

CHELSEA PICTURES, INC.

"HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTARY"

CLARA PRESENTATION

PRODUCER: (NOT IDENTIFIED)

TAPE #W5

CLARA:

09:35:12:12 Hi, everybody. It's an-- a usual place for me. I love kids. I was teaching for 40 years. Full time teacher, in Roumania, France, and America. My only free country. The colors, you can see.

09:35:39:23 I went back as a substitute now, because I still love kids. And after the tragedies that I went through, you are the only ones who will give me the hope that this freedom that you have in United States, this quality of life is going to last forever. And it's never, never happened, the other ones that I had.

09:36:06:16 I must admit that this is the group, the

tenth grade, that inspires me. Because this is when it happened. I was tenth grader, when all happened. You can figure it out now, how old I am. Anyway, I hadn't talked about my Holocaust experiences after 1945, 'til '62, 1962. Seventeen years. Because I think nobody will believe me. What happened to me.

09:36:43:05

It wasn't a free country, Roumania. When I returned from Auschwitz. When I came to the United States, I started to talk to one foreign guidance counselor (UNINTEL). Came from Ukraine (PH). And we got friendly. And he said, "Clara, why don't you speak up? You will feel better. It's a treasure, what you hold in yourself, to give to your students. To talk about your Holocaust experiences. You won't have nightmares any more at night. You are going to-- to-- feel relieved of a mission, that stays with you forever."

09:37:35:27 "When you promised to those who died next to you, that you will speak up. Whoever survived. Speak up. You will feel better, so it never happens again." So, this is why I'm here. Not because I want you to hear my accent. Which is affected by seven languages, but it's still there.

09:38:01:05 But the cause is so important. To relate. Or what I know. That you don't mind my accent. You will not mind my accent. You will understand, why do I speak and keep talking about my Holocaust experiences. The students, 10,000 that I reached like this-- encourage me with their letters, with their suggestions, to continue and help them to understand the world.

09:38:36:16 I came from a little town, maybe like North Seron (PH), from Roumania. I didn't know

that I will have a map. So, I'm going to show you in a silk scarf, how does Roumania look like. And then I will show you also on the map. Because we have now, a map. And this is Roumania. It looks like my scarf. A little-- not a big country-- in Europe.

09:39:10:14

Unfortunately, when I was your age, it was not Roumania. It was Hungary. And the Hungarians gave out their population, and deported their Jews. While the Roumanians had ghettos in Roumania. So, I was in a wrong time, a wrong place. A family of four, only. My father, my brother, my Mom and I. But we have-- we are 39. We were 39, in the big family. Cousins, grandparents, and uncles.

09:39:54:09

Of the 39, two of us, my Mom and I survived. Everybody died. Seventeen cousins. I don't know how many aunts and uncles. I was just

as innocent as you were. And I was in-- I would say, seventh grade, in 1940, when there were rumors. Rumors that-- the Hungarians take over Transylvania. Transylvania is my birthplace. You know about Transylvania. And Dracula, is me. Don't I look it? Well, I want you to smile now. So, it was-- Transylvania was a very rich county. It's like Westchester.

09:40:45:17

And-- the Roumanians fought for it many times. The Hungarians, they all wanted its mountains, rivers. Natural richness of the ground. And-- this time, because the Hungarians were allies to the Germans, it was simple signature. They gave Transylvania to Hungarians. North Transylvania.

09:41:13:15

And with all that, the lords of-- the German lords came in. And that was our fate. To follow it. Why did they follow it? That

was-- that was always a question. Why did we go? Why didn't we rebel? It's a simple thing. They had the guns. We didn't. They had their secrets, of what do they want to do with us. And we didn't know.

09:41:44:01

So, I heard my father and my mother talking about, what's going to happen? Because now-- every day, some new rules came in. My-- they took my father's business. He had a small-- shoe manufacturing and ready-made shoes. My mother worked with him, in the business.

09:42:06:21

My brother was a talented pianist, who studied in Budapest from the age of six, the piano. He was blind on one eye. And-- because of that, all his senses, all senses were so developed. His absolute musical hearing. His hands-- he was a great pianist. So, when my-- they took the-- the business from my father. And the-- he couldn't be any

more a manufacturer. Or what he earned, what (UNINTEL) and my mother had from 1940, to `44.

09:42:55:15

And the-- when the law came, that no Jewish kids can go to school, to public school, that was a real tragedy. But now, if you don't feel well, and say, "Mom, I want to stay home a day, just relax." Mom will say-- "Okay, sweetheart. Stay home." But when you stay home day by day, and you don't have school. And you don't have the interaction with your friends, with your teachers good or bad-- everybody can have a-- not so good teacher. Sometimes you have a very good one.

