

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:05,604

2

00:01:05,604 --> 00:01:09,580

But with all of
that, if you can,

3

00:01:09,580 --> 00:01:12,562

just ignore the camera
and talk to Nancy.

4

00:01:12,562 --> 00:01:14,053

You can begin whenever you like.

5

00:01:14,053 --> 00:01:15,245

So are you going to
close the door or are

6

00:01:15,245 --> 00:01:16,538

you going to leave that open?

7

00:01:16,538 --> 00:01:17,532

I'm going to leave it.

8

00:01:17,532 --> 00:01:18,894

OK.

9

00:01:18,894 --> 00:01:22,846

I'm going to close
it just like that.

10

00:01:22,846 --> 00:01:25,316

OK.

11

00:01:25,316 --> 00:01:27,570

I'm Nancy Magidson,
and I'm interviewing

12

00:01:27,570 --> 00:01:31,090

Beth Snortum for the San
Francisco Holocaust Oral

13
00:01:31,090 --> 00:01:32,160
History Project.

14
00:01:32,160 --> 00:01:34,755
Maurice Harris is
the videographer,

15
00:01:34,755 --> 00:01:38,815
and today is August 12, 1997.

16
00:01:38,815 --> 00:01:40,670
So I wanted to start,
Beth, by asking

17
00:01:40,670 --> 00:01:44,180
you just some basic
biographical questions.

18
00:01:44,180 --> 00:01:47,700
Can you tell me
when you were born,

19
00:01:47,700 --> 00:01:49,451
where, the names
of your parents and

20
00:01:49,451 --> 00:01:52,370
when and where they were born,
and same with your siblings?

21
00:01:52,370 --> 00:01:56,450
OK, if I can remember.

22
00:01:56,450 --> 00:02:02,310
I was born March 11 in
1928 in Munich, Germany.

23
00:02:02,310 --> 00:02:07,970
And my mother, Paula,
also born in Munich.

24

00:02:07,970 --> 00:02:11,130
And my father, Bert--

25
00:02:11,130 --> 00:02:14,330
Berthold-- was born
in a town, I believe,

26
00:02:14,330 --> 00:02:18,530
called Posen, which is
a funny area, I guess,

27
00:02:18,530 --> 00:02:22,866
between Lithuania,
Poland, wherever.

28
00:02:22,866 --> 00:02:28,940
It's an area in the
eastern part of Europe.

29
00:02:28,940 --> 00:02:35,528
And-- let's see, what else
were you asking about?

30
00:02:35,528 --> 00:02:37,870
What was your
mother's maiden name?

31
00:02:37,870 --> 00:02:41,570
My mother's maiden
name was Paula Bach.

32
00:02:41,570 --> 00:02:47,700
And my grandfather's
name was Isidor Bach,

33
00:02:47,700 --> 00:02:52,700
and he was married
to Clarchen Bach.

34
00:02:52,700 --> 00:02:54,110
And my middle name is Clarchen.

35
00:02:54,110 --> 00:02:57,170

I was named after my
grandmother, who died

36
00:02:57,170 --> 00:02:59,090
two years before I was born.

37
00:02:59,090 --> 00:03:03,920
But I have still vivid
memories of my grandfather.

38
00:03:03,920 --> 00:03:08,840
My father's mother is the only
other member of his family

39
00:03:08,840 --> 00:03:11,090
that I remember.

40
00:03:11,090 --> 00:03:14,045
And Oma's name--

41
00:03:14,045 --> 00:03:18,620

42
00:03:18,620 --> 00:03:20,560
I would have to
look at the photos,

43
00:03:20,560 --> 00:03:26,150
and we can identify them--
but her name was Eva Weiss.

44
00:03:26,150 --> 00:03:33,320
And I did not know
her husband because he

45
00:03:33,320 --> 00:03:35,330
died before I was born, too.

46
00:03:35,330 --> 00:03:38,610
So I had a grandfather on my
mother's side and a grandmother

47

00:03:38,610 --> 00:03:42,070
or my father's side.

48
00:03:42,070 --> 00:03:43,760
Did you have siblings?

49
00:03:43,760 --> 00:03:45,050
Yes.

50
00:03:45,050 --> 00:03:48,780
I have a sister
who's 10 years older.

51
00:03:48,780 --> 00:03:54,320
Her name is Gabriele,
and now her American name

52
00:03:54,320 --> 00:03:58,970
is Gay Austin, and she's
married to Kurt Austin.

53
00:03:58,970 --> 00:04:02,980
And my brother is
12 years older,

54
00:04:02,980 --> 00:04:05,390
and his name is Hans Weiss.

55
00:04:05,390 --> 00:04:16,844

56
00:04:16,844 --> 00:04:21,144
So can you tell me a bit
about your childhood?

57
00:04:21,144 --> 00:04:21,644
Yeah.

58
00:04:21,644 --> 00:04:24,460

59
00:04:24,460 --> 00:04:27,760

I think one of the
things that my earliest

60
00:04:27,760 --> 00:04:31,330
years that I remember
is the fact that I was--

61
00:04:31,330 --> 00:04:34,440

62
00:04:34,440 --> 00:04:38,270
coming 10 years after my sister
and 12 years after my brother,

63
00:04:38,270 --> 00:04:40,780
I was kind of like
an only child.

64
00:04:40,780 --> 00:04:43,420
Although I remember
vividly that my sister

65
00:04:43,420 --> 00:04:48,010
was a very important,
caring person

66
00:04:48,010 --> 00:04:51,400
in my life for my early years.

67
00:04:51,400 --> 00:04:55,210
I also had a nursemaid and a
governess as I was growing up,

68
00:04:55,210 --> 00:04:59,100
and my sister left probably
when I was around six

69
00:04:59,100 --> 00:05:00,520
to go to England.

70
00:05:00,520 --> 00:05:02,640
My brother left to go
to the United States.

71
00:05:02,640 --> 00:05:06,550
So the years that I spent--

72
00:05:06,550 --> 00:05:10,300
the very early years
were spent alone

73
00:05:10,300 --> 00:05:14,900
or with adults, or
with an adult that was

74
00:05:14,900 --> 00:05:16,990
sort of taking care of me.

75
00:05:16,990 --> 00:05:21,520
And we lived in a house where my
grandfather lived on one floor,

76
00:05:21,520 --> 00:05:26,590
and eventually had two
rooms in the large apartment

77
00:05:26,590 --> 00:05:27,410
that we had.

78
00:05:27,410 --> 00:05:32,260
And so much of my
early life was spent

79
00:05:32,260 --> 00:05:38,230
in the company of father,
mother, and grandfather.

80
00:05:38,230 --> 00:05:42,115
And my father's mother
lived on the third floor.

81
00:05:42,115 --> 00:05:44,740
She had a small apartment there.

82
00:05:44,740 --> 00:05:47,690

This is a house that
my grandfather owned.

83
00:05:47,690 --> 00:05:53,235
And so a lot of my life was
also spent with her upstairs.

84
00:05:53,235 --> 00:05:58,965

85
00:05:58,965 --> 00:06:02,440
It's interesting because when
I think about my early years,

86
00:06:02,440 --> 00:06:06,970
I think about wandering
around the room,

87
00:06:06,970 --> 00:06:09,940
and especially loved the
light, the sunlight that

88
00:06:09,940 --> 00:06:11,070
would come in.

89
00:06:11,070 --> 00:06:14,410
And my memory is in
terms of sunlight

90
00:06:14,410 --> 00:06:16,410
coming into the bathroom area.

91
00:06:16,410 --> 00:06:19,150
It was warm there, and I would
sit there in the sunlight

92
00:06:19,150 --> 00:06:22,090
often, or go out
into the garden.

93
00:06:22,090 --> 00:06:24,700
There was a garden
attached to the house.

94

00:06:24,700 --> 00:06:32,930

And I distinctly remember
talking animals in the garden.

95

00:06:32,930 --> 00:06:34,870

My father was a
physician, and so I

96

00:06:34,870 --> 00:06:37,900

wasn't allowed to have
animals like dogs or cats.

97

00:06:37,900 --> 00:06:45,220

I had a canary, and I remember
having a turtle outside.

98

00:06:45,220 --> 00:06:47,770

But as a very young
child, I remember

99

00:06:47,770 --> 00:06:50,440

that a lot of my
conversation was

100

00:06:50,440 --> 00:06:57,160

with animals and with
the natural hedges

101

00:06:57,160 --> 00:06:59,560

in the area in the garden.

102

00:06:59,560 --> 00:07:02,680

So it was a lonely
childhood, but lonely only

103

00:07:02,680 --> 00:07:07,660

in the sense of people my age.

104

00:07:07,660 --> 00:07:13,120

Otherwise, I think I had
lots people who surrounded me

105

00:07:13,120 --> 00:07:21,730
and memories that are good.

106

00:07:21,730 --> 00:07:25,570
I went to a public school
in the very early years,

107

00:07:25,570 --> 00:07:29,080
when Jews were still allowed
to go to public school.

108

00:07:29,080 --> 00:07:33,550
And since we lived in
the outskirts of Munich,

109

00:07:33,550 --> 00:07:35,020
I walked there.

110

00:07:35,020 --> 00:07:38,080
And the walk was
through the edge

111

00:07:38,080 --> 00:07:40,660
of a park-- had sort of a park.

112

00:07:40,660 --> 00:07:49,390
And you had to go
up a slight hill

113

00:07:49,390 --> 00:07:52,600
where the path would zig-zag.

114

00:07:52,600 --> 00:07:58,330
And I remember clearly
going up that zig-zag area.

115

00:07:58,330 --> 00:08:03,130
And there's certain parts of it
that I liked better because it

116

00:08:03,130 --> 00:08:06,010
got me to the top quicker.

117
00:08:06,010 --> 00:08:08,900
And then I would
walk to the school.

118
00:08:08,900 --> 00:08:14,270
And the part about the
school that became oppressive

119
00:08:14,270 --> 00:08:21,160
was having to say "heil
Hitler" eventually,

120
00:08:21,160 --> 00:08:25,500
having to sing certain
songs that obviously,

121
00:08:25,500 --> 00:08:34,630
in my Jewish upbringing,
were discriminatory or--

122
00:08:34,630 --> 00:08:38,919
well, emotionally
they were absolutely

123
00:08:38,919 --> 00:08:43,690
not they just did
not feel right.

124
00:08:43,690 --> 00:08:47,010
And trying to figure out,
even at the early ages

125
00:08:47,010 --> 00:08:52,720
of first, second grade
to, what do I do?

126
00:08:52,720 --> 00:08:55,960
Because already, the
beginning of the fear

127
00:08:55,960 --> 00:08:57,490
was invading my body.

128
00:08:57,490 --> 00:09:00,040
And this is one of
the things that I

129
00:09:00,040 --> 00:09:06,490
think I carried through to
adulthood without really

130
00:09:06,490 --> 00:09:08,520
ever knowing that it was there.

131
00:09:08,520 --> 00:09:13,150
It was part and parcel of my
everyday waking and dreaming

132
00:09:13,150 --> 00:09:14,090
life.

133
00:09:14,090 --> 00:09:20,320
And it started with
trying to figure out,

134
00:09:20,320 --> 00:09:23,890
how can I make myself invisible?

135
00:09:23,890 --> 00:09:25,630
How can I blend in?

136
00:09:25,630 --> 00:09:31,240
How can I be part
and yet not be part?

137
00:09:31,240 --> 00:09:35,010
It's a very difficult
feeling for a young child.

138
00:09:35,010 --> 00:09:41,140
And I never really am
able to put it into words,

139
00:09:41,140 --> 00:09:43,780

until perhaps even now.

140
00:09:43,780 --> 00:09:48,040
Mainly because I haven't
thought about the subject

141
00:09:48,040 --> 00:09:52,160
in such clarity as I'm
doing at this point.

142
00:09:52,160 --> 00:09:56,500
So then when the Jews
who are no longer

143
00:09:56,500 --> 00:10:01,720
allowed in the public
schools, the synagogue

144
00:10:01,720 --> 00:10:07,540
set up temporary
educational facilities.

145
00:10:07,540 --> 00:10:10,480
And what happened
is that the house

146
00:10:10,480 --> 00:10:13,240
that I had lived in that
my grandfather owned

147
00:10:13,240 --> 00:10:16,960
was taken over by the Nazis.

148
00:10:16,960 --> 00:10:29,200
And so we had to move from
a very comfortable housing

149
00:10:29,200 --> 00:10:30,400
arrangement.

150
00:10:30,400 --> 00:10:33,820
Beautiful, too.

151

00:10:33,820 --> 00:10:40,840

My mother and father and I moved
to an apartment over stores

152

00:10:40,840 --> 00:10:43,870

in another part of town.

153

00:10:43,870 --> 00:10:49,660

And I think I'm remembering
one other thing that might

154

00:10:49,660 --> 00:10:52,210

be appropriate to mention here.

155

00:10:52,210 --> 00:10:59,500

Before we left the house
in the suburbs of Munich--

156

00:10:59,500 --> 00:11:03,070

the street, by the way,
was called [PLACE NAME.]

157

00:11:03,070 --> 00:11:11,990

And in the part of the house--

158

00:11:11,990 --> 00:11:14,140

I don't want to call
them janitor because that

159

00:11:14,140 --> 00:11:17,080

isn't what the family was.

160

00:11:17,080 --> 00:11:19,680

Caretaker is not the
right word either.

161

00:11:19,680 --> 00:11:23,140

But anyway, people
lived in an apartment

162

00:11:23,140 --> 00:11:29,800

in the very first lower

floor of this large apartment

163

00:11:29,800 --> 00:11:36,220

building that were in charge
of some care in that house.

164

00:11:36,220 --> 00:11:40,630

And the young boy, his
name was Hansi Auer,

165

00:11:40,630 --> 00:11:47,260

was perhaps a year or so
older than I, or perhaps

166

00:11:47,260 --> 00:11:47,980

the same age.

167

00:11:47,980 --> 00:11:52,000

And there was allowed some
communication, some play time

168

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:53,050

together.

169

00:11:53,050 --> 00:11:54,250

Not much.

170

00:11:54,250 --> 00:11:57,190

The families in those
days just didn't

171

00:11:57,190 --> 00:11:59,930

mix in terms of
socioeconomic levels.

172

00:11:59,930 --> 00:12:02,680

173

00:12:02,680 --> 00:12:07,930

But I have seen the
pictures of this young boy

174

00:12:07,930 --> 00:12:11,050
together with me.

175
00:12:11,050 --> 00:12:15,610
I remember one Christmas
I was invited down

176
00:12:15,610 --> 00:12:17,860
to view their Christmas tree.

177
00:12:17,860 --> 00:12:20,230
And there again, I
had this incredible--

178
00:12:20,230 --> 00:12:22,150
I think lots of
Jewish children have

179
00:12:22,150 --> 00:12:24,580
a mixed feeling of doing
something very wrong

180
00:12:24,580 --> 00:12:29,170
but wanting to see
it anyway, and not

181
00:12:29,170 --> 00:12:32,436
feeling comfortable but
being drawn toward it.

182
00:12:32,436 --> 00:12:33,820
It's very interesting.

183
00:12:33,820 --> 00:12:37,060
It's a very
uncomfortable feeling.

184
00:12:37,060 --> 00:12:42,820
Well, also in that
part of the downstairs

185
00:12:42,820 --> 00:12:50,170
was the washroom, where they

were big tubs on wooden crosses

186

00:12:50,170 --> 00:12:54,970

where the wash was being done by
women who would come in and do

187

00:12:54,970 --> 00:12:58,060

the washing for us.

188

00:12:58,060 --> 00:13:03,760

And I remember one
time going down there--

189

00:13:03,760 --> 00:13:06,820

children-- I wasn't really
allowed in the kitchen.

190

00:13:06,820 --> 00:13:08,950

We had to do the
cooking, we had someone

191

00:13:08,950 --> 00:13:11,390

do the cleaning, et
cetera, et cetera.

192

00:13:11,390 --> 00:13:16,090

And so kids had certain places
where they weren't allowed.

193

00:13:16,090 --> 00:13:18,685

To be allowed in the kitchen
was a privilege by the cook.

194

00:13:18,685 --> 00:13:21,280

195

00:13:21,280 --> 00:13:24,820

Every once in a while,
you were allowed in there.

196

00:13:24,820 --> 00:13:27,850

And the same thing was with
downstairs in the wash.

197
00:13:27,850 --> 00:13:31,270
I think I was outside playing
and come in and was washing

198
00:13:31,270 --> 00:13:34,270
in the very slippery floor.

199
00:13:34,270 --> 00:13:37,120
And for reasons that
I can't understand,

200
00:13:37,120 --> 00:13:39,530
I climbed up on one
of those cross things

201
00:13:39,530 --> 00:13:42,190
and fell backwards
and hit my head

202
00:13:42,190 --> 00:13:44,620
and went out
screaming and yelling.

203
00:13:44,620 --> 00:13:46,750
And my mother appeared
and didn't understand

204
00:13:46,750 --> 00:13:48,970
what was going on
until I turned around,

205
00:13:48,970 --> 00:13:51,700
or she turned me around
and saw the blood coming.

206
00:13:51,700 --> 00:13:54,190
Yeah, it was a scalp wound.

207
00:13:54,190 --> 00:14:00,130
And that was one
of these memories

208

00:14:00,130 --> 00:14:02,830
that one has as a child.

209

00:14:02,830 --> 00:14:05,890
But the interesting thing
was that the services

210

00:14:05,890 --> 00:14:11,440
that we had in those days
were all done for us.

211

00:14:11,440 --> 00:14:13,063
Like going to the
washing machine

212

00:14:13,063 --> 00:14:14,980
and throwing your stuff
in and into the dryer,

213

00:14:14,980 --> 00:14:17,477
that was not available
at that time.

214

00:14:17,477 --> 00:14:19,810
The other thing that wasn't
available to us at that time

215

00:14:19,810 --> 00:14:24,580
was going to the stores
and buying clothes.

216

00:14:24,580 --> 00:14:26,760
There were certain times
during the year when

217

00:14:26,760 --> 00:14:30,400
a seamstress would come in,
and she would make my clothes,

218

00:14:30,400 --> 00:14:33,720
and then she would make the
same clothes for my doll.

219

00:14:33,720 --> 00:14:37,560

220

00:14:37,560 --> 00:14:39,850

I didn't like having
to stand still,

221

00:14:39,850 --> 00:14:45,490

and I didn't like, in those
days, the smell of women

222

00:14:45,490 --> 00:14:48,730

because there was no
deodorant available.

