1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:16,100

2 00:01:16,100 --> 00:01:19,310 I'm Sandra Van Dion, I'm here with Al Batsdorf,

3 00:01:19,310 --> 00:01:21,780 doing part 2 of your interview, Al.

4 00:01:21,780 --> 00:01:25,640 Yes today is the 12th of May 1994,

5 00:01:25,640 --> 00:01:29,450 and this interview is being done for the Holocaust Oral History

6 00:01:29,450 --> 00:01:30,560 Project.

7 00:01:30,560 --> 00:01:33,710 John Grant is our producer.

8 00:01:33,710 --> 00:01:37,040 We very abruptly left off last time,

9 00:01:37,040 --> 00:01:39,590 with me asking you whether your parents had

10 00:01:39,590 --> 00:01:42,830 made any social connections in New York.

11 00:01:42,830 --> 00:01:45,390 And you didn't have the opportunity to answer. 00:01:45,390 --> 00:01:48,560 So would you give me it now, please?

13 00:01:48,560 --> 00:01:54,350 Well, of course, as I mentioned before,

14 00:01:54,350 --> 00:01:58,220 I did not live at my parents' house.

15 00:01:58,220 --> 00:02:07,880 Actually ever since my abrupt departure Crystal

16 00:02:07,880 --> 00:02:15,050 Night when I really never lived at my parents' house anymore.

17 00:02:15,050 --> 00:02:21,200 But I left my parental house when I was 16

18 00:02:21,200 --> 00:02:27,830 and it was, in retrospect, obviously,

19 00:02:27,830 --> 00:02:33,170 a very significant thing, because we

20 00:02:33,170 --> 00:02:36,260 were able to keep ourselves out of trouble

21 00:02:36,260 --> 00:02:38,750 and make a success of our.

22 00:02:38,750 --> 00:02:44,330 Lives and nowadays, when, you know, anyway, 00:02:44,330 --> 00:02:47,660 when our kids were 16, I was very concerned,

24 00:02:47,660 --> 00:02:48,950 very protective.

25 00:02:48,950 --> 00:02:53,340 And only once in a while I had to stop myself and say,

26 00:02:53,340 --> 00:02:54,590 well you've got to trust them.

27 00:02:54,590 --> 00:02:58,850 Because when you were 16, you were no longer under

28 00:02:58,850 --> 00:03:00,920 the supervision of your parents ,

29 00:03:00,920 --> 00:03:05,990 and you were able to keep your nose clean, so.

30 00:03:05,990 --> 00:03:06,920 Anyway.

31 00:03:06,920 --> 00:03:11,120 So I I'm really not answering your question,

32 00:03:11,120 --> 00:03:13,580 yet but I'll come right back to it.

33 00:03:13,580 --> 00:03:17,300 I just wanted to say that my brother, of course,

34 00:03:17,300 --> 00:03:24,540 who is 6 and 1/2 years younger, and lived at my parents' house,

35 00:03:24,540 --> 00:03:27,920 and in their orbit, for a lot longer,

36 00:03:27,920 --> 00:03:35,330 is much more familiar with the ins and outs of my parents

37 00:03:35,330 --> 00:03:36,200 existence.

38 00:03:36,200 --> 00:03:40,760 Now, as far as the social contact

39 00:03:40,760 --> 00:03:43,590 are concerned, as far as I recall.

40 00:03:43,590 --> 00:03:46,350

41 00:03:46,350 --> 00:03:50,840 Of course, we did have quite a bit of family in New York.

42 00:03:50,840 --> 00:03:56,840 People who came out of Europe and preceded us.

43 00:03:56,840 --> 00:04:03,860 So, that was a very warm and supportive environment.

44 00:04:03,860 --> 00:04:11,240 Then, expanding the circle now, there

45 00:04:11,240 --> 00:04:14,990 were former compatriots of theirs. 46 00:04:14,990 --> 00:04:20,510 And other people who also came from the same town, same area

47 00:04:20,510 --> 00:04:22,820 in Germany.

48 00:04:22,820 --> 00:04:31,910 Actually, there was a society of immigrants from Breslau,

49 00:04:31,910 --> 00:04:33,230 in New York.

50 00:04:33,230 --> 00:04:36,710 Actually, my father-in-law was president, I think,

51 00:04:36,710 --> 00:04:39,080 of that society for a while.

52 00:04:39,080 --> 00:04:41,750 Well anyway they had their gatherings,

53 00:04:41,750 --> 00:04:45,050 I suppose it was once a month or something.

54 00:04:45,050 --> 00:04:50,270 And so we, first of all, we had the family.

55 00:04:50,270 --> 00:04:54,710 And then we had friends and compatriots.

56 00:04:54,710 --> 00:05:00,590 And I think about, first of all, on account of the language 00:05:00,590 --> 00:05:04,670 barrier and because there really was

58 00:05:04,670 --> 00:05:09,920 no opportunity for social contact outside of that orbit.

59 00:05:09,920 --> 00:05:13,010

60 00:05:13,010 --> 00:05:21,290 Or most of their social life kind of revolved in that area.

61 00:05:21,290 --> 00:05:28,250 Afterwards, when my father became professionally active

62 00:05:28,250 --> 00:05:35,360 again, I suppose he met colleagues and other people.

63 00:05:35,360 --> 00:05:48,600 But I don't really recall that their social circle extended

64 00:05:48,600 --> 00:05:56,990 beyond the day the family and the immigrant society.

65 00:05:56,990 --> 00:06:00,060 There may have been some exceptions,

66 00:06:00,060 --> 00:06:02,430 but I don't recall offhand.

67 00:06:02,430 --> 00:06:05,850 Now of course, then after my brother went to college,

68 00:06:05,850 --> 00:06:07,800 he brought some of his friends home.

69 00:06:07,800 --> 00:06:14,410 But that is not necessarily my parents' social circle.

70 00:06:14,410 --> 00:06:17,320 Before discussing your parents adjustment

71 00:06:17,320 --> 00:06:21,850 in the United States, what we were about, in the year 1944.

72 00:06:21,850 --> 00:06:23,780 And that was the year you married.

73 00:06:23,780 --> 00:06:24,280 Yeah.

74 00:06:24,280 --> 00:06:29,260

75 00:06:29,260 --> 00:06:32,560 How did your life proceed after your marriage?

76 00:06:32,560 --> 00:06:37,570 Well, you see at the time, we got married-- well

77 00:06:37,570 --> 00:06:40,930 we got engaged a couple of years earlier.

78 00:06:40,930 --> 00:06:47,230 And we really had scheduled our wedding

79 00:06:47,230 --> 00:06:52,300 for June of '44, thereabouts, because Sue

80 00:06:52,300 --> 00:06:57,100 was going to graduate school at Pratt Institute.

81 00:06:57,100 --> 00:07:01,270 And she was going to graduate in June.

82 00:07:01,270 --> 00:07:06,040 And so that was would be a logical time to get married.

83 00:07:06,040 --> 00:07:10,340 But I was working in New Jersey.

84 00:07:10,340 --> 00:07:12,370 As a tool and die maker.

85 00:07:12,370 --> 00:07:16,600 And I had military deferments because that's

86 00:07:16,600 --> 00:07:19,210 the type of work I was doing.

87 00:07:19,210 --> 00:07:23,020 We were supplying surgical instruments

88 00:07:23,020 --> 00:07:24,750 to the armed forces.

89 00:07:24,750 --> 00:07:31,780 So it was considered a critical industry.

90 00:07:31,780 --> 00:07:36,910 Well, we didn't feel that we wanted 00:07:36,910 --> 00:07:38,910 to continue this sort of thing.

92 00:07:38,910 --> 00:07:46,750 So we did not apply for any more deferments.

93 00:07:46,750 --> 00:07:50,290 I don't know, exactly, when that was, and for how long,

94 00:07:50,290 --> 00:07:55,150 what the time period, you know, the effective time

95 00:07:55,150 --> 00:07:59,950 period for deferment was, but I know that every six months,

96 00:07:59,950 --> 00:08:03,640 or whatever, you applied for one then you got it.

97 00:08:03,640 --> 00:08:05,690 Well, we didn't apply for another one.

98 00:08:05,690 --> 00:08:09,040 So we knew that time was going to run short.

99 00:08:09,040 --> 00:08:17,380 And actually, and that too, I don't know exactly the time

100 00:08:17,380 --> 00:08:22,540 sequence, but we must have gotten some communication

101 00:08:22,540 --> 00:08:27,100 from the Selective Service Bureau 00:08:27,100 --> 00:08:31,820 that things were moving forward.

103

00:08:31,820 --> 00:08:35,590 So we felt that we

just didn't want

104

00:08:35,590 --> 00:08:41,950

to wait until June,

because Uncle Sam may not

105

00:08:41,950 --> 00:08:43,909

have waited till June.

106

00:08:43,909 --> 00:08:45,640

So we got married in March.

107

00:08:45,640 --> 00:08:49,420

So that way we kind

of changed the date.

108

00:08:49,420 --> 00:08:53,710

And as it was, we got

married March 12th

109

 $00:08:53,710 \longrightarrow 00:08:55,720$ 

and we had five weeks together.

110

00:08:55,720 --> 00:09:00,640

April 17 I was

inducted in the Navy.

111

00:09:00,640 --> 00:09:05,470

So how did we spend

our married life?

112

 $00:09:05,470 \longrightarrow 00:09:09,310$ 

Well we knew, of course, that there

113

 $00:09:09,310 \longrightarrow 00:09:14,840$ 

was no sense in setting up

a house hold of our own.

114 00:09:14,840 --> 00:09:18,890 So that would move back in with her parents.

115 00:09:18,890 --> 00:09:26,980 And so we rented a very small furnished apartment,

116 00:09:26,980 --> 00:09:28,690 in Brooklyn Heights.

117 00:09:28,690 --> 00:09:33,190 And that's where we spent our honeymoon, right?

118 00:09:33,190 --> 00:09:36,730 The first five weeks of our married life .

119 00:09:36,730 --> 00:09:41,770 And then I moved in with Uncle Sam,

120 00:09:41,770 --> 00:09:43,780 and she moved in with her parents.

121 00:09:43,780 --> 00:09:47,260 We you still working in New Jersey?

122 00:09:47,260 --> 00:09:47,780 Yes.

123 00:09:47,780 --> 00:09:48,280 Yes.

124 00:09:48,280 --> 00:09:48,790 Yes.

125 00:09:48,790 --> 00:09:55,240 Because I was-- well, I worked in New Jersey

126 00:09:55,240 --> 00:09:59,230 ever since 1940, for the same firm.

127 00:09:59,230 --> 00:10:02,230 And I first served my apprenticeship,

128 00:10:02,230 --> 00:10:04,210 I guess we went through that as a tool

129 00:10:04,210 --> 00:10:08,950 and die maker, and then worked as a journeyman.

130 00:10:08,950 --> 00:10:12,280 The first year, I had a furnished room

131 00:10:12,280 --> 00:10:15,580 in the same area where my parents lived.

132 00:10:15,580 --> 00:10:19,150 And that was just impossible to carry through,

133 00:10:19,150 --> 00:10:21,460 so I moved over to New Jersey.

134 00:10:21,460 --> 00:10:23,620 And I had a furnished room there.

135 00:10:23,620 --> 00:10:30,290 And, you know, work with honor was a tremendous shortage.

136 00:10:30,290 --> 00:10:33,840 So we were up to 70 hours a week.

137

00:10:33,840 --> 00:10:37,120 So if you had to add commuting time to that

138

00:10:37,120 --> 00:10:38,860 was pretty impossible.

139

00:10:38,860 --> 00:10:42,910 So I just did it, came back on Sunday.

140

00:10:42,910 --> 00:10:49,150 Now, but then, after I got married, I gave up.

141

00:10:49,150 --> 00:10:50,620 When, before we got married.

142

00:10:50,620 --> 00:10:54,280 I gave up the furnished room in New Jersey.

143

00:10:54,280 --> 00:10:57,670 And yes, I did commute for those five weeks.

144

00:10:57,670 --> 00:11:01,720 Now, I think boss gave me generously,

145

00:11:01,720 --> 00:11:04,330 three or four days off for a honeymoon, which

146

00:11:04,330 --> 00:11:06,340 we spent in the Catskills.

147

00:11:06,340 --> 00:11:10,090

And then we had this little apartment.

148

00:11:10,090 --> 00:11:17,460 And for five weeks and then, as I said, and Sue went back.

149

00:11:17,460 --> 00:11:23,780 And then I had boot leave.

150

00:11:23,780 --> 00:11:25,440 I came home for boot leave.

151

00:11:25,440 --> 00:11:27,460 Where were you after?

152

00:11:27,460 --> 00:11:28,510 You were in the Navy?

153

00:11:28,510 --> 00:11:30,260 Were you at sea immediately?

154

00:11:30,260 --> 00:11:30,760 No.

155

00:11:30,760 --> 00:11:30,880 No.

156

00:11:30,880 --> 00:11:31,380 No.

157

00:11:31,380 --> 00:11:31,930 No.

158

00:11:31,930 --> 00:11:37,240 First of all, there was always a fiction that,

159

00:11:37,240 --> 00:11:40,720 if you were asked what service you would choose,

160

00:11:40,720 --> 00:11:43,080

then they would give you the opposite billet.

161

00:11:43,080 --> 00:11:44,530 Well it didn't work that way.

162

00:11:44,530 --> 00:11:49,480 In my case, I chose the Navy and I was put in the Navy.

163

00:11:49,480 --> 00:11:53,230 And I went.

164

00:11:53,230 --> 00:11:55,430 I was sent to boot camp of course,

165

00:11:55,430 --> 00:12:02,080 which is the terminology for basic training in Bainbridge,

166

00:12:02,080 --> 00:12:06,790 Maryland, outside of Baltimore.

167

00:12:06,790 --> 00:12:15,460 And I spent, I guess was eight weeks, I know exactly.

168

00:12:15,460 --> 00:12:18,970 And then you usually had to leave.

169

00:12:18,970 --> 00:12:22,430 So that-- during boot training, you don't have any leave--

170

00:12:22,430 --> 00:12:24,860 so then you come home after you--

171

00:12:24,860 --> 00:12:29,860 And, so I came home for leave, and then came back

172 00:12:29,860 --> 00:12:31,810 and got my assignment.

173 00:12:31,810 --> 00:12:36,520 Now, of course, I was not a citizen at that time.

174 00:12:36,520 --> 00:12:45,020 And the United States Armed forces

175 00:12:45,020 --> 00:12:49,760 elected that non-citizens could not

176 00:12:49,760 --> 00:12:57,810 be sent abroad, because you had no protection under the Geneva

177 00:12:57,810 --> 00:12:58,310 laws.

178 00:12:58,310 --> 00:13:01,220

179 00:13:01,220 --> 00:13:03,620 If you were not a citizen of the country

180 00:13:03,620 --> 00:13:08,180 and whose armed forces you were serving, then you did not--

181 00:13:08,180 --> 00:13:11,360 you could be-- I mean if somebody--

182 00:13:11,360 --> 00:13:15,200 although we had lost our German citizenship, 00:13:15,200 --> 00:13:17,780 if somebody would have not realized

184

00:13:17,780 --> 00:13:22,790 that you would be really fighting against a country

185

00:13:22,790 --> 00:13:25,160 that you may belong to, for--

186

00:13:25,160 --> 00:13:30,020 Anyway, to make the long story short,

187

00:13:30,020 --> 00:13:33,080 non-citizens were not sent abroad.

