --> 00:28:34,260  
Did you did you talk about your  
experiences during the war?

516  
00:28:34,260 --> 00:28:35,350  
Did you talk about it?

517  
00:28:35,350 --> 00:28:36,300  
Not too much.

518

00:28:36,300 --> 00:28:38,100

We didn't talk much about it.

519

00:28:38,100 --> 00:28:40,440

We did not talk about it.

520

00:28:40,440 --> 00:28:42,600

The only time we  
started talking about it

521

00:28:42,600 --> 00:28:45,875

when he applied for restitution  
from the German government,

522

00:28:45,875 --> 00:28:47,490

my dad did.

523

00:28:47,490 --> 00:28:52,230

And I received one  
time \$1,000 American.

524

00:28:52,230 --> 00:28:54,840

I think it was \$1,080,  
something like that,

525

00:28:54,840 --> 00:28:56,790

for having lost my education.

526

00:28:56,790 --> 00:28:58,050

That was nothing.

527

00:28:58,050 --> 00:29:00,990

And my dad took a lump  
sum for restitution

528

00:29:00,990 --> 00:29:03,510

for losing his business,  
his home, and everything.

529

00:29:03,510 --> 00:29:05,790

And he never took  
it by the month

530

00:29:05,790 --> 00:29:07,780

because he knew  
he was up in years

531

00:29:07,780 --> 00:29:09,600

and if he had taken  
it by the month when

532

00:29:09,600 --> 00:29:11,790

he passes on that's it.

533

00:29:11,790 --> 00:29:14,830

The child does not get anything.

534

00:29:14,830 --> 00:29:17,490

So he took a lump  
sum at that time

535

00:29:17,490 --> 00:29:22,290

of \$5,000, which is nothing.

536

00:29:22,290 --> 00:29:26,370

Somebody told me that there is  
an attorney in Washington, D.C.

537

00:29:26,370 --> 00:29:30,540

Now I don't know if  
you've heard of that.

538

00:29:30,540 --> 00:29:35,700

Someone like myself who is a  
child survivor could reapply

539

00:29:35,700 --> 00:29:38,800

for what I have  
lost-- my education--

540

00:29:38,800 --> 00:29:40,620

but I don't know how true it is.

541

00:29:40,620 --> 00:29:42,990

And you know you start  
with attorneys sometimes

542  
00:29:42,990 --> 00:29:44,730  
they want up front,  
so I don't know.

543  
00:29:44,730 --> 00:29:46,710  
I wonder if you'd heard  
anything about that.

544  
00:29:46,710 --> 00:29:50,200

545  
00:29:50,200 --> 00:29:51,155  
How about your sister?

546  
00:29:51,155 --> 00:29:54,320

547  
00:29:54,320 --> 00:29:56,540  
Did she ever try to come  
to the United States?

548  
00:29:56,540 --> 00:29:57,370  
No.

549  
00:29:57,370 --> 00:30:00,410  
No, she was married  
and my sister too

550  
00:30:00,410 --> 00:30:04,890  
would not talk about the past.

551  
00:30:04,890 --> 00:30:06,530  
It was like dormant.

552  
00:30:06,530 --> 00:30:10,430  
Because when my father  
applied for restitution,

553  
00:30:10,430 --> 00:30:12,680

she could have gotten  
something and she

554  
00:30:12,680 --> 00:30:17,660  
refused to fill out  
any papers or anything.

555  
00:30:17,660 --> 00:30:20,990  
Just like how I feel  
about going to Germany.

556  
00:30:20,990 --> 00:30:24,680  
Even though I get a free trip,  
my husband even says, he says,

557  
00:30:24,680 --> 00:30:25,400  
go!

558  
00:30:25,400 --> 00:30:28,760  
We'll go, we'll have a good  
time, we stay there and go on.

559  
00:30:28,760 --> 00:30:30,290  
I said, no, you can't.

560  
00:30:30,290 --> 00:30:32,570  
You got to stay there the  
whole time because they're

561  
00:30:32,570 --> 00:30:36,350  
going to wine and dine you and  
show you how good they are.

562  
00:30:36,350 --> 00:30:39,330  
I said, you can't just go  
for the flight and take off.

563  
00:30:39,330 --> 00:30:44,407

564  
00:30:44,407 --> 00:30:45,740  
Where did you meet your husband?



565

00:30:45,740 --> 00:30:51,590

At the Jewish Community  
Center San Francisco in 1949.