223

00:14:48,730 --> 00:14:51,580

And I was in France
just recently,

224

00:14:51,580 --> 00:14:53,990

and somebody in my
group said, oh, I

225

00:14:53,990 --> 00:14:56,975

can't stand these French
people, they never bathe,

226

00:14:56,975 --> 00:14:58,480

they never put on deodorant.

227

00:14:58,480 --> 00:15:00,610

And I had to smile
because I suddenly

228

00:15:00,610 --> 00:15:06,170

remembered that's exactly
what I felt as a child.

229

00:15:06,170 --> 00:15:10,630

Especially when you were
asked to hug somebody or kiss

230

00:15:10,630 --> 00:15:11,710
somebody.

231
00:15:11,710 --> 00:15:15,070
And it was a very pungent smell.

232
00:15:15,070 --> 00:15:20,080
Well, in any case, we get back
to Hansi Auer, the young man

233
00:15:20,080 --> 00:15:23,275
who was the son of the
people who lived there

234
00:15:23,275 --> 00:15:24,650
and cared for the
house somewhat.

235
00:15:24,650 --> 00:15:27,460

236
00:15:27,460 --> 00:15:32,530
He became a Nazi, like so
many young people were.

237
00:15:32,530 --> 00:15:33,995
I shouldn't say became a Nazi.

238
00:15:33,995 --> 00:15:37,630
Let's say he was pulled into
that youth organization that

239
00:15:37,630 --> 00:15:40,600
was an adjunct of the Nazis.

240
00:15:40,600 --> 00:15:47,800
And this is fuzzy,
and I have no idea

241
00:15:47,800 --> 00:15:49,300
how I remember some
of these things,

242

00:15:49,300 --> 00:15:51,310

whether I have actually
experienced them

243

00:15:51,310 --> 00:15:53,840

or if somebody told them to me.

244

00:15:53,840 --> 00:15:58,380

But the reason I tell them is
because the gut feeling says

245

00:15:58,380 --> 00:16:00,790

it's the right thing,
and there's really

246

00:16:00,790 --> 00:16:01,900

some truth to that.

247

00:16:01,900 --> 00:16:07,990

Evidently, my grandfather always
took a walk, even into his 90s,

248

00:16:07,990 --> 00:16:09,010

every morning.

249

00:16:09,010 --> 00:16:10,640

He also had an
egg every morning.

250

00:16:10,640 --> 00:16:12,760

And as a child, I
remember sitting there

251

00:16:12,760 --> 00:16:17,180

and watching the egg yolk
dribble down his white beard.

252

00:16:17,180 --> 00:16:21,400

It was very important to
see that every morning.

253

00:16:21,400 --> 00:16:25,690

But what, evidently,
Hans Auer did was--

254
00:16:25,690 --> 00:16:31,040
I don't know if he attacked
him or hit him or yelled at him

255
00:16:31,040 --> 00:16:32,420
words--

256
00:16:32,420 --> 00:16:35,400
you're a Jew or dirty
Jew, or-- whatever it was,

257
00:16:35,400 --> 00:16:36,850
it was very unpleasant.

258
00:16:36,850 --> 00:16:42,040
And I think it was the one thing
that motivated my grandfather

259
00:16:42,040 --> 00:16:45,430
to eventually leave.

260
00:16:45,430 --> 00:16:46,670
The house was taken.

261
00:16:46,670 --> 00:16:52,240
I have no idea whether there
was any motivation other than he

262
00:16:52,240 --> 00:16:54,790
paid for that.

263
00:16:54,790 --> 00:17:00,010
But it was the time
also that we left.

264
00:17:00,010 --> 00:17:04,089
Grandfather and, I think, one of
his daughters, an aunt of mine,

265

00:17:04,089 --> 00:17:06,560
Aunt Selma, lived in
an apartment someplace.

266
00:17:06,560 --> 00:17:09,310
But that's very fuzzy.

267
00:17:09,310 --> 00:17:16,690
When we moved out of that
house and into an apartment,

268
00:17:16,690 --> 00:17:22,150
that was also the time
also of Kristallnacht,

269
00:17:22,150 --> 00:17:32,680
and it was also the time
after my father was taken.

270
00:17:32,680 --> 00:17:37,180
And here is the memory that
I have in that apartment

271
00:17:37,180 --> 00:17:38,500
that we lived.

272
00:17:38,500 --> 00:17:44,710
Sort of in the
middle of the night,

273
00:17:44,710 --> 00:17:54,040
I heard people in the hallway,
and father left with them.

274
00:17:54,040 --> 00:17:56,930

275
00:17:56,930 --> 00:17:59,830
And what I know
now is that he was

276
00:17:59,830 --> 00:18:08,230
taken to the Munich jail, where

he stayed for quite a while.

277

00:18:08,230 --> 00:18:14,620

At the time, I was
told by my mother

278

00:18:14,620 --> 00:18:20,860

that my father had an
emergency call from a patient

279

00:18:20,860 --> 00:18:23,470

and he had to leave for France.

280

00:18:23,470 --> 00:18:33,760

And this story was
emblazoned on my memory.

281

00:18:33,760 --> 00:18:38,920

I mean, my mother did
not veer from that story,

282

00:18:38,920 --> 00:18:41,680

so that I never
heard from my mother

283

00:18:41,680 --> 00:18:44,440

that my father was
taken into custody.

284

00:18:44,440 --> 00:18:46,900

I never heard from her that
he was in prison and then

285

00:18:46,900 --> 00:18:48,340

taken to Dachau.

286

00:18:48,340 --> 00:18:52,780

287

00:18:52,780 --> 00:18:56,950

That revelation came
later, when I was already

288

00:18:56,950 --> 00:19:02,020
in the United States
and a cousin of mine

289

00:19:02,020 --> 00:19:03,530
spilled the beans, so to speak.

290

00:19:03,530 --> 00:19:05,870
And my sister, with
whom I was at that time,

291

00:19:05,870 --> 00:19:11,080
was dumbfounded that I
didn't know the truth.

292

00:19:11,080 --> 00:19:13,030
Well, it devastated me.

293

00:19:13,030 --> 00:19:15,130
And here is something that--

294

00:19:15,130 --> 00:19:16,930
just going back to those times--

295

00:19:16,930 --> 00:19:23,080
that I think my mother
was trying to do.

296

00:19:23,080 --> 00:19:30,110
First of all, she was trying
to make it easy for me.

297

00:19:30,110 --> 00:19:31,000
I was eight.

298

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:34,300

299

00:19:34,300 --> 00:19:39,520
And the other thing I
think she was trying to do

300

00:19:39,520 --> 00:19:43,540

is to cope with
all the things she

301

00:19:43,540 --> 00:19:44,950

had to cope with at that time.

302

00:19:44,950 --> 00:19:49,850

A father who was still in
the area, a mother-in-law--

303

00:19:49,850 --> 00:19:52,915

older mother-in-law-- who was
also in the area, and a husband

304

00:19:52,915 --> 00:19:55,150

now who had been taken in.

305

00:19:55,150 --> 00:19:58,480

And we didn't know
what was going on.

306

00:19:58,480 --> 00:19:59,740

None of these things.

307

00:19:59,740 --> 00:20:02,830

But the outside world
knew some things.

308

00:20:02,830 --> 00:20:05,590

People who lived there
didn't know anything.

309

00:20:05,590 --> 00:20:10,270

All we knew was, hey,
we were good Germans.

310

00:20:10,270 --> 00:20:13,150

We had businesses there,
we had professions there.

311

00:20:13,150 --> 00:20:18,010

And this couldn't happen to us.

312

00:20:18,010 --> 00:20:19,330

I think-- going back--

313

00:20:19,330 --> 00:20:21,790

I mean, I was a child,
and I'm putting words now

314

00:20:21,790 --> 00:20:25,970

into my parents' feelings
which may or may not be true.

315

00:20:25,970 --> 00:20:29,825

But anyway, this is
how it seemed to me.

316

00:20:29,825 --> 00:20:31,450

And by the way, all
the things that I'm

317

00:20:31,450 --> 00:20:38,197

saying are things that only
I interpret, only I felt.

318

00:20:38,197 --> 00:20:40,030

Other members of the
family may have seen it

319

00:20:40,030 --> 00:20:41,240

entirely differently.

320

00:20:41,240 --> 00:20:42,910

But this was what
was true to me.

321

00:20:42,910 --> 00:20:49,990

This is what my
feelings were and how

322

00:20:49,990 --> 00:20:52,030

I dealt with things as a child.

323

00:20:52,030 --> 00:20:58,690

324

00:20:58,690 --> 00:21:03,400

I think what happened at the
beginning, when Hitler first

325

00:21:03,400 --> 00:21:08,040

decided to start his
campaign against the Jews

326

00:21:08,040 --> 00:21:09,970

was that he took the
cream of the crop.

327

00:21:09,970 --> 00:21:19,240

Meaning the professional people,
doctors, lawyers, teachers,

328

00:21:19,240 --> 00:21:20,990

so forth and so on.

329

00:21:20,990 --> 00:21:24,520

And then eventually,
anyone was taken.

330

00:21:24,520 --> 00:21:28,340

But I think at the beginning,
you were accused of something.

331

00:21:28,340 --> 00:21:32,920

And since my father was an
obstetrician and gynecologist,

332

00:21:32,920 --> 00:21:36,315

he was accused of
doing an abortion.

333

00:21:36,315 --> 00:21:39,070

334

00:21:39,070 --> 00:21:41,470

And so here he was in jail.

335

00:21:41,470 --> 00:21:45,970

And every week,
mother would go--

336

00:21:45,970 --> 00:21:49,110

I don't know this,
mind you, but now I

337

00:21:49,110 --> 00:21:52,510

know it-- mother
would go with a basket

338

00:21:52,510 --> 00:21:55,450

to the jail and
deal with father.

339

00:21:55,450 --> 00:21:57,640

And I have no idea
what happened there,

340

00:21:57,640 --> 00:21:59,470

whether they were able
to see each other,

341

00:21:59,470 --> 00:22:02,500

whether they were able
to talk to each other.

342

00:22:02,500 --> 00:22:05,590

I assume some of that
may have happened.

343

00:22:05,590 --> 00:22:12,790

We had a woman who came to
stay with me and also cook,

344

00:22:12,790 --> 00:22:14,490

and she was absolutely--

345

00:22:14,490 --> 00:22:17,620

346
00:22:17,620 --> 00:22:21,980
she was not allowed
to tell me the truth.

347
00:22:21,980 --> 00:22:23,405
I know my mother
in that respect,

348
00:22:23,405 --> 00:22:25,930
and I think if she were,
she would have been fired.

349
00:22:25,930 --> 00:22:31,300
But working for the Jews
was already a risk for her.

350
00:22:31,300 --> 00:22:33,850
And I remember that
there were days

351
00:22:33,850 --> 00:22:39,130
when certain foods
were no longer allowed

352
00:22:39,130 --> 00:22:40,360
to be sold to Jews.

353
00:22:40,360 --> 00:22:42,730
It was a very peculiar thing.

354
00:22:42,730 --> 00:22:46,150
And we were, I think,
rationed to, I don't know,

355
00:22:46,150 --> 00:22:49,210
one or two eggs a week.

356
00:22:49,210 --> 00:22:54,280
And I was sent down to the store
in order to get those two eggs.

357

00:22:54,280 --> 00:22:59,020
It was the most fearfully
excruciating, painful thing

358
00:22:59,020 --> 00:23:03,010
I can remember doing, having
to stand there and wait

359
00:23:03,010 --> 00:23:05,620
until somebody would
recognize this little girl,

360
00:23:05,620 --> 00:23:08,900
this little Jewish girl,
and maybe-- maybe-- give me

361
00:23:08,900 --> 00:23:09,840
those two eggs.

362
00:23:09,840 --> 00:23:18,608

363
00:23:18,608 --> 00:23:23,200
The school, the synagogue
that I eventually went to--

364
00:23:23,200 --> 00:23:24,468
am I rambling?

365
00:23:24,468 --> 00:23:25,885
Were you going to
ask me questions

366
00:23:25,885 --> 00:23:27,812
or should I just go on?

367
00:23:27,812 --> 00:23:29,020
I'll ask you questions later.

368
00:23:29,020 --> 00:23:32,170

369

00:23:32,170 --> 00:23:34,990

The synagogue that
eventually I went

370

00:23:34,990 --> 00:23:41,770

to that had the school
set up was far enough away

371

00:23:41,770 --> 00:23:43,720

I had to take a streetcar.

372

00:23:43,720 --> 00:23:49,140

And it was just very
difficult in those days

373

00:23:49,140 --> 00:23:53,420

for any Jew to do anything.

374

00:23:53,420 --> 00:23:55,360

Or maybe it's my
imagination as a child,

375

00:23:55,360 --> 00:23:58,190

but I felt very
much marked already,

376

00:23:58,190 --> 00:23:59,920

even though there
were no markings on me

377

00:23:59,920 --> 00:24:02,680

like eventually there
were markings on.

378

00:24:02,680 --> 00:24:05,350

Jews that you had to wear
your clothing, and also--

379

00:24:05,350 --> 00:24:09,130

380

00:24:09,130 --> 00:24:11,360

anyway, there was

nothing at that time,

381

00:24:11,360 --> 00:24:18,070

except that I felt being looked
at and judged as being Jewish.

382

00:24:18,070 --> 00:24:25,540

On the streetcars, there
was an interesting thing

383

00:24:25,540 --> 00:24:26,740

for young children.

384

00:24:26,740 --> 00:24:33,500

There was a measurement
on one of the door posts.

385

00:24:33,500 --> 00:24:38,710

And if you measured underneath
a certain meter, then

386

00:24:38,710 --> 00:24:40,600

you could go free.

387

00:24:40,600 --> 00:24:42,490

And it was terribly
embarrassing to me,

388

00:24:42,490 --> 00:24:47,620

because I wasn't a very
tall child in them ages, not

389

00:24:47,620 --> 00:24:50,530

to have to pay.

390

00:24:50,530 --> 00:24:54,580

Eventually I did
pay, but the fact

391

00:24:54,580 --> 00:25:02,650

that I had to stand there and
be measured and could go free,

392

00:25:02,650 --> 00:25:10,090

somehow I felt, still again,
more discriminated against.

393

00:25:10,090 --> 00:25:11,740

It's a very peculiar feeling.

394

00:25:11,740 --> 00:25:14,980

I can't explain it,
but there it was again.

395

00:25:14,980 --> 00:25:22,930

So one day when the streetcar
let me off at the synagogue,

396

00:25:22,930 --> 00:25:25,300

there was no synagogue
because it was burned down.

397

00:25:25,300 --> 00:25:27,820

398

00:25:27,820 --> 00:25:33,520

And that kind of was
another indication

399

00:25:33,520 --> 00:25:36,200

of what was happening
to the Jews.

400

00:25:36,200 --> 00:25:42,400

There were little
increments of happenings

401

00:25:42,400 --> 00:25:48,220

that made us realize that
the limits of our existence

402

00:25:48,220 --> 00:25:52,310

were getting smaller and
smaller in that particular area

403

00:25:52,310 --> 00:25:54,490
in that country with our lives.

404
00:25:54,490 --> 00:25:57,250

405
00:25:57,250 --> 00:25:59,590
The interesting part is--

406
00:25:59,590 --> 00:26:02,950
to go back to when my
father was arrested--

407
00:26:02,950 --> 00:26:09,670
the next day, of course, the
whole school was in an uproar

408
00:26:09,670 --> 00:26:12,440
while the synagogue
was still standing.

409
00:26:12,440 --> 00:26:16,090
And people were all talking
about whose father was taken

410
00:26:16,090 --> 00:26:17,980
and whose father was not taken.

411
00:26:17,980 --> 00:26:22,630
And I told them my
father wasn't taken,

412
00:26:22,630 --> 00:26:24,460
that he was out of the country.

413
00:26:24,460 --> 00:26:27,220
And the kids would look
at me, and the teacher

414
00:26:27,220 --> 00:26:32,050
would say, "ha ha ha, no, no,
no, no, that isn't the truth."

415

00:26:32,050 --> 00:26:36,280

And I was getting very
upset and angry at that.

416

00:26:36,280 --> 00:26:41,930

And it's the sort of thing
that is still a mystery to me.

417

00:26:41,930 --> 00:26:43,310

But complete denial.

418

00:26:43,310 --> 00:26:44,680

Complete denial.

419

00:26:44,680 --> 00:26:48,850

There were times when I went
home and stood in the living

420

00:26:48,850 --> 00:26:51,220

room and said to my mother--

421

00:26:51,220 --> 00:26:56,020

picked up the phone, I said,
I'm calling my father now.

422

00:26:56,020 --> 00:26:58,800

And she had to kind
of talk me out of it,

423

00:26:58,800 --> 00:27:00,700

say that he's probably
coming home very soon

424

00:27:00,700 --> 00:27:02,630

and not to worry about it.

425

00:27:02,630 --> 00:27:06,460

But I can just imagine
that kind of feelings

426

00:27:06,460 --> 00:27:08,646

that she had to go through

and the worries she

427

00:27:08,646 --> 00:27:12,220
had to go through, and the
confusion that I went through

428

00:27:12,220 --> 00:27:13,300
during that time.

429

00:27:13,300 --> 00:27:18,430

430

00:27:18,430 --> 00:27:19,290
Kristallnacht.

431

00:27:19,290 --> 00:27:23,400

432

00:27:23,400 --> 00:27:27,480
After my father was
arrested, Kristallnacht came.

433

00:27:27,480 --> 00:27:31,140
And don't ask me dates
because I don't remember them.

434

00:27:31,140 --> 00:27:34,620
I do remember my mother
saying, tonight we

435

00:27:34,620 --> 00:27:37,440
have to go stay at
somebody else's house.

436

00:27:37,440 --> 00:27:39,540
And the person's house
that we stayed at

437

00:27:39,540 --> 00:27:43,230
was a good friend and
patient of my father.

438

00:27:43,230 --> 00:27:47,700

My father had the quality
of being a real mensch,

439

00:27:47,700 --> 00:27:50,340

besides being a doctor.

440

00:27:50,340 --> 00:27:55,590

And so his patients really
were extremely loyal

441

00:27:55,590 --> 00:27:58,480

and faithful to him.

442

00:27:58,480 --> 00:28:04,440

And this was a woman
who was also an artist,

443

00:28:04,440 --> 00:28:12,247

and we went during the daytime
across Munich to her apartment.

444

00:28:12,247 --> 00:28:13,830

And my mother was
saying to me, you're

445

00:28:13,830 --> 00:28:17,700

going to have to be very still.

446

00:28:17,700 --> 00:28:19,980

This was an important time.

447

00:28:19,980 --> 00:28:22,230

We're hiding.