188

00:13:33,080 --> 00:13:39,460 Now since the Navy, of course, is not necessarily

189

00:13:39,460 --> 00:13:47,510 a part of the armed forces that is stationed

190

00:13:47,510 --> 00:13:52,010 on the American continent, something

191

00:13:52,010 --> 00:13:56,270 had to be done with people like us, who were waiting

192

00:13:56,270 --> 00:13:57,860 to get their citizenship.

193

00:13:57,860 --> 00:14:01,520 Which of course you got, automatically,

194

00:14:01,520 --> 00:14:05,960

after I think it was three or four

195

00:14:05,960 --> 00:14:11,920 months of honorable service in the armed forces.

196

00:14:11,920 --> 00:14:14,570 So we had to get parked somewhere.

197

00:14:14,570 --> 00:14:25,330 And so, being a skilled mechanic,

198

00:14:25,330 --> 00:14:31,600 I was assigned to the CBs, the construction battalions,

199

00:14:31,600 --> 00:14:42,590 and they had a shore based installation in Rhode Island.

200

00:14:42,590 --> 00:14:46,090 Davisville, Rhode Island was a CB base.

201

00:14:46,090 --> 00:14:50,740 And I was assigned to the CB base

202

00:14:50,740 --> 00:14:53,320 at Davisville, Rhode Island.

203

00:14:53,320 --> 00:15:01,990 And that seems to have been true for many non-citizens,

204

00:15:01,990 --> 00:15:04,810 who were waiting there--

205

00:15:04,810 --> 00:15:08,650 in this waiting pattern

## between boot camp

206

00:15:08,650 --> 00:15:11,410 and an overseas assignment.

207

00:15:11,410 --> 00:15:18,100 And I was working there in a repair facility.

208

00:15:18,100 --> 00:15:25,910 And we lived in barracks that were assigned to foreigners.

209

00:15:25,910 --> 00:15:30,410 So it was a regular United Nations situation.

210

00:15:30,410 --> 00:15:34,510 They had all kinds of languages, and you met all kinds

211

00:15:34,510 --> 00:15:36,970 of interesting characters.

212

00:15:36,970 --> 00:15:42,040 And I met some lasting friendships there.

213

00:15:42,040 --> 00:15:49,300 And I met some people who we were

214

00:15:49,300 --> 00:15:51,010 a little bit careful about.

215

00:15:51,010 --> 00:15:54,610 There was a nephew of Adolf Hitler in our barracks,

216

00:15:54,610 --> 00:15:57,430 and there was--

and there was-

218

00:16:00,030 --> 00:16:03,880 I mean, I think that if I remember right,

219

00:16:03,880 --> 00:16:06,760 there was also a fellow by the name of Grabult there,

220

00:16:06,760 --> 00:16:13,120 who was also claimed to be a relative of the infamous one.

221

00:16:13,120 --> 00:16:21,430 On the other side of the spectrum,

222

00:16:21,430 --> 00:16:29,800 I met George Einstein there, who is a nephew of Albert Einstein.

223

00:16:29,800 --> 00:16:31,750 And we became great friends.

224

00:16:31,750 --> 00:16:34,030 And we are still great friends today.

225

00:16:34,030 --> 00:16:41,500 So it was really very interesting--

226

00:16:41,500 --> 00:16:44,260 Did you have any sense of what kind of political point of view

227

00:16:44,260 --> 00:16:45,640 this nephew of Hitler had?

228

00:16:45,640 --> 00:16:48,670 Well he was an Englishman.

229

00:16:48,670 --> 00:16:53,380 And I don't recall it exactly, now.

230

00:16:53,380 --> 00:17:01,140 I think Hitler's sister went to England, because she

231

00:17:01,140 --> 00:17:03,415 had a relationship with a--

232

00:17:03,415 --> 00:17:10,200 I mean that was all much earlier, long before the Nazis

233

00:17:10,200 --> 00:17:12,180 came to power in England.

234

00:17:12,180 --> 00:17:14,099 And he was

235

00:17:14,099 --> 00:17:16,599 You mean in Germany.

236

00:17:16,599 --> 00:17:20,550 And, pardon me, long before the Nazis came to power in Germany.

237

00:17:20,550 --> 00:17:24,420 So she was Hitler's sister.

238

00:17:24,420 --> 00:17:30,270 And this fellow who served in our outfit

239

00:17:30,270 --> 00:17:35,505 was the illegitimate son of this woman.

240

 $00:17:35,505 \longrightarrow 00:17:38,010$ 

241 00:17:38,010 --> 00:17:40,800 So he had the name of it although,

242

00:17:40,800 --> 00:17:45,000 because he was her son out of wedlock.

243

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:48,810 So, but he was born in England, he was an English citizen.

244

00:17:48,810 --> 00:17:51,990 But as I said, these were not only German citizens.

245

00:17:51,990 --> 00:17:54,990 And but I was not a German citizen.

246

00:17:54,990 --> 00:17:55,950 I was stateless.

247

00:17:55,950 --> 00:17:57,930 I lost my citizenship.

248

00:17:57,930 --> 00:18:08,810 And so he was an English citizen.

249

00:18:08,810 --> 00:18:11,900 And how long did you remain in Rhode Island?

250

00:18:11,900 --> 00:18:19,410 Well until, well, we got--

251

00:18:19,410 --> 00:18:21,570 Roughly.

252

00:18:21,570 --> 00:18:23,600

I can tell you exactly.

253

00:18:23,600 --> 00:18:26,000 Until October.

254

00:18:26,000 --> 00:18:29,570 And we got our citizenship.

255

00:18:29,570 --> 00:18:31,200 And that I can look up.

256

00:18:31,200 --> 00:18:33,950 I don't know exactly.

257

00:18:33,950 --> 00:18:37,980 Probably around June or so.

258

00:18:37,980 --> 00:18:42,350 And then after I got citizenship at the district court

259

00:18:42,350 --> 00:18:44,600 in Providence, Rhode Island.

260

00:18:44,600 --> 00:18:48,410 And then after we got our citizenship,

261

00:18:48,410 --> 00:18:54,320 we were eligible for assignment to an outgoing unit.

262

00:18:54,320 --> 00:18:58,370 And this was a very peculiar set up.

263

00:18:58,370 --> 00:19:04,570 And it was really like a hiring situation.

264

00:19:04,570 --> 00:19:08,780 But the outgoing units

were being organized there.

265 00:19:08,780 --> 00:19:11,150 And they all had their different offices.

266

00:19:11,150 --> 00:19:16,010 And depending on what rumors you heard about, which skipper,

267 00:19:16,010 --> 00:19:18,920 and what is a good unity and what's a bad unit.

268

00:19:18,920 --> 00:19:22,010 You signed up to a unit.

269

00:19:22,010 --> 00:19:25,520 And they usually had a time period

270

00:19:25,520 --> 00:19:30,230 of two weeks or three weeks where you could sign up.

271

00:19:30,230 --> 00:19:34,280 And then they would close the voluntary sign up

272

00:19:34,280 --> 00:19:38,375 and then they would just pull people in

273

00:19:38,375 --> 00:19:41,430 to complete the complement.

274

00:19:41,430 --> 00:19:45,590 And so George Einstein, myself, signed up

275

00:19:45,590 --> 00:19:52,520

to a construction

battalion, maintenance unit,

276

00:19:52,520 --> 00:19:54,050 which is a small unit.

277

00:19:54,050 --> 00:19:59,270 I think about 205 officers and 250 men.

278

00:19:59,270 --> 00:20:04,040 And then after the unit is organized,

279

00:20:04,040 --> 00:20:09,290 that unit goes to unit training, so to say.

280

00:20:09,290 --> 00:20:12,650 We're training that make the--

281

00:20:12,650 --> 00:20:15,480 First of all, you move together into the same barracks,

282

00:20:15,480 --> 00:20:18,980 so you establish a social cohesiveness

283

00:20:18,980 --> 00:20:21,110 and get to know the people that you're

284

00:20:21,110 --> 00:20:22,730 going to be serving with.

285

00:20:22,730 --> 00:20:28,100 And then the unit goes through exercises, as a unit,

286

00:20:28,100 --> 00:20:33,080 and we went through various schools--

287

00:20:33,080 --> 00:20:39,560 chemical warfare school, and warehousing school, and field

288

00:20:39,560 --> 00:20:44,790 maneuvers, and shooting range, and all that sort of thing.

289

00:20:44,790 --> 00:20:49,280 And then, in October, it could have

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00:20:49,280 --> 00:20:53,090 been September, where it was determined

291

00:20:53,090 --> 00:20:58,460 that we were ready to go out, or go get an assignment.

292

00:20:58,460 --> 00:21:04,730 And of course a lot of rumors of where your assignment was

293

00:21:04,730 --> 00:21:06,440 going to be.

294

00:21:06,440 --> 00:21:10,160 And we went on a train.

295

00:21:10,160 --> 00:21:13,700 And of course everything is terribly secret.

296

00:21:13,700 --> 00:21:16,150 You know, nobody's going to tell you.

297

00:21:16,150 --> 00:21:19,900

298

00:21:19,900 --> 00:21:22,910

But just like we

## noticed very quickly

299 00:21:22,910 --> 00:21:26,390 that the train wasn't going North or South,

300 00:21:26,390 --> 00:21:28,040 it was going West.

301 00:21:28,040 --> 00:21:35,830 And so, then one day, we had sleeping cars,

302 00:21:35,830 --> 00:21:39,520 and one day the skipper opened the orders,

303 00:21:39,520 --> 00:21:42,580 and he said well, he called us all together

304 00:21:42,580 --> 00:21:45,010 and said well our first assignment

305 00:21:45,010 --> 00:21:51,340 is to build a seaplane, no, pardon me,

306 00:21:51,340 --> 00:21:57,140 an airstrip in Oxnard, California.

307 00:21:57,140 --> 00:22:01,940 And so that was my first visit to California.

308 00:22:01,940 --> 00:22:08,870 And it was a long train ride.

309 00:22:08,870 --> 00:22:14,800 And I think we first landed and Oakland. 310 00:22:14,800 --> 00:22:19,910

311 00:22:19,910 --> 00:22:23,600 We stayed on Treasure Island for a night or two,

312 00:22:23,600 --> 00:22:25,100 I think that so.

313 00:22:25,100 --> 00:22:31,550 And then were bussed down to Oxnard.

314 00:22:31,550 --> 00:22:36,380 And Oxnard, they had a Oxnard County Airport,

315 00:22:36,380 --> 00:22:40,910 which was a civilian little airstrip that was taken over

316 00:22:40,910 --> 00:22:50,780 by the Navy, to retrain carrier based pilots, who were out

317 00:22:50,780 --> 00:22:57,500 on leave and then had to retrain to some carrier duty again.

318 00:22:57,500 --> 00:23:03,260 So we had to refurbish the airstrip and stake

319 00:23:03,260 --> 00:23:05,870 out an area that resembled the flight

320 00:23:05,870 --> 00:23:08,900 deck so that the pilots could learn 321

00:23:08,900 --> 00:23:12,200 how to land and take off there.

322

00:23:12,200 --> 00:23:19,250 And we lived in a tent city and that was our first assignment,

323

00:23:19,250 --> 00:23:21,860 we were totally independent.

324

00:23:21,860 --> 00:23:24,460 We had our own cooks and bakers and so on.

325

00:23:24,460 --> 00:23:28,400 So we lived there and I took correspondence courses

326

00:23:28,400 --> 00:23:32,720 with the University of Chicago.

327

00:23:32,720 --> 00:23:35,490 And so--

328

00:23:35,490 --> 00:23:36,770 What subject?

329

00:23:36,770 --> 00:23:37,580 Calculus.

330

00:23:37,580 --> 00:23:42,390 I wanted to get a head start on my college education.

331

00:23:42,390 --> 00:23:45,830 So I signed up with Chicago.

332

00:23:45,830 --> 00:23:49,070 They assigned you to the Armed Forces Institute, 00:23:49,070 --> 00:23:50,490 I think it was called.

334 00:23:50,490 --> 00:23:52,550 And then they give you a mentor at one

335 00:23:52,550 --> 00:23:55,510 of the universities and you--

336 00:23:55,510 --> 00:23:58,340 It didn't work out very well, because it took--

337 00:23:58,340 --> 00:24:00,230 especially after I went overseas--

338 00:24:00,230 --> 00:24:06,530 it took ages to get your lessons in and get them back.

339 00:24:06,530 --> 00:24:12,510 And of course it was an engineering subject.

340 00:24:12,510 --> 00:24:16,370 And in a sea breeze, construction battalion,

341 00:24:16,370 --> 00:24:19,220 all your officers are engineers.

342 00:24:19,220 --> 00:24:22,110 So I need a little help.

343 00:24:22,110 --> 00:24:25,490 I went to our commanding officer,

344 00:24:25,490 --> 00:24:27,420 and I said can you help me. 345 00:24:27,420 --> 00:24:29,930 And he kind of scratched his head

346 00:24:29,930 --> 00:24:32,490 and looked at the problems.

347 00:24:32,490 --> 00:24:36,770 And he says, well you better go to the junior grade,

348 00:24:36,770 --> 00:24:39,530 because I forgot much.

349 00:24:39,530 --> 00:24:43,340 And I went to junior grade and he said I, go to the answer,

350 00:24:43,340 --> 00:24:47,060 and he was just out of college, he probably remembered.

351 00:24:47,060 --> 00:24:51,210 So it wasn't very easy to get help there.

352 00:24:51,210 --> 00:24:54,920 And it just looked good on my record

353 00:24:54,920 --> 00:24:58,790 and maybe helped me to get into college, when I finally did,

354 00:24:58,790 --> 00:25:01,740 but it wasn't otherwise very constructive.

355 00:25:01,740 --> 00:25:05,390 I know when you left, or I believe, Suzanne was pregnant. 00:25:05,390 --> 00:25:06,200 Yeah.

357

00:25:06,200 --> 00:25:07,670 Yeah.

358

00:25:07,670 --> 00:25:08,490

Yeah.

359

00:25:08,490 --> 00:25:08,990

Yeah.

360

00:25:08,990 --> 00:25:14,340

We have always been pretty

efficient in our life.

361

00:25:14,340 --> 00:25:20,420

And, yes we Suzanne

was pregnant,

362

00:25:20,420 --> 00:25:28,940

and actually our oldest one was born on December 19,

363

00:25:28,940 --> 00:25:34,190

and I was still in

California then,

364

00:25:34,190 --> 00:25:39,260

and was able to come

home in February.

365

 $00:25:39,260 \longrightarrow 00:25:42,540$ 

Because I was-- we

finished our mission there

366

00:25:42,540 --> 00:25:46,040

and we're ready for

our next assignment.

367

00:25:46,040 --> 00:25:52,280

And so we trained

again in California

368 00:25:52,280 --> 00:25:57,070 at Port Hueneme, which is, I don't know whether you realize,

369 00:25:57,070 --> 00:26:00,290 it's between, it's in the Ventura area.

370 00:26:00,290 --> 00:26:05,330 And they had all kinds of Naval schools

371 00:26:05,330 --> 00:26:09,260 there so we re-trained for overseas service.

372 00:26:09,260 --> 00:26:14,780 And then, before we left for overseas,

373 00:26:14,780 --> 00:26:19,550 we were given an pre-embarkation leave.

