

Kassy, Paul

Fein, Jacques

Stokes, Felice and Sherman

1983 April 13

Tape 2

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INTERVIEW WITH: PAUL KASSY, FELICE ZIMMERN STOKES, JACK FEIN
(THREE ORPHANS) and SHERMAN STOKES

INTERVIEWER: UNIDENTIFIED

DATE: UNIDENTIFIED

PLACE: UNIDENTIFIED

MR. KASSY: I am Paul Kassy. The organization that brought us out of Buchenwald after the liberation in Germany, 1945, about 400 of us, is OSE. That's O-S-E. And it's the Oeuvre de Secours Aux Enfants, which roughly translates into "Children's Rescue Organization." These people were rescuing children all throughout the war, and they were hiding them in orphanages, in Christian orphanages, convents, peasants' people. And I think they have connections all throughout the Resistance, and other things. They rescued and took care of many, many kids. To what extent they were children oriented is --

The 400 of us who came out of Buchenwald were -- ranged in age from 12 to about 30. And when we arrived in Aceuille, they were waiting for us with new clothes. And here were these little T-shirts for little four- and

1 five-year-old kids. And here were all these young women
2 and teenagers, early twenties, who were going to take
3 care of these little kids, and here are all these
4 teenagers, you know, were interested in girls and women.
5 It was kind of a shock. And I think we and the
6 organization went through a little readjustment for
7 awhile.

8 THE INTERVIEWER: Now, the people of OSE, they
9 were Jewish people?

10 MR. KASSY: They were basically Jewish people.
11 There was one woman there, Simone D'Orlogent. She -- At
12 that time she was about 28 or so. She was a lieutenant
13 or some officer in the Resistance. She was working
14 there as a volunteer. There was a Jewish captain by the
15 name of Captain Ro-zen, who was originally Rumanian. He
16 was in the French Resistance, in the French Army. He
17 was a member, you know, of the staff of the OSE.

18 THE INTERVIEWER: Now, when you got to France,
19 then you began to learn French?

20 MR. KASSY: No. I knew some French from high
21 school.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: In Rumania?

23 MR. KASSY: In Rumania. I also knew some
24 English at the time. That's how I ended up working for
25 the army.

1 THE INTERVIEWER: I see. Now, how many
2 orphanages were there? Do you have any idea?

3 MR. KASSY: I have no idea, but there were
4 many, many.

5 MRS. STOKES: About 18. She showed the book.
6 There were about 18 OSE. That was -- OSE had that many --

7 THE INTERVIEWER: Then mostly Resistance --
8 people working for the Resistance who were volunteers?

9 MRS. STOKES: I don't know. All I know is, in
10 my orphanage, like, Helene, she had gone through the --
11 Auschwitz. She had a number, and she was -- I thought
12 she was old and wise, and turns out she was 20. And I
13 was ten.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: Yes.

15 MRS. STOKES: I don't know how they got -- the
16 people working for them, who they were. I'm sure they
17 were paid, but they were in the same -- I mean, we felt
18 that they understand exactly, because they had gone
19 through the same thing, or more than we had.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: And the kids kind of clung
21 to the counselors?

22 MRS. STOKES: Well, I did. I don't know about
23 the others. You know, we were very close as a group.
24 There was maybe ten or 15 in one group. And, like I
25 said, I was the youngest, but we were very -- We are all

1 very much together and we learned -- we learned all the
2 Jewish, religious studies. And there was a school. I
3 used to da-ven every day and I knew everything by heart,
4 as far as religious studies, because they really -- That
5 was, like, rote, almost.

6 But in a way, it was good. It was getting away
7 from the negative things. And there were always people
8 coming to visit us, always people taking pictures of
9 you. I mean, I guess it was different agencies. They
10 couldn't believe. All these children were there.

11 THE INTERVIEWER: And the children ranged in
12 age from --

13 MRS. STOKES: Might have been eight or nine
14 till 14 or 15. And I -- After I left, I understand that
15 some children stayed about two -- two or three more
16 years. And then they were sent to another French
17 orphanage, and then they stayed till they were -- what?
18 -- 16. And then I understand that they lived with,
19 like, an adult, two or three of them in different
20 apartments.

21 THE INTERVIEWER: So you were about seven when
22 you were adopted by your --

23 MRS. STOKES: No. I was -- In America?

24 THE INTERVIEWER: Yes.

25 MRS. STOKES: Never adopted. I was never

1 adopted.

2 THE INTERVIEWER: Your uncle --

3 MRS. STOKES: No. They brought us over, but I
4 was never taken by them. I was -- We were taken
5 together. I can't think -- Can't think. We were taken --
6 We were taken together to America, but they couldn't
7 take care of us, and we lived in the orphanage in
8 America for a year and a half, and then they destroyed
9 the orphanage. They had to build a parking lot.

10 THE INTERVIEWER: Where is -- What's the name
11 of this orphanage in this country?

12 MRS. STOKES: I don't know. It was run by the
13 Jewish Childcare Association from Newark. They were
14 very nice, good agency, also. And then they -- My
15 sister -- I was in camp, in a children camp, you know,
16 YMHA, this summer, and she contacted me. She said,
17 "Guess what? We can't live here any more. We have to
18 live in a foster home. I went, "Oh, no. Here we go
19 again."

20 THE INTERVIEWER: How old were you then?

21 MRS. STOKES: I was, like, 12 or 13. And my
22 sister, she used to go live in a foster home, so I was
23 more pliable. I said, okay. So I went to one foster
24 home and I didn't like them. And I told the agency, "I
25 don't like them. I want to move." Because after

1 awhile -- You know, I said, "What's going on here?"

2 You become a little bit independent. I don't like
3 them. I want to move. So they sent me to another
4 foster home. I went there because they had their own
5 private home, and I could have my own room. You know,
6 so I went to live in Linden, New Jersey, when I was 14.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: So you were mainly the
8 responsibility of this organization?

9 MRS. STOKES: Yeah. Jewish Childcare
10 Association of Newark, of Essex County. And when I --

11 THE INTERVIEWER: Where was your sister?

12 MRS. STOKES: My sister lived in one foster
13 home. Didn't work out. She went to another one. It
14 didn't work out. They made her work. They made her do
15 the dishes. I mean, they made her take care of the
16 children. I mean, they were using her as a maid. So
17 she went to another one.

18 THE INTERVIEWER: Cinderella?

19 MRS. STOKES: And she loved this home.
20 However, this home, the husband was very jealous of my
21 sister because she got all the attention from the
22 mother, from this woman. So he asked that she leave;
23 that my sister leave. I mean, good old bastard.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: Say your name again.

25 JACK: Jack.

1 Felice was just telling you about how she lived in
2 Newark, New Jersey in 1951. Well, when I was adopted,
3 and I came to the United States, guess which city of the
4 United States I lived in?

5 THE INTERVIEWER: Good Old Newark?

6 JACK: Newark, New Jersey. Very good guess.
7 What school did you go to?

8 MRS. STOKES: Brooklyn Street School. And
9 then Per-shing Avenue School.

10 JACK: I went to Lincoln Grammar School. And
11 then high school, I went to the Jewish section called
12 Week-Wake High School.

13 MRS. STOKES: I was going to go there, but I
14 became a foster child in Linden, New Jersey. But then
15 the problem started, because I became an adolescent and
16 I never acknowledged to anybody that I was adopted --
17 that it was -- I came from overseas.

18 And they said, "What do you speak at home?"

19 I said, "Oh, I speak English." Never told --
20 That's when I became an adolescent. That's when
21 everything got -- (inaudible.)

22 JACK: Well, when did you go to Linden?

23 MRS. STOKES: 1954. It was in the fall of
24 1954.

25 JACK: My family moved from Newark, New

1 Jersey, close -- close -- to another city in the
2 suburbs, called Union, New Jersey, which is next to
3 Linden, New Jersey.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: So you were on --

5 JACK: And here we are, finally in Washington,
6 DC.

7 MRS. STOKES: They were American, but they
8 wanted to adopt -- They wanted a foster child, a younger
9 baby or a sister to their two boys. But they couldn't
10 get a younger child, so they said, "Okay. Well, if we
11 have to, we'll take a 13-year-old. And she acknowledged
12 this to me, very, you know, very openly, so -- but she
13 tried.

14 She was okay. I mean, I had a hard time with the
15 boy -- I had a hard time with them, because then, you
16 know, you become an adolescent, with all of the problems
17 of being an adolescent. And I felt that I had to
18 behave, because I never knew that if they said to me,
19 "Enough is enough," and, "We don't want you here any
20 more, and we -- you might as well go." You know, "We'll
21 send you back to the agency."

22 I mean, I think that was the worst part. When you
23 became older, you always had this fear. I never
24 belonged anywhere. I think I belong more in an
25 orphanage -- in the orphanage with a group of people. I

1 was very good with group living. One to one is hard.

2 JACK: I'd like to add to the same theme,
3 that, you know, Felice is talking about. Although I was
4 adopted, like, ten years old, I've never felt 100
5 percent, you know, part of the -- you know, at ease.
6 And, well, my name was changed. And I adopted my
7 American -- first name to be Jack. And it wasn't until
8 very, very recently that I went back to Jacques at
9 different times. My official name in all report cards
10 and everything is Jacques.

11 And in terms of belonging or feeling close to the
12 family, you are just not there. I don't think -- You
13 know, I don't think it ever will be, because, also, as I
14 said a few minutes before, like, being divorced, to me
15 just -- It's a repetition of being uprooted and, you
16 know, I can't see in my mind, in my fantasies, that -- I
17 have two kids now, but I can see them, like, at times
18 going their own separate ways and looking, or --
19 breaking off is a better term. Breaking off.

20 And, as an example, I worked for the same company
21 for about 12 or 13 years, and then I left it. Although
22 I was getting a middle-age crisis, but other than that,
23 one day I said, that was it. And within a month or so,
24 I got a new job at a new place and I felt like it was a
25 complete break. And I -- One day I was there, and the

1 next day I left the company, and that was that, after
2 working there for about 13 years or so.

3 THE INTERVIEWER: So you are trying to
4 understand this pattern of --

5 JACK: I don't know. It's there. It kind of
6 repeats itself. I mean, when Felice was speaking
7 before, when she went to Israel and Europe in 19 -- was
8 it '68? -- living in foster families, it's kind of --
9 with people. But, you know, it was like repeating and
10 repeating, the situation repeating itself.

11 MRS. STOKES: The boys didn't mean it, but
12 they used to say, "Why don't you come back from where
13 you came from?" And I remember she always -- Her main
14 wish, my foster mother, was, I should call her mother.
15 And I said -- and I couldn't explain. I finally: I
16 can't, I can't. You are not my mother. I mean, I came
17 to live with you when I was 14."

18 She says, "Well, your sister, she's living with
19 foster parents. And she calls her 'Mom' and 'Dad.'"

20 And I said, "Well, that's my sister. I can't -- I
21 can't call you mother. I mean, it's nothing to do with
22 you. I have a mother. If I call you mother" --

23 Of course, I couldn't explain this to her, but
24 eventually -- I'm negating in my head that I had
25 parents, and I can't do that. And then when my nephew

1 was bar mitzvahed, I'm standing by my sister. She's
2 introducing everybody, and she's introducing to the
3 rabbi: "And these are my parents, Mr. and Mrs." -- And
4 I almost -- -plotz-. I mean, I don't say a word. My
5 foster mother is standing in back of me.

6 She said, "Yes, yes."

7 I said, "Oh, Tov-i-a, we going to go through this
8 again?" After awhile, she understood.

9 "Listen to this. What kind of nonsense is this?"

10 I said, "I'm not -- I have a life -- I had a life
11 before." And she could never -- I could --

12 Whenever we went to temple, anyway, she could
13 never introduce me as, "This is my foster child. These
14 are my children. This is Jack and Michael, and this is
15 Felice."

16 Where did I come from? Who am I? I mean, what
17 are you telling people? I mean, she couldn't handle
18 being a foster mother. But she was a good lady anyway.
19 She's got her shticks, but she really played a -- and I
20 had rough times with her.

21 Of course, I started therapy and then,
22 unfortunately, when my wonderful psychologist --
23 psychiatrist died of cancer, when she told me about --
24 that she was dying -- I found out about it when I was
25 living with the Get-lose -- That's my foster parents.

1 And I came home, and I was hysterical. And my foster
2 mother says to me, "You wouldn't get so upset if I was
3 going to die."

