

In the war. We're at Temple Beth Shalom. And it's for The Holocaust Oral History Project.

It's fine.

It's fine? Tauba, why don't you just start. And just tell us your name, where you were born, what the date was.

I was born 1926 in Poland in Lask.

And where is that in Poland, what part of Poland?

It's near Lodz, not far from Lodz, an hour from Lodz.

And do you want to tell me how many people were in your family, where you were in your family? Tell me a little bit about your growing up.

We were eight children. We were eight children. And we were, all together, 65 people in the family.

My town was named Lask, L-A-S-K. It was 3,500 Jewish people. And it survived only 60. Today's exactly is a Yahrzeit. Today's Yahrzeit. Today, the Germans came in and took out all the Jewish people, put them in a church, and they make a selection.

Exactly today, 7:15, I have to go to the shul. And I have to light a candle. And the date, exactly, I don't remember.

But I called up my cousin to make sure because today I'm going for the interview. And he told me today is-- it was 47 years when they took us out from our home. I think I wrote about it. I'll find it.

So the German came in. In 1939 was the war. But we were in the ghetto three years in Lask.

Let's go back a little bit. And tell me what life was like. Were you in school? Was there a big Jewish community? Were you brought up Orthodox? What was life like?

It was 3,600, 3,500. There was a Bais Yaakov, a Jewish school. And it was a public school. I went to the public school.

So when the war came, I was out from the school already. I only made it close to five grades. And then the war came. The war came and no more school. Was a ghetto three years.

And after this, get two years in the ghetto, until '42. And then from this ghetto, I went to another ghetto. Altogether, I was six years in the war.

And then from the ghettos, I went to Auschwitz, Stutthof, Terezin. And in the meantime, they took my parents, my mother, and six brothers and sisters, and they took them to Chelmno. And they killed them in Chelmno. And they took me to work.

What was life like in the ghetto?

It was terrible. You could see people dying every day. They were laying on the street. That was where it was terrible.

People were starving, starving just because they didn't have food. Was three or four families in one room. And every few days, here was a sperre.

The German came in with a siren, got the people out, took them to Auschwitz. We didn't know at the time, but we knew already they don't come back no more. This was the ghetto. Stay on the line for a piece of bread. People were swollen.

And you lived with your six--

No, in the ghetto, I only was with my brother and my father. I didn't have no mother, brothers and the sisters. In Lodz ghetto and Lask we were together.

Now in Lodz ghetto, you were all together.

All together.

And then what happened?

And then one day the Germans took us to work, make suits for soldiers. And all of a sudden, we came home, 12 o'clock. In my house, my mother was cooking the potatoes.

All of a sudden, the Germans came in with big autos. And they chased us to the synagogue. All the Juden should go out from the houses. They pushed everybody out to the synagogue.

The old people that couldn't walk they killed them. Right away that they shoot them. They took out the rabbis. They beat them.

And we were there for three days in the synagogue. Then they came and they made a selection, right and left, right and left. So some were lucky, they took to the right. We didn't know where we went.

I saw my father went to the right. So I just ran over. My cousin, his name was Shmuel Szabo. He had run away. So they shoot him. And the rest took to Chelmno.

On the same day, when they put us out, we could see there was another two towns they took, [PLACE NAME] was called and Zalew. And we saw they took them, like, close to the concert hall. But we didn't know where. Anyway, we found out they killed them over there in Chelmno.

So in one day, three towns they took to Chelmno. A day before they took out, like, 20 tall men, strong men, to dig ditches. We didn't know they were going to dig ditches. And then they put them in.

Big cars, autos, just like that, [INAUDIBLE] closed up. They put gas in there. And they killed them. And they throw them in in the ditches.

The Polish people told us nobody came back. After the war, we went there. We saw the bones and everything. This was in Chelmno.

When they show at the movie, this is true. The only thing I want people should know, the world should know, that this is true.

Then after Lask, what happened?

They took us to the ghetto, to Lodz. We were there two years. Then another selection, we had to work a little bit in Lodz, who could work. And then from there, they took me to Auschwitz.

When was that?

In 1944.

And what happened? You were taken by train, or how?

From the ghetto, they took us in train. I think we were there three days on the trains. The trains went back and forth,

back and forth. Finally, we made Auschwitz. People were dying in the trains, suffocated.

And when you arrived?