374 00:26:19,550 --> 00:26:26,270 And that's when I came home in February, and I saw my son.

375 00:26:26,270 --> 00:26:35,150 And then when we came back, very soon after I came back.

376 00:26:35,150 --> 00:26:43,010 I think in May we shipped out, that would be May '45.

377 00:26:43,010 --> 00:26:49,190 And we went we went to Okinawa.

378 00:26:49,190 --> 00:26:51,680 And the war was just about ending around that time. 379 00:26:51,680 --> 00:26:53,720 In fall, yes.

380 00:26:53,720 --> 00:26:55,020 So you went to Okinawa?

381 00:26:55,020 --> 00:26:55,520 Yeah.

382 00:26:55,520 --> 00:26:57,990 And how long were you there?

383 00:26:57,990 --> 00:27:06,200 Well, I was there until January.

384 00:27:06,200 --> 00:27:15,710 When we arrived there, I remember that 4th of July,

385 00:27:15,710 --> 00:27:19,490 we were sent over on one of Liberty ships,

386 00:27:19,490 --> 00:27:23,420 which was a converted freighter, that was really

387 00:27:23,420 --> 00:27:25,470 converted to transport.

388 00:27:25,470 --> 00:27:28,940 So we went over on the Liberty ship

389 00:27:28,940 --> 00:27:31,550 and it wasn't really very seaworthy.

390 00:27:31,550 --> 00:27:35,430 And we broke down three times on the way over. 391 00:27:35,430 --> 00:27:40,370 So it took us 60 some days to get from Port Hueneme

392 00:27:40,370 --> 00:27:43,490 in California to Okinawa.

393 00:27:43,490 --> 00:27:51,110 And the Japs had just blown up an ammunition dump.

394 00:27:51,110 --> 00:27:53,390 And so it looked like fireworks.

395 00:27:53,390 --> 00:27:55,760 So that's why I remember it was the Fourth of-- that

396 00:27:55,760 --> 00:27:56,700 the connection I made.

397 00:27:56,700 --> 00:28:00,710 And so it was 4th of July when we landed there. .

398 00:28:00,710 --> 00:28:11,570 And I know that, New Year's Eve I was still in Okinawa.

399 00:28:11,570 --> 00:28:16,550 But my discharge was from Naval service

400 00:28:16,550 --> 00:28:19,500 was the 31st of January.

401 00:28:19,500 --> 00:28:24,380 So sometime, during the month of January,

402 00:28:24,380 --> 00:28:31,820 we were shipped back to the States, landed in Seattle,

403

00:28:31,820 --> 00:28:35,105 then train ride to the East.

404

00:28:35,105 --> 00:28:38,160

405

00:28:38,160 --> 00:28:43,020 Lido Beach, New York, which was somewhere on Long Island,

406

00:28:43,020 --> 00:28:46,320 was a discharge center.

407

00:28:46,320 --> 00:28:48,820 And from there we were discharged.

408

00:28:48,820 --> 00:28:53,070 So all this happened within about four weeks.

409

00:28:53,070 --> 00:28:56,430 And by now your son is about a year old.

410

00:28:56,430 --> 00:29:00,000 By now, our son was a year old.

411

00:29:00,000 --> 00:29:05,010 Of course, all this helped, not only was very enjoyable,

412

00:29:05,010 --> 00:29:07,410 and we were very proud of the family.

413

00:29:07,410 --> 00:29:12,050 But you see, your discharge, went by points.

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

414

00:29:12,050 --> 00:29:15,090 So if you were married, you had more points,

415

00:29:15,090 --> 00:29:16,320 than a single person.

416

00:29:16,320 --> 00:29:22,320 If you had a child, you had more points than a childless person.

417

00:29:22,320 --> 00:29:25,230 If you had overseas service, you had more points

418

00:29:25,230 --> 00:29:27,810 than people who didn't went overseas.

419

00:29:27,810 --> 00:29:31,650 So that's why I was discharged earlier than,

420

00:29:31,650 --> 00:29:34,080 let's say, this my friend George,

421

00:29:34,080 --> 00:29:37,870 whom I mentioned before, who was not married at the time.

422

00:29:37,870 --> 00:29:41,280 So, and then once your point--

423

 $00:29:41,280 \longrightarrow 00:29:43,910$ 

424

00:29:43,910 --> 00:29:47,610 you know, you were eligible for discharge,

425

00:29:47,610 --> 00:29:48,840

you were still overseas.

426 00:29:48,840 --> 00:29:52,020 But then you had to get a ride home--

427 00:29:52,020 --> 00:29:54,900 and we're hitchhiking, right?

428 00:29:54,900 --> 00:29:59,550 And of course you could wait in a camp

429 00:29:59,550 --> 00:30:04,500 until a transport went home, but you could also hitchhike.

430 00:30:04,500 --> 00:30:07,720 So there was an aircraft carrier there.

431 00:30:07,720 --> 00:30:15,730 And I always swore I would never forget the name

432 00:30:15,730 --> 00:30:19,030 but, now it doesn't come to my mind.

433 00:30:19,030 --> 00:30:25,310 And I actually-- you see now, these big ships.

434 00:30:25,310 --> 00:30:28,930 Of course, part of their complement

435 00:30:28,930 --> 00:30:32,890 would have been discharged, so they didn't have a full crew.

436 00:30:32,890 --> 00:30:38,200 So you could sign up to belong to a ship's company

437

00:30:38,200 --> 00:30:43,130 on the vessel, so that you could come home.

438

00:30:43,130 --> 00:30:44,650 So it's really like hitchhiking.

439

00:30:44,650 --> 00:30:48,575 So I got myself a job on the aircraft carrier.

440

00:30:48,575 --> 00:30:53,080

441

00:30:53,080 --> 00:30:56,020 And they were tied up there in the Harbor,

442

00:30:56,020 --> 00:30:58,030 and were on their way back to Seattle,

443

00:30:58,030 --> 00:31:00,980 so I said take me along.

444

00:31:00,980 --> 00:31:04,600 So that's the way I came home.

445

00:31:04,600 --> 00:31:06,650 Ticonderoga.

446

00:31:06,650 --> 00:31:07,150 OK.

117

00:31:07,150 --> 00:31:10,030

448

00:31:10,030 --> 00:31:14,650 So it must have been quite startling to your son, 449

00:31:14,650 --> 00:31:17,305 to suddenly see you as a member of the family.

450

00:31:17,305 --> 00:31:18,400 Well it was very--

451

00:31:18,400 --> 00:31:20,450 well it was startling to both of us.

452

00:31:20,450 --> 00:31:24,700 I guess, just to renew our acquaintance.

453

00:31:24,700 --> 00:31:28,480 No, I guess he was kind of reluctant.

454

00:31:28,480 --> 00:31:34,240 And of course, my brother-in-law, Sue's brother,

455

00:31:34,240 --> 00:31:41,200 preceded me by, I don't know, a few weeks anyway.

456

00:31:41,200 --> 00:31:47,260 And so he was home, and he was really much--

457

00:31:47,260 --> 00:31:51,640 I mean, our son was a much better relationship with him,

458

00:31:51,640 --> 00:31:55,960 than with this sailor, who was just coming home.

459

00:31:55,960 --> 00:31:57,910 But it didn't take this very long 460 00:31:57,910 --> 00:32:03,040 to establish a relationship of our own,

461 00:32:03,040 --> 00:32:08,230 and Sue had rented a little apartment about a block away,

462 00:32:08,230 --> 00:32:10,200 from where her parents lived.

463 00:32:10,200 --> 00:32:16,150 And so we established our first home in Brooklyn.

464 00:32:16,150 --> 00:32:18,730 And how was-- how were your parents doing, at that point?

465 00:32:18,730 --> 00:32:22,020

466 00:32:22,020 --> 00:32:30,960 My father has had passed his necessary examinations.

467 00:32:30,960 --> 00:32:34,830 He had set up medical practice.

468 00:32:34,830 --> 00:32:42,810 He had gotten courtesy a couple of hospitals.

469 00:32:42,810 --> 00:32:50,010 I think he was at Mount Sinai, a hospital in New York.

470 00:32:50,010 --> 00:32:56,610 And so they of course, as there was-- 00:32:56,610 --> 00:33:02,880 as his practice increased, there was more money available,

472 00:33:02,880 --> 00:33:10,060 and my mother didn't have to do this painstaking piece

473 00:33:10,060 --> 00:33:16,380 work anymore, that kept them somewhat above water

474 00:33:16,380 --> 00:33:18,910 during the earlier period.

475 00:33:18,910 --> 00:33:21,930 So I guess they--

476 00:33:21,930 --> 00:33:24,290 and they had a nice apartment.

477 00:33:24,290 --> 00:33:28,130 Modest but nicer by that time.

478 00:33:28,130 --> 00:33:31,920 Unfortunately, both my parents died very early.

479 00:33:31,920 --> 00:33:35,010 So we're not right there, I mean they

480 00:33:35,010 --> 00:33:40,500 lived many years after that, but they died relatively young.

481 00:33:40,500 --> 00:33:41,830 How many years?

482 00:33:41,830 --> 00:33:44,920 00:33:44,920 --> 00:33:48,820 My mother was, I'll have to figure it

484

00:33:48,820 --> 00:33:53,020 out, which I don't want to do while the movie is running,

485

00:33:53,020 --> 00:33:57,130 about 65 and my father was 71.

486

00:33:57,130 --> 00:34:03,350

487

00:34:03,350 --> 00:34:08,570 So that meant they both died within a year of each other.

488

00:34:08,570 --> 00:34:13,580 And really never lived to see-

489

00:34:13,580 --> 00:34:19,280 to be able to use the fruits of their new life here.

490

00:34:19,280 --> 00:34:23,510 I mean they never were able to travel to Europe or something

491

00:34:23,510 --> 00:34:24,270 like that.

492

00:34:24,270 --> 00:34:24,980 But--

493

00:34:24,980 --> 00:34:26,900 They never returned to Europe after that they

494

00:34:26,900 --> 00:34:27,983 came to the United States.

495

00:34:27,983 --> 00:34:28,750 No.

496

00:34:28,750 --> 00:34:30,370 No.

497

00:34:30,370 --> 00:34:36,980 I mean my parents in law lived much longer,

498

00:34:36,980 --> 00:34:42,230 and were able to travel to Israel and to Europe,

499

00:34:42,230 --> 00:34:43,179 and so on.

500

00:34:43,179 --> 00:34:46,215 But my parents never got out of the United States.

501

00:34:46,215 --> 00:34:49,260

502

00:34:49,260 --> 00:34:53,909 So when you returned, did you immediately go to school?

503

00:34:53,909 --> 00:34:55,949 Or you got a job?

504

00:34:55,949 --> 00:35:00,420 No, when I returned, I had to--

505

00:35:00,420 --> 00:35:07,170 I mean we had to go back to work and, I, actually,

506

00:35:07,170 --> 00:35:12,300 wanted to take a few weeks just to get readjusted.

507

00:35:12,300 --> 00:35:16,740 In fact, the government had provided for that

508 00:35:16,740 --> 00:35:21,630 by granting what they called a readjustment allowance.

509 00:35:21,630 --> 00:35:25,710 So I went to apply for the readjustment allowance,

510 00:35:25,710 --> 00:35:28,740 and they said, well, if you're a tool and die maker,

511 00:35:28,740 --> 00:35:31,260 you can get a readjustment allowance

512 00:35:31,260 --> 00:35:35,070 because that is for people who can't find a job.

513 00:35:35,070 --> 00:35:38,980 But there's plenty of vacancies in your line of work.

514 00:35:38,980 --> 00:35:41,410 So you have to go to work.

515 00:35:41,410 --> 00:35:47,280 So I actually got a job right away.

516 00:35:47,280 --> 00:35:49,740 And then negotiated with the people

517 00:35:49,740 --> 00:35:52,740 who gave me the job to give me a week off before I 00:35:52,740 --> 00:35:54,360 had to start work.

519

00:35:54,360 --> 00:36:05,380 And of course, I went back to work as a tool and die maker,

520

00:36:05,380 --> 00:36:10,060 but my ambition was to eventually go to college.

521

00:36:10,060 --> 00:36:18,070 And I think I told you that while I lived in New Jersey,

522

00:36:18,070 --> 00:36:24,130 well I had sent in my records to the Board of Regents

523

00:36:24,130 --> 00:36:26,950 of the state of New York.

524

00:36:26,950 --> 00:36:30,640 And they said that my high school records were just fine,

525

00:36:30,640 --> 00:36:34,210 except for a deficiency in American history

526

00:36:34,210 --> 00:36:36,400 and English literature.

527

00:36:36,400 --> 00:36:39,100 Which stands to reason.

528

00:36:39,100 --> 00:36:45,970 So I studied American history and took an American history

529

00:36:45,970 --> 00:36:51,950 exam in New Jersey before I left for the armed services.

530 00:36:51,950 --> 00:36:57,320 So I still had to take care of my English deficiency.

531 00:36:57,320 --> 00:37:05,800 And I took a evening course at Bayridge Girls' High

532 00:37:05,800 --> 00:37:08,900 School they had an evening course for that.

533 00:37:08,900 --> 00:37:15,830 And so then I got my high school graduation certificate there.

534 00:37:15,830 --> 00:37:18,880 So I was very proud to have graduated

535 00:37:18,880 --> 00:37:21,190 from Bayridge Girls' High.

536 00:37:21,190 --> 00:37:26,530 And so I did that in the evenings.

537 00:37:26,530 --> 00:37:31,900 And then that permitted me to go to college.

538 00:37:31,900 --> 00:37:39,250 And I was admitted to City College evening session.

539 00:37:39,250 --> 00:37:41,740 Because when I came home from--

540 00:37:41,740 --> 00:37:46,210 you see, Sue and I always took turns working and studying.

### 541

00:37:46,210 --> 00:37:53,770 So that-- you see, while I was in the service she was working,

### 542

00:37:53,770 --> 00:37:57,310 and then I came home from the service,

#### 543

00:37:57,310 --> 00:38:01,840 she went to Columbia to get her master's there.

#### 544

00:38:01,840 --> 00:38:06,170 And so I worked, and then I went to evening school.

### 545

00:38:06,170 --> 00:38:11,710 And then when she, for the first year of, college I did evening.

#### 546

00:38:11,710 --> 00:38:14,920 And then she got her degree at Columbia,

### 547

00:38:14,920 --> 00:38:16,870 then she went back to work.

#### 548

00:38:16,870 --> 00:38:21,070 And then I went to college, daytime, and then

## 549

00:38:21,070 --> 00:38:26,770 after I graduated, of course we moved to Delaware.

## 550

00:38:26,770 --> 00:38:35,410 And she quit working and we augmented our family, and

#### 551

00:38:35,410 --> 00:38:36,730 You had a second child.

552

00:38:36,730 --> 00:38:38,090 Second and third child.

553

00:38:38,090 --> 00:38:42,790 We had two sons and who we were born in Delaware.

554

00:38:42,790 --> 00:38:45,310 Now what are the names of all your sons.

555

00:38:45,310 --> 00:38:49,690 Well Ronnie, we'll see some pictures later on.

556

00:38:49,690 --> 00:38:57,130 Ronnie is the oldest one and he was born in 1944 in December.

557

00:38:57,130 --> 00:39:00,610 And then of course was a long gap

558

00:39:00,610 --> 00:39:05,770 due to the armed services and the education.