4 THE INTERVIEWER: You think she was jealous?

5 MRS. STOKES: Oh, yeah, she was. She still
6 is. You know, but here we go again. I was losing
7 somebody else, but this was my foster mother. She means
8 well, but she's a little off the wall.

9 Because of therapy, I mean, I am really -- been
10 able to come to terms with my past, deal with it, work
11 with it, and hopefully benefit from it in some way.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: Want to say your name again?

13 MR. KASSY: Paul. The only other thing, you
14 know, losing parents. I lost my parents when I was 17
15 and I really don't think I accepted my mother's death or
16 loss. I was very close to her. Somewhere -- You know,
17 I was maybe 40, when I kept saying -- I was 30, 35, you
18 know, I finally accepted her death. And at the time it
19 never made any significance on me.

20 Well, at the age of 35 is when I married my second
21 wife. And we had a good marriage for about 15 years,
22 and then she died very, very suddenly. Okay? And, in
23 fact, this same type of thing happened to me. Okay?
24 Once I met her, okay, you know, I could accept my
25 mother's death, but I had her. She died in '75. I have

1 not been able to get rid of her in my mind. It's almost
2 eight years.

3 MRS. STOKES: You think you come to terms with
4 I have a loved one or someone and, all of a sudden, she
5 goes on you, she dies. She has the nerve to die. It's
6 that kind of feeling: How could she? She loved me.

7 JACK: On that theme again, I was divorced
8 eight years ago. Part of me says, well, at this point
9 it's normal, after awhile, after eight years of divorce.
10 But, you know, who wants to get involved with someone,
11 because I know -- I know it's going to happen again.
12 Even with some of my girl friends, every once in
13 awhile, like, they get off completely, but that's -- and
14 I: Please shut up. And I've been told -- They couldn't
15 believe it. And it kind of repeats itself in very, very
16 not too subtle ways, but it's there. Even, like, coming
17 to this gathering, I heard about it about six months
18 ago. And it wasn't until ten days ago when I finally
19 sent a check in to say, "Well, I'm going to go, no
20 matter what."

21 THE INTERVIEWER: That long?

22 JACK: I told only one -- I think I told only
23 one other person I was going, other than my friend Andy,
24 who is in the same boat as I am, so to speak, but I
25 didn't tell anybody until --

1 THE INTERVIEWER: So you are constantly --
2 (inaudible) -- or never having found --

3 JACK: I cannot -- I cannot deal with that.
4 You know, I met a guy when I came to Washington, about
5 1967, and he died of leukemia about a year later. And I
6 went to his funeral. I couldn't talk to his wife. You
7 know, I didn't know what to say. I cannot face death,
8 you know. And I feel kind of -- I close myself off
9 from, you know, close contacts, emotional involvements
10 and --

11 THE INTERVIEWER: To save yourself?

12 JACK: Yes. I guess that's what I'm doing.
13 I'm not doing it consciously; just has become a habit.
14 You know, it's very difficult for me -- I can open up --
15 You know, I can be a very open person up to a point, but
16 there's a certain point beyond which it's me and I'm
17 just, you know, afraid, you know, that I could see it,
18 you know, intellectually. I cannot see it emotionally.
19 Basically that's what I'm doing. I'm just closing
20 myself off because I cannot handle any other loss of
21 people that are close to me.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: And it gets worse as you get
23 older, because that's the nature of middle age. And the
24 older that you do get, you --

25 JACK: And I have -- You know, I was a lot

1 older, you know, than Felice, when -- I was 20 and --
2 (inaudible) -- survived, came out here. She decided
3 she was going to be my mother and all that. And I
4 went through the same thing, and she never asked me to
5 call her mother, but she told me that now that I don't
6 have a mother and she's here, you know, she was going to
7 take care of me. I just, you know, almost hit the
8 ceiling: My mother is my mother and that's it.

9 THE INTERVIEWER: Well, it's interesting that
10 other people assume that they can be the substitute.

11 JACK: You know, they were probably full of
12 good intentions, basically. You know, there was
13 something that is mine that is my responsibility to keep --
14 my mother's, you know, memory, or whatever, alive. And
15 nobody can go and interfere with it.

16 MRS. STOKES: I'm very friendly with a man who
17 now lives in London who is a rabbi. He's the senior
18 rabbi in the community there, and he went through the
19 war. I think he was maybe your age. He went through
20 five camps, and he's told me something very interesting,
21 because we've had some discussions. He says he goes up
22 to a point with a relationship -- and he's married --
23 but then there's a wall. It's a protective wall. And,
24 you know, I react differently to a situation, but this
25 is his protection. He can get to a certain extent, and

1 that's it. And then nothing comes up, because this is
2 his protection: If I don't get involved with that
3 person, then I won't get hurt by them, you know.

4 I'm lucky, because two years ago I met Sherman,
5 and Sherman is a very sympathetic, open kind of guy;
6 very down to earth, and plays no games. And he really
7 is -- you know, I've got my own shticks still and I
8 worry about everything that's going to be, but basically
9 he's my support system and, you know, it's been much
10 easier with him around. I mean, it took me until then.
11 And all kinds of situations and, you know, with people,
12 with men.

13 THE INTERVIEWER: Couldn't make a commitment?

14 MRS. STOKES: Never, never. I was happy, gay
15 and all of that, but there was never any commitment.
16 Never, I mean, and I was always looking -- It was a
17 combination. I wanted to be independent one day, and
18 one day -- and yet I want to be protected and I want
19 someone to take care of me. And I always was looking
20 for a family. I wanted to belong.

21 Every time I met a very nice family: Maybe they
22 will adopt me, maybe they will take care of me.

23 I had two experiences, one where they came to see
24 us at Ta-ver-ni. And they took me to France, and they
25 took me out for a day or two, and they were going to

1 adopt me, they told me. And they give me their names.
2 And I expected it. They never came. So -- The same
3 thing in Newark, New Jersey. Same thing with my --
4 (inaudible) -- but I was too old. So I was always
5 looking, looking for family. And, you know.

6 Now, unfortunately, I can't have children, but
7 Sherman has two children and we see them every other
8 weekend, and I'm close to them. You know, again, I'm
9 not the mother. And Sherman says, you know, "Think of
10 them as your children," but they are not. They have a
11 mother. And I can only play a certain role with them,
12 be their friends, be there if they want it. But it's
13 hard. But, as far as Sherman, now, we're a family.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: You would not think of
15 adopting?

16 MRS. STOKES: No. I can't -- I can't adopt.
17 I sort of get -- (inaudible) -- it's too painful. You
18 invest too much and then you lose it. Depends -- You
19 start to get: Well, if something happens, this is what
20 I'm going to do. It's like you prepare yourself. You
21 know: If this one dies, this is what I'm going to do.
22 And you literally, emotionally -- (inaudible).

23 You know, it's only now that I can trust. It has
24 been very hard to trust anybody. And Sherman really has
25 been one of the few people I can trust, with him. I can

1 make plans and we talk about plans. But I trust him as
2 a human being. I know that he's not going to steer me
3 wrong, and that's very important. You have to find that
4 person. And I'm taking the chance that it's going to
5 work, you know. I mean, I'm trusting him with my --
6 with my soul and --

7 THE INTERVIEWER: Yourself?

8 MRS. STOKES: Yeah. And it hasn't happen --
9 then. I've been in therapy for 20 years. I started
10 therapy with a psychiatrist. And it just takes a long
11 time. Some of the things will never go away, I'll never
12 change, but that's the way it is. You try to make the
13 best of it.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: I have never thought about
15 the fact that the beginning of trust with someone, the
16 ability to make friends with that person and know that
17 maybe something -- maybe you can carry it out.

18 JACK: You are not aware of this totally, but
19 that's basically what you are afraid of. And when you
20 do meet somebody -- This has happened to me, you know,
21 as an adult, several times. You going to a new work,
22 job situation or other situation. You find a boss --
23 okay? -- that you kind of like, and whatever. And you
24 assume that this guy is -- Basically what you are doing,
25 or I think I'm doing is, I'm assuming -- I put him in a

1 father role figure, you know: I can trust this guy.
2 And I do things that ordinarily I wouldn't do. And
3 then, you know, suddenly there comes a conflict, like,
4 with a boss and employee, and you know, he's playing the
5 boss, and I feel totally betrayed, because, you know,
6 here I thought, you know, we had this thing going, and
7 it blows my mind.

8 THE INTERVIEWER: He doesn't understand?

9 JACK: Of course not. I'm not sure I
10 understand it. But this is the way, in situations. So
11 you end up being very, very sensitive, right -- I don't
12 know what the word is, but you are very much afraid of a
13 judge. I am. Okay? And you sometimes will not -- you
14 know, open the door, because you are afraid you are
15 going to get rejected. After awhile, you know, you are
16 not aware of this, because it has become your pattern.
17 And you're afraid of getting hurt and all that sort of
18 thing. I understand exactly what it's like. And, you
19 know, in terms of a family situation, I have not gone
20 through that. You know, I was -- You know, until the
21 age of 17, I had a family, but --

22 THE INTERVIEWER: So how do you go on?

23 JACK: Oh, you kind of (inaudible).

24 THE INTERVIEWER: So that's what you hear over
25 and over from people: I'm minute to minute. I'm

1 worried tomorrow will not come until I lived the next
2 hour.

3 MRS. STOKES: He's a different -- I mean, he
4 actually -- I don't remember what age he was with his
5 family but it was good, whatever. But, on the other
6 side, I worry about -- I worry about what -- What's
7 going to happen from year to year; should we do this, we
8 have to do this.

9 "But Sherman, should we do this?"

10 "No. We'll do it" --

11 Then I worry: I got to do it now, I got to do it.
12 And I worry. I'm constantly worrying. If there's
13 nothing to worry about, I'm going to find something.
14 Sherman is a best testament for this. And, it's because --
15 My friend in London, the same thing. He was with his
16 family until 16 and 17, so he had a good beginning. So
17 he's got other shticks, other problems. But in one
18 sense I think he goes from day to day, from moment to
19 moment. Right?

20 JACK: Well, when I got married a second time,
21 you know, I kind of tried not to get too -- basically,
22 too close to my wife. Because, you know, it took about
23 three, four years, before, you know, it was really a
24 working situation.

25 THE INTERVIEWER: Did she understand any of

1 this?

2 JACK: I think she did. I think she did. She
3 probably understood it better than I did at the time.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: And after four years, you --

5 JACK: Got to be a good situation. You know,
6 the fact that she died, she died very suddenly, you
7 know, had nothing to do with the camp or whatever, but
8 it has -- the impact on me was just multiple. Amplified
9 by that. I didn't become aware of that till about
10 three, four years, you know, when I finally emerged from
11 my --

12 THE INTERVIEWER: Grief?

13 JACK: -- emotional hurt, you know, and
14 realized, you know, basically what I'm doing to myself.
15 But I almost feel, you know, I'm too old to change; this
16 is the life I know, this is the mode that I know, you
17 know, so, I take it as it goes -- or, as it comes.

18 THE INTERVIEWER: Some of these scars that you
19 never heal --

20 JACK: You know, I never cried for my mother.

21 THE INTERVIEWER: Not yet?

22 JACK: Not yet. I never have. You know, my
23 mother survived most of the war, but she died -- from
24 anything I can ascertain, is something like March of
25 1945, in Bergen-Belson, which time, you know, I was away

1 from her for about eight, nine months. I had my own
2 problems, in a sense of surviving. And when you're in a
3 survival mode, you don't -- you're existing on a
4 physical, animal kind of level.

5 So, you know, I never cried for her. You know, I
6 have fantasies about her, you know, that I'll find her.
7 And this went on for a long -- you know, until I was
8 about 35. And when my wife died, you know, I was -- for
9 three months, I would break into tears -- I mean, you
10 know, I read a newspaper and say, "Hey, look at this."
11 You know, I didn't realize she was dead. And then I'd
12 cry.

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17

18 JACK: She was into a situation, you know,
19 that she was (inaudible). You know, I looked upon her
20 both as a mother and a daughter. She was about ten or
21 11 years younger than I was. However, you know, there's
22 a relationship that I -- you know, I'm too old right now
23 to duplicate, I feel. (Inaudible.)

24 THE INTERVIEWER: So she symbolized to you --

25 JACK: You know, basically we had a very good --

1 I could depend on her; she could depend on me. When she
2 died, one of the things that hit me, that I never
3 realized before, the full meaning of a complete
4 relationship, you know. We never even talked about it
5 in those terms. And I don't know. You know, I didn't
6 make plans when I was 17 what I'm going to be -- a
7 grandpa, what kind of work I was going to do. And that
8 sort of thing went out the window.