448

00:28:22,230 --> 00:28:27,310

And I think we stayed
at her house two nights,

449

00:28:27,310 --> 00:28:28,650

but I'm not sure of that.

450

00:28:28,650 --> 00:28:33,300
I do remember that I tried out
the new bed by jumping on it,

451
00:28:33,300 --> 00:28:37,055
and was immediately told
that that was not to be done.

452
00:28:37,055 --> 00:28:39,900

453
00:28:39,900 --> 00:28:43,590
The irrepressibility of
my youth occasionally

454
00:28:43,590 --> 00:28:47,040
makes me feel good.

455
00:28:47,040 --> 00:28:54,090
At least it was something
that came through

456
00:28:54,090 --> 00:28:55,605
because I was a serious child.

457
00:28:55,605 --> 00:28:59,400

458
00:28:59,400 --> 00:29:03,040
And I can't remember a
lot about Kristallnacht

459
00:29:03,040 --> 00:29:07,620
except that it became
more and more difficult

460
00:29:07,620 --> 00:29:12,690
even to walk without
being identified,

461
00:29:12,690 --> 00:29:15,780
without having to
identify yourself.

462
00:29:15,780 --> 00:29:19,320
And I can't tell you what
it is, but crossing streets

463
00:29:19,320 --> 00:29:20,590
became a problem.

464
00:29:20,590 --> 00:29:23,580
I remember I once went--

465
00:29:23,580 --> 00:29:34,320
I had two very close friends in
those days, a girl and a boy,

466
00:29:34,320 --> 00:29:36,345
who lived in another
part of the town.

467
00:29:36,345 --> 00:29:39,390
And In order to get there,
you had to either walk or--

468
00:29:39,390 --> 00:29:42,210
as a child-- or
take the streetcar.

469
00:29:42,210 --> 00:29:45,780
And the young boy and
I were going to a park,

470
00:29:45,780 --> 00:29:48,450
and in order to
get back home, we

471
00:29:48,450 --> 00:29:50,760
had to cross some
streets, obviously,

472
00:29:50,760 --> 00:29:55,860
and we found that there were
people standing at the corners

473

00:29:55,860 --> 00:30:02,550

that we knew would challenge
us, yell at us, hit us,

474

00:30:02,550 --> 00:30:03,610

or whatever it is.

475

00:30:03,610 --> 00:30:09,600

And in order to do this, we
decided that we would run.

476

00:30:09,600 --> 00:30:14,340

So a lot of these
feelings of fearfulness

477

00:30:14,340 --> 00:30:17,700

really started
very early in life,

478

00:30:17,700 --> 00:30:20,910

and continued
through my adulthood.

479

00:30:20,910 --> 00:30:27,420

I remember I was in college,
probably a sophomore.

480

00:30:27,420 --> 00:30:31,680

One morning I woke up and
I thought to myself, no,

481

00:30:31,680 --> 00:30:34,660

what is so different today?

482

00:30:34,660 --> 00:30:37,440

Because nothing really
seemed out of the ordinary.

483

00:30:37,440 --> 00:30:40,818

And it suddenly occurred to
me that a cloud had lifted.

484

00:30:40,818 --> 00:30:41,610

It took that long--

485

00:30:41,610 --> 00:30:44,760

I was in my early 20s--

486

00:30:44,760 --> 00:30:48,840

for that feeling of
fear to lift itself.

487

00:30:48,840 --> 00:30:54,050

The emotional impact that I
carried around was enormous.

488

00:30:54,050 --> 00:30:54,960

It was very dulling.

489

00:30:54,960 --> 00:31:01,920

It was like a squeeze
on your heart almost.

490

00:31:01,920 --> 00:31:05,070

I remember that
being very joyful--

491

00:31:05,070 --> 00:31:08,430

I always envied people
who could really just

492

00:31:08,430 --> 00:31:10,770

be as happy as can be.

493

00:31:10,770 --> 00:31:19,530

And I never could until
that part of my life

494

00:31:19,530 --> 00:31:24,270

seemed to dissolve and
the ice around my insides

495

00:31:24,270 --> 00:31:27,420

melted and I could
start feeling again.

496
00:31:27,420 --> 00:31:29,490
It was also something
that obviously

497
00:31:29,490 --> 00:31:34,680
had to be dealt with in
therapy because obviously

498
00:31:34,680 --> 00:31:38,760
the relationships that
I made with people

499
00:31:38,760 --> 00:31:41,970
were influenced by all of that.

500
00:31:41,970 --> 00:31:45,690
So anyway, even though
there wasn't a great deal

501
00:31:45,690 --> 00:31:51,180
of physical impact
on my childhood,

502
00:31:51,180 --> 00:31:55,530
the psychic and psychological
scars were definitely there.

503
00:31:55,530 --> 00:31:59,010

504
00:31:59,010 --> 00:32:04,320
My grandfather eventually
went to Switzerland

505
00:32:04,320 --> 00:32:08,400
when he left and went there
with some family there.

506
00:32:08,400 --> 00:32:13,530
And this was after my
brother left for America,

507

00:32:13,530 --> 00:32:17,010

my sister was in England and
eventually came to America,

508

00:32:17,010 --> 00:32:20,670

and my mother convinced
me that I must leave.

509

00:32:20,670 --> 00:32:26,220

She and I, in other words,
had several years together

510

00:32:26,220 --> 00:32:32,230

before I left Germany
together because my father was

511

00:32:32,230 --> 00:32:36,670

either in prison or in Dachau.

512

00:32:36,670 --> 00:32:44,800

And as a child, this was a
wonderful thing because I had--

513

00:32:44,800 --> 00:32:49,450

my mother was someone
that I loved very much,

514

00:32:49,450 --> 00:32:51,020

and I know she
loved me very much,

515

00:32:51,020 --> 00:32:53,102

but the closeness was not there.

516

00:32:53,102 --> 00:32:54,560

It was not the kind
of relationship

517

00:32:54,560 --> 00:32:56,852

I had with my children, for
instance, when we were back

518

00:32:56,852 --> 00:32:58,060
together every day.

519
00:32:58,060 --> 00:33:00,100
It was a matter
of somebody always

520
00:33:00,100 --> 00:33:02,500
being there taking
care of me and being

521
00:33:02,500 --> 00:33:05,470
with mother at special times.

522
00:33:05,470 --> 00:33:09,250
And these two years,
I was with her.

523
00:33:09,250 --> 00:33:18,670
And it almost was the time that
we, for the first time, bonded.

524
00:33:18,670 --> 00:33:19,615
Very interesting.

525
00:33:19,615 --> 00:33:21,715
We'll look back on that.

526
00:33:21,715 --> 00:33:23,650
It was a very good
time in many respects

527
00:33:23,650 --> 00:33:27,430
and a very scary time
in other respects.

528
00:33:27,430 --> 00:33:30,280
But she convinced me
that I should leave,

529
00:33:30,280 --> 00:33:35,050
and I would go and
live in America.

530

00:33:35,050 --> 00:33:38,030

My sister would be there,
my brother would be there--

531

00:33:38,030 --> 00:33:41,800

my brother was married to an
American woman at that time--

532

00:33:41,800 --> 00:33:45,350

and that I would live
with my brother's in-laws,

533

00:33:45,350 --> 00:33:46,665

who had children--

534

00:33:46,665 --> 00:33:49,990

a girl who was about my age,
and other children, too.

535

00:33:49,990 --> 00:33:53,320

536

00:33:53,320 --> 00:34:02,650

So she was left to take care
of my grandfather, her father,

537

00:34:02,650 --> 00:34:04,990

in order to get him out.

538

00:34:04,990 --> 00:34:14,500

And my grandmother, my father's
mother, who wouldn't budge.

539

00:34:14,500 --> 00:34:16,780

And she's the only
one in our family

540

00:34:16,780 --> 00:34:21,580

who perished in a transport.

541

00:34:21,580 --> 00:34:25,350

She was going to
Theresienstadt, and we

542
00:34:25,350 --> 00:34:28,880
don't know anything of
what had happened to her.

543
00:34:28,880 --> 00:34:35,739
And I think it is thinking
about her and her memory

544
00:34:35,739 --> 00:34:42,780
that has brought me to the point
where I realized that perhaps

545
00:34:42,780 --> 00:34:56,170
the story that I have would
help me to reconcile some

546
00:34:56,170 --> 00:35:00,250
of the hurt that I never
felt about never seeing her

547
00:35:00,250 --> 00:35:05,080
again, and knowing that
somewhere or other,

548
00:35:05,080 --> 00:35:06,546
she died miserably.

549
00:35:06,546 --> 00:35:10,000

550
00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:13,610
I think probably of
all the children--

551
00:35:13,610 --> 00:35:15,490
my brother, my sister and I--

552
00:35:15,490 --> 00:35:17,840
I was close to her.

553

00:35:17,840 --> 00:35:22,810

And I remember going
up to her apartment

554

00:35:22,810 --> 00:35:29,050

and seeing a picture
of her in her youth,

555

00:35:29,050 --> 00:35:30,670

and asking her about that.

556

00:35:30,670 --> 00:35:36,940

She was very
beautiful, and she told

557

00:35:36,940 --> 00:35:40,780

me something about it being a
play or that she was singing

558

00:35:40,780 --> 00:35:41,950

or whatever it is.

559

00:35:41,950 --> 00:35:45,680

I never knew a great
deal about her.

560

00:35:45,680 --> 00:35:49,720

The thing that I think
impressed me the most

561

00:35:49,720 --> 00:35:51,010

about her was plants--

562

00:35:51,010 --> 00:35:54,340

she always had plants
in her small apartment--

563

00:35:54,340 --> 00:35:57,400

and the care that she took
and the amount of blooms she

564

00:35:57,400 --> 00:35:58,820

got out of it.

565

00:35:58,820 --> 00:36:02,675

And I think when my father
came to the United States

566

00:36:02,675 --> 00:36:04,300

and couldn't practice
medicine anymore,

567

00:36:04,300 --> 00:36:07,270

he spent a lot of time
just taking care of plants

568

00:36:07,270 --> 00:36:09,340

in a small garden we had.

569

00:36:09,340 --> 00:36:12,670

And I, too, am a gardener.

570

00:36:12,670 --> 00:36:16,780

And I think that's some of the
heritage that she left for us,

571

00:36:16,780 --> 00:36:25,290

and I feel that continuing
part of her life

572

00:36:25,290 --> 00:36:28,384

continuing in us and in me.

573

00:36:28,384 --> 00:36:32,860

574

00:36:32,860 --> 00:36:40,070

Mother-- all of us who left
Germany had to have a visas

575

00:36:40,070 --> 00:36:42,020

and had to have
someone in the States

576

00:36:42,020 --> 00:36:46,250
guaranteeing that we wouldn't
become a drag, a ward, so

577
00:36:46,250 --> 00:36:48,950
to speak, of the country.

578
00:36:48,950 --> 00:36:53,750
And we had people
living in the States who

579
00:36:53,750 --> 00:37:03,410
were relatives way, way, way,
way back from my grandfather's

580
00:37:03,410 --> 00:37:05,320
side, the Bach side.

581
00:37:05,320 --> 00:37:13,010
And they were well-to-do, and
so they gave the visas to come

582
00:37:13,010 --> 00:37:13,790
and so forth.

583
00:37:13,790 --> 00:37:19,730
But the other part of it was
that in order to emigrate,

584
00:37:19,730 --> 00:37:23,280
the United States had--

585
00:37:23,280 --> 00:37:24,600
oh, what do you call it?

586
00:37:24,600 --> 00:37:30,230
It had numbers--
had a certain number

587
00:37:30,230 --> 00:37:33,360
of people who come from this
country and that country

588

00:37:33,360 --> 00:37:34,760
and so forth.

589

00:37:34,760 --> 00:37:40,720
So those of us who were
born in Germany, in Munich,

590

00:37:40,720 --> 00:37:44,330
like my brother and sister
and I and my mother,

591

00:37:44,330 --> 00:37:50,060
had earlier numbers than my
father, who was born in Poland.

592

00:37:50,060 --> 00:37:55,910
And getting the kids out,
so to speak, was easier.

593

00:37:55,910 --> 00:37:59,810

594

00:37:59,810 --> 00:38:04,010
So here I-- the last
child would be coming out,

595

00:38:04,010 --> 00:38:06,490
but mother wasn't
willing to leave.

596

00:38:06,490 --> 00:38:09,700
Father was still in Dachau.

597

00:38:09,700 --> 00:38:11,795
Grandfather was still
in Munich, grandmother

598

00:38:11,795 --> 00:38:12,830
was still in Munich.

599

00:38:12,830 --> 00:38:17,020
So she had to try

to pull together

600

00:38:17,020 --> 00:38:20,140

trying to get out

four people, which

601

00:38:20,140 --> 00:38:24,640

included herself, at a time when

it was incredibly difficult.

602

00:38:24,640 --> 00:38:26,020

She got grandfather out.

603

00:38:26,020 --> 00:38:28,280

She had someone help him.

604

00:38:28,280 --> 00:38:30,001

He was an old man at that time.

605

00:38:30,001 --> 00:38:32,376

Grandmother wouldn't move,

and I don't know what happened

606

00:38:32,376 --> 00:38:34,390

or how it happened.

607

00:38:34,390 --> 00:38:41,590

And Germans being the way

they are, here was my father,

608

00:38:41,590 --> 00:38:43,465

accused of doing an

illegal abortion.

609

00:38:43,465 --> 00:38:49,900

He was in Dachau, but

here he was on the books,

610

00:38:49,900 --> 00:38:52,840

and for some reason or

other, there was a trial.

611

00:38:52,840 --> 00:38:55,390
He was pulled out of Dachau
and there was a trial.

612
00:38:55,390 --> 00:38:58,960
And mind you, I don't
know how I know this.

613
00:38:58,960 --> 00:39:02,420

614
00:39:02,420 --> 00:39:04,360
The trial evidently
was set, and there

615
00:39:04,360 --> 00:39:08,110
was a judge on the bench
who was not a Nazi,

616
00:39:08,110 --> 00:39:11,590
he was an old German
jurisprudence judge.

617
00:39:11,590 --> 00:39:15,310
And from what I understand,
at the risk of their lives,

618
00:39:15,310 --> 00:39:19,290
patients came forward and
said, this never happened.

619
00:39:19,290 --> 00:39:22,690
The judge threw the case.

620
00:39:22,690 --> 00:39:25,390
My mother had all
the papers ready,

621
00:39:25,390 --> 00:39:30,190
and my father was sent
over to Switzerland

622
00:39:30,190 --> 00:39:32,740

to family members
who were there--

623
00:39:32,740 --> 00:39:34,360
very, very late.

624
00:39:34,360 --> 00:39:36,190
And from what I
understand, my mother

625
00:39:36,190 --> 00:39:39,210
left on the last train out
of Germany and the border

626
00:39:39,210 --> 00:39:40,066
was closed.

627
00:39:40,066 --> 00:39:44,170

628
00:39:44,170 --> 00:39:49,330
So that was--

629
00:39:49,330 --> 00:39:50,035
I don't know.

630
00:39:50,035 --> 00:39:52,150
Don't ask me when that was.

631
00:39:52,150 --> 00:40:01,090
I left in January, 1939.

632
00:40:01,090 --> 00:40:03,730
That was a dreadful,
dreadful month

633
00:40:03,730 --> 00:40:07,660
beforehand because I
had to have all kinds

634
00:40:07,660 --> 00:40:12,400
of physical

examinations, I had to go

635

00:40:12,400 --> 00:40:16,130
to the dentist three times
a week for, I don't know,

636

00:40:16,130 --> 00:40:17,820
a month, I think.

637

00:40:17,820 --> 00:40:20,470
Mother really wanted to
have everything on order

638

00:40:20,470 --> 00:40:24,100
so that there
wouldn't be anything

639

00:40:24,100 --> 00:40:28,435
that needed to be done if
she were to see me again

640

00:40:28,435 --> 00:40:31,840
or if we were all together,
or whatever that was.

641

00:40:31,840 --> 00:40:35,980
And the physical
examinations were done

642

00:40:35,980 --> 00:40:41,590
by people who were not very--

643

00:40:41,590 --> 00:40:48,400
well, they didn't like Jews, and
they were not done very gently,

644

00:40:48,400 --> 00:40:50,680
and I was a child.

645

00:40:50,680 --> 00:40:53,230
We had to go to
Hamburg from Munich

646

00:40:53,230 --> 00:40:57,830

in order to get all the papers
ready, and I was coming alone,

647

00:40:57,830 --> 00:41:03,130

mother had arranged
for me to go alone

648

00:41:03,130 --> 00:41:07,360

on an American ship,
the SS Manhattan.

649

00:41:07,360 --> 00:41:12,760

She had arranged for a
stewardess to take care of me,

650

00:41:12,760 --> 00:41:15,970

and she had arranged for
some of the consulate people

651

00:41:15,970 --> 00:41:20,470

to take me from
Hamburg to the ship

652

00:41:20,470 --> 00:41:24,410

because she was not
allowed to go there.

653

00:41:24,410 --> 00:41:28,480

So my last memories
of her was sitting

654

00:41:28,480 --> 00:41:36,545

in a car between two very
heavy men, waving to my mother,

655

00:41:36,545 --> 00:41:41,572

who was standing on the
street as we pulled away.

656

00:41:41,572 --> 00:41:42,514

It was very sad.

657

00:41:42,514 --> 00:41:46,760

658

00:41:46,760 --> 00:41:48,270

And on the boat--

659

00:41:48,270 --> 00:41:50,140

it was a very crowded
boat, of course,

660

00:41:50,140 --> 00:41:52,270

because people were leaving.

661

00:41:52,270 --> 00:42:00,250

And the stewardess spoke no
German, and I spoke no English.

662

00:42:00,250 --> 00:42:01,420

I knew a couple things.

663

00:42:01,420 --> 00:42:06,310

I knew Humpty Dumpty
sat on the wall,

664

00:42:06,310 --> 00:42:14,760

I knew no, yes, thank you, deck.

665

00:42:14,760 --> 00:42:17,080

I don't think there was
much more that I knew.

666

00:42:17,080 --> 00:42:21,070

So our communication
was practically nil.

667

00:42:21,070 --> 00:42:25,337

668

00:42:25,337 --> 00:42:26,920

However, it was a
good thing I had her

669

00:42:26,920 --> 00:42:31,270

because I was in a cabin
with another person.

670

00:42:31,270 --> 00:42:39,200

There were two-- it was a
tiered bed kind of thing,

671

00:42:39,200 --> 00:42:43,030

and the woman immediately
took the lower bed.

672

00:42:43,030 --> 00:42:47,270

And then the stewardess came in
and not only negotiated with--

673

00:42:47,270 --> 00:42:52,120

said, no, no, this
is for the child.