559

00:39:05,770 --> 00:39:12,490 And then Sue had a miscarriage when we lived in Brooklyn.

560

00:39:12,490 --> 00:39:19,630 And then we moved to Delaware and Jonathan was born in 1951.

561

00:39:19,630 --> 00:39:22,900 I mean I graduated, 1950.

562

00:39:22,900 --> 00:39:28,300 And that-- we moved to Delaware then in '51 Jonathan was born.

563

00:39:28,300 --> 00:39:31,720

And in '53 Benjamin.

564

00:39:31,720 --> 00:39:34,840

And that it.

565

00:39:34,840 --> 00:39:36,520

We have three sons.

566

00:39:36,520 --> 00:39:38,425

Why did you move to Delaware?

567

00:39:38,425 --> 00:39:41,260

568

 $00:39:41,260 \longrightarrow 00:39:45,790$ 

Well actually, we

had no ambition

569

00:39:45,790 --> 00:39:47,350

to stay in New York City.

570

00:39:47,350 --> 00:39:50,050

We thought New York City

was a terrible place

571

00:39:50,050 --> 00:39:51,760

to bring up kids.

572

 $00:39:51,760 \longrightarrow 00:39:55,690$ 

And, I mean, we only had

one but we wanted more.

573

00:39:55,690 --> 00:39:58,660

And yet, we didn't

want to be too far

574

00:39:58,660 --> 00:40:02,860

away, because both of our

parents lived in New York City.

575

 $00:40:02,860 \longrightarrow 00:40:07,510$ 

So we actually looked for

576 00:40:07,510 --> 00:40:13,570 area or South of New York City.

577 00:40:13,570 --> 00:40:15,790 And, so, I got this job.

578 00:40:15,790 --> 00:40:22,080 It was very hard to get jobs at the time, but I was very lucky.

579 00:40:22,080 --> 00:40:24,460 I also you see.

580 00:40:24,460 --> 00:40:28,480 I had not only now, my engineering degree,

581 00:40:28,480 --> 00:40:32,950 but I also had nine years of experience as a tool

582 00:40:32,950 --> 00:40:34,270 and die maker.

583 00:40:34,270 --> 00:40:38,770 But anyway, I was an experienced tool and die maker.

584 00:40:38,770 --> 00:40:42,190 So I had both the practical and the theoretical.

585 00:40:42,190 --> 00:40:45,760 And that helped me really, get the job.

586 00:40:45,760 --> 00:40:49,440 And I was the second one in my class to get a job. 00:40:49,440 --> 00:40:54,460 I got a job with International Latex Corporation, the people

588 00:40:54,460 --> 00:40:59,410 who made girdles and, at that time,

589 00:40:59,410 --> 00:41:02,470 they just, they were mostly in the girdle business.

590 00:41:02,470 --> 00:41:06,490 Now they do brassieres and baby goods and all that.

591 00:41:06,490 --> 00:41:11,560 And but they also were involved with military hardware.

592 00:41:11,560 --> 00:41:15,400 And I got into that area.

593 00:41:15,400 --> 00:41:21,550 And was active in the high altitude helmet design.

594 00:41:21,550 --> 00:41:24,610 And I designed one of the--

595 00:41:24,610 --> 00:41:29,470 well I was participating in the design, and then designed

596 00:41:29,470 --> 00:41:33,585 helmets myself, for first space exploration.

597 00:41:33,585 --> 00:41:35,710 And so this was as an engineer you were doing this.

598 00:41:35,710 --> 00:41:36,210 Yeah.

599

00:41:36,210 --> 00:41:38,740

600

00:41:38,740 --> 00:41:46,490 And so how long did you stay in Delaware 1950 to 1955.

601

00:41:46,490 --> 00:41:53,470 And Dover, Delaware was at that time, a one industry town.

602

00:41:53,470 --> 00:41:56,330 And I mean, as far as hardware is concerned.

603

00:41:56,330 --> 00:41:59,630 They had a chicken packing house but I wasn't into that, but--

604

 $00:41:59,630 \longrightarrow 00:42:02,840$ 

605

00:42:02,840 --> 00:42:06,080 so if you wanted to change jobs, you

606

00:42:06,080 --> 00:42:09,260 had to move away from there.

607

00:42:09,260 --> 00:42:12,530 And I wanted to change jobs.

608

00:42:12,530 --> 00:42:18,880 First of all, well there were some personnel changes there,

609

00:42:18,880 --> 00:42:25,380 which made it less pleasant, and secondly, I had to diversify.

610

00:42:25,380 --> 00:42:28,880 I mean this was my first job as an engineer.

611 00:42:28,880 --> 00:42:31,050 And if you don't get around a bit

612 00:42:31,050 --> 00:42:37,000 you become too much of a specialist in one area.

613 00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:44,250 And we also felt that maybe a closer vicinity to the city

614 00:42:44,250 --> 00:42:53,430 would give our children a better chance of education

615 00:42:53,430 --> 00:42:54,250 and culture.

616 00:42:54,250 --> 00:42:56,790

617 00:42:56,790 --> 00:43:03,960 And Sue was not ready yet, but certainly

618 00:43:03,960 --> 00:43:07,170 was planning to go back to work, eventually.

619 00:43:07,170 --> 00:43:11,730 And so the vicinity of the city would give her

620 00:43:11,730 --> 00:43:14,600 better employment possibility.

621 00:43:14,600 --> 00:43:16,230 There were a number-- 622 00:43:16,230 --> 00:43:19,050 and we had outgrown our house.

623 00:43:19,050 --> 00:43:24,310 And so it meant that we had to move further.

624 00:43:24,310 --> 00:43:27,000 So all these factors came together.

625 00:43:27,000 --> 00:43:31,500 And I got a job with Rohm and Haas,

626 00:43:31,500 --> 00:43:37,620 the people who make Plexiglas, in Bristol, Pennsylvania.

627 00:43:37,620 --> 00:43:40,620 So we move to Pennsylvania.

628 00:43:40,620 --> 00:43:45,120 And lived there longer than we had lived anywhere else.

629 00:43:45,120 --> 00:43:51,120 We moved in 1955, and lived there

630 00:43:51,120 --> 00:43:54,630 until we moved to California in '82.

631 00:43:54,630 --> 00:43:59,250 So all of our jobs, and there were a few,

632 00:43:59,250 --> 00:44:03,450 were all in that suburban Philadelphia area. 633

00:44:03,450 --> 00:44:06,780 And were you able to visit with your parents in New York.

634

00:44:06,780 --> 00:44:07,560 Oh, yeah.

635

00:44:07,560 --> 00:44:08,130 Oh, yes.

636

00:44:08,130 --> 00:44:13,410 We-- well there was no regular schedule, but I mean,

637

00:44:13,410 --> 00:44:18,330 we did see each other quite frequently.

638

00:44:18,330 --> 00:44:19,260 Yes.

639

00:44:19,260 --> 00:44:21,840 At first, it was much more difficult,

640

00:44:21,840 --> 00:44:25,500 because the roads were and what they are today.

641

00:44:25,500 --> 00:44:29,010 And there was no bridge over the Delaware Bay,

642

00:44:29,010 --> 00:44:31,320 and you had to take a ferry over.

643

00:44:31,320 --> 00:44:34,980 And then move and drive up the Jersey coast.

644

00:44:34,980 --> 00:44:41,490

But things got better and better and we saw each other

645 00:44:41,490 --> 00:44:42,690 quite frequently.

646 00:44:42,690 --> 00:44:46,710 And yes, our parents came.

647 00:44:46,710 --> 00:44:47,370 And--

648 00:44:47,370 --> 00:44:51,120 You mentioned, I remember, that your mother was quite involved

649 00:44:51,120 --> 00:44:53,040 with her grandchildren.

650 00:44:53,040 --> 00:44:55,020 Yeah.

651 00:44:55,020 --> 00:45:01,520 Well, well, I mean we did-- she came, sometimes,

652 00:45:01,520 --> 00:45:05,760 and she sometimes actually came and stayed for a week,

653 00:45:05,760 --> 00:45:06,960 and so on.

654 00:45:06,960 --> 00:45:10,340 And then my father would come and pick her up and so.

655 00:45:10,340 --> 00:45:16,640 But she loved to play with them, and she was so artistic

656 00:45:16,640 --> 00:45:20,060 that she loved to do projects or sew for them.

657

00:45:20,060 --> 00:45:24,200

And made all kinds of--

658

00:45:24,200 --> 00:45:25,900 and she was very creative.

659

00:45:25,900 --> 00:45:28,130

And it's always

nice for little kids

660

00:45:28,130 --> 00:45:37,610

to have somebody who can occupy

them in a constructive way.

661

00:45:37,610 --> 00:45:40,580

And yes, they had a

pretty good relationship.

662

00:45:40,580 --> 00:45:42,260

So I presume your

parents had died

663

00:45:42,260 --> 00:45:44,820

by the time you

left for California.

664

00:45:44,820 --> 00:45:45,320

Oh, yeah.

665

00:45:45,320 --> 00:45:45,820

Yeah.

666

00:45:45,820 --> 00:45:46,520

Yeah.

667

00:45:46,520 --> 00:45:50,090

Actually, all of our

parents had died.

668

00:45:50,090 --> 00:45:56,210 I mean my mother-in-law reached the age of 87.

669 00:45:56,210 --> 00:46:01,250 But actually, we-- this was a conscious development.

670 00:46:01,250 --> 00:46:05,360 I mean we did not want to leave the East,

671 00:46:05,360 --> 00:46:07,400 and leave our parents there.

672 00:46:07,400 --> 00:46:14,010 So it was after my mother-in-law died and we, of course,

673 00:46:14,010 --> 00:46:17,810 all three of our sons had gone to California

674 00:46:17,810 --> 00:46:19,670 at one time or another.

675 00:46:19,670 --> 00:46:23,390 And our two brothers, I mean Sue has a brother

676 00:46:23,390 --> 00:46:26,690 and I have a brother and they lived in California.

677 00:46:26,690 --> 00:46:32,990 So that the entire nuclear family had kind of slowly gone

678 00:46:32,990 --> 00:46:34,010 out West.

679 00:46:34,010 --> 00:46:38,600 And so we felt that the

# family belongs together

680

00:46:38,600 --> 00:46:43,370 and we wanted to be with our grandchildren, and so on.

681

00:46:43,370 --> 00:46:46,700 So that they see something of their grandparents

682

00:46:46,700 --> 00:46:50,720 other than just talked over the phone.

683

00:46:50,720 --> 00:46:52,520 So we decided to move out.

684

00:46:52,520 --> 00:46:54,950 We took early retirement.

685

00:46:54,950 --> 00:46:58,040 We thought if we would move then,

686

00:46:58,040 --> 00:46:59,960 that would give us an opportunity

687

00:46:59,960 --> 00:47:04,490 to build up a meaningful life there, rather than just retire

688

00:47:04,490 --> 00:47:07,800 to California.

689

00:47:07,800 --> 00:47:10,400 Did you talk to your children, as they were growing up,

690

00:47:10,400 --> 00:47:15,110 about your experiences as a German Jew during the '30s?

691

00:47:15,110 --> 00:47:16,280 Oh, we always did.

692

00:47:16,280 --> 00:47:17,570 Yes.

693

00:47:17,570 --> 00:47:24,870 Because we never believed and hiding any of this.

694

00:47:24,870 --> 00:47:27,590 Now, of course, you do it in what they

695

00:47:27,590 --> 00:47:30,110 call age appropriate manner.

696

00:47:30,110 --> 00:47:36,260 But you're certainly always keep--

697

00:47:36,260 --> 00:47:38,360 I mean, we felt that we should always

698

00:47:38,360 --> 00:47:41,720 keep our children informed.

699

00:47:41,720 --> 00:47:45,890 And of course, the same thing held true

700

00:47:45,890 --> 00:47:47,240 for our grandchildren.

701

00:47:47,240 --> 00:47:51,800 And well I you something.

702

00:47:51,800 --> 00:47:55,970 I mean, I certainly feel that it's not only--

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

703 00:47:55,970 --> 00:47:58,610 that we really don't have a choice in this matter.

704 00:47:58,610 --> 00:48:00,980 I think it's an obligation.

705 00:48:00,980 --> 00:48:05,990 And just like this particular project

706 00:48:05,990 --> 00:48:09,080 here, is proof of this type of thinking,

707 00:48:09,080 --> 00:48:18,340 that it's an obligation for us to teach,

708 00:48:18,340 --> 00:48:21,310 and teach our history.

709 00:48:21,310 --> 00:48:26,080 The history that we went through,

710 00:48:26,080 --> 00:48:29,530 Because it's part of our heritage,

711 00:48:29,530 --> 00:48:33,130 and part of our children's and grandchildren's heritage.

712 00:48:33,130 --> 00:48:37,850 And it's very peculiar.

713 00:48:37,850 --> 00:48:43,480 I woke up to this in a very peculiar way and.

714 00:48:43,480 --> 00:48:50,440 I obviously, we realized that we--

715 00:48:50,440 --> 00:48:54,550 what our own history is, but I always

716 00:48:54,550 --> 00:48:58,510 was an impression that our children American born kids,

717 00:48:58,510 --> 00:49:04,120 and they grew up in America, pretty average kids.

718 00:49:04,120 --> 00:49:10,210 And then we went to a meeting of people

719 00:49:10,210 --> 00:49:14,770 who came out of Europe, like I did, and went to England

720 00:49:14,770 --> 00:49:16,330 on the children's transports.

721 00:49:16,330 --> 00:49:19,330 And they had a meeting in San Francisco.

722 00:49:19,330 --> 00:49:24,160 And they, some of them brought their offspring along.

723 00:49:24,160 --> 00:49:27,280 And because that was a program devoted

724 00:49:27,280 --> 00:49:32,140 to children of immigrants.

725 00:49:32,140 --> 00:49:36,100 And they all talked

## about the way

726 00:49:36,100 --> 00:49:41,800 that their parents history influenced their own existence.

727 00:49:41,800 --> 00:49:46,180 And when I came home, our kids weren't there,

728 00:49:46,180 --> 00:49:47,200 they couldn't make it.

729 00:49:47,200 --> 00:49:49,210 When I came home, I said to my son,

730 00:49:49,210 --> 00:49:53,380 I said I never realized do you feel that your life is

731 00:49:53,380 --> 00:49:55,450 different from that of your friends

732 00:49:55,450 --> 00:49:58,950 because of who you are what your parents.

733 00:49:58,950 --> 00:50:01,420 And so he said, you better believe it.

734 00:50:01,420 --> 00:50:04,780 You know, I mean, I never realized

735 00:50:04,780 --> 00:50:09,880 that really, our history, has become so much part

736 00:50:09,880 --> 00:50:14,556 of our children's existence. 737 00:50:14,556 --> 00:50:16,930 Did he say of what the impact was?

738 00:50:16,930 --> 00:50:20,310

739 00:50:20,310 --> 00:50:26,710 No I don't think we really ever had a very profound discussion.

740 00:50:26,710 --> 00:50:28,050 It may be interesting.

741 00:50:28,050 --> 00:50:31,500 Because I think, certainly within the framework

742 00:50:31,500 --> 00:50:35,700 of this particular evening that we went to,

743 00:50:35,700 --> 00:50:38,980 the children talked a lot, I mean children--

744 00:50:38,980 --> 00:50:40,590 they are all grown up people now--

745 00:50:40,590 --> 00:50:43,200 but they talked a lot about that.