09:43:36:12

You miss it. You miss your friends. You miss your work. You don't even know that you miss it. And that's what happened to us. In 1940, when I was a seventh grader, going to eighth grade. They had to find a way. How

can our education stop at this age?

09:44:00:12

My-- my brother also. He went to Budapest, back and forth, only come once a year home. So, were-- it was a terrible time. They founded a school, from kicked-out teachers, because they couldn't get a job because they were Jews. They had Master's degrees, Bachelor's degree. Doctorate, whatever. But they couldn't teach. So, very little money that just kept them alive.

09:44:30:16

They came to be our teachers. Not in a beautiful school like yours. It was a small school. But all those who lived in Transylvania, and had no school, we had a place there. But I have to tell you that I owe my base of my education, and my aspiration to a better world, to this school. The teachers, the children, the students, the-- helpers, all were geared to show that

we deserve school. That we are just like the others.

09:45:08:03

That we have to study. That without education, it's impossible to live. So, this school was accredited at a very high level, school. This functioned only three years, `til I was a tenth grader.

09:45:27:19

I went home in Christmas. Because this school wasn't in my native town. I had to go to a-- one where this school existed. And poor parents. They had to support this school, and my brother who went to Budapest. I don't know how did they do it. But, the school was the most important.

09:45:45:25

And they would see wh-- why. I went home in Christmastime. To see my parents, to tell them, how is the school. So, my father asked, "Okay, what languages do you study in

that famous school?"

09:45:59:08

And I said, "Well, Hungarian, Roumanian. Hebrew, because it was a Jewish school. Latin. French. And I st-- oh, yeah. German. That was very important." And he said, ":o-- so, what about English?" I said, "Dad, I don't have-- (UNINTEL) to study English. Where would I put it? How can I include in my schedule?" There were no computers that time. So she said, ":o, what's wrong with afternoon or at night?"

09:46:33:04

"That's fine." "You just take English." This is why I speak English today. So I found a teacher, my French teacher knew English also. And there was a group immediately. Twenty. Who started every second day, English. Seventh language. Or, sixth. I'm sorry-- sixth. Because later, I learned Russian.

09:46:58:07

And this is what my father said. "Anything that is your-- in your head, that's what you keep. Nobody can take it away." And how right he was. Whatever I learned in that school stays with me forever. And gave me a road, a philosophy, where to go and what to do. But it only lasted `til 1944.

09:47:24:19

My h-- my brother was sent home from Budapest. I-- I was schooled (UNINTEL) in March 26th. It's very hard for me to talk in May about these-- happenings, and events. Because I lived, really, every day something happened. March 26th, they sent us home. They said, "No more school."

09:47:53:01

We saw the empty-- workshop of my father. We saw how Mom aged from one year to another of working hard, keeping the house, and helping my father. We didn't know what's going on.

My friends. Christians. Who did not understand why can't we play any more sports together. Why can't we go to a restaurant together. Why we were completely isolated.

09:48:24:14

Wait `til you will find these friends, when I came home. How they were really friends. Not just showing. They were terrified. When once in a while, I met them in the market. Because even the market was restricted. We could only-- go only a certain time, to the market. After 10:00, when all the goodies are gone. And you know, when you are a child, you don't understand this. You are born, like the others. You have played with them. You-- you went to school with them. You can't understand it.

09:49:00:22

So, anyway. Later, in April, we had to wear a yellow star. Everybody knew everybody in that little town. But still, to show that we

are un-- not like them. We felt like a leper. You know? That, nobody wants to talk to us. Nobody can talk to us.

09:49:23:18

I don't know how would have they be punished. But if I talked once to one of my friends in the street, next day she was reprimanded. "You know she's a Jew." So she said, "Yeah, so she's a Jew." And she was reprimanded. I found out. So, it wasn't just that-- that-- they told not. They were reprimanded.

09:49:49:06

There were probably also those who went along with whatever happened to us. There were always evil people, that you have to change to be good, in the new generation. Cuz everybody's somewhere good in his heart.

09:50:05:14

So, in 1944, May third, finally all those rumors, that we were taken away. We will-- work for the Germans in camps, in factories.

Whatever they need, because they have to win the war. You know, they didn't-- they didn't win the war. But they tried, with slave labors. Not paying a penny. Giving very little-- very little-- food for us.