674

00:42:52,120 --> 00:42:54,610

Very uncomfortable
situation to be in.

675

00:42:54,610 --> 00:42:58,920

But it was helpful
in some respects

676

00:42:58,920 --> 00:43:07,230

because the trip in January,
after we left Southampton,

677

00:43:07,230 --> 00:43:08,910

became extremely--

678

00:43:08,910 --> 00:43:11,760

679

00:43:11,760 --> 00:43:13,620

we were in a storm.

680

00:43:13,620 --> 00:43:15,900

We were delayed for a whole day.

681
00:43:15,900 --> 00:43:18,180
And everybody on that
boat was seasick.

682
00:43:18,180 --> 00:43:22,272
It was unbelievable.

683
00:43:22,272 --> 00:43:24,470
So it was a good thing
to be on the bottom

684
00:43:24,470 --> 00:43:28,882
there in order to be able to do
what everyone had to do to not

685
00:43:28,882 --> 00:43:30,090
lurch around to the bathroom.

686
00:43:30,090 --> 00:43:33,540

687
00:43:33,540 --> 00:43:39,840
We landed in America,
and the stewardess

688
00:43:39,840 --> 00:43:43,060
took me from the
tourist classes, miles

689
00:43:43,060 --> 00:43:48,382
of walking through to the first
class in order for this child

690
00:43:48,382 --> 00:43:51,000
to be taken off as one
of the first people

691
00:43:51,000 --> 00:43:54,360
to get off after
first class got off.

692

00:43:54,360 --> 00:43:58,140

And my sister was there,
and that was a very happy

693

00:43:58,140 --> 00:44:01,050

getting back together with her.

694

00:44:01,050 --> 00:44:04,290

And then to go through customs.

695

00:44:04,290 --> 00:44:09,030

I had a number of trunks
with all of these clothes

696

00:44:09,030 --> 00:44:12,420

that the dress maker had made.

697

00:44:12,420 --> 00:44:18,840

And so we had to open up these
trunks, and unbeknownst to me--

698

00:44:18,840 --> 00:44:26,340

I was 10 and a half years old--

699

00:44:26,340 --> 00:44:31,770

unbeknownst to me, my mother
had padded all the little areas

700

00:44:31,770 --> 00:44:36,720

in the trunks with Kotex--

701

00:44:36,720 --> 00:44:42,450

with pads-- thinking that if I
suddenly started to menstruate,

702

00:44:42,450 --> 00:44:44,430

at least I would have something.

703

00:44:44,430 --> 00:44:47,550

Well, she never
told me any of this.

704

00:44:47,550 --> 00:44:51,840

And so here, the guy
opened up the trunk

705

00:44:51,840 --> 00:44:56,280

and saw all the menstrual
paraphernalia around,

706

00:44:56,280 --> 00:45:00,060

just closed it again
and said, go on through.

707

00:45:00,060 --> 00:45:02,340

Now, what she could have
done isn't what she did do,

708

00:45:02,340 --> 00:45:05,330

is she hid some
jewels in things.

709

00:45:05,330 --> 00:45:10,190

And I'll never stop
laughing about--

710

00:45:10,190 --> 00:45:13,800

it was a risk, but it was
also very smart of her,

711

00:45:13,800 --> 00:45:16,313

but I was embarrassed
at that, of course.

712

00:45:16,313 --> 00:45:21,990

713

00:45:21,990 --> 00:45:30,540

And I think that is maybe the
ending of my early childhood

714

00:45:30,540 --> 00:45:34,290

in Germany.

715

00:45:34,290 --> 00:45:40,890

The parents arrived
in November of 1939.

716

00:45:40,890 --> 00:45:43,890

I came in January,
they went in--

717

00:45:43,890 --> 00:45:46,710

no one expected them
to ever get here

718

00:45:46,710 --> 00:45:51,600

except little Lisl,
who didn't know much

719

00:45:51,600 --> 00:45:57,840

about not having faith in things
and being told that, obviously,

720

00:45:57,840 --> 00:46:00,870

I would see them again.

721

00:46:00,870 --> 00:46:02,180

And indeed, they came.

722

00:46:02,180 --> 00:46:06,270

And it was a very
difficult trip because they

723

00:46:06,270 --> 00:46:09,150

went through mined areas.

724

00:46:09,150 --> 00:46:10,910

They went up by
Iceland, Greenland,

725

00:46:10,910 --> 00:46:14,490

came down Nova
Scotia and so forth.

726

00:46:14,490 --> 00:46:16,210

But they made it.

727
00:46:16,210 --> 00:46:23,370
And a very emaciated
father, but alive.

728
00:46:23,370 --> 00:46:29,610
And we lived for a little
while in St. Louis,

729
00:46:29,610 --> 00:46:33,360
and then in Des Moines, and
then eventually in California.

730
00:46:33,360 --> 00:46:36,180
And what I think he tried
to do is several times,

731
00:46:36,180 --> 00:46:38,210
he tried to pass
the examinations

732
00:46:38,210 --> 00:46:42,120
for becoming a physician
in this country,

733
00:46:42,120 --> 00:46:46,560
after having practiced
for 30 years in Germany.

734
00:46:46,560 --> 00:46:51,480
And I know twice, he tried
and failed by a few marks,

735
00:46:51,480 --> 00:46:54,900
and I think he even
had been a third time.

736
00:46:54,900 --> 00:46:58,360
But I think at that point, the
medical profession was just

737
00:46:58,360 --> 00:47:06,630
guttled with refugee doctors,

and I think they just really

738

00:47:06,630 --> 00:47:08,730
closed the doors, so to speak.

739

00:47:08,730 --> 00:47:12,540
And it was an adjustment
that, I think,

740

00:47:12,540 --> 00:47:18,100
not only was incredibly
debilitating for him,

741

00:47:18,100 --> 00:47:21,180
but also very courageous
of him to continue

742

00:47:21,180 --> 00:47:25,920
to live until he was 75 or so.

743

00:47:25,920 --> 00:47:31,470
It was very difficult, I think,
for any kind of refugee man

744

00:47:31,470 --> 00:47:37,680
to come down, so to speak,
and let the wife work

745

00:47:37,680 --> 00:47:43,370
in the kind of socioeconomic
group that we were in.

746

00:47:43,370 --> 00:47:48,120
It must have been very, very
difficult for him to do that.

747

00:47:48,120 --> 00:47:51,210
Mother, who didn't even
know how to boil water--

748

00:47:51,210 --> 00:47:53,370
remember all these people
she had around her,

749
00:47:53,370 --> 00:47:55,350
who helped do things--
she did market.

750
00:47:55,350 --> 00:47:57,690
She went with a
basket out to get

751
00:47:57,690 --> 00:48:01,150
fresh bread and meat and cheeses
and things like that every day.

752
00:48:01,150 --> 00:48:06,600
But boiling water was not
something that she ever--

753
00:48:06,600 --> 00:48:08,970
it's not quite like
that, but it's really

754
00:48:08,970 --> 00:48:14,760
she had no idea at
all how to cook.

755
00:48:14,760 --> 00:48:21,030
So father took over the cooking,
and she went out and got a job.

756
00:48:21,030 --> 00:48:27,150
And there again, turning
oneself inside out

757
00:48:27,150 --> 00:48:35,370
was something that people
didn't do, and the kind of life

758
00:48:35,370 --> 00:48:38,190
that she was used to living.

759
00:48:38,190 --> 00:48:41,000
And she was a good
sales lady with the city

760
00:48:41,000 --> 00:48:42,660
of Paris for many, many years.

761
00:48:42,660 --> 00:48:47,830
She sold gloves and
was the breadwinner.

762
00:48:47,830 --> 00:49:04,000

763
00:49:04,000 --> 00:49:12,500
The whole word Holocaust
never made any sense to me,

764
00:49:12,500 --> 00:49:15,100
and I know not probably
to my sister, either.

765
00:49:15,100 --> 00:49:17,140
I don't know about
my brother at all.

766
00:49:17,140 --> 00:49:19,930
It was not a word
we were used to.

767
00:49:19,930 --> 00:49:23,920
It was a word that came
into being much later.

768
00:49:23,920 --> 00:49:30,340
And so I never identified myself
as being a Holocaust survivor.

769
00:49:30,340 --> 00:49:34,750

770
00:49:34,750 --> 00:49:38,320
It was people who had really
been in the concentration

771

00:49:38,320 --> 00:49:43,270
camps, who had suffered all
kinds of deprivation, physical

772
00:49:43,270 --> 00:49:46,180
and emotional, who
were the survivors.

773
00:49:46,180 --> 00:49:50,320
And it wasn't until
just a few years ago

774
00:49:50,320 --> 00:49:52,510
that I started thinking
about the word,

775
00:49:52,510 --> 00:49:55,900
thinking about the
meaning, and beginning

776
00:49:55,900 --> 00:50:04,120
to feel that in a sense,
I, too, was a survivor.

777
00:50:04,120 --> 00:50:06,550
And wondering why my family
never talked about it.

778
00:50:06,550 --> 00:50:10,180
Because I never asked my
parents anything about it.

779
00:50:10,180 --> 00:50:17,020
Just was a great reservation
not to cause them any more pain.

780
00:50:17,020 --> 00:50:21,280
And I'm not sure it was right.

781
00:50:21,280 --> 00:50:24,515
I'm not sure that it wouldn't
have been helpful to them

782

00:50:24,515 --> 00:50:26,640
to know that there were
people who were supportive,

783
00:50:26,640 --> 00:50:30,460
there were people
wanted to know about it.

784
00:50:30,460 --> 00:50:32,050
But the fact is, I didn't.

785
00:50:32,050 --> 00:50:37,660
And I'm not sure that any of my
brother or sister did either.

786
00:50:37,660 --> 00:50:42,560
So the memories went down
with them, and they're gone.

787
00:50:42,560 --> 00:50:49,840
And the only thing I can
do is to assume some things

788
00:50:49,840 --> 00:50:54,970
or to feel that the
memories that I have,

789
00:50:54,970 --> 00:50:58,660
whether they are
true or not true,

790
00:50:58,660 --> 00:51:01,750
are things that are part
and parcel of the fiber

791
00:51:01,750 --> 00:51:07,750
of the times, and
that in some ways,

792
00:51:07,750 --> 00:51:11,860
since truth is a relative
thing to me, that they

793

00:51:11,860 --> 00:51:16,990
the honest expressions of what
I went through and how I feel.

794
00:51:16,990 --> 00:53:54,270

795
00:53:54,270 --> 00:53:59,430
My grandson, Benjamin,
reawakened something in me.

796
00:53:59,430 --> 00:54:04,560
He had-- he's now 16, but
a couple of years ago,

797
00:54:04,560 --> 00:54:15,280
he had to write a report on--

798
00:54:15,280 --> 00:54:18,100
I'm not sure, I think
it must have been

799
00:54:18,100 --> 00:54:21,220
to interview a grandparent.

800
00:54:21,220 --> 00:54:26,980
And he had grandparents
on his mother's side,

801
00:54:26,980 --> 00:54:30,950
and then he had me, and
my husband had died.

802
00:54:30,950 --> 00:54:34,450
And so he had me on
his father's side,

803
00:54:34,450 --> 00:54:37,420
and he decided to interview me.

804
00:54:37,420 --> 00:54:40,790
And he wanted to know
about my early youth.

805
00:54:40,790 --> 00:54:44,530
And I think the reason he did
it is because there's something

806
00:54:44,530 --> 00:54:50,440
that made him feel that it was
more interesting to interview

807
00:54:50,440 --> 00:54:54,520
somebody who had come
from another country.

808
00:54:54,520 --> 00:54:59,260
And also, I think, because
he knew the word "Holocaust,"

809
00:54:59,260 --> 00:55:02,830
and he knew that his
great-grandfather

810
00:55:02,830 --> 00:55:04,510
had been in Dachau.

811
00:55:04,510 --> 00:55:13,120
And it was the first time that
I had talked to another person

812
00:55:13,120 --> 00:55:14,470
about--

813
00:55:14,470 --> 00:55:17,470
a little bit about
my life at that time.

814
00:55:17,470 --> 00:55:21,140
Otherwise, I haven't
talked to anybody about it.

815
00:55:21,140 --> 00:55:25,180
And it interests me
because the children--

816

00:55:25,180 --> 00:55:29,260

my children are close to
me, but that never came up.

817

00:55:29,260 --> 00:55:32,440

It was more interesting to
talk about other things.

818

00:55:32,440 --> 00:55:36,080

But the grandchildren--
it almost

819

00:55:36,080 --> 00:55:37,990

has to skip a
generation before they

820

00:55:37,990 --> 00:55:44,980

can have the interest
and the nerve

821

00:55:44,980 --> 00:55:48,460

to ask somebody
about something which

822

00:55:48,460 --> 00:55:50,480

might be somewhat painful.

823

00:55:50,480 --> 00:56:20,500

824

00:56:20,500 --> 00:56:32,100

I think that's the
ending as far as I

825

00:56:32,100 --> 00:56:39,375

can think of things
that would be

826

00:56:39,375 --> 00:56:44,034

still helpful in understanding
that part of my life.

827

00:56:44,034 --> 00:56:50,880

So what happened after
you moved to Kansas City?

828

00:56:50,880 --> 00:56:55,248

To St. Louis and to Des
Moines, and then to California?

829

00:56:55,248 --> 00:57:02,840

830

00:57:02,840 --> 00:57:08,250

Went to-- oh, there
is a very funny part.

831

00:57:08,250 --> 00:57:11,260

When I first came
to Des Moines, where

832

00:57:11,260 --> 00:57:17,280

I was going to live with
the family of my brother's

833

00:57:17,280 --> 00:57:23,970

in-laws, the Davidsons, I had
been there maybe a day or two,

834

00:57:23,970 --> 00:57:28,020

and my sister was still with me.

835

00:57:28,020 --> 00:57:29,760

And we started school.

836

00:57:29,760 --> 00:57:31,770

I mean, what are you
going to do with a kid?

837

00:57:31,770 --> 00:57:32,700

Start school.

838

00:57:32,700 --> 00:57:37,870

So I should have
been in fifth grade,

839
00:57:37,870 --> 00:57:40,830
but because I had
no language ability,

840
00:57:40,830 --> 00:57:45,150
they decided, OK, let's
start her in fourth grade.

841
00:57:45,150 --> 00:57:48,840
Des Moines is in the Midwest.

842
00:57:48,840 --> 00:57:53,570
Des Moines is not a cosmopolitan
city, or wasn't at that time,

843
00:57:53,570 --> 00:57:55,920
in 1939.

844
00:57:55,920 --> 00:57:57,810
They certainly had a
Jewish population there.

845
00:57:57,810 --> 00:57:59,250
That wasn't the point.

846
00:57:59,250 --> 00:58:08,100
But they were not really as
aware of things as maybe New

847
00:58:08,100 --> 00:58:11,940
York or some larger city.

848
00:58:11,940 --> 00:58:16,320
So here comes a
child from Germany--

849
00:58:16,320 --> 00:58:19,200
whoa, big news.

850
00:58:19,200 --> 00:58:24,000
I walked into that classroom

not knowing the language,

851

00:58:24,000 --> 00:58:28,050

not knowing anyone, and
sat there until recess.

852

00:58:28,050 --> 00:58:30,300

And then at recess,
everybody went out.

853

00:58:30,300 --> 00:58:33,060

So I went out.

854

00:58:33,060 --> 00:58:34,710

Somebody showed me where to go.

855

00:58:34,710 --> 00:58:37,180

Well, I open the
door to the outside,

856

00:58:37,180 --> 00:58:41,850

to the playground area,
and the whole school

857

00:58:41,850 --> 00:58:44,790

was standing there just
waiting for me to come out.

858

00:58:44,790 --> 00:58:46,790

Yeah, right.

859

00:58:46,790 --> 00:58:49,590

Your face tells it all.

860

00:58:49,590 --> 00:58:51,900

I was shocked.

861

00:58:51,900 --> 00:58:54,360

What do I do now?

862

00:58:54,360 --> 00:58:58,380

And eventually recess

was over, I guess,

863

00:58:58,380 --> 00:59:01,230
and we all trudged
back to our classes.

864

00:59:01,230 --> 00:59:08,520
But I learned afterwards that
my sister overheard the teacher

865

00:59:08,520 --> 00:59:14,520
really giving the students an
earful about how would they

866

00:59:14,520 --> 00:59:19,740
feel if somebody stared at them
and that they must be much more

867

00:59:19,740 --> 00:59:22,770
friendly towards me.

868

00:59:22,770 --> 00:59:24,060
It was not easy.

869

00:59:24,060 --> 00:59:24,960
Was not easy.

870

00:59:24,960 --> 00:59:27,330
I did learn the
language eventually.

871

00:59:27,330 --> 00:59:36,750
And it was not easy
to live in a family

872

00:59:36,750 --> 00:59:39,450
that I know nothing
about, and who

873

00:59:39,450 --> 00:59:46,650
were a conservative Jewish
family whose background was

874

00:59:46,650 --> 00:59:48,120

Russian.

875

00:59:48,120 --> 00:59:50,990

Now, mind you, German

Jews and Russian Jews,

876

00:59:50,990 --> 00:59:52,590

it wasn't the same.

877

00:59:52,590 --> 00:59:56,800

They weren't always very kind

to each other about remarks.

878

00:59:56,800 --> 00:59:59,310

And so I already had

picked up the fact

879

00:59:59,310 --> 01:00:02,220

that Russian Jews

were a little--

880

01:00:02,220 --> 01:00:03,850

not as good as German Jews.

881

01:00:03,850 --> 01:00:06,390

And here was this family

who was doing things

882

01:00:06,390 --> 01:00:08,890

that I had never seen or heard.

883

01:00:08,890 --> 01:00:14,320

The father would put the film

around and would pray every day

884

01:00:14,320 --> 01:00:17,070

and would go around

mumbling in the evening,

885

01:00:17,070 --> 01:00:18,600

in the morning, whatever it was.

886
01:00:18,600 --> 01:00:20,880
They had kosher household.

887
01:00:20,880 --> 01:00:23,220
I knew nothing of this.

888
01:00:23,220 --> 01:00:27,860
My childhood in a
reform background.

889
01:00:27,860 --> 01:00:33,510
Very non-religious, or
un-religious ceremonially.

890
01:00:33,510 --> 01:00:37,410
Yes, we had Friday
night that my father

891
01:00:37,410 --> 01:00:42,653
had the bread that he blessed
and the wine that he blessed,

892
01:00:42,653 --> 01:00:43,320
and that was it.

893
01:00:43,320 --> 01:00:46,230
And on high holy days,
we went to the synagogue.