566

00:30:51,590 --> 00:30:55,780

And we got married in 1950.

567

00:30:55,780 --> 00:30:59,870

The Jewish Community  
Center at a dance.

568

00:30:59,870 --> 00:31:02,510

Used to have the  
dances there you know.

569

00:31:02,510 --> 00:31:05,470

I don't think they  
still have them.

570

00:31:05,470 --> 00:31:06,720

Did he grow up in the area?

571

00:31:06,720 --> 00:31:07,220

Yes.

572

00:31:07,220 --> 00:31:10,550

Well, he was born back  
East in Baltimore.

573

00:31:10,550 --> 00:31:13,790

And his father passed away  
and his mother came out here

574

00:31:13,790 --> 00:31:15,890

with him and his  
sister when they

575

00:31:15,890 --> 00:31:19,850

were very young so he feels like  
he's a native San Franciscan.

576

00:31:19,850 --> 00:31:24,110

He came here when he was  
four or five years old.

577  
00:31:24,110 --> 00:31:29,090  
When did you become again  
interested in Judaism?

578  
00:31:29,090 --> 00:31:33,260  
Oh, very shortly after the  
war, about a year or so after.

579  
00:31:33,260 --> 00:31:37,300

580  
00:31:37,300 --> 00:31:39,520  
Is that an important  
part of your life now?

581  
00:31:39,520 --> 00:31:43,930  
Oh, I feel very  
strong about Judaism.

582  
00:31:43,930 --> 00:31:47,170  
I go to services on  
the high holidays

583  
00:31:47,170 --> 00:31:52,180  
because I like the tradition  
of it but I'm not affiliated.

584  
00:31:52,180 --> 00:31:55,300  
I would be affiliated,  
but my husband kind of

585  
00:31:55,300 --> 00:31:57,280  
got away from  
religion, especially

586  
00:31:57,280 --> 00:31:58,840  
since our son passed away.

587  
00:31:58,840 --> 00:32:01,520  
Because he felt how

can this happen?

588

00:32:01,520 --> 00:32:02,215

Why did we do?

589

00:32:02,215 --> 00:32:05,050

Or what happened God take away  
a life for somebody that's

590

00:32:05,050 --> 00:32:08,800

never done anything wrong?

591

00:32:08,800 --> 00:32:10,480

Like the book, I  
don't know if you ever

592

00:32:10,480 --> 00:32:13,390

read the book by Kushner,  
Why Do Bad Things

593

00:32:13,390 --> 00:32:15,730

Happen to Good People?

594

00:32:15,730 --> 00:32:16,810

There is no answer.

595

00:32:16,810 --> 00:32:20,080

But he said to him  
religion, my husband

596

00:32:20,080 --> 00:32:23,790

feels religion is to treat  
your fellow man right.

597

00:32:23,790 --> 00:32:26,860

598

00:32:26,860 --> 00:32:29,870

So that's why we don't  
belong, but I go every year

599

00:32:29,870 --> 00:32:31,550

with the high holidays.

600

00:32:31,550 --> 00:32:36,650

Temple Emanuel has  
tickets at the auditorium

601

00:32:36,650 --> 00:32:38,886

that you can purchase,  
so I go there.

602

00:32:38,886 --> 00:32:42,510

603

00:32:42,510 --> 00:32:45,840

How do you feel your experiences  
during the war affected

604

00:32:45,840 --> 00:32:47,370

you now?

605

00:32:47,370 --> 00:32:54,060

Well, like I told you,  
I doubt people a lot.

606

00:32:54,060 --> 00:32:58,620

I have a certain apprehension.

607

00:32:58,620 --> 00:33:01,680

When people tell me  
something, I'm not always

608

00:33:01,680 --> 00:33:05,700

sure what they say they mean.

609

00:33:05,700 --> 00:33:09,900

And it's very hard for  
me to trust someone.

610

00:33:09,900 --> 00:33:13,830

611

00:33:13,830 --> 00:33:16,960

But like I said, it's  
taught me to be a survivor.

612  
00:33:16,960 --> 00:33:21,680

613  
00:33:21,680 --> 00:33:24,830  
How about these  
reunions that you've

614  
00:33:24,830 --> 00:33:29,140  
been having and meeting  
with other children?

615  
00:33:29,140 --> 00:33:30,350  
What has that meant to you.

616  
00:33:30,350 --> 00:33:33,360  
Oh, it's been the most  
wonderful experience.