9 She and I made all sorts of plans: This is what
10 we are going to do when I retire. And that went out the
11 window. That kind of -- you know, when it happens, you
12 know, time and time again, it kind of puts you into a
13 negative, pessimistic mode. And that's what I've been
14 doing for awhile.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: That's where you are now?

16 JACK: Yeah.

17 THE INTERVIEWER: Has this gathering helped at
18 all?

19 JACK: Yeah. You know, I really feel good
20 about this. So -- You know, the first day I came in
21 here, you know -- Well, I don't know. I react to
22 situations. I react to people. Got together with about
23 10 or 12 people from ^{Bura} Boo-no. Okay.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: Where's Boo-no?

25 JACK: That place I was outside of Auschwitz --

1 (inaudible). And there, you know, some of these people
2 remembered the barracks number they were in, the
3 commando number, and whatever. I didn't remember these
4 things. There -- I really didn't feel a closeness to
5 them, for some reason or other. Okay?

6 And I got together with these people from the OSE.
7 It was such a positive experience that, you know, I feel
8 totally different about the gathering, from that one
9 moment, than I did before.

10 MRS. STOKES: The first day, I was very
11 nervous and anxious about this gathering: Who was --
12 you know, what's going to be, I won't know anybody,
13 because everything else -- anybody else's story is
14 better than mine. I didn't go through a camp. Do I
15 really belong here? That's one of the reasons why I
16 didn't go to the world gathering. I was very nervous.
17 Also, I couldn't go. But then I ran into one person at
18 the French table, and pretty soon another table, Norbert
19 came over. Then I met Paul and all these others. It
20 was a very heart-warming feeling and such a kinship,
21 such a, you know, connection. It's very good.

22 THE INTER: So you, in that situation, felt
23 as if you belonged?

24 MRS. STOKES: Yes.

25 THE INTERVIEWER (To Jack): And you didn't.

1 So that's what joined you?

2 JACK: Yeah. You know, as an adult, as an 18
3 year-old kid, France was the first free country in the
4 life that I had. We had lots of fun and lots of
5 friends. You know, got to know those people from the
6 USA, that brought back some youth, some of their
7 exuberance, you know, that some of us never felt for
8 years, you know, and it became a very, very positive
9 experience.

10 THE INTERVIEWER: So in a sense, that's the
11 only place you felt that you belonged, was the
12 orphanage?

13 MRS. STOKES: Yeah. The orphanage.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: And that other woman, your
15 first --

16 MRS. STOKES: My first foster mother.

17 Now, I think -- I think I belong with Sherman, I
18 belong as -- We are a family, you know, little by
19 little. It's very hard after being on your own for so
20 long, to think about us as two people, two of us being
21 married. But he's very patient with me. And he really
22 gives me a lot of room and he needs room, also, for
23 himself and to do his own thing. But he's a very
24 patient, good person, caring person. He's really been,
25 you know, the fact he came here, he took off time --

1 It's very hard for him to take off time from work. And
2 he took it off because he knows it was important for me
3 and that I needed support. And so now I feel there's a
4 home for me with him.

5 THE INTERVIEWER: Sherman's love and support
6 is like the love of your first foster mother and of the
7 orphanage? I mean, it's the same?

8 MRS. STOKES: Nurturing love.

9 THE INTERVIEWER: Same bringing you in,
10 caring, nurturing? So that's the emotional climate.

11 MRS. STOKES: Right, right. He gives me a lot
12 of support and he protects me from things that might be
13 happening, you know, and I feel very good with him. I'm
14 relaxed. He's a mentsche. Nice guy.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: So how can you duplicate the
16 feeling of this gathering to help you -- I mean, it's
17 been a little help, hasn't it?

18 MR. KASSY: You mean -- I don't think this
19 gathering has changed my life.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: No.

21 MR. KASSY: You know, it's just -- You know, I
22 wanted to come here. I didn't quite know, you know. I
23 couldn't tell you the exact reasons, but I was hoping
24 I'll meet some people that I've known, you know. Turns
25 out, you know, that I got just as part of feedback from

1 people, that I, you know, I haven't known but they've
2 been basically in the same situation.

3 THE INTERVIEWER: That's right.

4 MR. KASSY: That I could identify with.

5 THE INTERVIEWER: Right.

6 MR. KASSY: And so I think it was a very
7 positive experience.

8 MRS. STOKES: You want to talk to Sherman,
9 maybe?

10 THE INTERVIEWER: What have you learned from
11 listening to these people?

12 SHERMAN: I think I learned a little more than
13 I expected to learn. Originally, my intent of being
14 here was to provide support to Felice, and I knew it was
15 going to be a very trying time. I'm really happy that
16 the people from the OSE organization and others have
17 turned out. I guess it was fortuitous that we just
18 happened to walk over to the French table and have met a
19 number of people in the last couple of days. Felice has
20 run into people who had a lot of similar experiences to
21 hers. And they were very trying experiences.

22 Not being involved myself in the same things that
23 they've gone through, I feel a lot of sympathy for
24 backgrounds of pain, the tragedy and so on. It's hard
25 for me to express my feelings about it, as a person on

1 the outside, looking at the events that have caused
2 these people to be here. I was very interested in
3 understanding the emotions and feelings of people and
4 why they do things and how they've come to be what they
5 are. I guess what I've seen is a lot of tragic
6 experiences.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: So much pain.

8 SHERMAN: Very unique tragic experiences that
9 imprinted on every one of the people we've talked to
10 recently. The particular thing that's disturbing to me
11 is that each one of them had this tragedy impressed upon
12 their lives at a very, very young age. And I guess
13 what's happened is that their entire being and future
14 and the generational effect will follow from them, and
15 the people that they are involved with all going to be
16 marked with this experience. And it's uneradicatable.

17 And I guess there are going to be a couple of
18 people that we've talked to that don't know anything
19 about their background. At six or five or four, it's
20 been completely blotted out.

21 THE INTERVIEWER: You mean they haven't
22 remembered?

23 SHERMAN: Yeah, they haven't remembered it.
24 Apparently they tried. It's tragic that they haven't.
25 I guess the effect on children, what's impressed me, is

1 that they are always trying to learn more about that
2 thing that they never knew. Normal childhoods in the
3 United States were simple kinds of things: You know
4 your parents. You got along with them; you didn't get
5 along with them. You were able to thrash that out, in
6 coming to terms in some sort of way. There are
7 techniques for getting some help in those things. It's
8 regrettable that things that happened, the children of
9 the Holocaust may not be solved so easily, or ever,
10 because of the beginning of their problem.

11 To expect a feeling of understanding in dealing
12 with people like that, I'm not sure it's been attacked
13 yet. There is a lot of adults, a lot of people who are
14 probably 40, 50, on up, who were toddlers at that time,
15 and are still searching for that kind of thing.

16 I think we've spoken to a number of people, you
17 know, they've been through marriages and relationships,
18 and they have ways of reacting to things which keep
19 bringing them back to the original situation, which is
20 rejection, perhaps; the fear of going too far and
21 opening up to someone.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: Vulnerable?

23 SHERMAN: That's right. They are vulnerable,
24 and they are very bitter because something is going to
25 break at some point.

1 THE INTERVIEWER: Break apart?

2 SHERMAN: I wish there was more that could be
3 done, but it's not recognized.

4 I guess what I'm trying to do in Felice and our
5 relationship is to provide a home that's comfortable,
6 with a family. I guess one of the things that may help
7 is that, I guess, in coming to terms, I have a pre-made
8 family for Felice to hook onto -- and Felice's
9 relationship with my children is very good. She's bent
10 over backwards to make them feel as if they have,
11 certainly, healthy, extended home and family
12 relationships. And my children get along very nicely
13 with her. They are close.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: You must have prepared them
15 well.

16 SHERMAN: A bit. A bit. Felice provides for
17 me the things that I need in my life. I can take
18 responsibility for a lot of things and I can help her
19 try to make some decisions. I know there are times when
20 she's anxious and must do things. In that way, we sort
21 of compliment ourselves, because I'm usually not in a
22 rush to do a lot of things. I tend to be, as you say, a
23 little bit laid back, which is nice. In that case, it's
24 a complimentary system where the parts fit together, and
25 it's nice. I'm in love with my wife and we have a nice

1 time together.

2 THE INTERVIEWER: Yes.

3 SHERMAN: Last vacation, we went to France and
4 visited her counselor in Paris, Helene, a very nice
5 lady. And then we went down to Chateau -Roo- to meet
6 the son of the family that hid Felice during the war.
7 It was nice. I think Felice wanted me in particular to
8 see those things and share those events with her. And
9 it was enlightening for me.

10 THE INTERVIEWER: So, sitting here today,
11 witnessing her pain and witnessing the pain of the
12 others that was so obvious, has enlarged your feelings
13 for her?

14 SHERMAN: Oh, yeah.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: That she was not alone?

16 SHERMAN: No. She's not alone. She's never
17 alone in her life. Although I wasn't involved, you
18 know, in these things personally, even before Felice, I
19 was involved with the horrors of the Holocaust, because
20 my mother's family was Polish, and came from
21 The-Ost-Lock in Eastern Poland. And everyone in her
22 family has disappeared. So a huge void no one knows
23 anything about. It's not that there was a close
24 relationship with that end of the family, but they are
25 missing.

1 And Felice's experience, you know, is a
2 continuation and a greater closeness of that kind of
3 thing. I'm sharing her experiences, and everyone else.
4 They are nice people. I never saw these people before,
5 but I can feel for them. And it's a tragic event. A
6 lot of other people, the older generation, who have
7 gone through that, may have had different things happen.
8 My heart goes out to them, too. A lot of personal
9 tragedies in the people here. It's difficult for the
10 world to understand that. A lot of people don't even
11 agree those things happened.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: Yeah, I know. I heard one
13 woman say, "If they don't say the Holocaust happened,
14 let them turn up my mother for me; let them bring her
15 here."

16 SHERMAN: Yeah.

17
18
19
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25

* * * END OF TAPE, SIDE 2 * * *

Kassy, Paul
Fein, Jacques
Stokes, Felice and Sherman

1983 April 13

Tape 2

Version 2

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 THE INTERVIEWER: SAY YOUR NAME AGAIN.

2 PAUL KASSY: I'M PAUL KASSY. THE ORGANIZATION
3 THAT BROUGHT US OUT OF BUCHENWALD AFTER THE LIBERATION
4 IN JUNE OF 1945, ABOUT 400 OF US, IS THE OSE. THAT'S
5 O.S.E., AND IT'S THE URVA DE SEGURA SAPHON, WHICH
6 ROUGHLY TRANSLATES INTO CHILDREN'S RESCUE ORGANIZATION.

7 THESE PEOPLE WERE RESCUING CHILDREN ALL
8 THROUGHOUT THE WAR, AND THEY WERE HIDING THEM IN
9 ORPHANGES --- IN CRISTIAN ORPHANGES -- CONVENTS,
10 PEASANTS PEOPLE, AND I THINK THEY HAVE CONNECTIONS ALL
11 THROUGHOUT THE RESISTANCE AND OTHER THINGS. AND THEY
12 HAVE RESCUED AND TOOK CARE OF MANY, MANY KIDS.

13 TO WHAT EXTENT THERE WERE CHILDREN
14 ORIENTED IS OUR -- THE 400 OF US WHO CAME OUT OF
15 BUCHENWALD, WE WERE RANGED IN AGE FROM 12 TO ABOUT 30.
16 AND WHEN WE ARRIVED IN EQUOEE, THEY WERE WAITING FOR US
17 WITH NEW CLOTHES AND HERE WITH THESE LITTLE T-SHIRTS FOR
18 LITTLE FOUR- AND FIVE-YEARS-OLD KIDS AND HERE WERE ALL
19 THESE YOUNG WOMEN, TEENAGERS, EARLY 20'S, WHO WERE GOING
20 TO TAKE CARE OF THE LITTLE KIDS AND HERE ARE ALL THESE
21 TEENAGERS WHO ARE INTERESTED -- AND GIRLS AND WOMEN. IT
22 WAS KIND OF A SHOCK AND I THINK FOR BOTH, WE AND THE
23 ORGANIZATION, WENT THROUGH A LITTLE READJUSTMENT FOR A
24 WHILE.