746 00:50:43,200 --> 00:50:48,580 But, of course, it affects different people differently.

747 00:50:48,580 --> 00:50:50,870 And just like our history. 00:50:50,870 --> 00:50:57,380 I mean some people lost all their religious beliefs.

749 00:50:57,380 --> 00:50:59,440 Some people became more religious.

750 00:50:59,440 --> 00:51:03,760 I mean the people don't react the same

751 00:51:03,760 --> 00:51:11,020 to similar experiences, because we are not machines.

752 00:51:11,020 --> 00:51:14,320 We are all individuals with our own psyche

753 00:51:14,320 --> 00:51:24,340 in our own way of accommodating events that we are exposed to.

754 00:51:24,340 --> 00:51:27,220 Did you find that any of your children or grandchildren

755 00:51:27,220 --> 00:51:29,710 were particularly interested in your history.

756 00:51:29,710 --> 00:51:30,900 I mean to pursue it?

757 00:51:30,900 --> 00:51:33,430

758 00:51:33,430 --> 00:51:36,315 They are all very interested in it, and--

759 00:51:36,315 --> 00:51:41,040 760 00:51:41,040 --> 00:51:44,910 but we have never really--

761 00:51:44,910 --> 00:51:48,450 every once in a while, the topics come up with--

762 00:51:48,450 --> 00:51:52,560

763 00:51:52,560 --> 00:51:55,680 open up a series of discussions again.

764 00:51:55,680 --> 00:52:02,490 You see, we had never had any desire

765 00:52:02,490 --> 00:52:07,650 to revisit the town we were born in.

766 00:52:07,650 --> 00:52:13,330 Because, first of all, we just don't feel like it.

767 00:52:13,330 --> 00:52:19,170 And secondly much of it was destroyed during the war,

768 00:52:19,170 --> 00:52:23,190 so certainly the house that Suzanne and my family

769 00:52:23,190 --> 00:52:24,960 lived in was destroyed.

770 00:52:24,960 --> 00:52:28,060 Not the house where she was born. 771

00:52:28,060 --> 00:52:31,050 But the house where we they moved to later on,

772

00:52:31,050 --> 00:52:32,370 where we lived.

773

00:52:32,370 --> 00:52:40,370 And of course, Jewish people are no longer there,

774

00:52:40,370 --> 00:52:45,250 and even the non-Jewish people that we

775

00:52:45,250 --> 00:52:50,320 knew, had to leave Breslau, because it was repatriated.

776

00:52:50,320 --> 00:52:53,740 There are Poles now there, because it became Polish

777

00:52:53,740 --> 00:52:54,970 after the war.

778

00:52:54,970 --> 00:52:59,710 So that the non-Jewish native population,

779

00:52:59,710 --> 00:53:02,470 the German population was repatriated

780

00:53:02,470 --> 00:53:07,180 into Eastern and Western Germany at that time.

781

00:53:07,180 --> 00:53:10,150 So that, the people aren't there,

782

00:53:10,150 --> 00:53:12,170 and the buildings aren't there.

783

00:53:12,170 --> 00:53:14,680 And so what is there.

784

00:53:14,680 --> 00:53:19,600 And we never had any really great ambition

785

00:53:19,600 --> 00:53:21,100 to go back there.

786

00:53:21,100 --> 00:53:25,900 But then we realized, by going again to this meeting

787

00:53:25,900 --> 00:53:33,220 that I just referred to, were the offspring

788

00:53:33,220 --> 00:53:37,240 of the immigrants were talking, and they

789

00:53:37,240 --> 00:53:44,470 talked about what a tremendous experience that was,

790

00:53:44,470 --> 00:53:48,730 to be taken back to their parents birth place

791

00:53:48,730 --> 00:53:57,490 and so when we had the boys together, once, I said well,

792

00:53:57,490 --> 00:54:01,330 look, what do you feel about that.

793

00:54:01,330 --> 00:54:04,000

And the more they

## talked, the more

794

00:54:04,000 --> 00:54:09,540 they got interested in this project,

795

00:54:09,540 --> 00:54:12,650 which hasn't been which hasn't come to pass yet.

796

00:54:12,650 --> 00:54:17,540 But they really were interested in the idea

797

00:54:17,540 --> 00:54:20,600 of visiting Breslau.

798

00:54:20,600 --> 00:54:23,330 I mean, there certainly are some things standing.

799

00:54:23,330 --> 00:54:26,760 I can say that this is where I went for a walk with my father.

800

00:54:26,760 --> 00:54:29,040 And that's where your mother was born.

801

00:54:29,040 --> 00:54:32,610 And this is a University where your grandfather taught.

802

00:54:32,610 --> 00:54:33,320 And so on.

803

00:54:33,320 --> 00:54:37,220 Some of the landmarks that are there.

804

00:54:37,220 --> 00:54:40,940

But they're really quite turned on.

805 00:54:40,940 --> 00:54:46,010 And we actually thought that we'd make the trip this year.

806 00:54:46,010 --> 00:54:49,670 And then there were circumstances

807 00:54:49,670 --> 00:54:51,540 that prevented it.

808 00:54:51,540 --> 00:54:56,090 So we told them that you better hurry up, because you know,

809 00:54:56,090 --> 00:55:00,050 so far we're very grateful to be strong and healthy

810 00:55:00,050 --> 00:55:01,100 and we can do it.

811 00:55:01,100 --> 00:55:04,280 And it'll be so much more meaningful

812 00:55:04,280 --> 00:55:06,590 if we could do it together.

813 00:55:06,590 --> 00:55:11,030 So we may be able to work something out next year, but--

814 00:55:11,030 --> 00:55:15,350 So they are interested in going back.

815 00:55:15,350 --> 00:55:17,150 I mean, I wouldn't want to--

816 00:55:17,150 --> 00:55:19,760 once we go there we try to connect it

817

00:55:19,760 --> 00:55:22,950 with something that is a little bit more uplifting.

818

00:55:22,950 --> 00:55:27,040 We thought maybe connected with it a trip to Israel,

819

00:55:27,040 --> 00:55:28,370 to a thing like that.

820

00:55:28,370 --> 00:55:34,940 But so far, it's just a dream, but maybe we

821

00:55:34,940 --> 00:55:37,610 can make it come to, yet.

822

00:55:37,610 --> 00:55:41,082 Would your sons wives and whatever children.

823

00:55:41,082 --> 00:55:41,790 would they go to?

824

00:55:41,790 --> 00:55:44,900

825

00:55:44,900 --> 00:55:46,980 Well, I really don't know.

826

00:55:46,980 --> 00:55:48,770 I mean I our--

i ilicali i oui-

827

 $00:55:48,770 \longrightarrow 00:55:51,400$ 

828

00:55:51,400 --> 00:55:59,720

well wives-- I really

can't answer that,

829

00:55:59,720 --> 00:56:01,700 because they're all different.

830

00:56:01,700 --> 00:56:04,460 Our three daughter in laws are all

831

00:56:04,460 --> 00:56:10,850 completely different people, and some may, and some may not.

832

 $00:56:10,850 \longrightarrow 00:56:15,290$ 

833

00:56:15,290 --> 00:56:19,490 As far as the grandchildren are concerned, of course,

834

00:56:19,490 --> 00:56:22,600 our oldest granddaughter is very independent.

835

00:56:22,600 --> 00:56:25,220 You know she's 23, 24.

836

00:56:25,220 --> 00:56:30,320 And I don't know how much, Sue told you

837

00:56:30,320 --> 00:56:37,310 about the grandchildren, but Ronnie had two children

838

00:56:37,310 --> 00:56:39,380 from his first marriage.

839

00:56:39,380 --> 00:56:44,510 And he lost a son in an accident.

840

00:56:44,510 --> 00:56:50,270 And he would have been 25 now, and the daughter is 23.

841

00:56:50,270 --> 00:56:55,838 And she's a very, very independent lady.

842

00:56:55,838 --> 00:56:58,490 What's her name?

843

00:56:58,490 --> 00:57:00,080 Eloise.

844

00:57:00,080 --> 00:57:00,630 Eloise.

845

00:57:00,630 --> 00:57:03,080 That's our oldest granddaughter.

846

00:57:03,080 --> 00:57:06,590 And then, of course, with a second marriage

847

00:57:06,590 --> 00:57:10,370 he has little Aaron, who is going to be 3.

848

00:57:10,370 --> 00:57:14,510 So that's a spread of grandchildren that we have.

849

00:57:14,510 --> 00:57:21,440 And then we have Ben well that's our oldest son is Ronnie.

850

00:57:21,440 --> 00:57:24,920 So he has a daughter and son.

851

00:57:24,920 --> 00:57:28,490 And our second son is Jonathan, who lives here 852 00:57:28,490 --> 00:57:32,110 in Santa Rosa, who has two children,

853 00:57:32,110 --> 00:57:36,680 and Eric, who is starting college next fall.

854 00:57:36,680 --> 00:57:41,820 So I don't know whether he would come.

855 00:57:41,820 --> 00:57:45,960 And Lisa is two years younger, so she's

856 00:57:45,960 --> 00:57:50,170 going to be a junior in high school next year.

857 00:57:50,170 --> 00:57:53,910 And then our youngest son, Benjamin, he

858 00:57:53,910 --> 00:57:57,090 has one son, Samuel.

859 00:57:57,090 --> 00:57:59,700 And he's going to be 11.

860 00:57:59,700 --> 00:58:02,550 So you have quite a spread there.

861 00:58:02,550 --> 00:58:09,450 Yeah, but the spread is really all Ronnie's doing, because--

862 00:58:09,450 --> 00:58:12,060 Did you and Suzanne ever return to Europe, and Germany, 00:58:12,060 --> 00:58:13,390 in particular.

864

00:58:13,390 --> 00:58:15,540 Well we have been in Germany, yes

865

00:58:15,540 --> 00:58:23,820 but we have not been to that area where we lived.

866

00:58:23,820 --> 00:58:26,410 We have been to Germany because, first of all,

867

00:58:26,410 --> 00:58:31,800 I worked for a multinational firm for a while,

868

00:58:31,800 --> 00:58:35,740 so I had business in Germany.

869

00:58:35,740 --> 00:58:41,910 And Sue, or I had an aunt in Berlin for a while,

870

00:58:41,910 --> 00:58:43,330 until she died.

871

00:58:43,330 --> 00:58:50,670 She's a non-Jewish lady who was the widow

872

00:58:50,670 --> 00:59:00,690 of my father's brother, who survived the war in Berlin.

873

00:59:00,690 --> 00:59:06,300 And so we took up connection with her after the war

874

00:59:06,300 --> 00:59:09,370 and went to see her

a couple of times.

875 00:59:09,370 --> 00:59:15,270 And Sue had a cousin in Frankfurt,

876 00:59:15,270 --> 00:59:17,760 or rather her father's cousin.

877 00:59:17,760 --> 00:59:25,290 And so we went to visit there, and then

878 00:59:25,290 --> 00:59:30,870 she has some friends, who went to school with her,

879 00:59:30,870 --> 00:59:36,450 who were loyal to her, and non-Jewish friends,

880 00:59:36,450 --> 00:59:42,220 and we visited with them.

881 00:59:42,220 --> 00:59:49,090 Where-- we didn't ever go vacationing in Germany, really.

882 00:59:49,090 --> 00:59:51,250 A then of course, we went to Germany

883 00:59:51,250 --> 00:59:56,320 for Suzanne's beatification, which she probably

884 00:59:56,320 --> 01:00:00,910 talked about, so there were occasions when--

885 01:00:00,910 --> 01:00:02,603 What was your impression, and what 886 01:00:02,603 --> 01:00:05,020 were your feelings on returning to Germany the first time?

887 01:00:05,020 --> 01:00:10,170

888 01:00:10,170 --> 01:00:14,040 I don't really recall, now, the first time.

889 01:00:14,040 --> 01:00:22,860 I mean generally-- but let's say the non-business related trips

890 01:00:22,860 --> 01:00:28,410 are different, because you go to visit people.

891 01:00:28,410 --> 01:00:31,200 And when you visit people you go there

892 01:00:31,200 --> 01:00:32,850 because you want to visit people.

893 01:00:32,850 --> 01:00:36,900 And that's usually a nice experience.

894 01:00:36,900 --> 01:00:41,100 You definitely feel like a foreigner.

895 01:00:41,100 --> 01:00:42,840 The only advantage is that you have

896 01:00:42,840 --> 01:00:44,490 to understand the language. 897 01:00:44,490 --> 01:00:48,480 I mean, if I go to Italy or to France, I'm just--

898

01:00:48,480 --> 01:00:53,130 I mean, I feel the same way, I'm just a tourist.

899

01:00:53,130 --> 01:00:56,610 I mean I certainly do not feel any affinity.

900

01:00:56,610 --> 01:01:01,020 The only thing is, I say, it's nice, if you know the language.

901

01:01:01,020 --> 01:01:06,780 And so I mean I feel the same way if I go to Switzerland.

902

01:01:06,780 --> 01:01:10,755 I'm also a tourist, and the language, I have no feeling.

903

01:01:10,755 --> 01:01:13,740

904

01:01:13,740 --> 01:01:19,990 As far as the people are concerned,

905

01:01:19,990 --> 01:01:24,000 you're always very suspicious of the older people

906

01:01:24,000 --> 01:01:28,620 because that from the history, that if everybody would have

907

01:01:28,620 --> 01:01:33,350 been this Lily white and pure as they now pretend,

908 01:01:33,350 --> 01:01:36,060 there wouldn't have been any Nazis.

909 01:01:36,060 --> 01:01:40,950 So and the younger generation, you

910 01:01:40,950 --> 01:01:44,740 would treat with the benefit of the doubt.

911 01:01:44,740 --> 01:01:47,290 But you treat everybody with the benefit of the doubt.

912 01:01:47,290 --> 01:01:50,460 But the younger generation, you have no problem with.

913 01:01:50,460 --> 01:01:54,570 And actually, you have no problem even discussing

914 01:01:54,570 --> 01:01:58,950 your own history, and the past, and all that.

915 01:01:58,950 --> 01:02:01,650 And they're very interested, and they want to know.

916 01:02:01,650 --> 01:02:04,350

917 01:02:04,350 --> 01:02:07,290 I mean, certainly, also younger colleagues

918 01:02:07,290 --> 01:02:11,940 I've worked with professionally, because they just don't know. 919

01:02:11,940 --> 01:02:15,280 Because they don't certainly in the family, and so on.

920

01:02:15,280 --> 01:02:20,320 They don't hear the stories that they hear from us.

921

01:02:20,320 --> 01:02:26,130 I mean, we had a young medical student visit us here,

922

01:02:26,130 --> 01:02:34,290 who was the son of the friends of Sue.

923

01:02:34,290 --> 01:02:44,210 Well the son of a friend of Sue who afterwards married a doctor

924

01:02:44,210 --> 01:02:45,930 in Germany.

925

01:02:45,930 --> 01:02:53,940 And then and so the son studied medicine, he came over here.

926

01:02:53,940 --> 01:02:56,220 While he was here, he visited with us.

927

01:02:56,220 --> 01:02:59,850 And when we spent the day with us.

928

01:02:59,850 --> 01:03:02,310 And we got to talking about it.

929

01:03:02,310 --> 01:03:05,710 And he said he'd never heard anything like that.

930

01:03:05,710 --> 01:03:09,000 And when he went home he confronted his parents.