09:50:36:00

My father did that for about three months, already, in the country. But they said, you might be taken to different places, where you are needed. The only thing the-- that my father didn't understand, and I woke up at night before we were taken to a ghetto-- what will they-- my grandmother, my two month old cousin-- what would they do in a farm, with these people? What would they work? What could they contribute to the German Army, to win the war? This was impossible to understand.

09:51:14:26

They didn't ever think too much. May the third, they took us in a ghetto. Now, you

have to know that-- what is a ghetto?

Isolated from everybody. Living in a brick factory. Ten thousand people in one brick factory. And from this classroom, they would make, like, five sections cubicles. Where we used to sleep, one near the other 16, the family. You know. That was the brick factory.

09:51:50:08

We had our food-- prepared on three bricks. Not elaborated barbecue, like yours at home.

It was three bricks where we did our cooking. And it's funny, on Passover, Jews eat matzo (PH). And that's what we ate in our ghetto. It's impossible to believe that that could have happened. I don't know how many thousand years ago. But it happened to us. We had flour. We had-- water. We brought from home some kind of yeast that we (UNINTEL) won for (UNINTEL) every week, a little piece. And we made matzo. And that's

what we ate.

09:52:38:21 In the ghetto, it happened something very, very-- I said-- couldn't be worse. We didn't have bathrooms. Toilets. For 10,000 people, in the-- brick factory. So the youngsters, like you and you, were chosen from a group, do dig latrines. So, (UNINTEL) is blackening. What was the last (UNINTEL), nobody knew. It was a bathroom type of thing. With a trench, like small trench.

09:53:17:13 Benches near it. And you did number one and number two while people watching you. My boyfriend-- I had a boyfriend. In tenth grade, you are allowed to have boyfriends. Was chosen for this job. He was a rebel. He had a good head--

09:53:40:14 (IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)

CLARA:

09:56:37:06 My boyfriend was smart, and rebelled. And he

looked at the older people. Hungarians. Gendarmes. It's like a policeman, but much more involved in political actions.

09:56:55:23

And they were very rude, and very-- dominating. They did not hurt-- their word came. So, he looked at this guy. My boyfriend. And he said, "I won't do it. This is not for people. This is sub-human. Even a dog, if he does number one and two, goes to a shade. Now, this is for people, and it's-- it's summer. And it's-- no hygiene. No nothing. This is impossible."

09:57:33:24

So. They chose two people from the group who were there. And they hang him to a tree, to set an example that all those who refuse to an order given by the Germans or-- or Hungarian government, then they should see what happens to them. So, the two men hang him to a tree. With his feet barely reaching

the ground. And we watched him.

09:58:10:22

And the person who was chosen to hang him was my father. How would you feel? Seeing your father, hanging your boyfriend to a tree, for nothing. Just for trying to have some rights, and not to do-- or explain. Because he tried to explain, that this is sub-human, what they are doing to us. After 20 minutes, when he was tinted already, they cut him off. Poured water on him. He survived.

09:58:47:19

But the scar that they left on me will never go away. What could they do? I said, "They cannot do anything worse than this. All the rest is nothing." One of my uncles, who had two sons and kids-- and his wife-- wanted to commit suicide, in the ghetto already. He said, "This is not life. Who knows what else can they do."

09:59:14:24

All the you, the 39 members, got together. And we convinced him, "Wait. We are still together. They didn't separate us. We will go somewhere. We'll work together. As-- as long as we are together, nothing-- nothing could-- could-- take our lives away." Cuz-- you know, hope is the strongest in the world. As you live-- as long as you live, you have hope. I always had.

09:59:42:28

My mother was motivated much more by her faith. She believed in God. That God couldn't-- couldn't do this to us. When in the l-- in the-- after Auschwitz, when I said to my Mom, "Mom. Does God see what happened to us, to-- to-- to this tragedy?" She said, "That's not God's doing. That's evil men. And we have to change those evil men." That's how her faith-- how strong her faith was.

10:00:14:23

So, we stayed in ghetto for three weeks. Rain or shine. We didn't do too much work there. Just waited, when they call us to leave. They told us three days before we left that we are going to leave, and taken away somewhere. No word where. When we saw the train that was waiting-- I-- we didn't know. We thought it was a transportation-- the cattle wagons. You have seen pictures in Social Studies, The Night in Fog (PH). It's a cattle wagon. We didn't think it was for us. But it was. Seventy people in one wagon.

10:00:57:22

I was again with my boyfriend, in the same wagon. Who told me that he doesn't know where we are going, and what will happen to us. But I have more strength, and I can cope, with my philosophy, a lot of things that he won't be able. But if we are separated, and we are not going to come back,

or wherever we go, I should stand up and be proud what I am. And tell the world what happened.