617  
00:33:33,360 --> 00:33:35,780  
Especially the first  
one when I had not

618  
00:33:35,780 --> 00:33:41,480  
seen-- in 1991 when I had  
not seen some of these women

619  
00:33:41,480 --> 00:33:45,950  
since 1947, '46, '47.

620  
00:33:45,950 --> 00:33:51,030  
So it was the most incredible  
reunion you could imagine.

621  
00:33:51,030 --> 00:33:54,560  
And the second one was great  
too because it went back

622  
00:33:54,560 --> 00:34:00,530  
to my childhood that I  
really remembered, Belgium.

623  
00:34:00,530 --> 00:34:03,140  
And my mother is  
buried too in Belgium,

624  
00:34:03,140 --> 00:34:06,066  
so there is a certain  
alliance there for me.

625  
00:34:06,066 --> 00:34:09,400

626  
00:34:09,400 --> 00:34:12,120  
How about discussing your  
experiences with your children?

627  
00:34:12,120 --> 00:34:12,699  
Was that--

628  
00:34:12,699 --> 00:34:14,290  
It was very hard.

629  
00:34:14,290 --> 00:34:15,310  
Very, very hard.

630  
00:34:15,310 --> 00:34:18,310  
Like I told you, I  
could not talk because--

631  
00:34:18,310 --> 00:34:21,310  
I did not really talk  
about these experiences

632  
00:34:21,310 --> 00:34:23,679  
till after the first reunion.

633  
00:34:23,679 --> 00:34:26,590  
And the other day my  
daughter and granddaughter

634  
00:34:26,590 --> 00:34:29,770  
were for dinner and I

happened to mention something.

635

00:34:29,770 --> 00:34:32,120

And she said, mom, you  
never talked about that.

636

00:34:32,120 --> 00:34:36,199

How come you never told us  
that when we were growing up?

637

00:34:36,199 --> 00:34:41,110

I said, I just maybe  
wanted to forget it.

638

00:34:41,110 --> 00:34:44,250

And it took the reunion  
to open it up again.

639

00:34:44,250 --> 00:34:52,449

640

00:34:52,449 --> 00:34:54,310

When we were your kids born?

641

00:34:54,310 --> 00:35:03,100

Our son was born in 1952 and  
my daughter was born in 1958.

642

00:35:03,100 --> 00:35:16,110

And our son passed  
away in 1993, January.

643

00:35:16,110 --> 00:35:17,610

What is your daughter doing now?

644

00:35:17,610 --> 00:35:19,740

My daughter is home.

645

00:35:19,740 --> 00:35:20,820

She's raising a daughter.

646

00:35:20,820 --> 00:35:23,510

647  
00:35:23,510 --> 00:35:25,590  
That's a full-time  
job as a teenager.

648  
00:35:25,590 --> 00:35:32,610

649  
00:35:32,610 --> 00:35:34,440  
Is there anything else  
you'd like to add?

650  
00:35:34,440 --> 00:35:36,180  
Really all I want  
is to thank you

651  
00:35:36,180 --> 00:35:39,780  
for giving me the opportunity  
to tell you my story.

652  
00:35:39,780 --> 00:35:41,640  
Although I feel  
there are stories

653  
00:35:41,640 --> 00:35:44,520  
that are a lot more  
important to tell.

654  
00:35:44,520 --> 00:35:49,260  
But I'm still happy that I  
was able to talk about it

655  
00:35:49,260 --> 00:35:53,550  
and tell you so it can go  
on for the next generation

656  
00:35:53,550 --> 00:35:57,810  
or on and on and on so  
people will always remember

657  
00:35:57,810 --> 00:36:00,450  
that there was a Holocaust.



658  
00:36:00,450 --> 00:36:07,230  
And that the ones that  
are alive are very lucky

659  
00:36:07,230 --> 00:36:09,060  
and we should never forget.

660  
00:36:09,060 --> 00:36:12,280  
But it's important  
we do forgive.

661  
00:36:12,280 --> 00:36:13,410  
Thank you very much.

662  
00:36:13,410 --> 00:36:15,170  
Thank you very much.

663  
00:36:15,170 --> 00:36:18,930

664  
00:36:18,930 --> 00:36:22,780  
OK, this is a picture  
of me as a little girl.

665  
00:36:22,780 --> 00:36:25,800  
I think I was about  
16, 18 months.

666  
00:36:25,800 --> 00:36:32,860

667  
00:36:32,860 --> 00:36:40,980  
OK, this is us, my dad and this  
is myself and this is my mom.