931 01:03:09,000 --> 01:03:14,490 And it made a terrible, terrible scene there,

932 01:03:14,490 --> 01:03:17,400 because they said it was none of his business

933 01:03:17,400 --> 01:03:22,260 to know about these things, and he should just

934 01:03:22,260 --> 01:03:24,180 worry about his own affairs.

935 01:03:24,180 --> 01:03:26,160 And not about his parents past.

936 01:03:26,160 --> 01:03:30,750 And so that-- well

937 01:03:30,750 --> 01:03:32,240 So is this--

938 01:03:32,240 --> 01:03:37,080 So this is just one example, you know--

939 01:03:37,080 --> 01:03:40,230 So do you feel that, in general, some of the older people

940 01:03:40,230 --> 01:03:42,570 are trying to suppress those stories.

941 01:03:42,570 --> 01:03:43,200 Oh, yes. 942

01:03:43,200 --> 01:03:46,720 Well I tell you something.

943

01:03:46,720 --> 01:03:50,410 When I was going there on business, of course,

944

01:03:50,410 --> 01:03:54,510 everybody realizes that I also am an American.

945

01:03:54,510 --> 01:03:56,670 I speak German fluently.

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01:03:56,670 --> 01:03:57,840 And so how come.

947

01:03:57,840 --> 01:03:59,240 And then you know.

948

01:03:59,240 --> 01:04:06,380 Well I established, very early in the conversation,

949

01:04:06,380 --> 01:04:08,990 my historical background.

950

01:04:08,990 --> 01:04:12,870 So that we really know where we're coming from.

951

01:04:12,870 --> 01:04:15,710 And we know the keep out areas.

952

01:04:15,710 --> 01:04:20,000 Because when you're there as a private person,

953

01:04:20,000 --> 01:04:25,100 you can talk about things, even if they become controversial.

954 01:04:25,100 --> 01:04:30,110 But if you're there in a

But if you're there in a business related situation,

955 01:04:30,110 --> 01:04:31,890 you're representing your company.

956 01:04:31,890 --> 01:04:36,200 So you have to be very correct.

957 01:04:36,200 --> 01:04:39,030 And you have to get your work done.

958 01:04:39,030 --> 01:04:42,830 And so the best thing is to just consider

959 01:04:42,830 --> 01:04:50,810 certain areas of conversation, even after hours, taboo.

960 01:04:50,810 --> 01:04:53,090 Which you would do, which you would not

961 01:04:53,090 --> 01:04:56,870 consider taboo if you had a private relationship

962 01:04:56,870 --> 01:04:58,160 with these people.

963 01:04:58,160 --> 01:05:01,520 Did you feel any anxiety, as a Jewish person,

964 01:05:01,520 --> 01:05:02,700 coming back to Germany?

965 01:05:02,700 --> 01:05:04,760 No I didn't feel any anxiety.

966 01:05:04,760 --> 01:05:07,790 I just-- for my personal safety?

967 01:05:07,790 --> 01:05:09,360 No, none at all.

968 01:05:09,360 --> 01:05:12,050 I just felt uncomfortable--

969 01:05:12,050 --> 01:05:15,151

970 01:05:15,151 --> 01:05:16,920 you now, one gets--

971 01:05:16,920 --> 01:05:19,760 it it's really a prejudice, practically.

972 01:05:19,760 --> 01:05:22,320 You know, you see people in a beer house,

973 01:05:22,320 --> 01:05:26,370 sitting very happily around the table

974 01:05:26,370 --> 01:05:31,590 and singing their old drinking songs and so on.

975 01:05:31,590 --> 01:05:34,350 And which is probably perfectly natural

976 01:05:34,350 --> 01:05:35,890 and innocent and wonderful.

977 01:05:35,890 --> 01:05:39,670 But in your mind, you make associations.

978 01:05:39,670 --> 01:05:43,110 So this is a prejudice, that you--

979 01:05:43,110 --> 01:05:46,170 but you're not making anybody else suffer

980 01:05:46,170 --> 01:05:48,570 under your prejudice, you suffer because

981 01:05:48,570 --> 01:05:55,870 of your preconceived notions and your associations.

982 01:05:55,870 --> 01:05:57,810 So that's why you feel uncomfortable.

983 01:05:57,810 --> 01:06:01,250 I mean we spend a few days in a guest house

984 01:06:01,250 --> 01:06:10,380 there after the beatification, and the owner,

985 01:06:10,380 --> 01:06:12,180 his first name was Adolf.

986 01:06:12,180 --> 01:06:15,120 So you know everybody knows.

987 01:06:15,120 --> 01:06:17,400 Sue said well, you know he was a younger fellow,

988 01:06:17,400 --> 01:06:21,870 so probably his parents must have been very taken 989 01:06:21,870 --> 01:06:25,950 with the regime and named them after the fuhrer,

990

01:06:25,950 --> 01:06:29,160 but that's certainly not his fault, you know.

991

01:06:29,160 --> 01:06:30,360 What he was named.

992

01:06:30,360 --> 01:06:33,850 But you always have these associations.

993

01:06:33,850 --> 01:06:37,080 So you you've got to get away from it because you suffered.

994

01:06:37,080 --> 01:06:40,170 You don't--

995

01:06:40,170 --> 01:06:43,560 Did you have any question or anxiety

996

01:06:43,560 --> 01:06:47,790 about being a Jew and meeting anti-Semitism.

997

01:06:47,790 --> 01:06:52,460 I have never experienced anti-Semitism in, I mean--

998

01:06:52,460 --> 01:06:53,220 In Germany.

999

01:06:53,220 --> 01:06:55,440 In Germany, on our trips.

1000

01:06:55,440 --> 01:06:58,140

I've never seen any signs of it.

1001 01:06:58,140 --> 01:07:07,020 I have, I think the only experience that I recall,

1002

01:07:07,020 --> 01:07:11,550 that really gave me the shivers, and it wasn't an anti-Semitic

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01:07:11,550 --> 01:07:17,960 experience, per se, but when we were in Cologne,

1004

01:07:17,960 --> 01:07:24,180 for the beatification, the following Shabbat

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01:07:24,180 --> 01:07:27,210 we went to services in Cologne.

1006

01:07:27,210 --> 01:07:33,400 And when we went to synagogue there,

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01:07:33,400 --> 01:07:38,490 there were security guards and two or three

1008

01:07:38,490 --> 01:07:43,000 doors to go through and you had to show your identification

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01:07:43,000 --> 01:07:44,505 and all that.

1010

01:07:44,505 --> 01:07:46,440 That gave me the shivers, you know.

1011

01:07:46,440 --> 01:07:49,380 It's not that there was anything anti-Semitic,

1012 01:07:49,380 --> 01:07:52,560 but the fact that the synagogue was locked,

1013 01:07:52,560 --> 01:07:54,180 and you have to prove that you-

1014 01:07:54,180 --> 01:07:58,470

1015 01:07:58,470 --> 01:08:06,930 and so something must have prompted them to take

1016 01:08:06,930 --> 01:08:09,810 these security measures.

1017 01:08:09,810 --> 01:08:12,615 But I think the same thing may be true in New York City.

1018 01:08:12,615 --> 01:08:14,820 I haven't been for a while.

1019 01:08:14,820 --> 01:08:19,500 Because, look, we've got crazy people everywhere.

1020 01:08:19,500 --> 01:08:26,069 But I don't know whether it's more and--

1021 01:08:26,069 --> 01:08:27,890 I mean, I really don't know.

1022 01:08:27,890 --> 01:08:31,010 I mean I certainly, you asked me for my experiences.

1023 01:08:31,010 --> 01:08:35,310 And I don't have any

## recollection of anything

1024 01:08:35,310 --> 01:08:37,090 like that.

1025

01:08:37,090 --> 01:08:42,350 Did you meet any instances of neo-Nazi packs.

1026 01:08:42,350 --> 01:08:42,850 No.

1027 01:08:42,850 --> 01:08:45,950

1028

01:08:45,950 --> 01:08:49,007 What's your general thinking about the neo-Nazi movement,

1029 01:08:49,007 --> 01:08:50,007 particularly in Germany.

1030 01:08:50,007 --> 01:08:52,750

1031 01:08:52,750 --> 01:08:55,810 Well, I tell you something, it's again

1032 01:08:55,810 --> 01:09:01,180 that we're suffering now, under our association.

1033 01:09:01,180 --> 01:09:10,060 I would think that it is probably no worse than it

1034 01:09:10,060 --> 01:09:13,600 is right in our own country.

1035 01:09:13,600 --> 01:09:19,600 But we're associating it with our past in Germany.

1036 01:09:19,600 --> 01:09:24,290 And therefore it seems so much more ominous.

1037 01:09:24,290 --> 01:09:30,790 Now we know, for example, that it's a crime to print

1038 01:09:30,790 --> 01:09:32,500 anti-Semitic literature .

1039 01:09:32,500 --> 01:09:35,319 In Germany you know that all the literature

1040 01:09:35,319 --> 01:09:37,390 is imported from America.

1041 01:09:37,390 --> 01:09:39,609 I mean this is where it's printed.

1042 01:09:39,609 --> 01:09:41,010 I mean, we got--

1043 01:09:41,010 --> 01:09:44,050

1044 01:09:44,050 --> 01:09:50,890 I think that it's probably just as bad.

1045 01:09:50,890 --> 01:09:53,450 I mean, long as there's Jews there's

1046 01:09:53,450 --> 01:10:00,960 anti-Semitism and intense hatred of minorities.

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01:10:00,960 --> 01:10:04,060 And we happen to be one of them.

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01:10:04,060 --> 01:10:08,590 And whether it's foreigners or the Turks and I mean,

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01:10:08,590 --> 01:10:13,410 when I visited Germany, and they were

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01:10:13,410 --> 01:10:17,340 talking about what they call the fremdarbeiter, which

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01:10:17,340 --> 01:10:22,980 means the workers who came from, like immigrant labor,

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01:10:22,980 --> 01:10:26,860 and the Turks taking our jobs.

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01:10:26,860 --> 01:10:27,750 The same thing.

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01:10:27,750 --> 01:10:32,190 I mean, sure, you get very perturbed about it.

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01:10:32,190 --> 01:10:34,680 But we have it here too.

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01:10:34,680 --> 01:10:37,920 And people may-it's not as popular.

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01:10:37,920 --> 01:10:42,960 People don't-- are reluctant to speak as freely,

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01:10:42,960 --> 01:10:46,080 as they would there, probably.

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01:10:46,080 --> 01:10:50,700 But I mean, if you get to the bottom of it,

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01:10:50,700 --> 01:10:55,140 I think you have social anti-Semitism here.

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01:10:55,140 --> 01:11:01,530 You have and you certainly it's not only anti-Semitism.

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01:11:01,530 --> 01:11:04,950 I think anti-Semitism is just one of the prejudices.

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01:11:04,950 --> 01:11:11,040 And I mean, we had the discrimination

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01:11:11,040 --> 01:11:15,510 against the colored people in America,

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01:11:15,510 --> 01:11:18,070 certainly, I mean, I'm not talking about now.

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01:11:18,070 --> 01:11:20,250 But in the past.

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01:11:20,250 --> 01:11:26,370 Was probably what suppressed anti-Semitism, because people

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01:11:26,370 --> 01:11:28,320 have a scapegoat, you see.

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01:11:28,320 --> 01:11:34,570 And they have somebody to blame for social ills, and so on.

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01:11:34,570 --> 01:11:40,670 And so here was the Negroes there was a--

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01:11:40,670 --> 01:11:41,170

1072

01:11:41,170 --> 01:11:41,490 No.

1073

01:11:41,490 --> 01:11:42,240 I mean the Blacks.

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01:11:42,240 --> 01:11:43,140 Right.

1075

01:11:43,140 --> 01:11:46,260 I'm going back to that time.

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01:11:46,260 --> 01:11:52,650 But I really, I think objectively speaking,

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01:11:52,650 --> 01:11:55,530 it's probably no worse in Germany.

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01:11:55,530 --> 01:12:05,610 Now, there is, of course, the revisionist and the right wing

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01:12:05,610 --> 01:12:12,630 element, which may dream of the glorious days of Third Reich,

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01:12:12,630 --> 01:12:13,230 you know.

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01:12:13,230 --> 01:12:20,760 And still some of that into the younger generation.

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01:12:20,760 --> 01:12:23,520 Or maybe the younger generation, you

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01:12:23,520 --> 01:12:29,010 know dreams of these glorious days which weren't, after all,

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01:12:29,010 --> 01:12:29,910 so glorious.

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01:12:29,910 --> 01:12:34,440 But so there is another component in Germany.

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01:12:34,440 --> 01:12:39,620 But I think I'm not really qualified.

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01:12:39,620 --> 01:12:42,260 I mean, you asked me for my impression,

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01:12:42,260 --> 01:12:43,280 that what I gave you.

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01:12:43,280 --> 01:12:48,470 But I'm not qualified to really assess it objectively.

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01:12:48,470 --> 01:12:50,660 Do you think the Holocaust could happen

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01:12:50,660 --> 01:12:52,598 again, in Germany or elsewhere?

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01:12:52,598 --> 01:12:55,470

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01:12:55,470 --> 01:13:01,940 Well, I think that if you read the papers and about

1094 01:13:01,940 --> 01:13:05,720 the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1095 01:13:05,720 --> 01:13:11,240 Or they read about the tribal wars in Africa.

1096 01:13:11,240 --> 01:13:15,710 And I mean this--

1097 01:13:15,710 --> 01:13:20,900 I think what we don't have, and I think,

1098 01:13:20,900 --> 01:13:28,920 is a government sponsored extermination by law.

1099 01:13:28,920 --> 01:13:37,110 It's not guerrilla fighting, of groups against groups.

1100 01:13:37,110 --> 01:13:43,110 It was a government sponsored extermination by law.

1101 01:13:43,110 --> 01:13:48,570 That, I would hope, cannot happen again.

1102 01:13:48,570 --> 01:13:58,880 However, if we look at the reluctance of the United

1103 01:13:58,880 --> 01:14:06,210 Nations, today, to promote armed intervention

1104 01:14:06,210 --> 01:14:09,510 to overcome social-- 1105

01:14:09,510 --> 01:14:11,220 or no, not social--

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01:14:11,220 --> 01:14:17,760 military aggression of people against people,

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01:14:17,760 --> 01:14:22,560 I would say that if such a thing were threatening,

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01:14:22,560 --> 01:14:26,790 like a holocaust, what mechanism,

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01:14:26,790 --> 01:14:34,170 do we as a world, as a society of nations, United Nations,

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01:14:34,170 --> 01:14:35,910 or whatever that what.

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01:14:35,910 --> 01:14:41,400 We don't have any mechanism in place actually to combat it.

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01:14:41,400 --> 01:14:44,820 And if there is no mechanism to combat it,

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01:14:44,820 --> 01:14:48,060 then people would a demagogue, would not

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01:14:48,060 --> 01:14:51,750 have to be really afraid of it.

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01:14:51,750 --> 01:14:58,290 But again, I really, I am giving you my opinions.

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01:14:58,290 --> 01:15:06,060

But I'm really not, I do not feel qualified,

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01:15:06,060 --> 01:15:08,940 these are just my own thoughts.

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01:15:08,940 --> 01:15:19,110 Which was a layman's approach to big problems.

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01:15:19,110 --> 01:15:23,730 Did you ever consider living in Israel?