To Auschwitz, was terrible. When we arrived was at night. There was fences. People were standing help no hat, clothes. It's called a [POLISH], black and white. It was impossible to believe this. It's impossible to see.

So the people were half dead. Anybody who came close to the wire, they were electrocuted.

Then over there was another selection. They took off my clothes. They shaved me all over.

I was there with my father. Father was separated. Then he didn't recognize me. I was crying. He said, is it you?

I said, look it, I have no hair. He says, don't worry. So long you have your head, you're going to have hair.

And the rest of the people went to the crematorium. We were lucky, because they picked us up, like 500 people. They took us to work in a ammunition factory. They needed some people.

And how long were you there?

The days I cannot give you. First, they took us to Stutthof, as I recalled, Stutthof. In a Waldlager, it's called, Stutthof by Gdansk. There was no work there.

It was terrible. For crematorium every morning, they took out the people. They killed them. Put them in the ovens.

The Auschwitz, the only thing what I remember, we were in three blocks, 1, 2, 3. I remember the SS and the people who give care of us. The names was Poszka, Eldzinka and Katja.

And in Stutthof, we were sitting night and day like this. We didn't work there. Just like this we were sitting night and day, like this. Every morning, you would see dead people.

The SS came in the woman. They were terrible. They would bother on us and they would beat us.

And people who were weak, they couldn't even go out to get-- once a day, 3 o'clock at night, they took us out for appell. And the snow was very cold. If anybody touched each other, they took you out and they beat you.

And I think in the morning when the sun start to come out, the light, we got a little bit of soup, stayed in the line. A little bit of soup was sand and leaves. No water, no toilet. If you want to wash your face, you could take the snow or a little water, what you had from the soup. This was Stutthof.

And from there, they took us down to Terezin. Terezin, it's in Saxony. They took us in a ammunition factory. At least we were under the roofs. Over there we worked almost a year.

We escape a few times from there. I was with my father, but we were in separate rooms. We escaped.

We escaped after the February '44, Terezin was bombed. The 13th, the Allies came and they bombed Terezin. So we escaped again and they caught us. The police caught us.

And they took us to a farm. And over there were 13 people on the farm. Then the Russian came.

I mean, I cannot tell the whole story in two hours, or an hour. I was young. I don't remember the dates at all. This was impossible.

The only thing you were thinking, one day you would like to eat a piece of bread or find a potato. And on the farm over

there was not too bad, because at least we were outside. I was there with my father.

When we escaped Terezin, we went into Terezin to a German lady, Mrs. Miller. I'm sure she was Jewish. While I was in Terezin, my father was a baker. So that took him out every day to bake bread there in the bakery.

And she made us papers in case we gonna escape. So my father told me-- excuse me-- before, when they bombed, we ran away in the bombed houses. We were there a few days, hidden in the basements.

And then I think we went back to the concentration camp, was not-- no people. None, they were all over. I think they took him to Flossenburg. It was a small group again. From there, everybody went their ways.

So one day I was walking. Children were playing. And I said, oh, look it. I think this is a Jude. I could understand. So this is when they caught me and they took us to the police station. They kept us there a few days.

Then a farmer came in. He says he needs some people to work. So they picked me out, my father, and my brother. This was left over from 10 people. But each one had already separate papers. So we worked and made [NON-ENGLISH]. This is ammunition.

Did the farmer know that you were Jewish? Did anybody know?

No, no. He didn't know we were Jewish. In fact, there was 13 people. I think some from Warsaw ghetto, too. But they were not Jewish. The only Jewish people were me and my father and my brother.

At the time, my name was Branka Kanjelska, and my father's Jan Dajdura, and my brother's Jozek [PERSONAL NAME]. The reason my father told us to remember these names because those people we knew, before the war, they were working. One was, I think, living in our backyard someplace.

So those other people went to work on the fields and they brought home peas. And I was the cook over there for those 13 people. Because this was a small little cottage.

So I had no food to cook. There was the needles from the pine trees, which I cooked. This is called in Polish, [POLISH].

So anyway, I cooked the soup. And they came back. They said Branka-- it was my name at the time-- they said she cooks so good, like Jewish. At night, my father had a dream he talked Jewish. And the other Polish people says this must be a Jude, a Zhyd. A Jude's a Zhyd. Because Branka cooks so tasty.

And so another guy says, oh, it's impossible. He's not Jewish. He would not be. We don't look Jewish. So anyway, we were there till the Russian came, till they bombed the little town. [NON-ENGLISH] was called.