894
01:00:46,230 --> 01:00:50,940
The men were downstairs,
the women were upstairs.

895
01:00:50,940 --> 01:00:55,210
But a kosher household,
I knew nothing.

896
01:00:55,210 --> 01:00:59,490
And so they tried to
talk Yiddish to me,

897

01:00:59,490 --> 01:01:03,510
and I didn't know Yiddish.

898
01:01:03,510 --> 01:01:08,100
So immediately, there
was this big chasm

899
01:01:08,100 --> 01:01:11,100
between the family and
me, and they had assumed

900
01:01:11,100 --> 01:01:14,610
that I was pretty uppity.

901
01:01:14,610 --> 01:01:16,290
They didn't realize
that I didn't

902
01:01:16,290 --> 01:01:18,480
know any of these things,
that I didn't grow up

903
01:01:18,480 --> 01:01:22,920
in a household that was
a conservative and close

904
01:01:22,920 --> 01:01:26,520
orthodox kind of household
that kept a kosher household.

905
01:01:26,520 --> 01:01:27,930
They knew nothing of this.

906
01:01:27,930 --> 01:01:32,390
And my brother wasn't very
helpful in that respect.

907
01:01:32,390 --> 01:01:36,890
He was young, didn't know what
he'd do with his kid sister.

908
01:01:36,890 --> 01:01:39,770
Had no idea.

909
01:01:39,770 --> 01:01:46,460
And so it was a very
uncomfortable situation for me

910
01:01:46,460 --> 01:01:47,900
to be in.

911
01:01:47,900 --> 01:01:52,790
They couldn't believe all
the clothes that I brought.

912
01:01:52,790 --> 01:01:56,660
There was just so many
cultural and social differences

913
01:01:56,660 --> 01:01:57,920
in our lives.

914
01:01:57,920 --> 01:02:00,140
And I didn't know.

915
01:02:00,140 --> 01:02:01,700
I tried, but I didn't know.

916
01:02:01,700 --> 01:02:03,770
I stepped on
everybody's toes, I'm

917
01:02:03,770 --> 01:02:06,380
sure, made all these
mistakes or whatever,

918
01:02:06,380 --> 01:02:13,820
and became resentful and
evasive and kept to myself.

919
01:02:13,820 --> 01:02:19,560
The young girl who was
a year older than I, she

920
01:02:19,560 --> 01:02:22,850

tried to be helpful, but it
just didn't work out is all.

921

01:02:22,850 --> 01:02:26,600
And it was a good thing that
in November, my parents arrived

922

01:02:26,600 --> 01:02:31,310
and I could rejoin them
and be with them again.

923

01:02:31,310 --> 01:02:34,190
And eventually, we
came out to California,

924

01:02:34,190 --> 01:02:36,560
where I finished high school.

925

01:02:36,560 --> 01:02:43,880
And we lived in Berkeley
for many, many years,

926

01:02:43,880 --> 01:02:46,360
and had family here in
Berkeley, which was good.

927

01:02:46,360 --> 01:02:48,770
My mother's brother
lived here in Berkeley,

928

01:02:48,770 --> 01:02:55,640
and then a couple of sisters
lived here and cousins.

929

01:02:55,640 --> 01:02:59,990
And so there were
some family members

930

01:02:59,990 --> 01:03:02,153
here and in San Francisco.

931

01:03:02,153 --> 01:03:10,500

932
01:03:10,500 --> 01:03:12,930
And eventually I
went off to college

933
01:03:12,930 --> 01:03:18,870
in the Midwest at Grinnell,
where I met my husband,

934
01:03:18,870 --> 01:03:27,570
and came back to California
to do graduate work at Cal,

935
01:03:27,570 --> 01:03:29,010
and he went to Stanford.

936
01:03:29,010 --> 01:03:37,080
And then our lives
just were continued

937
01:03:37,080 --> 01:03:40,710
in the teaching profession.

938
01:03:40,710 --> 01:03:43,920
He was a professor at--

939
01:03:43,920 --> 01:03:46,290
well, he taught at the
University of Michigan

940
01:03:46,290 --> 01:03:49,260
for about six, seven
years, and then came

941
01:03:49,260 --> 01:03:51,375
to San Francisco
State University,

942
01:03:51,375 --> 01:03:54,450
and was there for over 30 years.

943
01:03:54,450 --> 01:03:58,110

And I was a preschool
teacher for many years.

944
01:03:58,110 --> 01:04:04,080
That was my first degree.

945
01:04:04,080 --> 01:04:10,380
And then when the children
came, I stayed home.

946
01:04:10,380 --> 01:04:14,820
I'm lucky enough
to be a homemaker

947
01:04:14,820 --> 01:04:19,890
and volunteered in the schools
a lot and other places.

948
01:04:19,890 --> 01:04:22,560
And eventually went back
to St. Mary's College

949
01:04:22,560 --> 01:04:28,200
and got another master's
degree in confluent education

950
01:04:28,200 --> 01:04:33,240
and started to work at Planned
Parenthood as an educator--

951
01:04:33,240 --> 01:04:37,560
health educator-- and been
with them for 20 years.

952
01:04:37,560 --> 01:04:41,100
Doing programs for
young people, parents,

953
01:04:41,100 --> 01:04:44,460
in the area of
sexuality and the area

954
01:04:44,460 --> 01:04:48,030

of becoming more
comfortable, knowledgeable

955
01:04:48,030 --> 01:04:51,390
about talking about sexuality.

956
01:04:51,390 --> 01:04:56,800
And had moved finally into
the midlife, menopause area,

957
01:04:56,800 --> 01:04:59,424
and doing workshops
in that area now, too.

958
01:04:59,424 --> 01:05:03,360

959
01:05:03,360 --> 01:05:08,460
And we have two children.

960
01:05:08,460 --> 01:05:17,140
Knute-- since I married a man
from a Norwegian background,

961
01:05:17,140 --> 01:05:26,016
father's side, and
English, Welsh.

962
01:05:26,016 --> 01:05:28,230
Mother's side, Quaker side.

963
01:05:28,230 --> 01:05:31,854

964
01:05:31,854 --> 01:05:35,490
Knute was our first child.

965
01:05:35,490 --> 01:05:42,351
Joshua died in infancy, and
Lisa is our third child.

966
01:05:42,351 --> 01:05:48,350

And two grandchildren.

967

01:05:48,350 --> 01:05:54,530

Really a marvelous
closure of a life, when

968

01:05:54,530 --> 01:06:01,010

you look at it from early
infancy and young adulthood

969

01:06:01,010 --> 01:06:09,310

and middle adulthood and
going into the older years.

970

01:06:09,310 --> 01:06:17,810

When you look back and you
think of the kind of contact

971

01:06:17,810 --> 01:06:21,920

one has had with
people and the ability

972

01:06:21,920 --> 01:06:32,780

to make the relationships
and to have meaningful--

973

01:06:32,780 --> 01:06:41,630

having a meaningful life, a
life that is a growing life,

974

01:06:41,630 --> 01:06:45,630

and expanding life, a life
that just doesn't end,

975

01:06:45,630 --> 01:06:53,758

it continues, is
fulfilling, nurturing.

976

01:06:53,758 --> 01:06:59,160

977

01:06:59,160 --> 01:07:03,493

It's marvelous to think

that one has survived that.

978

01:07:03,493 --> 01:07:12,110

979

01:07:12,110 --> 01:07:15,750

I'll be happy to have you
ask any other questions

980

01:07:15,750 --> 01:07:22,850

if that's good, or if
there's time, or whatever.

981

01:07:22,850 --> 01:07:25,705

Yeah, I definitely have
some questions to ask you.

982

01:07:25,705 --> 01:07:28,560

So I wanted to go back
and ask you some questions

983

01:07:28,560 --> 01:07:31,880

from childhood that are
some questions I have.

984

01:07:31,880 --> 01:07:33,490

What?

985

01:07:33,490 --> 01:07:35,850

What was Munich--
you lived in Munich,

986

01:07:35,850 --> 01:07:37,468

or on the outskirts of Munich?

987

01:07:37,468 --> 01:07:40,660

988

01:07:40,660 --> 01:07:42,030

We didn't live in a city part.

989

01:07:42,030 --> 01:07:43,665

We lived in the
residential part.

990
01:07:43,665 --> 01:07:46,320
Outskirts, I would say.

991
01:07:46,320 --> 01:07:48,360
In Munich, though.

992
01:07:48,360 --> 01:07:50,010
What was the community like?

993
01:07:50,010 --> 01:07:52,920
What do you remember?

994
01:07:52,920 --> 01:08:01,560
I remember lots of
park-like spaces

995
01:08:01,560 --> 01:08:07,110
and wide streets and
places where streets

996
01:08:07,110 --> 01:08:09,720
would come together, like
in so many European cities,

997
01:08:09,720 --> 01:08:14,790
and there was sort of a round
area where they were statues.

998
01:08:14,790 --> 01:08:26,609
And the area I lived
in was very beautiful,

999
01:08:26,609 --> 01:08:33,870
with a river, the Isar, not
too far away, and the parks.

1000
01:08:33,870 --> 01:08:37,399
So my memory of
that time was just

1001

01:08:37,399 --> 01:08:43,590

of having lots of nice and
beautiful surroundings.

1002

01:08:43,590 --> 01:08:47,040

There were apartment buildings,
yes, and large houses,

1003

01:08:47,040 --> 01:08:51,779

but it was spacious.

1004

01:08:51,779 --> 01:08:52,810

Not at all crowded.

1005

01:08:52,810 --> 01:08:55,800

1006

01:08:55,800 --> 01:08:58,640

So was the Jewish community
dispersed throughout Munich,

1007

01:08:58,640 --> 01:09:01,640

or was it concentrated
in one area?

1008

01:09:01,640 --> 01:09:02,729

Do you remember?

1009

01:09:02,729 --> 01:09:03,810

I don't know.

1010

01:09:03,810 --> 01:09:13,470

I think it had a lot to do
with how much money you had

1011

01:09:13,470 --> 01:09:19,506

and what your profession
was, in a sense.

1012

01:09:19,506 --> 01:09:22,630

1013

01:09:22,630 --> 01:09:26,410

The friends that I seem to
remember the parents having

1014

01:09:26,410 --> 01:09:32,398

were people who were cultured
and somewhat intellectual.

1015

01:09:32,398 --> 01:09:39,420

1016

01:09:39,420 --> 01:09:41,040

But I wasn't included in that.

1017

01:09:41,040 --> 01:09:45,850

You see, children were
to be occasionally seen

1018

01:09:45,850 --> 01:09:48,580

and very little heard.

1019

01:09:48,580 --> 01:09:51,870

So it was difficult--
it's difficult for me

1020

01:09:51,870 --> 01:09:56,560

to tell you anything about
the circle of my friends.

1021

01:09:56,560 --> 01:09:59,970

I know that my mother,
every afternoon,

1022

01:09:59,970 --> 01:10:01,720

would either go
downstairs with my--

1023

01:10:01,720 --> 01:10:04,470

I was told-- where my
grandmother and grandfather

1024

01:10:04,470 --> 01:10:08,220

were living downstairs,
and be with them.

1025

01:10:08,220 --> 01:10:11,888
That was her duty as a daughter.

1026

01:10:11,888 --> 01:10:16,110
But 4 o'clock or so in the
afternoon to have coffee there.

1027

01:10:16,110 --> 01:10:25,110
When grandfather lived upstairs
with us and he had two rooms,

1028

01:10:25,110 --> 01:10:29,730
there also were certain
times that she was with him.

1029

01:10:29,730 --> 01:10:35,055
But the parties and dinners
and things like that, I--

1030

01:10:35,055 --> 01:10:38,212
out of the way.

1031

01:10:38,212 --> 01:10:40,280
So you don't know if
their friends were Jewish

1032

01:10:40,280 --> 01:10:41,467
or not, or both?

1033

01:10:41,467 --> 01:10:43,050
Oh, I think their
friends were Jewish.

1034

01:10:43,050 --> 01:10:45,030
Yes, definitely.

1035

01:10:45,030 --> 01:10:47,650
I think my father probably
had some friends who

1036

01:10:47,650 --> 01:10:52,140
were non-Jewish, through
his contact with patients.

1037

01:10:52,140 --> 01:10:56,640
But socially, I don't
think very many.

1038

01:10:56,640 --> 01:10:58,834
I think there were
some, but not very many.

1039

01:10:58,834 --> 01:11:04,160

1040

01:11:04,160 --> 01:11:06,240
What was your mother like?

1041

01:11:06,240 --> 01:11:07,780
How would you describe her?

1042

01:11:07,780 --> 01:11:11,130

1043

01:11:11,130 --> 01:11:14,130
Well, maybe I can describe
her in terms of my father.

1044

01:11:14,130 --> 01:11:18,990
My father was a very
emotional man, and a man

1045

01:11:18,990 --> 01:11:24,270
who had lots of temper tantrums,
which I inherited in my youth.

1046

01:11:24,270 --> 01:11:28,500
And my mother was very
inward and controlled.

1047

01:11:28,500 --> 01:11:31,110

1048
01:11:31,110 --> 01:11:36,450
I think, since my grandfather
built a business that

1049
01:11:36,450 --> 01:11:40,540
was very successful, financially
and otherwise, the idea

1050
01:11:40,540 --> 01:11:43,560
of his youngest daughter--

1051
01:11:43,560 --> 01:11:45,390
who was a treasure to him--

1052
01:11:45,390 --> 01:11:50,920
I think, marrying a doctor
was just ridiculous.

1053
01:11:50,920 --> 01:11:55,030
Doctors either made a lot
of money or they were poor.

1054
01:11:55,030 --> 01:11:59,010
And obviously, this man wasn't
going to make a lot of money.

1055
01:11:59,010 --> 01:12:07,590
And so it was always
interesting to me

1056
01:12:07,590 --> 01:12:12,710
to see mother in a
very controlled, very--

1057
01:12:12,710 --> 01:12:16,020

1058
01:12:16,020 --> 01:12:18,000
you don't really
show your feelings

1059

01:12:18,000 --> 01:12:20,670
or your emotions very
much, and my father

1060
01:12:20,670 --> 01:12:22,590
blowing all over the place--

1061
01:12:22,590 --> 01:12:24,450
I'm sure they needed each other.

1062
01:12:24,450 --> 01:12:29,070
He needed the control, she
needed the ability to let go.

1063
01:12:29,070 --> 01:12:35,920
And in looking
back at it, I think

1064
01:12:35,920 --> 01:12:39,810
it must have been a
very romantic meeting.

1065
01:12:39,810 --> 01:12:45,060
She was a volunteer
nurse, first World War--

1066
01:12:45,060 --> 01:12:48,600
I don't even know-- and he
was a physician at that time,

1067
01:12:48,600 --> 01:12:51,390
and they met and got married.

1068
01:12:51,390 --> 01:13:02,740
And that continued to be the
way that I saw my parents.

1069
01:13:02,740 --> 01:13:07,170
The other children might have
seen them entirely differently.

1070
01:13:07,170 --> 01:13:14,520
What happened to me is that I

never got to reconcile myself

1071

01:13:14,520 --> 01:13:19,020

as much with my father

as with my mother, mainly

1072

01:13:19,020 --> 01:13:23,700

because as a grown person

already in high school,

1073

01:13:23,700 --> 01:13:27,780

I lived away from home in

order to finish high school

1074

01:13:27,780 --> 01:13:32,630

in the place where I had

started, down in the peninsula,

1075

01:13:32,630 --> 01:13:34,770

when they moved to Berkeley.

1076

01:13:34,770 --> 01:13:37,700

So I was away during part of

my high school years already,

1077

01:13:37,700 --> 01:13:40,470

and then I went away

to college, and then

1078

01:13:40,470 --> 01:13:47,440

I got married after graduate

school, and again we went away.

1079

01:13:47,440 --> 01:13:51,780

And so I lived with the

parents sporadically

1080

01:13:51,780 --> 01:14:01,980

and got to know them at

slightly different levels.

1081

01:14:01,980 --> 01:14:06,420

But it always

seemed to me that it

1082

01:14:06,420 --> 01:14:12,960
was my father who was
emotionally able to sort of let

1083

01:14:12,960 --> 01:14:16,560
it all out, and my mother
who was very contained.

1084

01:14:16,560 --> 01:14:20,310
I think with me, it
was difficult to deal

1085

01:14:20,310 --> 01:14:25,020
with, in myself,
both of those sides.

1086

01:14:25,020 --> 01:14:29,940
And I still remember having
temper tantrums in my youth,

1087

01:14:29,940 --> 01:14:33,870
and also being very
aware of not showing

1088

01:14:33,870 --> 01:14:35,900
my feelings to other people.

1089

01:14:35,900 --> 01:14:40,320

1090

01:14:40,320 --> 01:14:43,650
How did your parents respond
to your temper tantrums?

1091

01:14:43,650 --> 01:14:44,870
I don't know.

1092

01:14:44,870 --> 01:14:49,350

1093

01:14:49,350 --> 01:14:52,400
I think my mother closed up more
and my father yelled even more.

1094
01:14:52,400 --> 01:14:56,540

1095
01:14:56,540 --> 01:14:59,070
Luckily-- luckily--

1096
01:14:59,070 --> 01:15:06,060
I did outgrow them, managed to
deal with myself and the fury

1097
01:15:06,060 --> 01:15:07,650
inside of myself.

1098
01:15:07,650 --> 01:15:12,420
And I think that was part
and parcel of the growth

1099
01:15:12,420 --> 01:15:18,600
that I had to do to
reconcile the fact that there

1100
01:15:18,600 --> 01:15:22,950
are ways of expressing
feelings without blowing.

1101
01:15:22,950 --> 01:15:26,010
And that's a really important
part of my growing up.

1102
01:15:26,010 --> 01:15:32,730

1103
01:15:32,730 --> 01:15:36,610
My mother was a
very elegant woman.

1104
01:15:36,610 --> 01:15:44,370
And I don't know what kind
of a life they had together,

1105

01:15:44,370 --> 01:15:50,370
but the impression they gave me
was that when you get married,

1106

01:15:50,370 --> 01:15:55,290
both the husband and the
wife agree on everything.

1107

01:15:55,290 --> 01:16:00,270
So when I got married,
it was a little--

1108

01:16:00,270 --> 01:16:04,400
it was a sudden shock
to me to realize

1109

01:16:04,400 --> 01:16:08,120
that perhaps my husband and
I didn't agree on everything,

1110

01:16:08,120 --> 01:16:13,160
and to learn from that, and to
learn to realize that it's OK.

1111

01:16:13,160 --> 01:16:14,660
Because I thought it wasn't OK.