668  
00:36:40,980 --> 00:36:44,160  
And my dad had just  
returned from Buchenwald.

669  
00:36:44,160 --> 00:36:47,700  
This was January

1939, after he was

670

00:36:47,700 --> 00:36:53,580

taken to Buchenwald  
after the Kristallnacht.

671

00:36:53,580 --> 00:36:56,460

Normally his hair  
wouldn't be this light?

672

00:36:56,460 --> 00:36:56,960

No.

673

00:36:56,960 --> 00:36:58,830

There you can see  
his hair has just

674

00:36:58,830 --> 00:37:01,790

started going back because  
they had shaved all his hair.

675

00:37:01,790 --> 00:37:06,910

676

00:37:06,910 --> 00:37:10,290

This is my friend June,  
who I was in the convent

677

00:37:10,290 --> 00:37:14,280

with who you will see later.

678

00:37:14,280 --> 00:37:24,870

In New York at our first  
reunion in 1991 in her home.

679

00:37:24,870 --> 00:37:30,310

This was in the  
convent around 1945.

680

00:37:30,310 --> 00:37:32,760

I was receiving first communion.

681

00:37:32,760 --> 00:37:34,740  
And this is myself on the left.

682  
00:37:34,740 --> 00:37:36,270  
In the middle is--

683  
00:37:36,270 --> 00:37:37,620  
no, excuse me.

684  
00:37:37,620 --> 00:37:40,320  
I'm right here on the right.

685  
00:37:40,320 --> 00:37:43,350  
June is in the middle  
and another girl,

686  
00:37:43,350 --> 00:37:47,880  
I can't remember her name,  
is receiving first communion.

687  
00:37:47,880 --> 00:37:50,310  
And it was then taken  
in front of the grotto

688  
00:37:50,310 --> 00:37:52,125  
at the convent in their gardens.

689  
00:37:52,125 --> 00:37:56,170

690  
00:37:56,170 --> 00:38:00,670  
This is a typical day at  
the school in the convent

691  
00:38:00,670 --> 00:38:02,510  
during a break of some kind.

692  
00:38:02,510 --> 00:38:05,560  
We were all sitting  
out in the schoolyard.

693  
00:38:05,560 --> 00:38:08,380

And this was the  
school at the convent.

694  
00:38:08,380 --> 00:38:11,260  
The convent was called, I  
never mentioned it but I should

695  
00:38:11,260 --> 00:38:15,250  
mention it, Le Saint  
Pierre [NON-ENGLISH]..

696  
00:38:15,250 --> 00:38:19,660

697  
00:38:19,660 --> 00:38:21,020  
What does that mean?

698  
00:38:21,020 --> 00:38:23,410  
Well, the town is  
Le Saint Pierre.

699  
00:38:23,410 --> 00:38:25,570  
The convent is  
called the Convent

700  
00:38:25,570 --> 00:38:28,750  
of St. Anthony of Padua.

701  
00:38:28,750 --> 00:38:31,330  
And St. Anthony of  
Padua is the saint

702  
00:38:31,330 --> 00:38:34,900  
that when you lose something  
you pray to him you'll find it.

703  
00:38:34,900 --> 00:38:43,910

704  
00:38:43,910 --> 00:38:47,810  
This is the famous yellow  
star, the star of David

705

00:38:47,810 --> 00:38:54,090

that every Jew was told  
to wear on their lapel

706

00:38:54,090 --> 00:38:57,380

or on their blouse where  
it was visual so you

707

00:38:57,380 --> 00:39:00,440

would be recognized as a Jew.

708

00:39:00,440 --> 00:39:03,920

And the I stood  
for German Juden.

709

00:39:03,920 --> 00:39:07,190

Jew in English, Juif in French.

710

00:39:07,190 --> 00:39:08,870

And we all had to wear it.

711

00:39:08,870 --> 00:39:11,770

712

00:39:11,770 --> 00:39:14,270

Did you have to wear one  
on your back as well.

713

00:39:14,270 --> 00:39:14,770

No.

714

00:39:14,770 --> 00:39:17,680

On the lapel.

715

00:39:17,680 --> 00:39:19,793

The only ones that  
wore them on the back

716

00:39:19,793 --> 00:39:21,335

were the ones that  
were in the camps.

717

00:39:21,335 --> 00:39:27,640

718

00:39:27,640 --> 00:39:30,280

These are the nuns  
that were running

719

00:39:30,280 --> 00:39:32,740

the convent that I was in.