What happened when the Russians came? When the Russian came we were free already. But in a way, we were free. In a way, we were not free. Because we were still afraid. We didn't know where we went.

So it took us a few weeks till we got back to Poland. We were still afraid. We always were afraid.

Finally, we get into Poland, to our town. We were afraid. Two the Polish people said, look it. They're still alive. Hitler killed them and they're still alive, the Polish people.

I was there not long. And then we went, was not good. We had to go away from Poland that night. We were afraid because we had to cover the windows. And the Polish people, they shoot at night.

Where did you go and how did you go?

Where did I went? We went back to Germany. We went back to Germany, to Berlin. So we wanted to go back to America. Because Germany at the time was already the German and the Russian had a piece and the American had a

piece. So we went back to the UNRRA.

And how did you end up coming to America, relatives or--

No. One day I saw a movie. Ah, I got married in Poland. We left Poland. And then my son was born in Germany.

And then he was playing outside, another little guy, German guy, says ein Jude, a Jude. Jude means, again, a little Jew. So well, again, be in trouble again. So we decide to go to United States.

So one day I was walking and I saw a paper, the UNRRA. Whoever was in concentration camp could register to leave. So I saw a picture the night before, the Golden Gate Park in the water, San Francisco. And I said, one day, I'm going to be alive. I'd like to go to this country.

So I registered to come here. At the time, my father went already to Israel. I had sent away everything to go to Israel. And I changed my mind to come to this country.

So I came to this country, already with the two kids. Didn't know the language. Went to a farm, raised a chicken, raised the kids. And after eight years, I figure I have enough to come.

So this was Petaluma. I want to move to San Francisco. I want the kids should get to know the Jewish people, more schools here. I came to San Francisco.

Let's go back.

I was six years in hell. This is six years' war, in the camps, in the ghettos. From 1939, the ghetto was hell.

What was it like? Tell me what life was like.

The ghetto? That took, let's say, a whole town and they put them in in two blocks, like, in two blocks. And people were dying. It was not enough food. It was cold.

And Germans came in to see somebody, after 7:00, they beat you. Most people were dying. It was terrible the ghetto. It was just terrible.

What was your life like every day? What did you do? Where did you live?

In the ghetto? Well, I was afraid every day they shouldn't come and take me out. That they got my husband and his father at the same time, in one day, both. And my husband's mother was left with three kids alone.

So they came in every day and took our people to work. Some people they brought back. Some people they didn't brought back. In the ghetto, you were afraid.

You said you were married before.

Not before. After the war, I got married in 1945. Yeah, got-- much later. So from 12 till 18, I was in the war, or the ghetto, the concentration camp, the same hell. The Germans came in in '39, and I was free in 1945.

With it, fear, that afraid, even today, at night. There's not one night goes by I shouldn't scream at night. They're coming to get me. As older you get, as worse it become, emotionally.

I always was wondering where it's got all those six years. Where is he? In the ghetto, they took our children every day. That mothers had to give back the children, give up the children. Screaming, the yelling, the hiding, the dying, that's all I lived for six years, dead people.

And I said that one of those days, I'll survive. If there's a God, I'll survive. So there is a God. And I believe strongly in God, because I'm sitting here and I know what I'm talking.

There's a lot of people after the war, they died, or they became not normal. I was 12 years old, they took away my mother, my brothers, and my sisters. I'll show you, I have here a picture.

Here. I'll just hand it to you.

My kids never know what that means, a grandma. Normally.

Here I am.

Shall we hold it up to the light?

This is me.

Tell me what--

This is me. This is my father, right here, with a child. This is my mother with another child. This is Nuchim.

You can point with your finger on the front if you want.

Yeah. OK. Yeah.

Oops. I got it.

All right. That's OK.

You have it?

This is my mother, Szprince. She has a child. This is her sister, [PERSONAL NAME]. This is my father.

This is my mother's brother, [PERSONAL NAME], father Herschel. This is the husband from my aunt. She had three kids. Five, they're killed.

This is me. This is my sister Heyvet. This is our brother Nuchim. He died before the war.

This is my brother Gabriel. This is our cousin. He's alive. He lives in Los Angeles.

And this is his sister. She died in Russia. The rest here, this is a sister of my mother. She had two husbands and two children. And a husband went to Chelmno. The children, they got killed.