25 THE INTERVIEWER: NOW THE PEOPLE OF OSE, THEY
26 WERE JEWISH PEOPLE?

27 PAUL KASSY: THEY WERE BASICALLY JEWISH PEOPLE.
28 THERE WAS ONE WOMAN THERE, SIMONE DU LA JEAN. SHE, AH,

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1 AT THAT TIME SHE WAS ABOUT 28 OR SO. SHE WAS A
2 LIEUTENANT OR SOME OFFICER IN THE RESISTANCE. SHE WAS
3 WORKING THERE AS A VOLUNTEER. AH, THERE WAS A JEWISH
4 CAPTAIN BY THE NAME OF CAPITAN ROSANE WHO WAS ORIGINALLY
5 ROMANIAN. HE WAS IN THE FRENCH RESISTANCE, IN THE
6 FRENCH ARMY. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE OSE.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: NOW, WHEN YOU GOT TO FRANCE,
8 THEN YOU BEGAN TO LEARN FRENCH?

9 PAUL KASSY: NO, I KNEW SOME FRENCH FROM HIGH
10 SCHOOL.

11 THE INTERVIEWER: IN ROMANIA?

12 PAUL KASSY: IN ROMANIA I ALSO KNEW SOME ENGLISH
13 AT THE TIME. THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP WORKING FOR THE
14 ARMY.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: OH, I SEE. NOW, HOW MANY
16 ORPHANGES WERE THERE IN FRANCE? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?

17 PAUL KASSY: I HAVE NO IDEA, BUT THERE WERE MANY.

18 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: THERE WERE ABOUT 18.
19 SHE SHOWED THE BOOK. THERE WERE ABOUT 18 --

20 PAUL KASSY: THE OSE HAD 18.

21 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: OSE, THAT WAS OSE HAD
22 THAT MANY.

23 THE INTERVIEWER: AND THEY WERE MOSTLY RESISTANCE
24 -- PEOPLE WORKING FOR THE RESISTANCE WHO WERE
25 VOLUNTEERS?

26 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: I DON'T KNOW. ALL I
27 KNOW, IN MY ORPHANGES -- LIKE ELAINE SHE HAD GONE
28 THROUGH AUSCHWITZ. SHE HAD A NUMBER AND SHE WAS -- I

1 THOUGHT SHE WAS OLD AND WISE, AND, IN FACT SHE WAS 20
2 AND I WAS 10.

3 THE INTERVIEWER: YES.

4 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY
5 GOT THE PEOPLE WORKING FOR THEM. WHO THEY WERE. YOU
6 KNOW -- I'M SURE THEY WERE PAID BUT THEY WERE IN THE
7 SAME -- I MEAN WE FELT THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD EXACTLY
8 BECAUSE THEY HAD GONE THROUGH THE SAME THING, OR MORE
9 THAN, WE HAD.

10 THE INTERVIEWER: AND THE KIDS KIND OF CLUNG TO
11 THE COUNSELORS?

12 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: WELL, I DID. I DON'T
13 KNOW ABOUT THE OTHERS. YOU KNOW, WE WERE VERY CLOSE AS
14 A GROUP. THERE WAS MAYBE 10 OR 15 IN ONE GROUP AND LIKE
15 I SAID, I WAS THE YOUNGEST BUT WE WERE VERY-- WE WERE
16 ALL VERY MUCH TOGETHER AND WE LEARNED, WE LEARNED ALL
17 ABOUT THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND THERE WAS A SHULE
18 AND I USED TO DAVEN EVERY DAY AND I KNEW EVERYTHING BY
19 HEART AS FAR AS RELIGIOUS STUDIES BECAUSE THEY -- THAT
20 WAS LIKE ROTE ALMOST IN A WAY IT WAS GOOD IT WAS GETTING
21 AWAY FROM THE NEGATIVE THING.

22 AND THERE WERE ALWAYS PEOPLE COMING TO
23 VISIT US ALWAYS PEOPLE TAKING PICTURES OF US. I MEAN --
24 I GUESS IT WAS DIFFERENT AGENCIES THEY JUST COULDN'T
25 BELIEVE IT ALL THESE CHILDREN WERE THERE.

26 THE INTERVIEWER: AND THE CHILDREN RANGED IN AGE
27 FROM --

28 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN EIGHT

1 OR NINE TILL 14 OR 15 AND WHEN -- AFTER I LEFT I
2 UNDERSTAND THAT SOME CHILDREN STAYED ABOUT TWO, TWO OR
3 THREE MORE YEARS, AND THEN THEY WERE SENT TO ANOTHER
4 FRENCH ORPHANAGE. AND THEN THEY STAYED UNTIL THEY WERE
5 16 AND THEN I UNDERSTAND THEY LIVED WITH LIKE AN ADULT,
6 TWO OR THREE OF THEM IN DIFFERENT APARTMENTS.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: SO, YOU WERE ABOUT SEVEN WHEN
8 YOU WERE ADOPTED BY YOUR FAMILY?

9 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: NO.

10 THE INTERVIEWER: NO.

11 PAUL KASSY: I WAS -- YOU MEAN IN THE AMERICA?

12 THE INTERVIEWER: YES.

13 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: NO, I WAS NEVER
14 ADOPTED. I WAS NEVER ADOPTED.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: WELL -- YOU HAVE AUNT AND
16 UNCLES.

17 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: NO, NO. THEY BROUGHT US
18 OVER BUT I WAS NEVER TAKEN BY THEM. I WAS -- WE WERE
19 TAKEN TOGETHER -- I CAN'T THINK. YOU I CAN'T TALK IN
20 BACK OF ME. I CAN'T THINK.

21 WE WERE TAKEN -- WE WERE TAKEN TOGETHER TO
22 AMERICA BUT THEY COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF US SO WE LIVED IN
23 THE ORPHANAGE IN AMERICA FOR A YEAR AND A HALF; AND THEN
24 THEY, THEY DESTROYED THE ORPHANAGE. THEY HAD TO BUILD A
25 PARKING LOT.

26 THE INTERVIEWER: WHERE IS THIS-- WHAT'S THE NAME
27 OF THIS ORPHANAGE IN THIS COUNTRY?

28 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: I DON'T KNOW. IT WAS

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1 RUN BY THE JEWISH CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION FROM NEWARK.
2 THEY WERE VERY -- NICE, GOOD AGENCY ALSO -- AND THEN
3 THEY -- MY SISTER -- I WAS IN CAMP, IN A CHILDREN'S
4 CAMP, YOU KNOW, YMHA IN THE SUMMER AND SHE CONTACTED
5 ME. SHE SAID "GUESS WHAT? WE CAN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE
6 WE HAVE TO LIVE IN A FOSTER HOME." I WENT, "OH NO, HERE
7 WE GO AGAIN." SO--

8 THE INTERVIEWER: HOW OLD WERE YOU THEN?

9 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: I WAS LIKE 12 OR 13 AND
10 MY SISTERS REFUSED TO GO LIVE IN A FOSTER HOME SO I WAS
11 MORE PLIABLE, SO I SAID, "OKAY," SO I WENT TO ONE FOSTER
12 HOME AND I DIDN'T LIKE THEM AND I TOLD THE AGENCY "I
13 DON'T LIKE THEM, I'M WANT TO MOVE" BECAUSE AFTER A WHILE
14 I SAID, "YOU KNOW, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?" SO AFTER
15 AWHILE YOU BECOME A LITTLE BIT INDEPENDENT. I DON'T
16 LIKE THEM I WANT TO MOVE. SO THEY SENT ME TO ANOTHER
17 FOSTER HOME. I WENT THERE BECAUSE THEY HAD THEIR OWN
18 PRIVATE HOME AND I COULD HAVE MY OWN ROOM, YOU KNOW, AND
19 SO I WENT TO LIVE IN LINDEN, NEW JERSEY WHEN I WAS 14.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: SO YOU WERE MAINLY THE
21 RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS ORGANIZATION?

22 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: OF JEWISH CHILD CARE
23 ASSOCIATION OF NEWARK. OF ESSEX COUNTY. AND AH, WHEN
24 I --

25 THE INTERVIEWER: AND WHERE WAS YOUR SISTER?

26 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: MY SISTER LIVED IN ONE
27 FOSTER HOME, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT. SHE WENT TO ANOTHER
28 ONE AND IT DIDN'T WORK OUT. THEY MADE HER WORK, THE

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 MADE HER DO THE DISHES, AND THEY MADE HER TAKE CARE OF
2 THE CHILDREN, THEY WERE USING HER AS A MAID SO SHE WENT
3 TO ANOTHER ONE.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: LIKE CINDERELLA?

5 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: YEAH, AND SHE LOVED THIS
6 HOME, HOWEVER, THIS HOME THE FATHER-- THE HUSBAND WAS
7 VERY JEALOUS OF MY SISTER BECAUSE SHE GOT ALL THE
8 ATTENTION FROM THE MOTHER, FROM THIS WOMAN, SO HE ASKED
9 THAT SHE LEAVE, THAT MY SISTER LEAVE -- I MEAN, GOOD OLD
10 BASTARD.

11 JACK: I'D LIKE TO--

12 THE INTERVIEWER: SAY YOUR NAME AGAIN.

13 JACK: FELICE WAS JUST TELLING YOU HOW SHE LIVED
14 IN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, IN 1951. WELL, WHEN I WAS
15 ADOPTED, AND I CAME TO THE UNITED STATES, GUESS WHICH
16 CITY, OF THE UNITED STATES I LIVED IN?

17 THE INTERVIEWER: GOOD OLD NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

18 JACK: VERY GOOD GUESS. WHAT SCHOOL DID YOU GO
19 TO?

20 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: OH, OH--, BERGEN STREET
21 SCHOOL THEN PASHON AVENUE SCHOOL.

22 JACK: NO, I WENT TO LINCOLN GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND
23 THEN HIGH SCHOOL I WENT TO THE JEWISH SECTION CALLED
24 WEEK WAKE HIGH SCHOOL.

25 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: I WAS GOING TO GO
26 THERE BUT I BECAME A FOSTER CHILD IN LINDEN, NEW
27 JERSEY. AND THEN THE PROBLEMS STARTED BECAUSE I BECAME
28 AN ADOLESCENT AND I NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED TO ANYBODY THAT I

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 WAS ADOPT-- THAT I CAME FROM OVERSEAS AND THEY SAID, "OH
2 WHAT DO YOU SPEAK AT HOME?" OH, "I SPEAK ENGLISH."
3 NEVER TOLD -- THAT'S WHEN I BECAME AN ADOLESCENT.
4 THAT'S WHEN EVERYTHING BECAME DEPRESSED.

5 JACK: WELL, WHEN DID YOU GO TO LINDEN.

6 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: 1954, IN THE FALL OF
7 1954 I STARTED SCHOOL.

8 JACK: MY FAMILY MOVED FROM NEWARK, NEW JERSEY --
9 CLOSE, CLOSE -- TO ANOTHER CITY IN THE SUBURBS CALLED
10 UNION, NEW JERSEY WHICH IS NEXT TO LINDEN, NEW JERSEY
11 AND HERE WE ARE -- FINALLY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

12 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: THEY -- THEY, THEY
13 AMERICAN BUT THEY WANTED TO ADOPT A FOSTER CHILD -- A
14 BABY OR A YOUNGER SISTER FOR THEIR TWO BOYS BUT THEY
15 COULDN'T GET A YOUNGER CHILD SO THEY SAID "OKAY WELL, IF
16 WE HAVE TO WE'LL TAKE A 13 YEARS OLD."

17 I MEAN SHE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS TO ME VERY
18 OPENLY, SHE TRIED BUT SHE WAS OKAY. I MEAN I HAD A HARD
19 TIME WITH THE BOY. I HAD A HARD TIME WITH THEM BECAUSE
20 THEN, YOU KNOW, YOU BECOME AN ADOLESCENT WITH ALL THE
21 PROBLEMS OF BEING AN ADOLESCENT AND I FELT THAT I HAD TO
22 BEHAVE BECAUSE I NEVER KNEW THAT IF THEY SAID TO ME
23 ENOUGH IS ENOUGH AND WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE ANYMORE AND
24 YOU MIGHT AS WELL SEND YOU BACK TO THE AGENCY.

25 I MEAN THAT WAS THE WORST PART WHEN YOU
26 BECAME OLDER YOU ALWAYS HAD THIS FEAR. I NEVER FELT-- I
27 NEVER BELONGED ANYWHERE. I MEAN I THINK I BELONGED MORE
28 IN AN ORPHANAGE WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE. I WAS VERY GOOD

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 WITH GROUP LIVING ONE TO ONE IS HARD. IT'S ROUGH.