1112

01:16:14,660 --> 01:16:17,360

1113

01:16:17,360 --> 01:16:21,590
So here was another real
growing part on my part,

1114

01:16:21,590 --> 01:16:25,160
to realize it's OK to disagree.

1115

01:16:25,160 --> 01:16:27,770
Because the things that
I learned in my family

1116

01:16:27,770 --> 01:16:31,550
was it not OK to
disagree, it was not OK

1117
01:16:31,550 --> 01:16:37,220
to challenge an idea, or
whatever it is, and especially

1118
01:16:37,220 --> 01:16:39,050
not authority.

1119
01:16:39,050 --> 01:16:52,250
And to finally realize
that discussion is OK,

1120
01:16:52,250 --> 01:16:54,950
and that we can still
be friends even if we

1121
01:16:54,950 --> 01:16:58,160
don't agree on every item.

1122
01:16:58,160 --> 01:17:01,730
And that a marriage
can continue even if we

1123
01:17:01,730 --> 01:17:03,350
don't agree on everything.

1124
01:17:03,350 --> 01:17:07,320
Hey, now that was a real
milestone in my life.

1125
01:17:07,320 --> 01:17:12,606
Took a long time
to understand that.

1126
01:17:12,606 --> 01:17:13,690
And important one.

1127
01:17:13,690 --> 01:17:17,355

1128

01:17:17,355 --> 01:17:20,610

What was the business
that your grandfather had?

1129

01:17:20,610 --> 01:17:21,943

Well, it was interesting.

1130

01:17:21,943 --> 01:17:24,500

1131

01:17:24,500 --> 01:17:27,410

He started out on horse
and buggy kind of stuff,

1132

01:17:27,410 --> 01:17:33,020

with cloth and needles
and things of that nature,

1133

01:17:33,020 --> 01:17:36,260

as I understand it.

1134

01:17:36,260 --> 01:17:39,620

And then after
World War I, there

1135

01:17:39,620 --> 01:17:47,195

were so many uniforms,
I guess, that--

1136

01:17:47,195 --> 01:17:50,270

this is hard for me
because I'm not sure.

1137

01:17:50,270 --> 01:17:54,380

Other people, older people than
I would remember much better.

1138

01:17:54,380 --> 01:17:58,610

My impression is that
he started a little--

1139

01:17:58,610 --> 01:18:03,530

with some sewing machines
to really make the uniforms

1140
01:18:03,530 --> 01:18:09,950
into suits and
clothes that people

1141
01:18:09,950 --> 01:18:13,880
could buy and wear now that
there wasn't a war anymore.

1142
01:18:13,880 --> 01:18:19,100
And this business grew
from that small beginning

1143
01:18:19,100 --> 01:18:25,880
into a company that dealt
not only with men's clothing,

1144
01:18:25,880 --> 01:18:28,490
but also with women's clothing.

1145
01:18:28,490 --> 01:18:35,060
And one of the things that
Isidor Bach, my grandfather,

1146
01:18:35,060 --> 01:18:43,370
did, I think, was to allow
the employees to benefit

1147
01:18:43,370 --> 01:18:48,080
from the profits, which was a
very avant garde kind of thing

1148
01:18:48,080 --> 01:18:49,790
to do in those days.

1149
01:18:49,790 --> 01:18:51,920
But what it did is it
saved that business.

1150
01:18:51,920 --> 01:18:53,990
Because when the

business had to be--

1151
01:18:53,990 --> 01:18:55,820
when the Nazis took
over the business,

1152
01:18:55,820 --> 01:19:00,200
or whatever happened
in those days--

1153
01:19:00,200 --> 01:19:04,760
his loyal employees took over.

1154
01:19:04,760 --> 01:19:09,410
And from what I
understand, they had

1155
01:19:09,410 --> 01:19:16,130
been paying some kind of-- after
the war-- some kind of benefits

1156
01:19:16,130 --> 01:19:17,750
to members of the family.

1157
01:19:17,750 --> 01:19:20,570

1158
01:19:20,570 --> 01:19:31,420
The grandfather's son, Fredl,
was in the United States

1159
01:19:31,420 --> 01:19:34,990
and lived in Berkeley.

1160
01:19:34,990 --> 01:19:37,900
And I think many of
the benefits came

1161
01:19:37,900 --> 01:19:43,400
to him and to some other
members of the family.

1162

01:19:43,400 --> 01:19:46,620

1163

01:19:46,620 --> 01:19:54,030

So he was a real entrepreneur,
a foresightful person

1164

01:19:54,030 --> 01:19:55,450

as a businessman.

1165

01:19:55,450 --> 01:20:01,320

He was given the title
of kommerzienrat,

1166

01:20:01,320 --> 01:20:09,420

which is a title that the Munich
municipality gave him because

1167

01:20:09,420 --> 01:20:12,220

of his generosity to the city.

1168

01:20:12,220 --> 01:20:16,080

What he did, don't ask
me because I don't know.

1169

01:20:16,080 --> 01:20:18,990

But obviously,
kommerzienrat was a title

1170

01:20:18,990 --> 01:20:21,810

that was given to people
who were generous enough

1171

01:20:21,810 --> 01:20:25,590

to give to the city
whatever he gave-- money.

1172

01:20:25,590 --> 01:20:31,846

1173

01:20:31,846 --> 01:20:34,140

So why did you say
it was clear to him

1174
01:20:34,140 --> 01:20:36,210
that your father would
be the kind of doctor who

1175
01:20:36,210 --> 01:20:37,410
wouldn't make any money?

1176
01:20:37,410 --> 01:20:39,600
Well, it's been that
sort of impression

1177
01:20:39,600 --> 01:20:42,660
that I've had in the
family all along.

1178
01:20:42,660 --> 01:20:45,870
And he was that kind.

1179
01:20:45,870 --> 01:20:49,770
If a patient couldn't pay,
he couldn't pay, that was it.

1180
01:20:49,770 --> 01:20:58,110
And he didn't-- he
treated them anyway.

1181
01:20:58,110 --> 01:21:03,080
And so obviously he was
not a high society doctor.

1182
01:21:03,080 --> 01:21:08,220
He was a doctor who really
felt for his patients.

1183
01:21:08,220 --> 01:21:11,600
And if they paid, they paid,
and if the couldn't pay,

1184
01:21:11,600 --> 01:21:12,750
they couldn't pay.

1185

01:21:12,750 --> 01:21:13,750
Take care of you anyway.

1186
01:21:13,750 --> 01:21:19,920

1187
01:21:19,920 --> 01:21:23,170
So was your grandfather
helping to support the family?

1188
01:21:23,170 --> 01:21:25,823
Yes, somewhat.

1189
01:21:25,823 --> 01:21:27,240
The impression I
have is he always

1190
01:21:27,240 --> 01:21:33,630
gave his daughter, my mother,
some money or whatever.

1191
01:21:33,630 --> 01:21:35,040
And he lived in the building?

1192
01:21:35,040 --> 01:21:37,050
Yes, he did.

1193
01:21:37,050 --> 01:21:38,880
That's not to say
that my father wasn't

1194
01:21:38,880 --> 01:21:40,260
able to support his family.

1195
01:21:40,260 --> 01:21:42,910
I think he did.

1196
01:21:42,910 --> 01:21:45,600
But this is, again, just
the impression that I have,

1197
01:21:45,600 --> 01:21:50,040

is that my grandfather always
gave something or other

1198
01:21:50,040 --> 01:21:51,020
to his daughter.

1199
01:21:51,020 --> 01:22:04,130

1200
01:22:04,130 --> 01:22:06,060
Did you read a lot
when you were a kid?

1201
01:22:06,060 --> 01:22:07,980
Yeah.

1202
01:22:07,980 --> 01:22:10,710
And the stories mostly
that were available to me

1203
01:22:10,710 --> 01:22:15,240
were the Grimm fairy tales.

1204
01:22:15,240 --> 01:22:17,520
Yeah, right, exactly.

1205
01:22:17,520 --> 01:22:18,690
But there were other ones.

1206
01:22:18,690 --> 01:22:22,080
I remember some that
were just charming that

1207
01:22:22,080 --> 01:22:25,210
came from Sweden and Norway.

1208
01:22:25,210 --> 01:22:29,460
Stories about children and
flying, animals, and things

1209
01:22:29,460 --> 01:22:30,120
of that nature.

1210
01:22:30,120 --> 01:22:33,660

1211
01:22:33,660 --> 01:22:36,270
Movies were very, very
rare in those times,

1212
01:22:36,270 --> 01:22:40,960
but puppet shows
were prevalent, and I

1213
01:22:40,960 --> 01:22:44,650
loved puppet shows and
marionette shows and things

1214
01:22:44,650 --> 01:22:45,275
of that nature.

1215
01:22:45,275 --> 01:22:48,520

1216
01:22:48,520 --> 01:22:50,770
Occasionally those
were available.

1217
01:22:50,770 --> 01:22:54,340
But reading was my
escape and my fantasy.

1218
01:22:54,340 --> 01:22:58,660

1219
01:22:58,660 --> 01:23:01,720
And it was interesting
coming to a new country

1220
01:23:01,720 --> 01:23:06,730
and not having that available
to me for a long time, until I

1221
01:23:06,730 --> 01:23:08,545

became fluent in the language.

1222

01:23:08,545 --> 01:23:11,080

1223

01:23:11,080 --> 01:23:14,500

So there was a time
when it was very lonely.

1224

01:23:14,500 --> 01:23:18,063

I was able to take a few
books with me, but obviously--

1225

01:23:18,063 --> 01:23:20,721

1226

01:23:20,721 --> 01:23:26,020

and as you're growing, your
idea of what you want to read

1227

01:23:26,020 --> 01:23:32,250

changes as a young person, as
an adolescent and preadolescent.

1228

01:23:32,250 --> 01:23:34,750

So I didn't have much.

1229

01:23:34,750 --> 01:23:38,560

Eventually, when I became fluent
in the language, then reading,

1230

01:23:38,560 --> 01:23:41,890

again, became a big help.

1231

01:23:41,890 --> 01:23:45,580

And then radio came in.

1232

01:23:45,580 --> 01:23:53,730

And that was a big entertainment
factor for us, radio.

1233

01:23:53,730 --> 01:23:57,670

There was no TV, of course.

1234
01:23:57,670 --> 01:24:01,210
And radio became a link
to the outside world

1235
01:24:01,210 --> 01:24:04,810
and to entertainment.

1236
01:24:04,810 --> 01:24:39,890

1237
01:24:39,890 --> 01:24:42,590
Also looking back, I think
it's interesting to see

1238
01:24:42,590 --> 01:24:51,410
who was helpful to
a child that had

1239
01:24:51,410 --> 01:24:59,680
such a hard time in allowing
herself to be herself.

1240
01:24:59,680 --> 01:25:04,328

1241
01:25:04,328 --> 01:25:08,150
I am so much more myself now
than I ever was as a child

1242
01:25:08,150 --> 01:25:10,220
or as a growing young person.

1243
01:25:10,220 --> 01:25:12,560
Because the sense
of being perfect,

1244
01:25:12,560 --> 01:25:16,040
the sense of not allowing
your feelings to show,

1245

01:25:16,040 --> 01:25:20,930
was so prevalent a message
that I got as a growing up

1246
01:25:20,930 --> 01:25:25,730
child, and also a message
that I got from the fear

1247
01:25:25,730 --> 01:25:29,270
and from being Jewish.

1248
01:25:29,270 --> 01:25:34,200
Just don't show anything,
just hide everything.

1249
01:25:34,200 --> 01:25:38,900
And I remember going to camp.

1250
01:25:38,900 --> 01:25:41,700
I had scholarships
to go to camp.

1251
01:25:41,700 --> 01:25:44,750
These were camps that were
for two months at a time

1252
01:25:44,750 --> 01:25:46,580
or one month at a time--

1253
01:25:46,580 --> 01:25:48,380
Jewish camps.

1254
01:25:48,380 --> 01:25:53,090
And my sister took
me to the first--

1255
01:25:53,090 --> 01:25:56,330
when I first arrived
in the United States,

1256
01:25:56,330 --> 01:25:59,570
she was a counselor at a
camp, and I went with her.

1257
01:25:59,570 --> 01:26:05,510
And so going to a camp
became part of a real opening

1258
01:26:05,510 --> 01:26:08,690
up for me because there were
certain camp counselors that

1259
01:26:08,690 --> 01:26:15,050
could see in this
young girl the need

1260
01:26:15,050 --> 01:26:24,230
for helping her feel self
worth, helping her to open up,

1261
01:26:24,230 --> 01:26:31,880
to enjoy life, to express her
feelings, and things of that.

1262
01:26:31,880 --> 01:26:34,890
And I still remember some
of these wonderful people

1263
01:26:34,890 --> 01:26:39,410
who helped me all along, some
of the comments that they made,

1264
01:26:39,410 --> 01:26:44,240
and some of the ways that
they communicated with me

1265
01:26:44,240 --> 01:26:50,840
as a person that they
really felt they understood.

1266
01:26:50,840 --> 01:26:53,360
And I think it's people
like that in my life

1267
01:26:53,360 --> 01:26:56,420
that have helped me

to become who I am.

1268

01:26:56,420 --> 01:26:59,840

1269

01:26:59,840 --> 01:27:03,330

The small things,
the small intimacies,

1270

01:27:03,330 --> 01:27:09,830

the small opening of one person
to another is what, I think,

1271

01:27:09,830 --> 01:27:12,020

helped me to
understand who I was

1272

01:27:12,020 --> 01:27:15,290

and to allow the me to come out.

1273

01:27:15,290 --> 01:27:18,590

And yes, certainly, I had
therapy for many years.

1274

01:27:18,590 --> 01:27:23,600

And unfortunately in
those days, psychoanalysis

1275

01:27:23,600 --> 01:27:28,040

was the only therapy that
was available besides Esalen,

1276

01:27:28,040 --> 01:27:31,700

and I couldn't deal with that.

1277

01:27:31,700 --> 01:27:36,620

And it was wonderful that
I had a psychoanalysts who

1278

01:27:36,620 --> 01:27:39,840

were also human beings.

1279

01:27:39,840 --> 01:27:47,150
And it was not necessarily--
the skill of psychoanalysis,

1280
01:27:47,150 --> 01:27:49,700
for me, really doesn't work.

1281
01:27:49,700 --> 01:27:53,540
But because of the
humanity of the analysts,

1282
01:27:53,540 --> 01:27:55,970
that's what I hooked into.

1283
01:27:55,970 --> 01:28:01,310
And so therapy, in
later years, when

1284
01:28:01,310 --> 01:28:04,370
I understood what I
could do with therapy

1285
01:28:04,370 --> 01:28:10,080
or what therapy could
help me with, I look back

1286
01:28:10,080 --> 01:28:17,330
on those first years of dealing
therapeutically with my life

1287
01:28:17,330 --> 01:28:20,900
and saying, hey, something
has to happen or else I can't

1288
01:28:20,900 --> 01:28:23,240
go on the way I am.

1289
01:28:23,240 --> 01:28:28,820
It was the humanity of
the therapists that really

1290
01:28:28,820 --> 01:28:31,460
made a difference in my life.

1291
01:28:31,460 --> 01:28:35,060
And now that I know a
lot more about therapy,

1292
01:28:35,060 --> 01:28:38,600
I know what kind of
therapy I respond to.

1293
01:28:38,600 --> 01:28:42,950
And eventually, during
my married years,

1294
01:28:42,950 --> 01:28:46,850
when I needed some more
help, counseling, therapy,

1295
01:28:46,850 --> 01:28:50,700
I could choose people that
I felt this kind of thing,

1296
01:28:50,700 --> 01:28:55,070
and who were more
able to express,

1297
01:28:55,070 --> 01:28:59,090
themselves, feelings and ideas.

1298
01:28:59,090 --> 01:29:01,620
Because when I went
into psychoanalysis,

1299
01:29:01,620 --> 01:29:04,880
nothing was spoken.

1300
01:29:04,880 --> 01:29:08,030
I would lie there
for 15 minutes.

1301
01:29:08,030 --> 01:29:10,280
And when you lie there for
15 minutes and don't speak,

1302

01:29:10,280 --> 01:29:12,230
something happens to you inside.

1303

01:29:12,230 --> 01:29:14,780
Your insight starts to speak.

1304

01:29:14,780 --> 01:29:21,960
And lots of anger, lots of
feeling of rejection, lots

1305

01:29:21,960 --> 01:29:24,930
of feeling of I'm not
being understood and why

1306

01:29:24,930 --> 01:29:26,370
is this happening.

1307

01:29:26,370 --> 01:29:30,630
And it's in the
human contact that I

1308

01:29:30,630 --> 01:29:35,360
seem to respond mostly to and
that I learned most about.

1309

01:29:35,360 --> 01:29:37,770
But still, I will--

1310

01:29:37,770 --> 01:29:40,845
I'm very grateful
to those therapists,

1311

01:29:40,845 --> 01:29:44,260
to therapists that I had
who were psychoanalysts,

1312

01:29:44,260 --> 01:29:46,850
who were human beings.

1313

01:29:46,850 --> 01:29:48,894
And that's what I hooked into.

1314

01:29:48,894 --> 01:30:00,510

1315

01:30:00,510 --> 01:30:07,030

So you went to public school
in Munich until you were--

1316

01:30:07,030 --> 01:30:07,980

do you know?

1317

01:30:07,980 --> 01:30:10,935

Let's see.

1318

01:30:10,935 --> 01:30:13,350

About Six or seven.

1319

01:30:13,350 --> 01:30:15,820

Seven, I would say.

1320

01:30:15,820 --> 01:30:20,240

And the last two years
that I was living there,

1321

01:30:20,240 --> 01:30:25,330

I went to the synagogue
for Jewish education.

1322

01:30:25,330 --> 01:30:28,060

There were periods in which
there wasn't anything,

1323

01:30:28,060 --> 01:30:31,850

until the Jewish community
got itself together.

1324

01:30:31,850 --> 01:30:43,570

And so I'm not clear on that,
but I remember definitely

1325

01:30:43,570 --> 01:30:49,660

being no longer allowed to
go to the public schools.

1326
01:30:49,660 --> 01:30:51,700
Were there other Jewish
kids in your class

1327
01:30:51,700 --> 01:30:53,600
in the public schools?

1328
01:30:53,600 --> 01:30:57,820
That's a very good question,
and I looked to death

1329
01:30:57,820 --> 01:31:02,410
at one point in my life,
and I can't remember.

1330
01:31:02,410 --> 01:31:05,380
You went to-- it's like here.

1331
01:31:05,380 --> 01:31:08,980
You went to the
school in your area.

1332
01:31:08,980 --> 01:31:12,220
And I am sure that there
were other Jewish kids there.