She was in the church, too. The German wanted to take to work. But she had to give up the kids. And she says she will not give up the kids. So they killed her together.

This is already a picture. OK. This is already my sister, again. This is Nuchim. This is my sister Heyvet. This is all my aunt, my cousins. All got killed during those six years.

Today is Yahrzeit.

Do you have other things there that you wanted to show us?

All right. After the war, I went to Argentina. My mother had a brother there. So we found those pictures. This is my mother when she was young. Such beautiful people got killed.

That was your--

My mother and her brothers and sisters.

Hmm. Can you get that?

Mhm.

Great.

Give you all the names. Yankel, this is Herschel. This is Simcha, Yumish. This is-- I forgot already her name. Solczo? No, this is Solczo.

You get older, you forget. This is my husband. He died five years ago. He lived, he spent all his years in San Francisco, now for the Holocaust to remember he was a big fighter. You could read this. I can see without the glasses, Holocaust survivor.

Let's see.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

This is a day before he died. His mission, his life was to educate the people. If you remember, was years, years ago. A Nazi start the war here in [PLACE NAME]. You remember?

No, I don't. What year are you referring to? More than 20 years ago?

No, no, no, was maybe, as of April was, I think, 10 years ago.

Yes, I do. I do remember that.

You were involved in it?

No, no, I just remember the news.

Yeah, this was Mr. Weiss. This was my husband. Yeah.

I was out of town. I came back. You see there's a German Hakenkreuz. Anyway, it's not important now. He's dead.

The reason I'm continue whatever I can do is because of my husband. Because he was very involved. And this is what he put together, the story of Moishe Weiss. He put it together.

Mhm.

But it's not put together yet.

Moishe Weiss was your husband?

My husband, yeah.

And he put this together?

Yeah. He put this together.

That's exciting.

I went away for a few weeks. And every day, he was sitting here, put the story from the whole concentration came together.

Was he also in Auschwitz?

He was in Auschwitz. They took him away, I think, a year before me. He was in Auschwitz. He was in Chelmno. He was in-- wherever you want to know. I think in six or seven concentration camps. Yeah. He was very devoted to the community here, very, very devoted.

And how did you meet him?

I know him from Poland. He was my cousin. So after the war, we got married, after he came back from the concentration camps.

Who was left after the war?

From my family? My father, my brother, and me.

And were you all together in Auschwitz?

Well, we were separated, but under the same group.

What was the everyday life like in Auschwitz? What did you do? What was it like?

We was in the barracks. And every day they took out some people. We were just lucky that they didn't took me.

Every day-- we arrived to Auschwitz. The chimneys were smoking. You could smell bones. We didn't know what was over there. But now, you smell the bones, the smoke. The music was playing. It was terrible.

Who was playing the music?

I don't know. I don't know. Microphones, maybe, I don't know.

What time did you wake up in the morning?

I didn't wake up. They woke us up.

What time?

I don't know. Was still dark.

And then what did you do? What was a day like? What was the life?

You were like a little mouse once they come out from a hole. So I used to look, the door open, are they going to come for me. They took other people. It was just living with fear, with afraid.

Screaming. Every day, the trains come in, unload people. Then once you were dead, you know it went down.

People came healthy, families with [INAUDIBLE] hats, dressed up nice. They figure, they said, it's arbeit lager, it says, working. And a few hours later, you didn't see them no more.

Screaming, they took them. Take off the clothes. Then they put them in some building. So you never saw them again,



crematoriums.

You never see them again. Never saw them again, every day, tons, loads, thousands of thousands, thousands of thousands.

We were on cattle trains. On the cattle trains, people died in those trains, suffocated.

Is there anything that you would like to say to people, to teach people? I mean, the purpose of the tape is to let people know not to forget that this is what happened.

To believe. Because in another few years, it's not going to be no more Holocaust survivors. Every year, people die. So they should not forget there was a war, there was a Hitler.

And this should never be forgotten. And people should tell their children and children's children. Especially the American Jews should remember what the Polish Jews went through. Because as I remember in Germany, the German Jews had [GERMAN]. They don't will take the German Jews. A Jew is a Jew.

To be careful to believe this was true. And I hope to God this will never happen again. They should believe.

And they should think about Israel. They should support Israel. Because if we have Israel, we could keep our heads up. If we, God forbid, lose Israel, we in trouble.