2 JACK: I'D LIKE TO ADD TO THE SAME THEME THAT
3 FELICE IS TALKING ABOUT. ALTHOUGH I WAS ADOPTED WHEN I
4 WAS 10 YEARS OLD I NEVER FELT 100 PERCENT -- YOU KNOW --
5 PART OF THE -- YOU KNOW -- AT EASE AND WELL, MY NAME WAS
6 CHANGED AND I ADOPTED MY AMERICAN -- WELL, MY FIRST NAME
7 TO BE JACK AND IT WASN'T UNTIL VERY, VERY RECENTLY I
8 WENT BACK TO JACQUES.

9 AT DIFFERENT TIMES MY OFFICIAL NAME ON ALL
10 MY REPORT CARDS AND EVERYTHING WAS JACQUES AND THEN IN
11 TERMS OF BELONGING FEELING CLOSE TO THE FAMILY, IT'S
12 JUST NOT THERE. I MEAN I DON'T THINK -- YOU KNOW -- I
13 DON'T THINK IT EVER WILL BE. PLUS ALSO, AS I SAID A FEW
14 MINUTES BEFORE, IN LIKE BEING DIVORCED TO ME IT'S THE
15 REPETITION OF BEING UP ROOTED AND I'VE -- AND I CAN SEE
16 IN MY MIND, IN MY FANTASIES, I HAVE TWO KIDS.

17 NOW I CAN SEE THEM, LIKE AT TIMES, GOING
18 THEIR OWN SEPARATE WAYS AND LOSING BREAKING OFF IS A
19 BETTER TERM BREAKING OFF -- AND I --

20 AS AN EXAMPLE I WORK FOR THE SAME COMPANY
21 FOR ABOUT 12 OR 13 YEARS AND THEN I LEFT IT. ALTHOUGH I
22 WAS GETTING A MIDDLE AGE CRISIS -- BUT OTHER THAN THAT
23 ONE DAY I SAID "THAT WAS IT" AND WITHIN A MONTH OR SO I
24 GOT A NEW JOB AND A NEW PLACE AND IT FELT LIKE A
25 COMPLETE BREAK. AND ONE DAY I WAS THERE AND THE NEXT
26 DAY I LEFT THE COMPANY AND I WAS NOT AFTER WORKING FOR
27 THE COMPANY ABOUT 13 YEARS OR SO.

28 THE INTERVIEWER: SO YOU'RE TRYING TO UNDERSTAND

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 THIS PATTERN OF --

2 JACK: WELL, I DON'T KNOW, IT'S THERE. IT KIND
3 OF REPEATS ITSELF. WHEN FELICE WAS SPEAKING BEFORE WHEN
4 SHE WENT TO ISRAEL AND EUROPE IN 1960-- WAS IT 1968? IN
5 1968 LIVING IN FOSTER FAMILIES IT'S KIND OF-- AND WITH
6 PEOPLE. BUT, YOU KNOW, IT WAS LIKE REPEATING AND
7 REPEATING, THE SITUATION REPEATING ITSELF.

8 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: THE BOYS DIDN'T MEAN IT
9 BUT THEY USED TO SAY: "WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO WHERE
10 YOU CAME FROM." AND I REMEMBER THE -- SHE ALWAYS -- HER
11 MAIN WISH MY FOSTER MOTHER, WAS I SHOULD CALL HER
12 "MOTHER". AND I SAID -- AND I COULDN'T EXPLAIN. I
13 FINALLY -- I CAN'T, I CAN'T YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER. I
14 MEAN, I CAME TO LIVE WITH YOU WHEN I WAS 14 AND I MEAN
15 SHE SAYS WELL, YOU KNOW, YOUR SISTER, SHE'S LIVING WITH
16 FOSTER PARENTS AND SHE CALLS HER MOM AND DADDY.

17 I SAID WELL, THAT'S MY SISTER. I CAN'T, I
18 CAN'T, I CAN'T CALL YOU MOTHER. I MEAN IT'S NOTHING
19 WITH YOU. I HAVE A MOTHER. IF I CALL YOU MOTHER --
20 BECAUSE I COULDN'T EXPLAIN THIS TO HER BUT EVENTUALLY
21 SHE -- I'LL NEGATING, IN MY HEAD, I HAD PARENTS AND I
22 CAN'T DO THAT.

23 AND WHEN MY NEPHEW WAS BAR MITVAH AND
24 STANDING RIGHT BY MY SISTER SHE'S INTRODUCING EVERYBODY
25 AND SHE'S INTRODUCING TO THE RABBI AND THESE ARE MY
26 PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. -- AND I ALMOST PLOTZED. I MEAN I
27 DON'T SAY A WORD TO HER. THEN MY FOSTER MOTHER IS
28 STANDING IN BACK OF HER, OF ME AND THEN SHE SAID, "SEE

1 THAT" AND I SAID, "OH, TOBY WE ARE GOING TO GO THROUGH
2 THIS AGAIN." I MEAN AFTER A WHILE SHE UNDERSTOOD. "LOOK
3 HOW EASY IT IS. WHAT KINDS OF NONSENSE IS THIS?" I
4 SAID, I SAID BUT I'M NOT, I MEAN, I HAVE A LIFE I HAD A
5 LIFE BEFORE, AND SHE, AND SHE COULD NEVER -- I COULD --
6 WHENEVER WE WENT TO TEMPLE ANYWAY SHE
7 COULD NEVER INTRODUCE ME AS THIS IS MY FOSTER CHILD.
8 THESE ARE MY CHILDREN. THIS IS JACK AND MICHAEL AND
9 THIS IS FELICE. WHERE DID I COME FROM? WHO AM I? ARE
10 YOU -- WHAT ARE YOU TELLING PEOPLE? I MEAN, SHE
11 COULDN'T ACK -- HANDLE -- BEING A FOSTER MOTHER. BUT
12 SHE'S A GOOD LADY ANY WAY. SHE'S GOT HER SHTICKS BUT
13 SHE REALLY PLAYED.

14 AND I HAD ROUGH TIMES WITH HER AND OF
15 COURSE I STARTED THERAPY AND THEN, UNFORTUNATELY, MY
16 WONDERFUL PSYCHOLOGIST -- PSYCHIATRIST -- DIED, HAD
17 CANCER AND WHEN SHE TOLD ME ABOUT, THAT SHE WAS DYING, I
18 FOUND OUT ABOUT IT WHEN I WAS LIVING WITH THE GELLER'S,
19 THAT'S MY FOSTER PARENTS, AND I WAS -- I CAME HOME AND I
20 WAS HYSTERICAL AND MY FOSTER MOTHER SAYS TO ME "YOU
21 WOULDN'T GET SO UPSET IF I WAS GOING TO DIE."

22 THE INTERVIEWER: SHE'S A GEM.

23 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: OH, YES, SHE WAS. SHE
24 IS. SHE STILL IS BUT HERE WE GO AGAIN. I WAS LOSING
25 SOMEONE ELSE BUT THIS WAS MY FOSTER MOTHER. SHE MEANS
26 WELL BUT SHE'S A LITTLE OFF THE WALL. SHE COULDN'T
27 UNDERSTAND.

28 THE INTERVIEWER: IT'S AWFUL TO LAUGH ABOUT

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 THAT. SHE'S A CHARACTER.

2 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: YEAH, BUT BECAUSE OF
3 THERAPY I MEAN, I REALLY BEEN ABLE TO COME TO TERMS WITH
4 MY PAST, TO DEAL WITH IT, WORK WITH IT, AND HOPEFULLY
5 BENEFIT FROM IT IN SOME WAY.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: CAN WE -- WE WANT TO BRING
7 EVERYONE IN.

8 PAUL KASSY: I JUST WANT TO SAY ONE OTHER --

9 THE INTERVIEWER: SAY YOUR NAME AGAIN.

10 PAUL KASSY: PAUL. THE ONLY OTHER THING WITH
11 LOSING PARENTS I LOST MY PARENTS WHEN I WAS 17 AND I
12 REALLY DON'T THINK I ACCEPTED MY MOTHER'S DEATH OR
13 LOSS. I WAS VERY CLOSE TO HER UNTIL SOMEWHERE, YOU
14 KNOW, I WAS MAYBE 40 WHEN I KEPT SAYING AT THE AGE OF
15 35, YOU KNOW, I FINALLY ACCEPTED HER DEATH, AND AT THE
16 TIME IT NEVER MADE ANY SIGNIFICANCE ON ME.

17 WELL, AT THE AGE OF 35 IS WHEN I REMARRIED
18 MY SECOND MARRIED AND WE HAD A VERY GOOD MARRIAGE FOR
19 ABOUT 15 YEARS AND THEN SHE DIED VERY, VERY SUDDENLY.
20 OKAY, IN EFFECT THIS SAME TYPE OF THING HAPPENED TO ME,
21 OKAY. ONCE I MET HER, OKAY, YOU KNOW, I COULD ACCEPT MY
22 MOTHER'S DEATH BUT I HAD HER. NOW SHE DIED IN '75 I
23 HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO -- TO GET HER OUT OF MY MIND.
24 IT'S ALMOST EIGHT YEARS.

25 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

26 PAUL KASSY: YEAH.

27 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: YOU KEEP LOSING. YOU
28 THINK YOU HAVE COME TO TERMS WITH -- OKAY, I HAVE

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 ARRIVED, I HAVE A LOVED ONE OR SOMETHING AND ALL OF I
2 SUDDEN SHE GOES ON YOU, SHE DIES ON YOU. SHE HAS THE
3 NERVE TO DIE. I MEAN IT IS THAT KIND OF FEELING. HOW
4 COULD SHE? SHE LEFT ME.

5 JACK: YEAH, AND ON THAT THEME AGAIN. WELL, I
6 DIVORCED EIGHT YEARS AGO, AND PART OF ME SAYS, YOU KNOW,
7 THIS IS PROBABLY NORMAL AFTER A WHILE, AFTER EIGHT YEARS
8 OF DIVORCED, BUT WHO WANTS TO GET INVOLVED WITH SOMEONE
9 BECAUSE I KNOW -- I KNOW IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

10 AND EVEN WITH SOME OF MY GIRLFRIENDS,
11 EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I LIKE BREAK IT OFF COMPLETELY
12 BECAUSE THAT'S IT AND I COMPLETELY SHUT OFF AND I'VE
13 BEEN TOLD, YOU KNOW, THEY COULDN'T BELIEVE IT AND IT
14 KIND OF REPEATS ITSELF IN VERY, VERY NOT TOO SUBTLE WAYS
15 BUT IT'S THERE. EVEN LIKE COMING TO THIS GATHERING.
16 I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO AND IT WASN'T
17 UNTIL 10 DAYS AGO WHEN I FINALLY SENT A CHECK IN TO SAY
18 I'M GOING TO GO, NO MATTER WHAT. IT TOOK ME, AH --

19 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH, THAT LONG.

20 JACK: I TOLD ONLY -- AS A MATTER, I TOLD ONLY
21 ONE -- I THINK I TOLD ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON I WAS GOING,
22 OTHER THAN MY FRIEND AMY WHO WAS IN THE SAME BOAT AS I
23 AM, SO TO SPEAK. I DIDN'T TELL ANYBODY UNTIL -- UHM --

24 THE INTERVIEWER: SO YOU ARE CONSTANTLY, THE
25 THREE OF YOU ARE CONSTANTLY DEALING WITH LOSE OR NEVER
26 HAVING FOUND --

27 PAUL KASSY: I CANNOT DEAL WITH DEATH. I MET A
28 GUY WHEN I CAME TO WASHINGTON ABOUT IN 1967 AND HE DIED,

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 HE DIED OF LEUKEMIA ABOUT A YEAR LATER AND I WENT TO HIS
2 FUNERAL AND I COULDN'T TALK TO HIS WIFE. YOU KNOW, I
3 DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I CANNOT FACE DEATH, YOU KNOW,
4 AND I FEEL KIND OF I CLOSE MYSELF OFF FROM, YOU KNOW,
5 CLOSE CONTACTS, EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENTS.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: TO SAVE YOURSELF.

7 PAUL KASSY: I GUESS THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING. I'M
8 NOT DOING IT CONSCIOUSLY IT JUST HAS BECOME A HABIT.
9 YOU KNOW, IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME -- I CAN OPEN UP,
10 YOU KNOW, I CAN BE A VERY OPEN PERSON UP TO A POINT BUT
11 THERE'S A CERTAIN POINT BEYOND WHICH IT'S ME AND, YOU
12 KNOW, I'M AFRAID.