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01:15:23,730 --> 01:15:24,540 Yes.

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01:15:24,540 --> 01:15:26,730 I may have.

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01:15:26,730 --> 01:15:28,020 Not, let's say--

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01:15:28,020 --> 01:15:33,250

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01:15:33,250 --> 01:15:35,680 I think, not very concretely.

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01:15:35,680 --> 01:15:40,810 I mean, I certainly am very fond of Israel.

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01:15:40,810 --> 01:15:48,920

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01:15:48,920 --> 01:15:49,660 I don't know.

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01:15:49,660 --> 01:15:53,790

I mean, certainly, I'm a very great family man.

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01:15:53,790 --> 01:15:58,380 I would certainly not feel like I would want I mean--

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01:15:58,380 --> 01:16:02,370 want to live in Israel, when my whole family

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01:16:02,370 --> 01:16:05,110 that left to live in America.

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01:16:05,110 --> 01:16:09,270 And this is probably a much stronger feeling.

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01:16:09,270 --> 01:16:11,640 But I feel very fond of Israel.

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01:16:11,640 --> 01:16:17,010 I personally am a very, very poor linguist.

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01:16:17,010 --> 01:16:22,230 And although, I think I have learned the English language

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01:16:22,230 --> 01:16:25,110 fairly well, especially when I write it,

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01:16:25,110 --> 01:16:27,960 because I don't have an accent when I write.

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01:16:27,960 --> 01:16:29,700 Only when I talk.

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01:16:29,700 --> 01:16:36,960 But I find Hebrew an insurmountable problem.

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01:16:36,960 --> 01:16:48,300 I mean I am fortunately able to keep myself going in prayer

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01:16:48,300 --> 01:16:53,340 setting, but as far as colloquial language

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01:16:53,340 --> 01:16:56,970 is concerned, conversational language is concerned,

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01:16:56,970 --> 01:16:59,760 I always make an attempt and it's always

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01:16:59,760 --> 01:17:02,360 with disastrous consequences.

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01:17:02,360 --> 01:17:06,700 So I think that more than--

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01:17:06,700 --> 01:17:12,720 I mean, aside from the family situation,

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01:17:12,720 --> 01:17:16,240 I would find that very, very difficult.

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01:17:16,240 --> 01:17:20,775 And it's difficult to be a foreigner in any country.

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01:17:20,775 --> 01:17:23,520

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01:17:23,520 --> 01:17:31,250 But you're only half a foreigner if you mastered the language.

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01:17:31,250 --> 01:17:34,010

I mean, you can live

in America, you always

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01:17:34,010 --> 01:17:42,380 feel somewhat of an at least you never forget that you're really

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01:17:42,380 --> 01:17:43,880 somewhat of an immigrant.

1154

01:17:43,880 --> 01:17:46,580 But you mastered the language, no problem.

1155

01:17:46,580 --> 01:17:49,690 There it just would be just the opposite.

1156

01:17:49,690 --> 01:17:51,770 You probably feel pretty much at home.

1157

01:17:51,770 --> 01:17:54,380 That portion would be pretty good.

1158

01:17:54,380 --> 01:17:58,730 But you don't know the language, so you'd feel pretty much

1159

01:17:58,730 --> 01:18:01,778 out of it for other reasons.

1160

01:18:01,778 --> 01:18:03,320 So you never entertained living there

1161

01:18:03,320 --> 01:18:06,870 in the earlier days, when your children were younger.

1162

01:18:06,870 --> 01:18:07,370 No.

1163

01:18:07,370 --> 01:18:08,450 We had our parents.

1164

01:18:08,450 --> 01:18:09,710 Were had our--

1165

01:18:09,710 --> 01:18:13,130 I don't think we would have.

1166

01:18:13,130 --> 01:18:21,230 I mean we were always kindly disposed towards Israel,

1167

01:18:21,230 --> 01:18:21,980 I know--

1168

01:18:21,980 --> 01:18:25,550 look I had an uncle there who always worked on me.

1169

01:18:25,550 --> 01:18:28,160 He said, look you wouldn't have any of the problems

1170

01:18:28,160 --> 01:18:31,380 that you have here, and there's no football games and stuff.

1171

01:18:31,380 --> 01:18:33,830 But if you have problems with your kids

1172

01:18:33,830 --> 01:18:35,780 who want to go to a football game

1173

01:18:35,780 --> 01:18:39,380 when you want to have a Friday night dinner and--

1174

01:18:39,380 --> 01:18:44,870

1175 01:18:44,870 --> 01:18:51,470 But I don't, I don't think that, this was--

1176 01:18:51,470 --> 01:18:55,070 and of course, Sue, whose profession

1177 01:18:55,070 --> 01:19:01,820 is so much connected with the literary scene too,

1178 01:19:01,820 --> 01:19:03,860 I mean, I can't speak for her, but I

1179 01:19:03,860 --> 01:19:08,330 think she would have probably found it very difficult,

1180 01:19:08,330 --> 01:19:11,430 because you don't only have to learn the language.

1181 01:19:11,430 --> 01:19:15,980 You have to master the whole literature

1182 01:19:15,980 --> 01:19:21,120 and but I don't want to speak for her.

1183 01:19:21,120 --> 01:19:24,410 Well, it sounds like you have lived and raised your children

1184 01:19:24,410 --> 01:19:27,170 in the Jewish tradition

1185 01:19:27,170 --> 01:19:27,860 Yes. 1186

01:19:27,860 --> 01:19:30,710 Well, I mean you do what you can.

1187

01:19:30,710 --> 01:19:35,130 And again, your children are individuals.

1188

01:19:35,130 --> 01:19:43,580 By now they're mature, I must admit, middle age.

1189

01:19:43,580 --> 01:19:44,690 Middle aged kids?

1190

01:19:44,690 --> 01:19:47,930

1191

01:19:47,930 --> 01:19:50,070 And now they have families of their own.

1192

01:19:50,070 --> 01:19:55,380 So, yes, we have come a long way.

1193

01:19:55,380 --> 01:19:56,540 I mean we have not--

1194

01:19:56,540 --> 01:20:00,560 I mean our own religious observance

1195

01:20:00,560 --> 01:20:02,880 has changed over the years.

1196

01:20:02,880 --> 01:20:09,500 We have become more observant through the years.

1197

01:20:09,500 --> 01:20:14,830

But our children were

all brought up with--

1198 01:20:14,830 --> 01:20:18,830 they all went to Hebrew school and they all got--

1199

01:20:18,830 --> 01:20:26,510 well not only sent to Hebrew school and otherwise sterile

1200

01:20:26,510 --> 01:20:29,780 environment, we always observe the holidays.

1201

01:20:29,780 --> 01:20:35,060 And Shabbat, and not necessarily the way we do now,

1202

01:20:35,060 --> 01:20:40,730 but it was always a very important attribute

1203

01:20:40,730 --> 01:20:42,560 of our family life.

1204

01:20:42,560 --> 01:20:44,540 I presume your sons were all bar mitzvahed.

1205

01:20:44,540 --> 01:20:45,210 Bar mitzvah.

1206

01:20:45,210 --> 01:20:45,710 Yeah.

1207

01:20:45,710 --> 01:20:46,560 Yeah.

1208

01:20:46,560 --> 01:20:47,060 Yeah.

1209

01:20:47,060 --> 01:20:47,820

They were.

1210

01:20:47,820 --> 01:20:57,800 And so I think they all took

to it in a different way.

1211

 $01:20:57,800 \longrightarrow 01:21:02,330$ 

The oldest one is now.

1212

01:21:02,330 --> 01:21:12,020

What was really kind of got away

from his religious commitment--

1213

01:21:12,020 --> 01:21:13,200

or if he ever had one.

1214

01:21:13,200 --> 01:21:16,910

I mean he got away from religious observance.

1215

01:21:16,910 --> 01:21:24,350

But now he is quite involved,

and they have a kosher home,

1216

01:21:24,350 --> 01:21:27,690

and they belong to a synagogue, and it's

1217

01:21:27.690 --> 01:21:37.160

like-- with his second wife

and, they follow the observances

1218

01:21:37,160 --> 01:21:39,020

pretty closely.

1219

01:21:39,020 --> 01:21:50,130

And our second son,

Jonathan here in Santa Rosa,

1220

01:21:50,130 --> 01:21:55,740

he goes to attend

Shabbat morning services,

1221 01:21:55,740 --> 01:21:58,170 and they have a--

1222 01:21:58,170 --> 01:22:00,540 they don't have a kosher home, but it's

1223 01:22:00,540 --> 01:22:09,270 a they're committed and very involved with the synagogue,

1224 01:22:09,270 --> 01:22:14,410 so it certainly plays a big part in their lives.

1225 01:22:14,410 --> 01:22:19,170 Our youngest son is married to a non-Jewish woman

1226 01:22:19,170 --> 01:22:24,990 and they have absolutely no religion, any sort of religion

1227 01:22:24,990 --> 01:22:32,900 does not play any part in their existence.

1228 01:22:32,900 --> 01:22:39,060 So that's where it's at.

1229 01:22:39,060 --> 01:22:42,300 What do you think, was it that changed

1230 01:22:42,300 --> 01:22:44,640 your religious observance.

1231 01:22:44,640 --> 01:22:47,490 You said that it changed over the years.

1232 01:22:47,490 --> 01:22:49,710 Did you become more observant?

1233

01:22:49,710 --> 01:22:50,450

Yeah, more.

1234

01:22:50,450 --> 01:22:52,620

More.

1235

01:22:52,620 --> 01:22:55,830

To what do you attribute that?

1236

01:22:55,830 --> 01:22:59,460

Well first of all there are

changes in your thinking that

1237

01:22:59,460 --> 01:23:02,970

you that you cannot

attribute to anything,

1238

01:23:02,970 --> 01:23:06,810

because we just aren't what

we were born, fortunately.

1239

 $01:23:06,810 \longrightarrow 01:23:11,250$ 

We were mature in a certain

way and we can't always

1240

 $01:23:11,250 \longrightarrow 01:23:15,910$ 

control the direction

in which we change.

1241

01:23:15,910 --> 01:23:19,530

However, I also

feel very strongly

1242

01:23:19,530 --> 01:23:30,030

that being part of the remnant puts the obligation on us

1243

01:23:30,030 --> 01:23:33,690

to make every day count.

1244

01:23:33,690 --> 01:23:38,460 In other words, if we would abandon our tradition,

1245 01:23:38,460 --> 01:23:43,500 then we would give Hitler his posthumous victory,

1246 01:23:43,500 --> 01:23:44,160 in other words.

1247 01:23:44,160 --> 01:23:47,340

1248 01:23:47,340 --> 01:23:53,010 I feel that having--

1249 01:23:53,010 --> 01:24:00,660 been granted the privilege of surviving the Holocaust,

1250 01:24:00,660 --> 01:24:06,300 put that obligation on us, to carry on the tradition,

1251 01:24:06,300 --> 01:24:08,700 to the fullest extent possible.

1252 01:24:08,700 --> 01:24:14,880 To propagate and to preserve it, and to teach it

1253 01:24:14,880 --> 01:24:16,920 and practice it.

1254 01:24:16,920 --> 01:24:18,930 You can't teach without practicing.

1255 01:24:18,930 --> 01:24:20,580 That is hypocrisy.

01:24:20,580 --> 01:24:24,060 So you've got to practice in order to teach.

1257 01:24:24,060 --> 01:24:29,130 And if we don't do that, then the Holocaust

1258 01:24:29,130 --> 01:24:31,690 will have destroyed.

1259 01:24:31,690 --> 01:24:37,740 So the obligation falls on fewer of us, because so much of it

1260 01:24:37,740 --> 01:24:38,800 was destroyed.

1261 01:24:38,800 --> 01:24:43,110 So that those of us who have the privilege

1262 01:24:43,110 --> 01:24:50,250 of being able to carry it on, should carry it on.

1263 01:24:50,250 --> 01:24:52,560 I think it's an important part.

1264 01:24:52,560 --> 01:24:57,390 I think that if we belong to a tradition which

1265 01:24:57,390 --> 01:25:03,660 has certain practices and certain obligations,

1266 01:25:03,660 --> 01:25:06,000 we should fulfill the obligations,

1267 01:25:06,000 --> 01:25:08,490 and follow the practices. 1268 01:25:08,490 --> 01:25:13,150 Because it's not a pick and choose thing.

1269 01:25:13,150 --> 01:25:15,240 I mean you either commit yourself,

1270 01:25:15,240 --> 01:25:16,780 and then you commit yourself.

1271 01:25:16,780 --> 01:25:20,820 But if you join a club you read the bylaws

1272 01:25:20,820 --> 01:25:23,160 if you don't like the bylaws get out.

1273 01:25:23,160 --> 01:25:25,270 But if you're part of it.

1274 01:25:25,270 --> 01:25:41,130 Then, I think you're should follow the rules of the game.

1275 01:25:41,130 --> 01:25:45,240 Do you feel that you've had any changes, or revolution,

1276 01:25:45,240 --> 01:25:49,640 in a belief or thinking about a God, over time?

1277 01:25:49,640 --> 01:25:53,400

1278 01:25:53,400 --> 01:25:54,840 That comes in waves.

1279 01:25:54,840 --> 01:25:58,050 I mean there's certain--

1280 01:25:58,050 --> 01:26:00,600 I didn't know we would get philosophical here.

1281 01:26:00,600 --> 01:26:07,200 But I think that it is, yeah, you go through certain periods,

1282 01:26:07,200 --> 01:26:09,990 I think, definitely.

1283 01:26:09,990 --> 01:26:26,890 I really think that the creation it's not that there's

1284 01:26:26,890 --> 01:26:29,640 a moving power in the universe.

1285 01:26:29,640 --> 01:26:33,100 There's a creative power in the universe.

1286 01:26:33,100 --> 01:26:40,825 I think that biologically we can create bodies.

1287 01:26:40,825 --> 01:26:44,410

1288 01:26:44,410 --> 01:26:46,060 And that's why we have kids.

1289 01:26:46,060 --> 01:26:53,380 But that the soul is the still, I

1290 01:26:53,380 --> 01:26:57,920 mean there's still the divine part and each one of us.

01:26:57,920 --> 01:27:02,630 And it just can't just happen.

1292

01:27:02,630 --> 01:27:13,360 I think that is there's a law of indestructibility of matter.

1293

01:27:13,360 --> 01:27:16,520 We know what happens to our bodies.

1294

01:27:16,520 --> 01:27:20,330 You know, they go underground to decompose.

1295

01:27:20,330 --> 01:27:22,150 So we can reason that.

1296

01:27:22,150 --> 01:27:23,050 But we don't know.

1297

01:27:23,050 --> 01:27:27,460 But I think the soul must also be indestructible.

1298

01:27:27,460 --> 01:27:29,210 So something happens to it.

1299

01:27:29,210 --> 01:27:31,260 So we do that.

1300

01:27:31,260 --> 01:27:33,010 There are great mysteries.

1301

01:27:33,010 --> 01:27:36,580 And I think God is one of the great mysteries.

1302

01:27:36,580 --> 01:27:40,765 But maybe he is the boss of the great mysteries.

01:27:40,765 --> 01:27:42,670 He or she or whatever.

1304 01:27:42,670 --> 01:27:46,660 I mean I'm not hung up on gender neutrality,

1305 01:27:46,660 --> 01:27:52,720 because I'm using a masculine term does not give it

1306 01:27:52,720 --> 01:27:54,700 a masculine connotation.