What was the attitude of the Poles? Do you think it was worse than the Germans or the same as the Germans?

Where, in Poland? After the war, they were not a good attitude. They were not nice to the Jewish people, what was left of us. We were not safe.

Because when I came back, they were living on our property. They didn't move out. So they were not happy to see us after the war.

And during the war, were there--

There was some Polish people, good people, and some bad people, too. So not much to talk about the Polish people now. I'm not concerned about them.

I'm concerned now about the swastikas, skinheads. I'm concerned about the organization what goes on here. Behind the doors, a lot of Nazis are still live here. And they're going to live here.

Where does your brother live?

In the city.

Also in San Francisco?

Mhm. Yeah.

Do you think it helped that you had family all the way through?

It would help me?

Did it help you survive to have your brother and your father with you?

Well, everybody was separated. I mean, separate rooms. But it helped.

I was young. My father kept an eye on me a little bit. People could not believe this. I was together with my father under the same building. This was the last year. Was hard, but I survived.

What was liberation like? What was the day? Do you remember?

It was May, I think, the seventh, 1945.

What happened?

The Russian came in.

You were on the farm?

Yeah, I was on [NON-ENGLISH]. And we used to hide. We ran into the owner's house, what was a brick house. And we were in the basement.

We could look out. There was, around our house, five or six German tanks. And they were holding up the town. They were shooting to the town in the Russian camp on their stomach.

And I could see the Katyusha going over the house. So we were free. We couldn't believe it, we were free.

Because free? Nobody knew us. We didn't know which direction to go. But we were free.

And what did you do that day? Do you remember?

I remember that day they took away, I think, my father. It were a gendarmerie. I was left over alone. And I didn't know that I'm going to see him. They had to check him out. The Russian had to check him out, who they are, or the Nazis, or something like this.

Was not a good memory, the day after when the Russian came in. It was not such a good day at the time. Because there was a few gals over that were afraid.

And they raped them, and things like this. So it was not such good-- this was after the war, another hell to go through. Till we came to our town-- it took us, I think, three weeks to come home.

What happened in those three weeks? What happened to your father at the gendarmerie?

He came back. I met him back. He came back.

Then we start going home by wagon, with horses, little by train, I think. I don't remember. Well, because I was sick after this. Because I had an infection. I had fever.

And they bombed the building in Terezin, [NON-ENGLISH] 68, a piece of glass fell down here and here. And so I had an infection. So I had fever. I didn't remember well.

Till I came home, my father took me to a doctor. And I was all right. I don't remember well. I was sick, I know.

Excuse me. The food did not agree, either, see. Right after the war we got better food and people were sick on the stomachs. People died from richer food you were not used to.

You were in two different ghettos. In the first ghetto was--

My town, Lask, then in Lodz ghetto, and then the concentration camps.

What were conditions like in the first ghetto and then in the second ghetto? Did it get worse? Was it--

Lodz was death. Lodz was terrible. This was the finish over there. People died.

So long you were home, let's say in my ghetto, when I was home, they closed up the street. And I know Thursday was, like, a flea market. You could buy-- a flea market, it's called. It's like a farmer's market.

And I had the star on me. And I went out. I took, let's say 20 pounds of potatoes. I went through the wiring. It was not electric wire.

And I covered my star and I went in. I bought some potatoes. Was not so bad. This was not so bad. We could survive. We would survive there.

But then they took us out from our homes. It's, like, you take away the nest from the bird. You didn't know. I was young.

So in the ghetto in our town, people could still see, even was six, seven people in one room, or even 10, at least you were home. You were with the family. You had water.

At night, my father went out to the country. He brought bread. He knew, let's say, the farmers. It was easier.

But in Lodz was death. Was wire, SS all over. That's all. The ghetto was terrible.

Stutthof was terrible, just like Auschwitz. Every day you see a wagon came, took out the people, every morning, every day, put them to the crematoriums. Killed them. Beat them, shot them, every day.

Young kids died, 10 years, 12 years. People, woman who were pregnant, they killed them.

In the ghetto, I have here written down. Her name was-- in last ghetto, when they took us out from the houses. Her name was-- the most beautiful woman I ever saw-- her name was Golda Baum.

She was pregnant. They took her out on a cart, took her to the cemetery. While she was in labor, the birth, and her life. I mean, it's impossible to tell the story. It's impossible.