13 YOU KNOW, THAT I CAN SEE IT, YOU KNOW,
14 INTELLECTUALLY I CANNOT SEE IT EMOTIONALLY, YOU KNOW,
15 BUT THAT'S BASICALLY WHAT I'M DOING. I'M JUST CLOSING
16 MYSELF OFF BECAUSE I CANNOT HANDLE, YOU KNOW, ANY OTHER
17 LOSS OF PEOPLE THAT ARE CLOSE TO ME.

18 THE INTERVIEWER: AND IT GETS WORSE AS YOU GET
19 OLDER BECAUSE THAT'S THE NATURE OF MIDDLE AGE AND OLD
20 AGE IS THAT'S WHAT YOU DO --

21 PAUL KASSY: AND I WAS A LOT OLDER THAN FELICE
22 AND WHEN I WAS 20 AN AUNT OF MINE WHO SURVIVED CAME OUT
23 HERE AND SUDDENLY SHE DECIDED SHE WAS GOING TO BE MY
24 MOTHER AND ALL THAT, YOU KNOW, AND I WENT THROUGH THE
25 SAME THING. I MEAN, SHE NEVER ASKED ME TO CALL HER
26 MOTHER BUT, YOU KNOW, SHE TOLD ME BUT NOW THAT I DON'T
27 HAVE A MOTHER AND SHE'S HERE, SHE'S GOING TO TAKE CARE
28 OF ME AND I JUST YOU KNOW, ALMOST HIT THE CEILING. MY

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 MOTHER IS MY MOTHER AND THAT'S IT.

2 THE INTERVIEWER: WELL, IT'S INTERESTING THE
3 NERVE OF PEOPLE TO ASSUME THAT THEY CAN BE THE
4 SUBSTITUTE. I MEAN --

5 PAUL KASSY: YOU KNOW, THEY WERE PROBABLY FULL OF
6 GOOD INTENTIONS, YOU KNOW, BUT BASICALLY, YOU KNOW,
7 THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS MINE IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY
8 TO KEEP MY MOTHER'S, YOU KNOW, MEMORY, WHATEVER, ALIVE
9 AND NOBODY CAN GO AND INTERFERE WITH THAT.

10 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: I, I'M VERY FRIENDLY
11 WITH A MAN WHO NOW LIVES IN LONDON WHO IS A RABBI. HE'S
12 THE SENIOR RABBI FROM ONE OF THE MAJOR COMMUNITIES THERE
13 AND HE WENT THROUGH THE WAR. I THINK HE MAY BE YOUR
14 AGE. HE WENT THROUGH FIVE CAMPS AND HE'S TOLD ME
15 SOMEBODY VERY INTERESTING BECAUSE WE'VE HAD SOME
16 DISCUSSIONS.

17 HE SAYS HE GOES UP TO A POINT WITH A
18 RELATIONSHIP, I MEAN HE'S MARRIED BUT THEN THERE'S A
19 WALL, IT'S A PROTECTIVE WALL. AND, YOU KNOW, I REACT
20 DIFFERENTLY TO A SITUATION BUT THIS IS HIS PROTECTION.
21 HE CAN GET INVOLVED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT AND THAT'S IT.
22 AND THEN NOTHING COMES UP BECAUSE THAT'S HIS PROTECTION.

23 IF I DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH I PERSON THEN
24 I WON'T GET HURT BY THEM, YOU KNOW. I'M LUCKY BECAUSE
25 TWO YEARS AGO I MET SHERMAN AND SHERMAN IS A VERY
26 SYMPATHETIC, OPEN KIND OF GUY, VERY DOWN TO EARTH, AND
27 PLAYS NO GAMES, AND HE'S REALLY -- I'VE GOT MY OWN
28 SHTICK STILL, POOR SHERMAN, AND I WORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 WHAT'S GOING TO BE -- BUT BASICALLY HE'S MY SUPPORT
2 SYSTEM AND, YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN MUCH EASIER WITH HIM
3 AROUND. I MEAN, AND IT TOOK ME UNTIL THEN. I MEAN --
4 ALL KINDS OF SITUATIONS AND, YOU KNOW, WITH PEOPLE WITH
5 MEN AND --

6 THE INTERVIEWER: COULDN'T MAKE THE COMMITMENT.

7 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: NEVER, NEVER. I WAS
8 ALWAYS HAPPY, GAY, AND ALL THAT BUT THERE WAS NEVER ANY
9 COMMITMENT, NEVER. AND I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING. IT WAS A
10 COMBINATION. I WANTED TO BE THE INDEPENDENT ONE, YET I
11 WANTED TO BE THE PROTECTED ONE AND I WANTED SOMEONE TO
12 TAKE CARE OF ME I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR FAMILY. I
13 WANTED TO BELONG.

14 EVERY TIME I MET A VERY NICE FAMILY, MAYBE
15 THEY'LL ADOPT ME. MAYBE THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF ME. YOU
16 KNOW, I HAD TWO EXPERIENCES, ONE WHERE THEY CAME TO --
17 TO SEE US IN -- AT TEVAH NEE AND THEY TOOK ME TO FRANCE
18 AND THEY TOOK ME OUT FOR A DAY OR TWO AND THEY'RE GOING
19 TO ADOPT ME; THEY TOLD ME. AND THEY GAVE ME THE NAMES
20 AND I EXPECTED IT. THEY NEVER CAME THROUGH. SAME THING
21 IN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY. SAME THING OF A BOARD MEMBER BUT
22 I WAS TOO OLD SO I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING, LOOKING FOR
23 FAMILY AND -- YOU KNOW --

24 NOW, UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN
25 BUT SHERMAN HAS TWO CHILDREN AND WE SEE THEM EVERY OTHER
26 WEEK AND I'M CLOSE TO THEM. AGAIN IT'S I'M NOT THE
27 MOTHER I'M THE -- AND SHERMAN SAYS, YOU KNOW, THINK OF
28 THEM AS YOUR CHILDREN BUT THEY'RE NOT. I MEAN, THEY

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 HAVE A MOTHER AND I CAN ONLY PLAY A CERTAIN ROLE WITH
2 THEM; BE THEIR FRIEND -- FRIENDS, BE THERE IF THEY WANT
3 IT. BUT IT'S HARD THERE. THAT'S WHY SHERMAN AND I --
4 WE'RE A FAMILY.

5 THE INTERVIEWER: YOU WOULD NOT THINK OF
6 ADOPTING.

7 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: NO, I CAN'T -- I MEAN
8 THAT'S -- I CAN'T ADOPT. I SORT OF CAN'T BE A FOSTER
9 MOTHER, IT'S TOO PAINFUL (CRYING). I MEAN, YOU INVEST
10 TOO MUCH AND THEN YOU LOSE IT, YOU KNOW. BUT THEN YOU
11 START TO GET PREPARED -- WELL, IF SOMETHING HAPPENS THIS
12 IS WHAT I'M GOING TO DO. IT'S LIKE YOU PREPARE
13 YOURSELF, YOU KNOW, IF THIS ONE DIES THIS IS WHAT I'M
14 GOING TO DO. AND YOU LITERALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND IN YOUR
15 HEAD.

16 YOU KNOW, IT'S ONLY NOW THAT I CAN TRUST,
17 IT'S BEEN VERY HARD TO TRUST ANYBODY AND SHERMAN REALLY
18 HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE -- I CAN TRUST WITH HIM.
19 I CAN -- YOU KNOW, I CAN MAKE PLANS AND WE TALK ABOUT
20 PLANS BUT I TRUST HIM AS A HUMAN BEING. I KNOW THAT
21 HE'S NOT GOING TO STEER ME WRONG AND THAT'S VERY
22 IMPORTANT. YOU HAVE TO FIND A PERSON AND I'M TAKING A
23 CHANCE THAT IT'S GOING TO WORK. YOU KNOW, I MEAN I'M
24 TRUSTING HIM WITH MY -- WITH MY SOLE AND IT HASN'T
25 HAPPEN.

26 I MEAN I'VE BEEN IN THERAPY FOR 20 YEARS.
27 I THINK I STARTED THERAPY WITH A PSYCHIATRIST AND IT
28 TAKES A LONG WHILE AND SOME OF THE THINGS WILL NEVER GO

1 WAY. THE PAIN WILL NEVER GO. I'LL NEVER CHANGE BUT
2 THAT'S THE WAY IT IS. YOU CAN TRY TO MAKE THE BEST OF
3 IT.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: I HAD NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE
5 FACT THAT YOU -- THE BEGINNING OF TRUST WITH SOMEONE IS
6 THE ABILITY TO MAKE PLANS WITH THAT PERSON AND KNOW THAT
7 MAYBE SOMETHING, MAYBE YOU CAN CARRY IT OUT.

8 PAUL KASSY: YOU'RE NOT AWARE OF THIS TOTALLY BUT
9 THAT'S BASICALLY WHAT YOUR AN AFRAID OF AND WHEN YOU DO
10 MEET SOMEBODY -- I MEAN THIS HAS HAPPENED TO ME, YOU
11 KNOW, AS AN ADULT SEVERAL TIMES. YOU GO INTO A NEW WORK
12 -- JOB SITUATION, WORK SITUATION, YOU FIND A BOSS, OKAY,
13 THAT YOU KIND OF LIKE AND WHATEVER AND YOU SUDDENLY
14 ASSUME, YOU KNOW, THAT THIS GUY IS -- I MEAN BASICALLY
15 WHAT YOU'RE DOING -- WHAT I THINK I'M DOING, I'M
16 ASSUMING I PUT HIM IN A FATHER ROLE FIGURE, YOU KNOW, I
17 CAN TRUST THIS GUY, YOU KNOW, AND I'LL DO THINGS THAT
18 ORDINARILY I WOULDN'T DO AND THEN SUDDENLY THE CONFLICT
19 COMES BETWEEN BOSS AND EMPLOYEE AND, YOU KNOW, HE'S
20 PLAYING THE BOSS AND I FEEL TOTALLY BETRAYED BECAUSE,
21 YOU KNOW, HERE I THOUGHT, YOU KNOW, WE HAD THIS THING
22 GOING AND -- AND IT BLOWS MY MIND.

23 THE INTERVIEWER: IT WAS IN YOUR MIND AND HE
24 DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

25 PAUL KASSY: OF COURSE NOT.

26 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

27 PAUL KASSY: I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND IT BUT THIS
28 IS THE WAY I REACT TO SITUATIONS. SO YOU END UP BEING

1 VERY, VERY SENSITIVE, FRAGILE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE
2 WORD IS --

3 THE INTERVIEWER: FRAGILE.

4 PAUL KASSY: BUT YOU'RE VERY MUCH AFRAID OF
5 REJECTION. I AM, OKAY. AND YOU SOMETIMES WILL NOT, YOU
6 KNOW, OPEN A DOOR BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO
7 GET REJECTED, OKAY. AND AFTER A WHILE YOU NOT AWARE OF
8 THIS BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME YOUR PATTERN AND YOU'RE
9 AFRAID OF GETTING HURT AND I UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT
10 SHE'S SAYING AND, YOU KNOW, IN TERMS OF A FAMILY
11 SITUATION I HAVE NOT GONE THROUGH THAT. YOU KNOW, I WAS
12 UP TO THE AGE I WAS 17, YOU KNOW, I HAD A FAMILY, BUT --

13 THE INTERVIEWER: SO HOW DO YOU GO ON?

14 PAUL KASSY: OH, YOU KIND OF LIVE FROM
15 DAY-TO-DAY.

16 THE INTERVIEWER: WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU HEAR OVER
17 AND OVER FROM PEOPLE. I LIVED MINUTE TO MINUTE. I
18 DIDN'T WORRY TOMORROW WOULD NOT COME UNTIL I LIVED THE
19 NEXT HOUR.

20 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: HE'S DIFFERENT --
21 BECAUSE HE'S DIFFERENT, I MEAN HE WENT -- UP TO WHAT, I
22 DON'T KNOW UP TO WHAT AGE HE WAS WITH HIS FAMILY BUT IT
23 WAS GOOD, WHATEVER.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: 17.

25 PAUL KASSY: 17.

26 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: YEAH, BUT I, I'M ON THE
27 OTHER SIDE. I WORRY, I WORRY ABOUT -- I WORRY ABOUT
28 WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN FROM MINUTE TO MINUTE. SHOULD WE

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 DO THIS -- WE HAVE TO DO THIS BUT SHERMAN SHOULDN'T WE
2 DO THIS AND HE SAYS "NO, WE'LL DO IT." NO, NO -- I
3 WORRY -- I WORRY -- I GOT TO DO IT NOW. I GOT TO DO
4 IT. YOU KNOW, I WORRY.