720

00:39:32,740 --> 00:39:38,560

And the middle one was  
Sr. Helene that I told you

721

00:39:38,560 --> 00:39:40,480

that I loved so dearly.

722

00:39:40,480 --> 00:39:43,780

To the left was the  
Mother Superior.

723

00:39:43,780 --> 00:39:47,680

Next to the Mother  
Superior was the director

724

00:39:47,680 --> 00:39:49,360

of the school, Sr. Victoire.

725

00:39:49,360 --> 00:39:50,260

And on and on.

726

00:39:50,260 --> 00:39:53,680

There were so many there it's  
hard to determine each one.

727

00:39:53,680 --> 00:39:58,240

But this was the whole group of  
the nuns of the order of Saint

728

00:39:58,240 --> 00:40:00,730

Anthony de Padua.

729

00:40:00,730 --> 00:40:02,870

And this was the  
steps of the school.

730

00:40:02,870 --> 00:40:07,420

731

00:40:07,420 --> 00:40:10,480

This was our uniform of the day.

732

00:40:10,480 --> 00:40:13,990

A little coat over our dresses.

733

00:40:13,990 --> 00:40:15,790

And we wore those.

734

00:40:15,790 --> 00:40:18,670

We had one and we had  
to wash it every weekend

735

00:40:18,670 --> 00:40:20,440

to keep it clean  
for the next day.

736

00:40:20,440 --> 00:40:21,500

And it had pockets.

737

00:40:21,500 --> 00:40:23,290

It was quite convenient  
because you could

738

00:40:23,290 --> 00:40:25,870

put a lot of things in there.

739

00:40:25,870 --> 00:40:29,740

I was in the color of off-white.

740

00:40:29,740 --> 00:40:33,640

And there is June and there's  
Ruth and there's Laurette.

741

00:40:33,640 --> 00:40:35,920  
And there's me and a  
couple of other girls

742  
00:40:35,920 --> 00:40:38,800  
that God knows I can't  
remember their name.

743  
00:40:38,800 --> 00:40:40,840  
Could you point to yourself?

744  
00:40:40,840 --> 00:40:42,970  
I'm the second from the right.

745  
00:40:42,970 --> 00:40:47,780

746  
00:40:47,780 --> 00:40:50,780  
This was taken in  
one of the picnics

747  
00:40:50,780 --> 00:40:54,200  
they gave us, which  
we had occasionally.

748  
00:40:54,200 --> 00:40:58,400  
On a Sunday we would go out  
on picnics in the woods.

749  
00:40:58,400 --> 00:40:59,960  
And we are here.

750  
00:40:59,960 --> 00:41:03,800  
This is our class with our  
favorite teacher Sr. Helen,

751  
00:41:03,800 --> 00:41:05,000  
Sister Helen.

752  
00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:08,570  
And I'm the first  
one to the left.



753

00:41:08,570 --> 00:41:13,670

And then comes Ruth and then  
comes June and down below

754

00:41:13,670 --> 00:41:17,390

Laurette and Pauline and Gitte.

755

00:41:17,390 --> 00:41:23,030

And unfortunately the lady,  
the girl next to Sr. Helene

756

00:41:23,030 --> 00:41:27,200

on the right, Helene,  
went home on a weekend

757

00:41:27,200 --> 00:41:28,400

and never came back.

758

00:41:28,400 --> 00:41:33,110

She was denounced, deported, and  
who knows what happened to her.

759

00:41:33,110 --> 00:41:37,730

760

00:41:37,730 --> 00:41:40,610

This was again in  
the school yard.

761

00:41:40,610 --> 00:41:44,400

We had a drama class and  
we were putting on a play.

762

00:41:44,400 --> 00:41:47,780

And this was our  
costumes for the play.

763

00:41:47,780 --> 00:41:53,060

And I'm counting how many Jewish  
kids were in that picture.

764

00:41:53,060 --> 00:42:01,940

Was Felice, was June, was Ruth,  
was Pauline, Gittte, myself,

765  
00:42:01,940 --> 00:42:06,650  
Edith, Laurette, and Felice--

766  
00:42:06,650 --> 00:42:08,270  
another Felice.

767  
00:42:08,270 --> 00:42:12,350  
And I would say they  
were two Christians.

768  
00:42:12,350 --> 00:42:14,045  
The rest of us  
were Jewish girls.