I saw two boys, [PERSONAL NAME] was their name, in the ghetto. They went to work. And they brought home a few pieces of coal. The German police arrested them. And they hanged them because they took two pieces of coal.

And the whole town, they put together. And they had to see the hanging. Nobody could smile. They saw the hanging, two brothers.

During the war, they came to our town. They were from Kalisz, I think. They hanged them. In [NON-ENGLISH] they hanged, I think, 20. They lived to hang.

In our town, we were lucky. We had a good president. So only two people to hang.

He was Jewish. But he was nice. He tried to save the people. But he couldn't even save one son is alive that has survived was in the ghetto with her daughter. And she got killed, too. See every day something else went on, beating, killing, shooting.

Do you remember any other incidents in the ghetto?

Yes, in the Lodz ghetto. I was living [NON-ENGLISH] 18. When you went out in the backyard, there was already wire with the German police already with their guns. They were watching. Nobody should escape.

So a woman went with a child, fresh air, her little child. And the German was eating an apple. And he says give up the child.

And she says no. So while he was eating the apple with one hand, with the other hand, he shot her with the child together in front of my eyes. So you remember things, lots of things like this.

Anything else?

There was 30,000 people in the ghetto. They died every day. You could see-- the only thing you could see is a wagon with dead people.

Every day, a few times a day, pushing dead people, picking up them from the streets. They die from hunger. Sometimes you just pass by them.

There was every morning, you get up and you see them in the street, laying, all skinny. They called them the [NON-ENGLISH] bones.

Do you remember any incidents from Auschwitz?

The screaming, so long I'm going to live, the screaming, the yelling, the crying. Children were crying Mother, Father, don't leave me. And it was a mother, like, 22 years. They put the separated children-- they put separate.

Or she was 16, or 18. I saw that with my eyes. Take away children. Take away from the breasts babies, infants.

What else did they do?

They killed six million Jewish people is what they did.

Can you tell us any incidents that--

I know from my husband. He was in the line to castrate him. He was too weak. He was weighing 62 pounds.

He was too weak. They couldn't do it. He was in the line, standing. A lot of people-- I know from my town, people what they did. They can't have no children.

They killed his father. They took him out from the house. And one day, him and his father, his father died in the camps. They worked very hard over there.

Some days they came in, they took out families. Like, was four brothers, they took out the four brothers. The old mother was in the house, left alone.

At Auschwitz, they were doing experiments on people?

Yes. I didn't see it, but this is what they did. A lot of women could not have any children after the war.

Do you know what they did to them?

I don't know. They said they put some stuff in the food, in the food, something. I don't know.

They did a lot of experience. They took off skins. They made gloves. They made leather.

What was your work?

In Auschwitz, I didn't work. I was just sitting in a corner. I was lucky I'm alive. I didn't work in Auschwitz. Auschwitz,

nobody worked.

You just wait?

Wait, yeah. Mhm. Yeah. Didn't work.

In Stutthof, once in a while they took out people to work on fields. I saw that about 20, or 30, or 40, or 50. From the 50, came back 20, came back 10, came back-- half came back. Half, they beat them to death over there on the farms.

Did you work at--

I worked in there. In Terezin, I worked. Ammunition factory, there was an ammunition factory. But I helped in the kitchen. It was a kitchen.

So they cooked soup over there for the people, like leaves, sand, water. They didn't let you wash it too good, because they had to save the water. If they want they should work, they had to feed them once a day soup and a piece of bread in Terezin.

And I remember they made me carry, like, 100 pounds of ammunition from the basement up. And I hardly could carry it. There was one SS with a 32 rifle.

And he pushed me with the rifle turned around. He pushed my back. And he hurt my back. I should carry this. I couldn't, but I did it.

So I have plenty scars on my body what I got beaten and this back hurt. You had to work. But in Auschwitz, you were just waiting to die. This was Auschwitz, death camp. Stutthof was the same.

How long were you at Auschwitz?

A few months. The date I don't remember.

Is there anything else that you'd like to talk about? What life was like? Or any experiences that you remember that you'd like to tell?

What can I say? I wanted to have a mother. I got married. I had nobody to talk, ask questions, what. I was not educated like here, the kids, and everything what goes on. They teach them everything.

In Europe, a child from 12 years didn't know much. So I missed a family. I missed grandfather. I missed everybody. I missed sisters.

So what can I say? It's a wound so long I'm going to live, my heart is a wound. And it's never going to be healed, even my kids know, too.