5 I'M CONSTANTLY WORRYING. IF THERE'S
6 NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT I AM GOING TO FIND SOMETHING TO
7 WORRY ABOUT. I MEAN SHERMAN IS THE BEST TESTAMENT FOR
8 THIS AND HE, BECAUSE MY FRIEND IN LONDON, THE SAME
9 THING, HE WAS WITH HIS FAMILY UNTIL 16 OR 17 SO HE HAD A
10 GOOD BEGINNING SO HE'S GOT OTHER SHTICKS, OTHER
11 PROBLEMS. BUT IN THAT SENSE I THINK HE GOES FROM
12 DAY-TO-DAY FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT, RIGHT?

13 PAUL KASSY: WELL, YOU KNOW, WHEN I GOT MARRIED A
14 SECOND TIME, YOU KNOW, I KIND OF TRIED NOT TO GET TOO --
15 BASICALLY TOO CLOSE TO MY WIFE. I MEAN IT TOOK THREE
16 FOUR YEARS BEFORE IT WAS REALLY A WORKING SITUATION.

17 THE INTERVIEWER: DID YOU UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS.

18 PAUL KASSY: I THINK SHE DID, I THINK SHE DID.
19 SHE PROBABLY UNDERSTOOD IT BETTER THAN I DID, AT THE
20 TIME.

21 THE INTERVIEWER: AND THEN AFTER FOUR YEARS
22 YOU --

23 PAUL KASSY: YOU KNOW, IT GOT TO BE A GOOD
24 SITUATION AND OF COURSE, YOU KNOW, THE FACT THAT SHE
25 DIED AND SHE DIED VERY SUDDENLY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH A
26 CAMP OR WHATEVER BUT IT HAS, YOU KNOW, THE IMPACT ON ME,
27 WAS JUST MULTIPLIED -- AMPLIFIED BY THAT. OKAY, AND I
28 DIDN'T BECOME AWARE OF THAT UNTIL ABOUT THREE, FOUR

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 YEARS AGO WHEN I FINALLY EMERGED FROM MY --

2 THE INTERVIEWER: GRIEF.

3 PAUL KASSY: EMOTIONAL HURT, YOU KNOW, AND
4 REALIZED, YOU KNOW, BASICALLY WHAT I'M DOING TO MYSELF.
5 BUT, AH, I ALMOST FEEL, YOU KNOW, I'M TOO OLD TO
6 CHANGE. THIS IS THE LIFE I KNOW THIS IS THE MODE THAT I
7 KNOW.

8 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

9 PAUL KASSY: SO I TAKE IT AS IT GOES -- OR AS IT
10 COMES.

11 THE INTERVIEWER: WELL, SOME OF THESE SCARS JUST
12 NEVER HEAL; THEY CAN'T.

13 PAUL KASSY: ALL RIGHT. YOU KNOW, I -- I NEVER
14 CRIED FOR MY MOTHER.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: NOT YET?

16 PAUL KASSY: NOT YET. I NEVER HAVE. YOU KNOW --
17 YOU KNOW -- MY MOTHER SURVIVED MOST OF THE WAR--

18 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

19 PAUL KASSY: BUT SHE DIED -- FROM ANYTHING I CAN
20 ASCERTAIN IS FROM MARCH OF 1945 IN BERGEN-BELZEN BY
21 WHICH TIME, YOU KNOW, I WAS AWAY FROM HER FOR ABOUT
22 EIGHT, NINE MONTHS.

23 I HAD MY OWN PROBLEMS, IN A SENSE, OF
24 SURVIVING AND WHEN YOU'RE IN A SURVIVAL MODE YOUR ALMOST
25 LIKE A -- YOUR EXISTING ON A PHYSICAL ANIMAL KIND OF
26 LEVEL. SO, YOU KNOW, I NEVER CRIED FOR HER. OKAY, AND
27 YOU KNOW, I HAVE FANTASIES ABOUT HER THAT I'LL FIND HER
28 AND THIS WENT ON AND ON UNTIL I WAS ABOUT 35 AND WHEN MY

1 WIFE DIED, YOU KNOW, I WAS -- FOR THREE MONTHS I WOULD
2 BREAK INTO TEARS, YOU KNOW, WHEN I SAW IT.

3 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

4 PAUL KASSY: I MEAN, YOU KNOW, I'D READ A
5 NEWSPAPER AND I SAY, "HEY WINNIE, LOOK AT THIS" AND I
6 REALIZED SHE WAS DEAD. AND THEN I CRY.

7 SHE WORKED INTO A SITUATION, YOU KNOW,
8 THAT SHE WAS PART OF ME. I LOOKED UPON HER, YOU KNOW, I
9 LOOKED UPON HER BOTH AS A MOTHER AND A DAUGHTER. SHE
10 WAS ABOUT 10 OR 11 YEARS YOUNGER THAN I WAS. WE HAD,
11 YOU KNOW, IT WAS A RELATIONSHIP THAT I'M TOO OLD RIGHT
12 NOW TO DUPLICATE, I FEEL, YOU KNOW, GOING THROUGH THAT.

13 THE INTERVIEWER: SO SHE -- SHE SYMBOLIZED TO
14 YOU --

15 PAUL KASSY: I DON'T KNOW, YOU KNOW, BASICALLY WE
16 HAD A VERY -- YOU KNOW, I COULD DEPEND ON HER, SHE COULD
17 DEPEND ON ME AND THE THING WHEN SHE DIED, ONE OF THE
18 THINGS THAT HIT ME THAT I NEVER REALIZED THE FULL
19 MEANING OF THE COMPLETE RELATIONSHIP, YOU KNOW, AND I
20 REALLY -- YOU KNOW, WE NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT IT IN
21 THOSE TERMS AND, AH -- I DON'T KNOW. YOU KNOW, I MADE
22 PLANS WHEN I WAS 17 WHAT I'M GOING TO DO AS A GROWN UP
23 WHAT KIND OF WORK I WAS GOING TO DO AND THAT WHOLE THING
24 WENT OUT THE WINDOW.

25 THE INTERVIEWER: RIGHT.

26 PAUL KASSY: OKAY, SHE AND I MADE ALL SORTS OF
27 PLANS WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO WHEN I RETIRE, YOU KNOW,
28 AND THAT WENT OUT THE WINDOW. AND THAT KIND OF -- AND

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 YOU KNOW -- WHEN IT HAPPENS, YOU KNOW, TIME AND TIME
2 AGAIN IT KIND OF PUTS YOU INTO A NEGATIVE PESSIMISTIC
3 MODE AND THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING FOR THE LAST --

4 THE INTERVIEWER: THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE NOW?

5 PAUL KASSY: YEAH.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: HAS THIS GATHERING HELPED AT
7 ALL?

8 PAUL KASSY: YEAH, YOU KNOW, I REALLY FEEL GOOD
9 ABOUT THIS THING. SO THE FIRST DAY I CAME IN HERE --
10 YOU KNOW, WELL, I DON'T KNOW -- I REACT TO SITUATIONS, I
11 REACT TO PEOPLE. GOT TOGETHER WITH ABOUT 10 OR 12
12 PEOPLE FROM BUNA (PH), OKAY, AND --

13 THE INTERVIEWER: WHAT'S BUNA?

14 PAUL KASSY: BUNA IS THAT PLACE I WAS AT OUTSIDE
15 OF AUSCHWITZ, BUNA MASCHWITZ (PH), AND YOU KNOW SOME OF
16 THESE PEOPLE REMEMBERED THE BARRACK NUMBER THEY WERE IN,
17 THE COMMANDO NUMBER AND WHATEVER, YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T
18 REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND I REALLY DIDN'T FEEL A
19 CLOSENESS TO THEM FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER, OKAY? AND
20 THEN I GOT TOGETHER WITH THESE PEOPLE FROM OSE IT WAS
21 SUCH A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW, I
22 FEEL TOTALLY DIFFERENT ABOUT THE GATHERING FROM THAT
23 MOMENT ON THAN I DID BEFORE.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

25 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: THE FIRST DAY I WAS VERY
26 NERVOUS AND ANXIOUS ABOUT THIS GATHERING. WHAT'S GOING
27 TO BE. I WON'T KNOW ANYBODY BECAUSE EVERYBODY ELSE'S
28 STORY -- EVERYBODY ELSE'S STORY IS BETTER THAN MINE. I

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 MEAN I DIDN'T GO THROUGH A CAMP. I DON'T -- DO I REALLY
2 BELONG HERE? THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I DIDN'T GO
3 TO THE WORLD GATHERING, I WAS VERY NERVOUS -- ALSO I
4 COULDN'T GO. BUT THEN I RAN INTO -- I STARTED SPEAKING
5 TO ONE PERSON AT THE FRENCH TABLE AND PRETTY SOON
6 ANOTHER TABLE AND THEN NORBET CAME OVER AND THEN I MET
7 PAUL. I MET PAUL AND ALL THESE OTHERS -- IT WAS A VERY
8 HEART WARMING FEELING. SUCH A KINSHIP. SUCH A -- YOU
9 KNOW, A CONNECTION. IT'S VERY GOOD.

10 THE INTERVIEWER: SO YOU, IN THAT SITUATION, FELT
11 AS IF YOU BELONGED?

12 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: YEAH.

13 THE INTERVIEWER: AND YOU DO?

14 PAUL KASSY: I DO.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: SO THAT'S WHAT'S JOINED YOU.

16 PAUL KASSY: YEAH.

17 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

18 PAUL KASSY: YOU KNOW, AS AN ADULT -- AS AN 18
19 YEARS OLD KID, YOU KNOW, FRANCE WAS THE FIRST FREE
20 COUNTRY IN FREE LIFE THAT I HAD. I MEAN WE HAD LOTS OF
21 FUN AND LOTS OF FRIENDS AND, YOU KNOW, WHEN WE GOT
22 TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE FROM OSE THAT BROUGHT BACK SOME OF
23 THAT EXUBERANCE THAT SOME OF US HAVEN'T FELT FOR YEARS,
24 YOU KNOW, AND IT BECAME A VERY, VERY POSITIVE
25 EXPERIENCE.

26 THE INTERVIEWER: SO IN A SENSE THE ONLY PLACE
27 YOU FELT THAT YOU BELONGED WAS IN THE ORPHANAGE.

28 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: YEAH, THE ORPHANAGE.

1 BUT NOW --

2 THE INTERVIEWER: AND THAT OTHER WOMAN, YOUR
3 FIRST --

4 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: MY FIRST FOSTER MOTHER.

5 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH, YOUR FIRST FOSTER MOTHER.

6 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: NOW, I -- I THINK I
7 BELONG WITH SHERMAN.

8 THE INTERVIEWER: SHERMAN.

9 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: I BELONG AS IF WE ARE A
10 FAMILY, YOU KNOW, LITTLE BY LITTLE IT'S VERY HARD AFTER
11 BEING ON YOUR OWN FOR SO LONG TO THINK ABOUT AS TWO
12 PEOPLE TWO OF US BEING MARRIED BUT HE'S A -- HE'S VERY
13 PATIENT WITH ME AND HE REALLY GIVES ME A LOT OF ROOM AND
14 HE NEEDS ROOM ALSO FOR HIMSELF AND TO DO HIS OWN THING
15 BUT HE'S A VERY PATIENT, GOOD PERSON, CARING PERSON SO
16 HE'S REALLY BEING --

17 YOU KNOW THE FACT THAT HE CAME HERE HE
18 TOOK OFF TIME IT'S VERY HARD FOR HIM TO TAKE OFF TIME
19 FROM WORK BUT HE TOOK IT OFF BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT I --
20 IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ME AND THAT I NEEDED SUPPORT AND SO
21 NOW I FEEL THERE'S A HOME FOR ME WITH HIM, AND AH --

22 THE INTERVIEWER: WELL, SHERMAN'S LOVE AND
23 SUPPORT IS LIKE THE LOVE OF YOUR FIRST FOSTER MOTHER AND
24 OF THE ORPHANAGE I MEAN IT'S THE SAME --

25 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: NURTURING LOVE.

26 THE INTERVIEWER: NURTURING -- THE SAME BRINGING
27 YOU IN AND CARING.

28 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: YEAH, RIGHT.