1333
01:31:12,220 --> 01:31:16,840
I'm not sure that I knew a
great many of them, if any.

1334
01:31:16,840 --> 01:31:21,500

1335
01:31:21,500 --> 01:31:24,040
Did you make that distinction
when you were that young,

1336
01:31:24,040 --> 01:31:26,170
between kids who were
Jewish and kids who weren't?

1337

01:31:26,170 --> 01:31:28,820

Well, the only way you
made that distinction

1338

01:31:28,820 --> 01:31:30,323

is if the parents
knew each other,

1339

01:31:30,323 --> 01:31:31,990

then we got to know
each other that way.

1340

01:31:31,990 --> 01:31:33,945

I don't think I
would have known it

1341

01:31:33,945 --> 01:31:36,520

if we had a class full of kids.

1342

01:31:36,520 --> 01:31:43,510

My impression was
that most of the kids,

1343

01:31:43,510 --> 01:31:45,550

all those kids were gentiles.

1344

01:31:45,550 --> 01:31:49,150

1345

01:31:49,150 --> 01:31:51,920

It wasn't it wasn't
that dangerous

1346

01:31:51,920 --> 01:31:56,950

a thing for the early
part of my life.

1347

01:31:56,950 --> 01:31:59,290

But it became
dangerous after a while

1348

01:31:59,290 --> 01:32:05,660

when I began to realize

that I'm really different.

1349
01:32:05,660 --> 01:32:10,900
And some weren't even
allowed to play with me.

1350
01:32:10,900 --> 01:32:15,860

1351
01:32:15,860 --> 01:32:18,175
Did you see any of
those public school kids

1352
01:32:18,175 --> 01:32:19,990
after you left public school?

1353
01:32:19,990 --> 01:32:24,410

1354
01:32:24,410 --> 01:32:24,910
No.

1355
01:32:24,910 --> 01:32:36,240

1356
01:32:36,240 --> 01:32:39,120
So you said, I think,
in public school

1357
01:32:39,120 --> 01:32:42,880
that they would sing Nazi songs?

1358
01:32:42,880 --> 01:32:48,860
Well, we certainly had to
say "heil Hitler" eventually.

1359
01:32:48,860 --> 01:32:55,040
Nazi songs, maybe not as much
as songs that were Christian.

1360
01:32:55,040 --> 01:32:57,990

1361
01:32:57,990 --> 01:33:01,140
And to be singing
Christian songs

1362
01:33:01,140 --> 01:33:09,630
was, for a Jewish child,
not allowed, really.

1363
01:33:09,630 --> 01:33:12,780
I mean, you really felt
as if you were sinning.

1364
01:33:12,780 --> 01:33:17,530

1365
01:33:17,530 --> 01:33:22,830
So in order to not
stand out as much,

1366
01:33:22,830 --> 01:33:28,110
I think I did what maybe
a lot of other kids did,

1367
01:33:28,110 --> 01:33:31,790
just mouthed it
without singing it.

1368
01:33:31,790 --> 01:33:49,330

1369
01:33:49,330 --> 01:33:52,740
I actually think
that, when I look back

1370
01:33:52,740 --> 01:34:00,540
on my very young-- before being
eight years old-- that there

1371
01:34:00,540 --> 01:34:12,480
was a lot of bubblyness in
me, as well as kind of a,

1372

01:34:12,480 --> 01:34:15,120

I'm going to do it my way.

1373

01:34:15,120 --> 01:34:17,980

Which I understand

from my sister

1374

01:34:17,980 --> 01:34:20,790

that they were

not allowed to do,

1375

01:34:20,790 --> 01:34:23,760

that they were pretty

good when they were

1376

01:34:23,760 --> 01:34:27,750

little kids, and

that, in some ways,

1377

01:34:27,750 --> 01:34:31,980

I was a much more step

worse than they were.

1378

01:34:31,980 --> 01:34:41,730

And I think in a way, it

was a good thing for me,

1379

01:34:41,730 --> 01:34:44,620

as far as my mental

health is concerned.

1380

01:34:44,620 --> 01:34:47,790

But it also got me into trouble.

1381

01:34:47,790 --> 01:34:52,860

I remember there was a

time when the family was

1382

01:34:52,860 --> 01:34:56,850

served celery soup--

1383

01:34:56,850 --> 01:34:59,130

cream of celery soup.

1384
01:34:59,130 --> 01:35:00,290
Sounds very good, right?

1385
01:35:00,290 --> 01:35:02,400
No, I'm joking.

1386
01:35:02,400 --> 01:35:03,960
And it was terrible.

1387
01:35:03,960 --> 01:35:05,850
It was awful.

1388
01:35:05,850 --> 01:35:07,570
I couldn't eat it.

1389
01:35:07,570 --> 01:35:12,370
And the other thing with
leberknoodle that were

1390
01:35:12,370 --> 01:35:17,490
made out of liver--

1391
01:35:17,490 --> 01:35:20,070
ground up liver, and
then there were little

1392
01:35:20,070 --> 01:35:22,740
lumps that were put into soup.

1393
01:35:22,740 --> 01:35:24,630
Didn't want to eat it.

1394
01:35:24,630 --> 01:35:29,040
And so I had some of those
things for lunch and for dinner

1395
01:35:29,040 --> 01:35:32,160
or for next breakfast,
and so I finished it up.

1396

01:35:32,160 --> 01:35:34,080

My brother and
sister never would

1397

01:35:34,080 --> 01:35:35,940

have had that happen to them.

1398

01:35:35,940 --> 01:35:39,619

They would have eaten it.

1399

01:35:39,619 --> 01:35:40,830

This was with your parents?

1400

01:35:40,830 --> 01:35:42,300

With my parents, yes.

1401

01:35:42,300 --> 01:35:51,630

1402

01:35:51,630 --> 01:35:55,625

So I remember you
saying about the songs

1403

01:35:55,625 --> 01:35:57,720

that you sang in school,
that some of the lyrics

1404

01:35:57,720 --> 01:36:00,700

were really distasteful.

1405

01:36:00,700 --> 01:36:02,940

Were there certain
things that you

1406

01:36:02,940 --> 01:36:04,780

had to sing that you remember?

1407

01:36:04,780 --> 01:36:08,080

Well, yes, the word
"Christ," Christus.

1408

01:36:08,080 --> 01:36:12,190
The word "Jesus," Jesus.

1409
01:36:12,190 --> 01:36:21,730
Actually, when my
transition came

1410
01:36:21,730 --> 01:36:30,020
from being a Jewish human being
to being a human being who

1411
01:36:30,020 --> 01:36:36,670
was Jewish but also could
accept other things,

1412
01:36:36,670 --> 01:36:43,630
I remember the first time
I sang a Christmas song

1413
01:36:43,630 --> 01:36:44,770
and felt OK about it.

1414
01:36:44,770 --> 01:36:48,000

1415
01:36:48,000 --> 01:36:52,000
You have to remember, I married
someone who wasn't Jewish.

1416
01:36:52,000 --> 01:37:04,000
And so the transition to
having a cultural and religious

1417
01:37:04,000 --> 01:37:12,010
background that wasn't exclusive
was a very gradual one.

1418
01:37:12,010 --> 01:37:17,570
And it had to come
emotionally before it became--

1419
01:37:17,570 --> 01:37:20,050
it became intellectual

at first, but it

1420
01:37:20,050 --> 01:37:23,740
had to really come emotionally
before I could feel,

1421
01:37:23,740 --> 01:37:27,580
yeah, this is who I
am, I can accept this,

1422
01:37:27,580 --> 01:37:29,030
I can incorporate this.

1423
01:37:29,030 --> 01:37:34,150
This is good, this I don't
want, and so forth and so on.

1424
01:37:34,150 --> 01:37:37,450
It's the maturing
process in all of us.

1425
01:37:37,450 --> 01:37:49,390
But singing songs with the
words of Christ, Jesus, Mary,

1426
01:37:49,390 --> 01:37:50,930
anything like that.

1427
01:37:50,930 --> 01:37:56,565
Or there's a certain
German word that

1428
01:37:56,565 --> 01:37:59,920
expresses the youth movement,
the Nazi youth movement,

1429
01:37:59,920 --> 01:38:01,960
too, that I had forgotten.

1430
01:38:01,960 --> 01:38:03,460
Those were some
of the songs that

1431

01:38:03,460 --> 01:38:07,300

were being incorporated
into the schools

1432

01:38:07,300 --> 01:38:11,980

and had real emotional
content for me in terms of,

1433

01:38:11,980 --> 01:38:19,240

no, no, you can't do
this, you can't sing that.

1434

01:38:19,240 --> 01:38:28,090

And as I said to you, it
became a transition that

1435

01:38:28,090 --> 01:38:31,510

started with intellect and
eventually moved down--

1436

01:38:31,510 --> 01:38:33,430

from the head, it moves down.

1437

01:38:33,430 --> 01:38:36,200

When it comes out the toes, you
really have incorporated it.

1438

01:38:36,200 --> 01:38:42,090

1439

01:38:42,090 --> 01:38:45,730

Did you have uncles
and aunts in Munich?

1440

01:38:45,730 --> 01:38:48,130

Yes.

1441

01:38:48,130 --> 01:38:50,170

I had two cousins
living there who

1442

01:38:50,170 --> 01:39:01,780

were two years younger than I,
who were not our cousins, who

1443
01:39:01,780 --> 01:39:04,750
were playmates.

1444
01:39:04,750 --> 01:39:09,130
In our very young days, we
saw a lot of each other, yes.

1445
01:39:09,130 --> 01:39:14,050
And one of them is
in the United States,

1446
01:39:14,050 --> 01:39:16,240
and we have kept
contact with each other.

1447
01:39:16,240 --> 01:39:18,220
The other one lives
in Switzerland,

1448
01:39:18,220 --> 01:39:22,300
and I have very little,
if any contact with her.

1449
01:39:22,300 --> 01:39:25,960

1450
01:39:25,960 --> 01:39:28,630
But I remember being two
years older than they

1451
01:39:28,630 --> 01:39:36,596
and feeling the weight of my
maturity when I was with them.

1452
01:39:36,596 --> 01:39:38,093
Very interesting.

1453
01:39:38,093 --> 01:39:43,106

1454

01:39:43,106 --> 01:39:50,470

And there were aunts
around also, yes.

1455

01:39:50,470 --> 01:39:54,280

Some who came to visit from
other cities at certain times

1456

01:39:54,280 --> 01:39:59,942

of the year, and one
who lived very close.

1457

01:39:59,942 --> 01:40:02,720

So there was family around, yes.

1458

01:40:02,720 --> 01:40:04,660

Were they on both sides?

1459

01:40:04,660 --> 01:40:07,240

No, only on my mother's side.

1460

01:40:07,240 --> 01:40:11,530

1461

01:40:11,530 --> 01:40:13,980

The only contact I had
from my father's side

1462

01:40:13,980 --> 01:40:20,000

was my grandmother.

1463

01:40:20,000 --> 01:40:21,880

You didn't have contact with--

1464

01:40:21,880 --> 01:40:22,380

No.

1465

01:40:22,380 --> 01:40:29,990

I don't know what happened
to that side of the family,

1466

01:40:29,990 --> 01:40:33,310
whether there weren't any.

1467
01:40:33,310 --> 01:40:39,880
My father was the second child.

1468
01:40:39,880 --> 01:40:41,410
The older brother,
I think, died.

1469
01:40:41,410 --> 01:40:45,040

1470
01:40:45,040 --> 01:40:48,190
They were living in a
different part of the country.

1471
01:40:48,190 --> 01:40:52,180
Grandmother then moved
in down to be with her.

1472
01:40:52,180 --> 01:40:53,350
And nothing more.

1473
01:40:53,350 --> 01:40:56,365
I know nothing else about
that side of the family.

1474
01:40:56,365 --> 01:41:01,590

1475
01:41:01,590 --> 01:41:03,660
Kind of overwhelming,
I think, for my father.

1476
01:41:03,660 --> 01:41:37,200

1477
01:41:37,200 --> 01:41:39,480
Did you have big
family get togethers

1478

01:41:39,480 --> 01:41:41,604
with your mother's
side of the family?

1479
01:41:41,604 --> 01:41:45,090

1480
01:41:45,090 --> 01:41:45,590
Yes.

1481
01:41:45,590 --> 01:41:54,740

1482
01:41:54,740 --> 01:41:56,870
Not in Germany that I remember.

1483
01:41:56,870 --> 01:42:00,480

1484
01:42:00,480 --> 01:42:05,190
I remember there that on
occasion, people would come,

1485
01:42:05,190 --> 01:42:06,240
but it wasn't--

1486
01:42:06,240 --> 01:42:09,300
when you say big
family get togethers,

1487
01:42:09,300 --> 01:42:11,580
I'm thinking now of
some of the things that

1488
01:42:11,580 --> 01:42:14,606
are happening now in my life,
where you pull everybody

1489
01:42:14,606 --> 01:42:17,310
in and whatnot.

1490
01:42:17,310 --> 01:42:19,290

I don't remember that
in my early years.

1491
01:42:19,290 --> 01:42:22,320
Maybe my brothers
and sisters do.

1492
01:42:22,320 --> 01:42:25,070
I do remember that after
coming to this country,

1493
01:42:25,070 --> 01:42:29,130
we had a lot more get
together, especially

1494
01:42:29,130 --> 01:42:35,030
in the Berkeley/San Francisco
area, where the people who

1495
01:42:35,030 --> 01:42:37,230
lived in this area,
we would come together

1496
01:42:37,230 --> 01:42:42,570
for certain occasions--
weddings, engagements,

1497
01:42:42,570 --> 01:42:44,970
anniversaries and that.

1498
01:42:44,970 --> 01:42:51,810
And since I'm-- my
mother was the youngest.

1499
01:42:51,810 --> 01:42:53,930
Her sister was 20 years older--

1500
01:42:53,930 --> 01:43:00,900
her oldest sister, which
already was something that

1501
01:43:00,900 --> 01:43:06,360
was looked upon with a gasp.

1502

01:43:06,360 --> 01:43:10,170

Here were these-- my grandfather
and grandmother still having

1503

01:43:10,170 --> 01:43:13,950

sex 20 years after this
oldest one was born.

1504

01:43:13,950 --> 01:43:17,220

So that was always that sort
of thing, that impression

1505

01:43:17,220 --> 01:43:19,080

that I had.

1506

01:43:19,080 --> 01:43:24,300

And then I was born to
this youngest daughter

1507

01:43:24,300 --> 01:43:28,020

12 years later from
the oldest child.

1508

01:43:28,020 --> 01:43:33,750

So the gatherings were
a lot with older people,

1509

01:43:33,750 --> 01:43:35,220

who then eventually died.

1510

01:43:35,220 --> 01:43:39,530

And there are very few of
us left as now anymore.

1511

01:43:39,530 --> 01:43:42,190

And the cousins didn't
know each other that well.

1512

01:43:42,190 --> 01:43:46,290

And then again, some of them
are living in the east coast,

1513

01:43:46,290 --> 01:43:49,830

and we don't really know
each other that well.

1514

01:43:49,830 --> 01:43:52,240

But there were gatherings,
which was very nice.

1515

01:43:52,240 --> 01:43:55,020

And I treasure
some of the photos

1516

01:43:55,020 --> 01:43:57,660

that we took at that time
and look back on them

1517

01:43:57,660 --> 01:44:00,480

and say, yeah, yes, I remember.

1518

01:44:00,480 --> 01:44:05,690

1519

01:44:05,690 --> 01:44:09,650

Were they all Jewish,
everybody in the family?

1520

01:44:09,650 --> 01:44:11,970

Goodness me.

1521

01:44:11,970 --> 01:44:13,110

Neil wasn't.

1522

01:44:13,110 --> 01:44:14,040

My husband wasn't.

1523

01:44:14,040 --> 01:44:16,710

1524

01:44:16,710 --> 01:44:19,980

One of my cousins
married a non-Jew.

1525

01:44:19,980 --> 01:44:25,980

And now the generations
are getting very mixed.

1526

01:44:25,980 --> 01:44:28,940

Wonderfully mixed.

1527

01:44:28,940 --> 01:44:31,290

Good, bad, or indifferent,
that's the way it is.

1528

01:44:31,290 --> 01:44:34,350

And the people that they're
bringing into the family

1529

01:44:34,350 --> 01:44:35,600

are just marvelous.

1530

01:44:35,600 --> 01:44:38,470

1531

01:44:38,470 --> 01:44:41,230

I think probably--

1532

01:44:41,230 --> 01:44:42,730

I don't think I
was the first one,

1533

01:44:42,730 --> 01:44:51,040

but I was certainly one of the
first ones who married someone

1534

01:44:51,040 --> 01:44:52,840

outside of the Jewish faith.

1535

01:44:52,840 --> 01:44:58,700

And my father, when I told
him about it, I said to him,

1536

01:44:58,700 --> 01:45:01,380

I don't like to date
Jewish boys, they're icky.

1537
01:45:01,380 --> 01:45:03,280
Or whatever I said at that time.

1538
01:45:03,280 --> 01:45:05,620
Which is very funny now.

1539
01:45:05,620 --> 01:45:06,730
And he said, well--

1540
01:45:06,730 --> 01:45:09,900
something to the effect
of-- if you marry a goy,

1541
01:45:09,900 --> 01:45:11,860
I'll have nothing
to do with you.

1542
01:45:11,860 --> 01:45:15,670
So I came home with this
goy, and he immediately

1543
01:45:15,670 --> 01:45:17,674
fell in love with Neil.

1544
01:45:17,674 --> 01:45:20,980
They had a great
relationship, my father and I.

1545
01:45:20,980 --> 01:45:26,560
And I give them such
credit to my family

1546
01:45:26,560 --> 01:45:30,430
for making a complete
turnabout and accepting

1547
01:45:30,430 --> 01:45:35,200
the human being in this
man rather than the fact

1548
01:45:35,200 --> 01:45:38,650

that he wasn't Jewish.

1549

01:45:38,650 --> 01:45:45,540

They were always incredibly
supportive and inclusive

1550

01:45:45,540 --> 01:45:46,854

of him.

1551

01:45:46,854 --> 01:45:49,289

It was no problem
once they met him.

1552

01:45:49,289 --> 01:45:50,806

But before that-- oh!

1553

01:45:50,806 --> 01:45:54,460

1554

01:45:54,460 --> 01:46:01,270

And of course, Neil and I had
long discussions and worries

1555

01:46:01,270 --> 01:46:03,190

about what would we
do if we had children,

1556

01:46:03,190 --> 01:46:04,930

how would that work out?