I have one son who used to go to sleep with my father in the same room here. So my father told him about the concentration camp at night. He put on a helmet. He couldn't take it no more. He couldn't stand it no more. Every night, the same, the same stories, the same.

I prayed to God to have food enough. Today, I cannot throw away a piece of bread even. Even it's stale, I don't know what to do. I take it to the park.

I go to the Holocaust-- I talk to the monument. I pray. I cry. I talk to them. They don't answer me.

I'm glad we have this in San Francisco, at least, to remember what we went through. We have a beautiful library. So what should I say? The only thing I know, I was in hell six years. And I thank God I'm here today.

I talk to children. I go to schools. They ask me question, I tell them.

Do you have anything you can think of that we should do?

No, I think it's really up to Tauba to guide it in the way she wants to.

OK. If there's anything else, you know, when you go to the schools and you talk to the kids, what are some of the things that they ask you about?

I went to a college last year that was in Palo Alto, 8 o'clock I had to be there, was 7 or 8 o'clock. And so I asked my son to take me there. He took me there.

Was maybe 150 kids, kids already 18 and 19 years old, and 17, and 16. And they asked me questions. So after the war, I had children.

So one asked me, I told him I have three sons. He said, are the kids are normal? So in the back was standing my son with a smile.

I said, look at him, my son. Yes, my kid's 6 foot high. He is normal. Everybody was laughing.

They ask you so many questions. It's impossible, impossible.

How did I survive? Did I believe in God? Did you believe you're going to be alive? Did you believe?

Do you hate people today? I says no. Do you hate the Germans? They ask me questions.

Even when I was in camp [PLACE NAME], child came and cried. Aren't afraid at night? I says yeah. I'm afraid. Because I dream things.

I mean, they ask a lot of questions. They ask. And it's very, very, very important, people who weren't at concentration camp, if somebody calls them up, not to say I don't want to talk about it. It's important to talk. It's important not to hide, to take time to talk. So kids ask a lot of questions.

I was in Petaluma. I have a cousin in Petaluma. They live on a farm. And he has a little boy. He's eight years old. I was there this week.

And he comes home from school. I waited for him. And the teacher talked about cruelty about animals. His name is Ari.

He says, you're talking about animals, about cruelty. How about cruelty to people, what happened? And he says, my grandma was in the concentration camp.

The teacher says, yes, is this true? He says yeah. Is she alive? Yeah, she's alive. You want to talk to her? You could talk to her.

The little boy, his grandfather was in a concentration camp, too. So they talked in the house. And he was brought up already, this grandfather was.

So I talked to him. I said, I want my grandma to come to the school. The teacher asked him, he says, oh, she's going to go to the school.

So the grandma says, look it. He made already for me an appointment. He's eight, nine years old. Ari's his name. In Petaluma this happened, this week. The kids even now.

So I said I love you, Ari. At least you told the teacher cruelty about people. Animals, animals, but people.

My kids used to say how come I didn't have a grandma. I told them whatever. How come I didn't have an uncle? I didn't have an aunt? Children, mine, they were raised in a family here, Petaluma.

Tauba, I think if I can't think of anything else, I think you've given us some really good stories.

Just what I could tell you.

Yeah. Thank you for sharing it.

You're welcome.

I think it is important. And it's important to have it on videotape.

Mhm.

The only thing when I see the lights, when I came in, I said it's hot here, yes. This light reminds me I'm afraid for lights.

It's all my life I'm going to think like I came at night to Auschwitz. All the lights were all over, so much light, so much light. And I'm afraid for lights.

I mean, I'm not afraid here. But a light like this. I mean, oh, I said, it's hot here.

If I go to the doctor, if he puts me in the-- I'm already, don't put me in a small room with one little window. It's like in a camp, like they took you. They took me in in Auschwitz once. And they want to cut off a breast of mine for experiment.

And so I know what happened. I know what happened. I got out. I know-- I know what happened. I got out.

But this fear, I'm still afraid. A little room, a little light, I don't know how, the doctor got sick, something happened. I don't know. I got out. Talk about experiments, I don't know.

There's so much to talk about it and to tell that it's impossible.

What else?

It's impossible. That's all I could tell you. I was in the camps. It's a true story. That's it.

OK.

That's what I could tell you.

Thank you. Thank you, really, very, very much. Yeah, let me-- see the picture--