769  
00:42:14,045 --> 00:42:19,000

770  
00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:24,670  
OK, on your left or I guess left  
is Mademoiselle Andre Gulen,

771  
00:42:24,670 --> 00:42:32,860  
G--U-L-E-N. She was the one that  
was working in the underground,

772  
00:42:32,860 --> 00:42:36,610  
a young student at the  
University of Brussels,

773  
00:42:36,610 --> 00:42:38,570  
a freedom fighter.

774  
00:42:38,570 --> 00:42:41,440  
And she was a  
Catholic, very involved

775  
00:42:41,440 --> 00:42:44,410  
with the Catholic Church.

776

00:42:44,410 --> 00:42:47,620  
And she went around and asked  
all these different convents

777  
00:42:47,620 --> 00:42:49,660  
if they could hide  
the Jewish children.

778  
00:42:49,660 --> 00:42:53,020  
And sure enough  
she was successful

779  
00:42:53,020 --> 00:42:57,400  
and she hid, I understand,  
over 600 children

780  
00:42:57,400 --> 00:43:00,520  
alone from Brussels and Antwerp.

781  
00:43:00,520 --> 00:43:05,770  
And at the 1991 reunion  
you see her now as a woman.

782  
00:43:05,770 --> 00:43:07,810  
At that time she was 18, 19.

783  
00:43:07,810 --> 00:43:10,600  
You see her now as  
a woman in her 70s

784  
00:43:10,600 --> 00:43:13,420  
receiving the  
award of Yad Vashem

785  
00:43:13,420 --> 00:43:19,090  
for the righteous  
people that helped

786  
00:43:19,090 --> 00:43:24,820  
to survive the Jewish children.

787  
00:43:24,820 --> 00:43:28,300  
And she's married now

to a Jewish doctor

788

00:43:28,300 --> 00:43:30,790

and has children  
and grandchildren.

789

00:43:30,790 --> 00:43:37,250

And as we told her when we saw  
her the first time, we said,

790

00:43:37,250 --> 00:43:40,060

you are here because  
of us and your life

791

00:43:40,060 --> 00:43:42,820

will always be good  
because you saved

792

00:43:42,820 --> 00:43:45,940

us and you deserve the honor.

793

00:43:45,940 --> 00:43:48,460

More than the  
honor, you should be

794

00:43:48,460 --> 00:43:51,380

inscribed in the Book of Life.

795

00:43:51,380 --> 00:43:53,975

So this was the woman who your  
father dropped you off to.

796

00:43:53,975 --> 00:43:54,475

Exactly.

797

00:43:54,475 --> 00:43:59,150

798

00:43:59,150 --> 00:43:59,780

OK.

799

00:43:59,780 --> 00:44:03,980

Now I want to point out to you  
the people that you saw before

800  
00:44:03,980 --> 00:44:06,410  
as children are now women.

801  
00:44:06,410 --> 00:44:11,390  
And the first one I'm going  
to point out is here is June.

802  
00:44:11,390 --> 00:44:14,450  
And then is Laurette.

803  
00:44:14,450 --> 00:44:16,670  
And this is Ruth.

804  
00:44:16,670 --> 00:44:18,680  
This is myself.

805  
00:44:18,680 --> 00:44:20,690  
And this is Edith.

806  
00:44:20,690 --> 00:44:23,720  
This here is a cousin  
of June who was also

807  
00:44:23,720 --> 00:44:25,610  
hidden but not with us.

808  
00:44:25,610 --> 00:44:29,390  
This is another lady that  
was hidden in our convent

809  
00:44:29,390 --> 00:44:32,670  
but I could not remember  
her because she was a child.

810  
00:44:32,670 --> 00:44:34,610  
She was about five  
years old, and you

811  
00:44:34,610 --> 00:44:37,130

know when you are  
12 and 14 you don't

812  
00:44:37,130 --> 00:44:38,600  
associate with five-year-old.

813  
00:44:38,600 --> 00:44:42,410  
And this is her husband  
who is British who was

814  
00:44:42,410 --> 00:44:44,570  
a pilot for British Airways.

815  
00:44:44,570 --> 00:44:48,030  
And they came to the reunion.

816  
00:44:48,030 --> 00:44:49,700  
Who is the gentleman standing?

817  
00:44:49,700 --> 00:44:50,870  
Oh, excuse me.

818  
00:44:50,870 --> 00:44:56,800  
That's June's husband, Richard,  
who is an American all the way.

819  
00:44:56,800 --> 00:46:00,000