1 THE INTERVIEWER: SO THAT'S THE EMOTIONAL
2 CLIMATE.

3 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: RIGHT, RIGHT. HE GIVES
4 ME A LOT OF SUPPORT AND HE PROTECTS ME FROM THINGS THAT
5 MIGHT BE HAPPENING, YOU KNOW, AND I FEEL VERY GOOD WITH
6 HIM, VERY RELAXED. HE'S A MENCH. NICE GUY.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: SUPER MENCH.

8 SO HOW CAN YOU DUPLICATE THE FEELING OF
9 THIS GATHERING TO HELP YOU? I MEAN, IT'S BEEN A LITTLE
10 HELP HASN'T IT.

11 PAUL KASSY: WELL, YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK THIS
12 GATHERING HAS CHANGED MY LIFE.

13 THE INTERVIEWER: NO.

14 PAUL KASSY: YOU KNOW, AND IT'S JUST, YOU KNOW, I
15 WANTED TO COME HERE. I DIDN'T QUITE KNOW, I COULDN'T
16 TELL YOU THE EXACT REASONS BUT I WAS HOPING I'LL MEET
17 SOME PEOPLE THAT I'VE KNOWN, YOU KNOW, TURNS OUT, YOU
18 KNOW, THAT I GOT JUST AS POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM PEOPLE
19 THAT I -- YOU KNOW -- I HAVEN'T KNOWN BUT THEY'VE BEEN
20 BASICALLY THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES --

21 THE INTERVIEWER: THAT'S RIGHT.

22 PAUL KASSY: -- THAT I CAN I COULD IDENTIFY
23 WITH. AND AH, SO I THINK IT WAS A VERY POSITIVE
24 EXPERIENCE.

25 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

26 FELICE ZIMMERN STROKES: WANT TO TALK TO SHERMAN
27 MAYBE?

28 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH, ALL RIGHT.

1 WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM LISTENING TO
2 THESE PEOPLE?

3 SHERMAN: I THINK I'VE LEARNED A LITTLE MORE THAN
4 THAT I EXPECTED TO LEARN I GUESS ORIGINALLY MY INTENT OF
5 BEING HERE WAS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR FELICE AND I KNEW
6 IT WAS GOING TO BE A VERY TRYING TIME. I'M VERY HAPPY
7 THAT THE PEOPLE FROM O.S.E. ORGANIZATION AND OTHERS HAVE
8 TURNED UP. I GUESS IT WAS FORTUITOUS THAT WE HAPPEN TO
9 WALK OVER TO THE FRENCH TABLE AND HAVE MET A NUMBER OF
10 PEOPLE IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS.

11 FELICE IS RUNNING TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD A
12 LOT OF SIMILAR EXPERIENCES TO HERS, AND THEY'RE VERY
13 TRYING EXPERIENCES. NOT BEING INVOLVED MYSELF AND IN
14 THE SAME THINGS THAT THEY'VE GONE THROUGH, I FEEL A LOT
15 OF SYMPATHY FOR BACKGROUNDS, THE PAIN, THE TRAGEDY, AND
16 SO ON. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS ABOUT IT
17 AS A PERSON ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING AT THE EVENTS THAT
18 HAVE CAUSED THESE PEOPLE TO BE HERE. I'M ALWAYS VERY
19 INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING THE EMOTIONS AND THE
20 FEELINGS OF PEOPLE AND WHY THEY DO THINGS AND HOW
21 THEY'VE COME TO BE WHAT THEY ARE. I GUESS WHAT I'VE
22 SEEN IS A LOT OF TRAGIC EXPERIENCES.

23 THE INTERVIEWER: SO MUCH PAIN.

24 SHERMAN: VERY UNIQUE AND TRAGIC EXPERIENCES THAT
25 HAVE IMPRINTED ON EVERYONE OF THE PEOPLE WE HAVE AVERAGE
26 TALKED TO RECENTLY. IN PARTICULAR THE THINGS DISTURBING
27 TO ME IS THAT EACH ONE OF THEM HAD THIS TRAGEDY
28 IMPRESSED UPON THEIR LIVES IN A VERY, VERY YOUNG AGE.

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1 AND I GUESS WHAT'S HAPPENED IS THAT THEIR
2 ENTIRE BEING AND FUTURE AND THE GENERATIONS THAT WILL
3 FOLLOW FROM THEM AND THE PEOPLE THAT THEY'RE INVOLVED
4 WITH ARE ALL GOING TO BE MARKED WITH THIS EXPERIENCE AND
5 IT'S UNERADICABLE. I GUESS THERE HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF
6 PEOPLE THAT WE'VE TALKED TO THAT DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
7 ABOUT THEIR BACKGROUND. IT STARTS AT SIX OR FIVE OR
8 FOUR OR SOMETHING. IT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY BLOTTED OUT.

9 THE INTERVIEWER: YOU MEAN THEY HAVEN'T
10 REMEMBERED?

11 SHERMAN: YEAH, THEY HAVEN'T REMEMBERED IT
12 APPARENTLY THEY'VE TRIED AND IT'S TRAGIC THAT THEY
13 HAVEN'T AND I GUESS THE EFFECT ON CHILDREN, AND THE WAY
14 IT'S IMPRESSED ME IS THAT THEY'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO LEARN
15 MORE ABOUT THAT THING THEY NEVER KNEW. NORMAL
16 CHILDHOODS, IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR MOST PEOPLE ARE
17 SIMPLE KIND OF THINGS. YOU KNEW YOUR PARENTS, YOU GOT
18 ALONG WITH THEM, YOU DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH THEM. YOU'RE
19 ABLE TO THRASH THAT OUT, IN CURRENT TERMS, IN SOME SORT
20 OF WAY. THERE ARE TECHNIQUES FORGETTING SOME HELP IN
21 THOSE THINGS.

22 IT'S REGRETTABLE THAT THE THINGS THAT
23 HAPPENED -- THE CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST -- MAY NOT BE
24 SOLVED SO EASILY OR EVER BECAUSE OF THE BEGINNING OF
25 THEIR PROBLEM. IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF FEELING AND
26 UNDERSTANDING AND DEALING WITH PEOPLE LIKE THAT AND I'M
27 NOT SURE IT'S BEEN ATTACKED YET. THERE'S A LOT OF
28 ADULTS, A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE PROBABLY 40, 50 ON UP

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 WHO WERE TODDLERS AT THAT TIME AND ARE STILL SEARCHING
2 FOR THAT KIND OF THING.

3 I THINK WE'VE SPOKEN TO A NUMBER OF
4 PEOPLE, YOU KNOW, THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH MARRIAGES AND
5 RELATIONSHIPS AND THEY HAVE WAYS OF REACTING TO THINGS
6 WHICH KEEP BRING BEING THEM BACK TO THE ORIGINAL
7 SITUATION WHICH IS REJECTION, PERHAPS. THE FEAR OF
8 GOING TOO FAR AND OPENING UP TO SOMEONE OR --

9 THE INTERVIEWER: BEING VULNERABLE.

10 SHERMAN: THAT'S RIGHT, THEY ARE VULNERABLE AND
11 THEY'RE VERY BRITTLE BECAUSE SOMETHING IS GOING TO BREAK
12 AT SOME POINT.

13 THE INTERVIEWER: BREAK APART.

14 SHERMAN: AND I WISH THERE WAS MORE THAT COULD BE
15 DONE. IT'S NOT RECOGNIZED. I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO
16 DO IS FELICE AND OUR RELATIONSHIP IS TO PROVIDE A HOME
17 THAT'S COMFORTABLE WITH A FAMILY. I GUESS ONE OF THE
18 THINGS THAT MAY HELP IS THAT, I GUESS IN CURRENT TERMS,
19 I HAVE A PRE-MADE FAMILY FOR FELICE TO HOOK ONTO AND
20 FELICE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN IS VERY, VERY
21 GOOD.

22 SHE'S BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO MAKE THEM
23 FEEL AS IF THEY HAVE CERTAINLY HEALTHY EXTENDED HOME AND
24 FAMILY RELATIONSHIP AND MY CHILDREN GET ALONG VERY
25 NICELY WITH HER. WE'RE CLOSE.

26 THE INTERVIEWER: YOU MUST HAVE PREPARED THEM
27 WELL.

28 SHERMAN: A BIT. A BIT. FELICE PROVIDES FOR ME

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 THE THINGS THAT I NEED IN MY LIFE. I CAN TAKE THE
2 RESPONSIBILITY FOR A LOT OF THINGS, AND I CAN HELP HER
3 TRY TO MAKE SOME DECISIONS. I KNOW THERE ARE TIMES WHEN
4 SHE'S ANXIOUS AND MUST DO THINGS AND THAT WAYS WE SORT
5 OF COMPLIMENT OURSELVES BECAUSE I'M USUALLY NOT IN A
6 RUSH TO DO A LOT OF THINGS, OKAY. I TEND TO BE, AS THEY
7 SAY, A LITTLE BIT LAID BACK, WHICH IS NICE.

8 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

9 SHERMAN: AND IN THAT CASE IT'S A COMPLIMENTARY
10 SYSTEM WHERE THE PARTS FIT TOGETHER AND IT'S NICE. I'M
11 IN LOVE WITH MY WIFE AND WE HAVE A NICE TIME TOGETHER.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

13 SHERMAN: LAST VACATION WE WENT TO FRANCE AND
14 VISITED HER COUNSELOR IN PARIS, ELAINE, WHO IS A VERY
15 NICE LADY, AND THEN WE WENT TO CHATEAU RUE TO MEET THE
16 SON OF THE FAMILY THAT HID FELICE DURING THE WAR.

17 THE INTERVIEWER: UH-HUH.

18 SHERMAN: AND IT WAS NICE. I THINK FELICE WANTED
19 ME, IN PARTICULAR, TO SEE THOSE THINGS AND SHARE THOSE
20 EVENTS WITH HER AND IT WAS ENLIGHTENING FOR ME.

21 THE INTERVIEWER: DOES SITTING HERE TODAY AND
22 WITNESSING HER PAIN, AND WITNESSING THE PAIN OF THE
23 OTHERS, THAT WERE SO OBVIOUS HAS ENLARGED YOU'RE FEELING
24 FOR HER EXPERIENCE?

25 SHERMAN: OH, YEAH.

26 THE INTERVIEWER: AND SHE WAS NOT ALONE IN --

27 SHERMAN: NO, SHE'S NOT ALONE. SHE'S NEVER ALONE
28 REALLY.

HARBET & GLOGOWER

1 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH.

2 SHERMAN: ALTHOUGH I WASN'T INVOLVED IN THESE
3 THINGS PERSONALLY, EVEN BEFORE FELICE I WAS INVOLVED
4 WITH THE HORRORS OF THE HOLOCAUST BECAUSE MY MOTHER'S
5 FAMILY WAS POLISH AND CAME FROM BIALISTOCK (PH) IN
6 EASTERN POLAND AND EVERYONE IN THEIR FAMILIES
7 DISAPPEARED. AND IT'S A HUGE VOID. NO ONE KNOWS
8 ANYTHING ABOUT. IT'S NOT THAT THERE WAS A CLOSE
9 RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT ENDS OF THE FAMILY, BUT THEY'RE
10 MISSING. AND FELICE'S EXPERIENCE, YOU KNOW, IS A
11 CONTINUATION AND A GREATER CLOSENESS OF THAT KIND OF
12 THING.

13 I'M SHARING HER EXPERIENCES AND EVERYONE
14 ELSE. THEY'RE NICE PEOPLE. I NEVER SAW THESE PEOPLE
15 BEFORE BUT I CAN FEEL FOR THEM AND IT'S TRAGIC EVENTS
16 AND A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE, YOU KNOW, THE OLDER
17 GENERATION WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH THAT MAY HAVE HAD
18 DIFFERENT THINGS HAPPEN. MY HEART GOES OUT TO THEM
19 TOO. A LOT OF PERSONAL TRAGEDIES IN THE PEOPLE HERE.
20 IT'S DIFFICULT FOR THE WORLD TO UNDERSTAND THAT. A LOT
21 OF PEOPLE DON'T EVEN AGREE THOSE THINGS HAPPENED.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: YEAH, I KNOW. I HEARD ONE
23 WOMAN SAY THEY DON'T SAY THE HOLOCAUST HAPPENED, LET ME
24 TURN UP MY MOTHER FOR ME.

25 SHERMAN: YEAH.

26 THE INTERVIEWER: LET THEM BRING HER HERE.

27 SHERMAN: YEAH.

28 THE INTERVIEWER: SO --