1307 01:27:54,700 --> 01:27:57,130 Because I do not make an image of it.

1308 01:27:57,130 --> 01:28:02,200 But so you excuse me if I say--

1309 01:28:02,200 --> 01:28:03,280 Yes.

1310 01:28:03,280 --> 01:28:09,670 But, so in that way, I feel that there

1311 01:28:09,670 --> 01:28:19,150 is some power that creates.

1312 01:28:19,150 --> 01:28:29,460 I don't know whether I feel that way about the control.

1313 01:28:29,460 --> 01:28:31,500 The personal element.

1314 01:28:31,500 --> 01:28:32,040 Yes.

1315 01:28:32,040 --> 01:28:37,380 Well as I say, you go through certain phases.

1316 01:28:37,380 --> 01:28:39,810 And then certain aspects.

1317 01:28:39,810 --> 01:28:46,890 I mean I have had some wonderful experiences.

1318 01:28:46,890 --> 01:28:51,420 And some very miraculous experiences in my life.

1319 01:28:51,420 --> 01:28:59,290 And I can't go through life without having

1320 01:28:59,290 --> 01:29:03,400 some body to thank for all the blessings

1321 01:29:03,400 --> 01:29:05,680 that have come my way.

1322 01:29:05,680 --> 01:29:16,060 And I think that's why I think I need that sort of thing.

1323 01:29:16,060 --> 01:29:21,640 I need to give my thanks to somebody.

1324 01:29:21,640 --> 01:29:27,020 However, the implication is, well

1325 01:29:27,020 --> 01:29:30,980 does it mean that he is at fault if somebody is not

1326 01:29:30,980 --> 01:29:33,290 as blessed as you are. 1327 01:29:33,290 --> 01:29:37,550 Well I think that' their problem.

1328 01:29:37,550 --> 01:29:40,910 But if I see my--

1329 01:29:40,910 --> 01:29:45,230 when you have happy occasions and you have good relationships

1330 01:29:45,230 --> 01:29:47,840 and then you feel blessed.

1331 01:29:47,840 --> 01:29:54,050 And then certainly, you know that you haven't done anything

1332 01:29:54,050 --> 01:29:59,820 to create this relationship.

1333 01:29:59,820 --> 01:30:04,100 So this is-- I mean you, didn't do anything to bring it about.

1334 01:30:04,100 --> 01:30:08,060 And if you did it then, maybe it was a divine inspiration

1335 01:30:08,060 --> 01:30:11,000 that you don't even know of.

1336 01:30:11,000 --> 01:30:13,970 It is another mystery.

1337 01:30:13,970 --> 01:30:20,650 So I certainly I believe that there's a lot of mystery

1338 01:30:20,650 --> 01:30:22,780 and that there's a lot of-- 1339 01:30:22,780 --> 01:30:27,220 which isn't even that important to--

1340 01:30:27,220 --> 01:30:28,720 you don't have to analyze.

1341 01:30:28,720 --> 01:30:30,070 You don't have to analyze.

1342 01:30:30,070 --> 01:30:31,660 I mean as an engineer, you shouldn't

1343 01:30:31,660 --> 01:30:33,170 take that point of view.

1344 01:30:33,170 --> 01:30:39,850 But I feel, that I love to have certain areas that I'm just

1345 01:30:39,850 --> 01:30:43,450 accepting and take for granted.

1346 01:30:43,450 --> 01:30:48,100 And feel that it isn't really my obligation

1347 01:30:48,100 --> 01:30:51,160 to categorize everything.

1348 01:30:51,160 --> 01:30:52,900 To explain everything.

1349 01:30:52,900 --> 01:30:56,640 To codify everything.

1350 01:30:56,640 --> 01:30:58,540 Let there be some-- 01:30:58,540 --> 01:31:03,340 I mean, if you want to go for a walk and you feel happy.

1352 01:31:03,340 --> 01:31:06,760 I don't have to say why do I feel happy.

1353 01:31:06,760 --> 01:31:09,070 Now let's analyze it.

1354 01:31:09,070 --> 01:31:11,890 Accept it.

1355 01:31:11,890 --> 01:31:16,780 I mean just say and be thankful that you can be so happy,

1356 01:31:16,780 --> 01:31:20,140 and the birds singing, the sun is shining,

1357 01:31:20,140 --> 01:31:26,080 and you feel healthy and good about yourself.

1358 01:31:26,080 --> 01:31:28,480 But you don't want to always--

1359 01:31:28,480 --> 01:31:31,180 that's why I hate you know, there's a psychologist,

1360 01:31:31,180 --> 01:31:32,680 and I hope you're not one.

1361 01:31:32,680 --> 01:31:36,400 But I mean you have to always--

1362 01:31:36,400 --> 01:31:40,180 Yeah, but I mean, if I'm ill, I might want to go to somebody. 1363

01:31:40,180 --> 01:31:44,380 But you don't have to analyze every one of your actions.

1364

01:31:44,380 --> 01:31:49,100 And you know, why do you feel this way.

1365

01:31:49,100 --> 01:31:50,290 Why do you feel that.

1366

01:31:50,290 --> 01:31:55,450 I could accept it and be glad.

1367

01:31:55,450 --> 01:31:56,330 Oh.

1368

01:31:56,330 --> 01:31:56,830 Yeah.

1369

01:31:56,830 --> 01:31:59,830

1370

01:31:59,830 --> 01:32:02,770 Do you think, or do you have any message

1371

01:32:02,770 --> 01:32:08,820 you would like to leave at the end of discussing these things?

1372

01:32:08,820 --> 01:32:11,610 Well you see you are asking all these difficult questions

1373

01:32:11,610 --> 01:32:12,920 that one ought to prepare for.

1374

01:32:12,920 --> 01:32:15,510

01:32:15,510 --> 01:32:16,380 You don't have to.

1376 01:32:16,380 --> 01:32:19,320 No to come-- I mean, I tell you something.

1377 01:32:19,320 --> 01:32:22,530

1378 01:32:22,530 --> 01:32:29,760 As I say, I think I'm very happy and I

1379 01:32:29,760 --> 01:32:33,050 think that probably, some of the things we have done

1380 01:32:33,050 --> 01:32:34,660 are the right things.

1381 01:32:34,660 --> 01:32:41,220 And I think it's important but you there's a million messages.

1382 01:32:41,220 --> 01:32:44,220 You know the messages and human relationships.

1383 01:32:44,220 --> 01:32:53,280 And messages and you know, personal philosophy

1384 01:32:53,280 --> 01:32:55,240 or whatever it is.

1385 01:32:55,240 --> 01:33:01,140 But I think that as far as human relationships is concerned.

1386 01:33:01,140 --> 01:33:04,740 Which I think we have been very, very fortunate 1387 01:33:04,740 --> 01:33:06,630 and blessed with.

1388 01:33:06,630 --> 01:33:12,990 I think the message is worry about somebody else

1389 01:33:12,990 --> 01:33:14,730 and not yourself.

1390 01:33:14,730 --> 01:33:17,970 And see what you can do.

1391 01:33:17,970 --> 01:33:21,720 Because if you do for others and others will do for you.

1392 01:33:21,720 --> 01:33:24,550 So the bottom line is still very positive for you.

1393 01:33:24,550 --> 01:33:27,280 But if you concentrate on yourself.

1394 01:33:27,280 --> 01:33:28,750 And I lived with it.

1395 01:33:28,750 --> 01:33:34,200 I think you get a great deal out of orienting

1396 01:33:34,200 --> 01:33:37,740 your outlook towards those around you,

1397 01:33:37,740 --> 01:33:40,870 and let them worry about you.

1398 01:33:40,870 --> 01:33:42,630 I other words,

# don't put yourself

1399 01:33:42,630 --> 01:33:45,000 in the center of your existence.

1400 01:33:45,000 --> 01:33:50,770 But let somebody else put you in the center of their existence.

1401 01:33:50,770 --> 01:33:55,080 I think that makes for a wonderful relationship.

1402 01:33:55,080 --> 01:33:56,790 Yes.

1403 01:33:56,790 --> 01:33:59,760 As far as our heritage is concerned,

1404 01:33:59,760 --> 01:34:02,490 as I told you before, I really feel

1405 01:34:02,490 --> 01:34:05,880 that we, who have come out of Europe,

1406 01:34:05,880 --> 01:34:08,760 may consider ourselves the remnant,

1407 01:34:08,760 --> 01:34:15,570 but if we look to the Jewish community as a whole.

1408 01:34:15,570 --> 01:34:18,760 It is that we have and in other words,

1409 01:34:18,760 --> 01:34:22,730 we are reduced to a fraction of who we were.

1410 01:34:22,730 --> 01:34:28,350 So I feel that everyone should see himself or herself

1411

 $01:34:28,350 \longrightarrow 01:34:33,720$ as part of that and participate as you do in this way.

1412 01:34:33,720 --> 01:34:38,670 Everybody has his own level of participating and carrying

1413 01:34:38,670 --> 01:34:40,020 on the tradition.

1414 01:34:40,020 --> 01:34:44,640 But some people do it and in the synagogue and some

1415 01:34:44,640 --> 01:34:46,560 people do it with projects.

1416 01:34:46,560 --> 01:34:48,610 Or they do both or whatever.

1417 01:34:48,610 --> 01:34:54,120 But I think it's important because.

1418 01:34:54,120 --> 01:34:58,050 Not only because of an idealism.

1419 01:34:58,050 --> 01:35:02,850 But because the people, who may say

1420  $01:35:02,850 \longrightarrow 01:35:05,340$ we want to have nothing to do with it.

1421 01:35:05,340 --> 01:35:09,100 They're still the result of that tradition.

1422 01:35:09,100 --> 01:35:13,440 So they are depriving their children

1423 01:35:13,440 --> 01:35:20,040 and their society of what made them what they are.

1424 01:35:20,040 --> 01:35:24,930 So in other words, it is they're really not living up

1425 01:35:24,930 --> 01:35:26,730 to their responsibility.

1426 01:35:26,730 --> 01:35:29,340 Because if somebody's down the line

1427 01:35:29,340 --> 01:35:31,620 would not have done what they did they.

1428 01:35:31,620 --> 01:35:33,810 Wouldn't be who they are.

1429 01:35:33,810 --> 01:35:36,480 They are the result of their history.

1430 01:35:36,480 --> 01:35:44,880 It is irresponsible for anyone to say, with me, it stops.

1431 01:35:44,880 --> 01:35:50,890 I mean you cannot be the first one to break the chain.

1432 01:35:50,890 --> 01:35:55,050 And that's the way I see it. 1433 01:35:55,050 --> 01:35:57,450 So I think it's an obligation for us

1434 01:35:57,450 --> 01:36:00,780 to carry on our tradition.

1435 01:36:00,780 --> 01:36:06,210 And help each other and try to make the world a little bit

1436 01:36:06,210 --> 01:36:11,750 more, a little better, a little better than we found it.

1437 01:36:11,750 --> 01:36:15,390 Even if everybody did that I think,

1438 01:36:15,390 --> 01:36:21,900 a little bit of a little grain of sand makes the whole desert.

1439 01:36:21,900 --> 01:36:24,420 But we don't want to end up with a desert.

1440 01:36:24,420 --> 01:36:26,800 But let's say a little--

1441 01:36:26,800 --> 01:36:29,490 let's use a different comparison.

1442 01:36:29,490 --> 01:36:32,520 Well you could think of one.

1443 01:36:32,520 --> 01:36:36,960 Well a little star, every little star makes a whole firmament.

01:36:36,960 --> 01:36:42,202 Maybe that's much better than the grain of sand.

## 1445

01:36:42,202 --> 01:36:44,160 Is there anything else that you might think of,

### 1446

01:36:44,160 --> 01:36:45,430 that you'd like to add.

## 1447

01:36:45,430 --> 01:36:45,930 No.

#### 1448

01:36:45,930 --> 01:36:49,950 I think you're doing a wonderful job.

### 1449

01:36:49,950 --> 01:36:52,290 I don't know whether anybody's ever

### 1450

01:36:52,290 --> 01:36:54,060 going to look at this, here.

## 1451

01:36:54,060 --> 01:36:55,890 Or read it.

### 1452

01:36:55,890 --> 01:36:58,060 But that's not our problem.

## 1453

01:36:58,060 --> 01:37:00,410 Our problem is to establish it.

#### 1454

01:37:00,410 --> 01:37:03,570 People don't take advantage of it, that's fine.

#### 1455

01:37:03,570 --> 01:37:08,160 I think that it's not only that, we

01:37:08,160 --> 01:37:11,100 are leaving something of ourselves

1457 01:37:11,100 --> 01:37:15,600 behind when we are no longer here.

1458 01:37:15,600 --> 01:37:17,500 I think also while we did it.

1459 01:37:17,500 --> 01:37:19,820 It was a little bit of catharsis.

1460 01:37:19,820 --> 01:37:20,880 Yeah.

1461 01:37:20,880 --> 01:37:24,550 You come to terms with your own thinking.

1462 01:37:24,550 --> 01:37:28,860 You certainly asked some very incisive questions.

1463 01:37:28,860 --> 01:37:35,580 And it was good to talk and if somebody can learn something

1464 01:37:35,580 --> 01:37:39,090 from our experience.

1465 01:37:39,090 --> 01:37:44,880 Or our outlook which is as a result of our experiences,

1466 01:37:44,880 --> 01:37:48,060 and maybe it's another way in which

1467 01:37:48,060 --> 01:37:54,840 we were able to contribute something to our world.

1468

01:37:54,840 --> 01:37:59,280 Well I want to say thank you to you, for your compliment.

1469

01:37:59,280 --> 01:38:02,790 And for doing this interview, for your generosity.

1470

01:38:02,790 --> 01:38:04,800 And for the excellence of the interview.

1471

01:38:04,800 --> 01:38:07,080 Well I don't know.

1472

01:38:07,080 --> 01:38:08,820 I did the best I could.

1473

01:38:08,820 --> 01:38:14,820 And hope that-- and as I said, I don't beat around the bush.

1474

01:38:14,820 --> 01:38:17,550 And I just say it the way it is.

1475

01:38:17,550 --> 01:38:19,120 And people don't like it.

1476

01:38:19,120 --> 01:38:20,640 I can't help it.

1477

01:38:20,640 --> 01:38:24,747 And but I won't say anything that I don't mean.

1478

01:38:24,747 --> 01:38:25,830 Well I thank you for that.

1479

01:38:25,830 --> 01:38:26,730

Your honesty.

1480 01:38:26,730 --> 01:38:27,870 Yeah.

1481

01:38:27,870 --> 01:38:29,410 And articulateness.

1482

01:38:29,410 --> 01:38:29,910 Yeah.

1483

01:38:29,910 --> 01:38:31,800 Well thank you for inviting me.

1484

01:38:31,800 --> 01:38:34,440 It really was a pleasure.

1485

01:38:34,440 --> 01:38:40,740 And I think, as I said, the pleasure and the satisfaction

1486

01:38:40,740 --> 01:38:47,400 that we may have added just a little sliver to the totality

1487

01:38:47,400 --> 01:38:49,590 of your effort here.

1488

01:38:49,590 --> 01:38:50,163 Yes.

1489

01:38:50,163 --> 01:38:50,830 Thank you again.

1490

01:38:50,830 --> 01:38:52,610 Thank you.

1491

01:38:52,610 --> 01:40:58,000