1557

01:46:04,930 --> 01:46:14,860

And since both of us were
people who had our own sense--

1558

01:46:14,860 --> 01:46:16,930

I don't want to use
the word spirituality--

1559

01:46:16,930 --> 01:46:23,950

but our sense of something
more than ourselves

1560

01:46:23,950 --> 01:46:29,220
that didn't need the trappings
of organized religion.

1561
01:46:29,220 --> 01:46:31,970

1562
01:46:31,970 --> 01:46:34,150
The children grew
up willy-nilly,

1563
01:46:34,150 --> 01:46:38,560
and they got a
lot of information

1564
01:46:38,560 --> 01:46:45,790
because Neil was an expert on
Beowulf and Chaucer and Middle

1565
01:46:45,790 --> 01:46:51,140
English, so that religion came
into the literature there.

1566
01:46:51,140 --> 01:46:58,600
And he also grew
up in a family that

1567
01:46:58,600 --> 01:47:02,080
did a lot in terms of
understanding the Bible.

1568
01:47:02,080 --> 01:47:04,780
And so he could talk
about these things

1569
01:47:04,780 --> 01:47:08,680
and encourage the children
to look up things.

1570
01:47:08,680 --> 01:47:11,300

1571
01:47:11,300 --> 01:47:17,120

And we always celebrated
Hanukkah and Pesach,

1572
01:47:17,120 --> 01:47:22,660
and they were given
the opportunity

1573
01:47:22,660 --> 01:47:27,310
to go to any kind of religious
youth groups if they wanted to.

1574
01:47:27,310 --> 01:47:29,900
And our son did.

1575
01:47:29,900 --> 01:47:33,370
And our daughter, the
little one, didn't like it.

1576
01:47:33,370 --> 01:47:39,220
So it was a mixture of
openness, but not giving them

1577
01:47:39,220 --> 01:47:42,070
any religious education.

1578
01:47:42,070 --> 01:47:48,760
And I think that
my son definitely

1579
01:47:48,760 --> 01:47:56,230
found in religion,
his own religion has

1580
01:47:56,230 --> 01:47:57,910
something that he needed.

1581
01:47:57,910 --> 01:48:01,280
And I think my daughter is
finding it in another way,

1582
01:48:01,280 --> 01:48:04,360
and she will find it also.

1583

01:48:04,360 --> 01:48:08,590

But the tradition of Jewishness
is absolutely in them.

1584

01:48:08,590 --> 01:48:11,710

1585

01:48:11,710 --> 01:48:12,920

It's not a denial at all.

1586

01:48:12,920 --> 01:48:16,120

It's part of them.

1587

01:48:16,120 --> 01:48:20,290

But it's not necessarily
a religious hooking into,

1588

01:48:20,290 --> 01:48:24,829

it's more of a cultural and
family kind of hooking into.

1589

01:48:24,829 --> 01:48:36,250

1590

01:48:36,250 --> 01:48:39,920

What do you remember
about the Nuremberg Laws--

1591

01:48:39,920 --> 01:48:40,950

Absolutely nothing.

1592

01:48:40,950 --> 01:48:42,740

--in terms of how
your life changed?

1593

01:48:42,740 --> 01:48:45,415

No?

1594

01:48:45,415 --> 01:48:47,489

What restrictions
were there for Jews,

1595

01:48:47,489 --> 01:48:52,368

do you remember any
that affected you?

1596

01:48:52,368 --> 01:48:52,868

No.

1597

01:48:52,868 --> 01:48:58,190

1598

01:48:58,190 --> 01:49:04,640

I think there were years
that I absolutely didn't

1599

01:49:04,640 --> 01:49:06,830

think about my early years.

1600

01:49:06,830 --> 01:49:19,080

And I don't know what I did,
but I was busy with life

1601

01:49:19,080 --> 01:49:23,880

now and did not want
to be pulled back.

1602

01:49:23,880 --> 01:49:25,500

I think it was denial.

1603

01:49:25,500 --> 01:49:29,200

That's what we call it
now, now that words are--

1604

01:49:29,200 --> 01:49:32,610

what it really meant
is that the energy

1605

01:49:32,610 --> 01:49:43,650

that I had now to live my life
in a way that was nourishing

1606

01:49:43,650 --> 01:49:46,050

did not--

1607
01:49:46,050 --> 01:49:48,810
I didn't want to
go back, to have

1608
01:49:48,810 --> 01:49:51,190
that painful time reopened.

1609
01:49:51,190 --> 01:49:55,255
So I simply just let
other people do it

1610
01:49:55,255 --> 01:49:58,530
and didn't think about it.

1611
01:49:58,530 --> 01:50:01,920
Do you know when you
first heard of Hitler?

1612
01:50:01,920 --> 01:50:04,430
Oh, yes.

1613
01:50:04,430 --> 01:50:05,540
Very, very early.

1614
01:50:05,540 --> 01:50:12,150

1615
01:50:12,150 --> 01:50:15,150
He came into power in 1933.

1616
01:50:15,150 --> 01:50:19,740
He already was making all
kinds of speeches before that.

1617
01:50:19,740 --> 01:50:26,850
But remember, I was born in
'28, and '33 I was, what, five?

1618
01:50:26,850 --> 01:50:33,690
But the word Hitler I knew
from a very early time.

1619
01:50:33,690 --> 01:50:35,700
And at first, it
didn't mean anything.

1620
01:50:35,700 --> 01:50:39,879
He was a man who spoke, did
a lot of speaking, speeches.

1621
01:50:39,879 --> 01:50:45,750

1622
01:50:45,750 --> 01:50:53,520
My father was quite
politically alert and active.

1623
01:50:53,520 --> 01:50:54,420
Mother was not.

1624
01:50:54,420 --> 01:50:58,320

1625
01:50:58,320 --> 01:51:01,410
And I never have been
in that sense either.

1626
01:51:01,410 --> 01:51:03,270
I think my father--

1627
01:51:03,270 --> 01:51:05,700
and I talked to some
of my Jewish friends

1628
01:51:05,700 --> 01:51:10,140
now who grew up in very
politically alert and active

1629
01:51:10,140 --> 01:51:14,250
families and involved in
discussions and this, that--

1630
01:51:14,250 --> 01:51:19,710

nothing like that in my
family that I was involved in.

1631
01:51:19,710 --> 01:51:22,230
Father was a Zionist.

1632
01:51:22,230 --> 01:51:25,680
Wanted to go to Israel,
but mother didn't want to.

1633
01:51:25,680 --> 01:51:28,945

1634
01:51:28,945 --> 01:51:31,795
He was one of the early
Zionists, the Herzl Zionists.

1635
01:51:31,795 --> 01:51:40,770

1636
01:51:40,770 --> 01:51:42,900
And actually, the
knock on the door

1637
01:51:42,900 --> 01:51:45,240
came many years
earlier, too, when

1638
01:51:45,240 --> 01:51:47,820
he was involved in some
political activities

1639
01:51:47,820 --> 01:51:51,300
as a socialist, so speak,
and they came after him.

1640
01:51:51,300 --> 01:51:54,680
And the story goes that they
knocked on the front door

1641
01:51:54,680 --> 01:52:00,010
and mother had told him to
go out the back, so to speak.

1642
01:52:00,010 --> 01:52:05,340
So he was actually someone who
was, politically, quite active.

1643
01:52:05,340 --> 01:52:15,470

1644
01:52:15,470 --> 01:52:17,750
But I don't know
very much about that.

1645
01:52:17,750 --> 01:52:23,750

1646
01:52:23,750 --> 01:52:27,950
So you said you knew the word
Hitler from a very young age.

1647
01:52:27,950 --> 01:52:29,320
What did you know about him?

1648
01:52:29,320 --> 01:52:32,570
Just that he was a man who
made a lot of speeches.

1649
01:52:32,570 --> 01:52:35,600
That was the
earliest impression.

1650
01:52:35,600 --> 01:52:41,508
Then when did you start to know
that he was a big antisemite

1651
01:52:41,508 --> 01:52:42,990
and was a danger?

1652
01:52:42,990 --> 01:52:57,080
Well, it was a gradual
feeling that, I think,

1653
01:52:57,080 --> 01:53:03,590

in our family came to
be a feeling of danger

1654
01:53:03,590 --> 01:53:06,620
this man was dangerous.

1655
01:53:06,620 --> 01:53:14,540
And eventually a real feeling
of oppression and need

1656
01:53:14,540 --> 01:53:19,610
to do something about this.

1657
01:53:19,610 --> 01:53:22,700
From what I understand,
some of the family

1658
01:53:22,700 --> 01:53:26,540
that was outside
of Germany would

1659
01:53:26,540 --> 01:53:35,150
send kind of coded messages
to mother, which in a sense

1660
01:53:35,150 --> 01:53:37,700
would let her know that
it was getting very, very

1661
01:53:37,700 --> 01:53:41,670
dangerous to stay there.

1662
01:53:41,670 --> 01:53:46,730
And so I think
that motivated her

1663
01:53:46,730 --> 01:53:49,725
to get going on trying to get
the family out of Germany.

1664
01:53:49,725 --> 01:53:52,720

1665

01:53:52,720 --> 01:54:01,060

But by the time I was in
second or third grade, already

1666

01:54:01,060 --> 01:54:08,620

I knew that being
Jewish was something

1667

01:54:08,620 --> 01:54:13,600

that had to do with Hitler
and had to do with oppression

1668

01:54:13,600 --> 01:54:19,480

and had to do with my making
sure that I would just

1669

01:54:19,480 --> 01:54:21,960

fit in and not make waves.

1670

01:54:21,960 --> 01:54:26,172

1671

01:54:26,172 --> 01:54:29,310

So it was a very early
age that that began.

1672

01:54:29,310 --> 01:54:32,320

1673

01:54:32,320 --> 01:54:34,475

Did you ever hear him speak?

1674

01:54:34,475 --> 01:54:34,975

Yes.

1675

01:54:34,975 --> 01:54:38,860

1676

01:54:38,860 --> 01:54:42,270

Mussolini, too.

1677

01:54:42,270 --> 01:54:45,880
I happened to be caught in
one of those street closures,

1678
01:54:45,880 --> 01:54:48,250
then there was a big
parade coming through

1679
01:54:48,250 --> 01:54:50,230
and I couldn't get back.

1680
01:54:50,230 --> 01:54:55,120
And I remember being a little
child, and there were--

1681
01:54:55,120 --> 01:55:03,100
the SS was like this along the
entire street on both sides

1682
01:55:03,100 --> 01:55:04,420
so you couldn't go across.

1683
01:55:04,420 --> 01:55:08,140
And people were coming up to
hear and to see and to listen.

1684
01:55:08,140 --> 01:55:11,150
And I was a little kid
looking between legs

1685
01:55:11,150 --> 01:55:16,060
up at these two men who
were on the back of a car

1686
01:55:16,060 --> 01:55:18,700
where they spoke, shouting.

1687
01:55:18,700 --> 01:55:20,710
They didn't speak, they shouted.

1688
01:55:20,710 --> 01:55:28,800
And I didn't understand
what they were saying.

1689
01:55:28,800 --> 01:55:31,860
It wasn't something
that I understood,

1690
01:55:31,860 --> 01:55:37,470
but I understood very well
that they were very dangerous.

1691
01:55:37,470 --> 01:55:40,350
But you asked did
I ever hear them.

1692
01:55:40,350 --> 01:55:40,970
That was it.

1693
01:55:40,970 --> 01:55:45,620

1694
01:55:45,620 --> 01:55:47,690
So what did you feel,
being caught there?

1695
01:55:47,690 --> 01:55:49,878
Oh, it was terribly scary.

1696
01:55:49,878 --> 01:55:52,860

1697
01:55:52,860 --> 01:55:58,840
And from a life of
constantly feeling in danger

1698
01:55:58,840 --> 01:56:10,350
and constantly feeling
afraid, I had nightmares

1699
01:56:10,350 --> 01:56:14,550
all during my early childhood
and way into my adult.

1700
01:56:14,550 --> 01:56:19,200

And that's another thing,
that one morning I woke up

1701
01:56:19,200 --> 01:56:21,370
and I said, hey, I
didn't have a nightmare.

1702
01:56:21,370 --> 01:56:25,680
So the resolution of all
of this was very psychic.

1703
01:56:25,680 --> 01:56:30,420
It was very much part
and parcel of my fiber

1704
01:56:30,420 --> 01:56:35,940
that it was dangerous
and fearful.

1705
01:56:35,940 --> 01:56:41,370
I lived a dangerous and fearful
life for a long, long time.

1706
01:56:41,370 --> 01:56:44,310
And what it does is
it stunts everything.

1707
01:56:44,310 --> 01:56:47,510
It stunts your
creativity, your ability

1708
01:56:47,510 --> 01:56:52,680
to be an emotional
human being, to have

1709
01:56:52,680 --> 01:56:59,130
joyful happenings in your life,
to make strong relationships.

1710
01:56:59,130 --> 01:57:02,000
It really just deadens
everything within you.

1711

01:57:02,000 --> 01:57:08,210

1712

01:57:08,210 --> 01:57:11,416

And I feel very fortunate
that I'm beyond that.

1713

01:57:11,416 --> 01:57:12,531

Very fortunate.

1714

01:57:12,531 --> 01:57:17,450

1715

01:57:17,450 --> 01:57:24,860

But it also makes me a much more
understanding and compassionate

1716

01:57:24,860 --> 01:57:28,670

person with other kids.

1717

01:57:28,670 --> 01:57:32,360

When I was a nursery school
teacher during the war,

1718

01:57:32,360 --> 01:57:38,150

I went to Albany to
be in a care center

1719

01:57:38,150 --> 01:57:41,570

for women who were working
with the war effort.

1720

01:57:41,570 --> 01:57:45,980

And we had a lot
of kids who were

1721

01:57:45,980 --> 01:57:48,320

of different
backgrounds and colors

1722

01:57:48,320 --> 01:57:50,780

and socioeconomic status.

1723

01:57:50,780 --> 01:57:55,230

And I couldn't relate to them.

1724

01:57:55,230 --> 01:57:59,670

I didn't speak their language,
getting back to language again.

1725

01:57:59,670 --> 01:58:08,690

And I realized that
I needed to find

1726

01:58:08,690 --> 01:58:14,600

young kids who had similar
backgrounds and experience

1727

01:58:14,600 --> 01:58:20,450

because those I understood,
and those I could help with.

1728

01:58:20,450 --> 01:58:26,400

And it was a very important
understanding on my part.

1729

01:58:26,400 --> 01:58:29,060

Not to say that I could
go to inner city kids

1730

01:58:29,060 --> 01:58:35,060

and be a helping,
supportive person.

1731

01:58:35,060 --> 01:58:37,580

My background isn't
from inner city kids.

1732

01:58:37,580 --> 01:58:40,250

And the ones who can
really help those kids

1733

01:58:40,250 --> 01:58:47,480

need to have grown up and
transformed themselves

1734

01:58:47,480 --> 01:58:49,430

from inner city
kids and gone back.

1735

01:58:49,430 --> 01:58:54,260

I can do that with kids
who are more culturally

1736

01:58:54,260 --> 01:58:57,590

advantaged because I know
some of that deprivation they

1737

01:58:57,590 --> 01:59:02,060

have had in their family
lives and otherwise.

1738

01:59:02,060 --> 01:59:08,210

So knowing some of this makes
me much more aware of where I

1739

01:59:08,210 --> 01:59:10,370

can fit in and be most helpful.

1740

01:59:10,370 --> 01:59:14,610

Because my life's work
is with other people.

1741

01:59:14,610 --> 01:59:17,120

1742

01:59:17,120 --> 01:59:19,400

That's part and
parcel of who I am

1743

01:59:19,400 --> 01:59:22,250

in dealing with other people.

1744

01:59:22,250 --> 01:59:27,620

And I find that I can
really do the best

1745

01:59:27,620 --> 01:59:30,650

if I have had some
of the background

1746
01:59:30,650 --> 01:59:34,830
that they are experiencing,
but have gone beyond that.

1747
01:59:34,830 --> 01:59:45,410

1748
01:59:45,410 --> 01:59:49,790
I think it's been a
long time, hasn't it?

1749
01:59:49,790 --> 01:59:51,890
Yeah, I was wondering
about how many minutes

1750
01:59:51,890 --> 01:59:53,580
we have left on the tape.

1751
01:59:53,580 --> 01:59:55,450
Oh.

1752
01:59:55,450 --> 01:59:55,950
Maurice?

1753
01:59:55,950 --> 02:00:14,080

1754
02:00:14,080 --> 02:00:17,660
Do you remember the first
time you saw a brown shirt?

1755
02:00:17,660 --> 02:00:19,940
Oh yeah.

1756
02:00:19,940 --> 02:00:21,860
Maybe not the first
time, but certainly--

1757
02:00:21,860 --> 02:00:25,340

1758
02:00:25,340 --> 02:00:29,930
the whole idea of seeing
black and brown shirts

1759
02:00:29,930 --> 02:00:33,800
on people and swastikas
transferred itself

1760
02:00:33,800 --> 02:00:39,290
to any kind of
policing organization,

1761
02:00:39,290 --> 02:00:43,370
any kind of organization
that wore uniforms.

1762
02:00:43,370 --> 02:00:45,710
For a long time in
America, I didn't trust

1763
02:00:45,710 --> 02:00:50,510
or didn't want to be anyplace
where they were policemen.

1764
02:00:50,510 --> 02:00:53,970
That sort of thing has a
transference part of it.

1765
02:00:53,970 --> 02:00:56,690
I didn't trust the
fact that policemen

1766
02:00:56,690 --> 02:00:58,610
could be helpful to kids--

1767
02:00:58,610 --> 02:01:01,490
asking a policeman for
directions, or whatever it is.

1768
02:01:01,490 --> 02:01:03,050
No way.

1769
02:01:03,050 --> 02:01:06,710
So brown shirts, boots--

1770
02:01:06,710 --> 02:01:09,080
brown and black shirts--
and then the swastika.

1771
02:01:09,080 --> 02:01:12,000
And a certain way of walking--

1772
02:01:12,000 --> 02:01:16,520
a kind of marching
kind of walk--

1773
02:01:16,520 --> 02:01:21,160
was incredibly-- it really
raised a lot of fear.

1774
02:01:21,160 --> 02:01:25,230

1775
02:01:25,230 --> 02:01:27,256
We were wondering about that.

1776
02:01:27,256 --> 02:01:28,265
Yes, it's time.

1777
02:01:28,265 --> 02:01:31,220
It's about time.

1778
02:01:31,220 --> 02:01:32,420
Shall we take a break?

1779
02:01:32,420 --> 02:01:33,970
Yeah.

1780
02:01:33,970 --> 02:03:34,000