10:01:35:20

This was my first warning that I have to come and tell my story. He never came back. But in the wagon, we are together. There is only one spot, like a garbage can in the wagon, for 70 people. For cattle. Believe it or not, for three days, I didn't go. Because my boyfriend was there, and I was ashamed.

10:02:05:24

Little things, you think don't count. It's terrible. Very-- humiliating. It's not only that they did what they did physically. But they humiliated my womanhood. My-- my childhood was nowhere any more. From one day to another, I came from a good life. Simple, good life, to a terrible shock. When we got to Auschwitz, for three days, four days, we never know. We went to Auschwitz.



CLARA:

10:08:00;18

As I was telling you about the separation scene in "Schindler's List," this is when I lost my-- when I'm-- thinking of it, you know, and I saw the film, it came back. That's the worst thing that when I last time I saw my father going to the left, and my mother-- brother-- then the women to the right, old people to the left, another column, another-- row.

10:08:30;04

Little children with mothers together to the left. Had no idea what is this separation. But by accident, Mengele (PH) who did that, famous Mengele, who did the separation, my mother was pushed to my side where all these young girls were. The only older mother who was 40-- 44 at that time.

10:08:54;12

(UNINTEL) very strong, very goodlooking, very tall. And she was pushed to the right side,

and of course, she didn't understand.  
Susan's mother is there. She told me.  
Miriam's mother is-- I wanna go to that  
group.

10:09:08;24

And we the kids who were in that (UNINTEL)  
they pulled on her, and said, "Stay with us.  
Maybe we have one mother, and they are going  
to work somewhere else. Stay with us." So,  
she was easily persuaded. She stayed with  
us. This is how she survived. She lived  
with me till she was 101.

10:09:34;05

But she survived the selection. And in that  
group, all youngsters. We knew that that we  
really can work. We didn't know what. And  
then we saw at night, at 11 o'clock, the  
smoke coming out from a big something. We  
didn't know what was.

10:09:54;29

My mother said is-- is it show of (SIC) the

crematorium, because they don't have here cemeteries. And somebody die-- I didn't know what, would you know (SIC). You would know, because you are much more educated. But I didn't know what is a crematorium, that part (SIC).

10:10:11;14

And she stayed with me and worked and worked.

They said th-- this time already an S.S. guard with-- with arm on (SIC)-- with him. We saw the wire-- fences. They told us not to touch it, because that's electricity. And-- This was all at night.

10:10:34;16

Before we reached one barrack, a huge barrack when they said you are going to go to a shower. After three or four days that you are traveling from your country here, you need a shower. Needless to say that you left everything in the wagon, little luggage or-- like luggage where we had-- toothpaste and--

Toothpaste, no. We couldn't bring toothpaste, because we could hide diamonds in it.

10:11:03;19

So, toothbrush, they let us bring from the ghetto. Some to-- Winter coats and whatever fit in small luggage. If you go to Washington museum, you can see all these luggages in the museum, because they found it.

10:11:23;08

And there we go to shower, and I told this young lady, (UNINTEL) whose head (SIC) was like mine. We went to the shower, and we had to be pitch (SIC) naked. Everything behind you. Nothing, except your shoes. In my shoes, I had my boyfriend's picture in my shoes. That's the only thing I had for two, three months later.

10:11:51;15

And we went to shower. But we saw a line

standing in front of-- there were three, four girls who cut, shaved our hair. And it was my turn, and I saw this woman without any feeling (SIC) cutting and then shaving my head. I can't believe it. She sang while she was doing this to me.

10:12:16;09

And I said, "How can you do that?" She had hair already. But I'm doing it for two years. I saw my pair of children, my-- in my-- in front of my eyes. What do you think? How can I be a dislike, if I wouldn't sing sometimes. And she shaved my head.

10:12:35;27

When I went to my mother, she looked up around. "Where is my child?" Your mom recognize you without that long, beautiful hair. I said, "If this happens-- what-- what else can happen?" Plenty happened. We went to a shower, and I make sure that my shoes were not put in the disinfectant water,

because the water, everything had to be disinfected. My-- our dresses and take-- couldn't take-- we couldn't take the (UNINTEL).

10:13:13;21

And we came out. I still had the-- the photography was there, his picture. Most of the women couldn't even find their shoes, or they had two left or two right. Or different ones. But mine was different. My father made it for me unique. The last time when I saw him-- at-- in Auschwitz, I still think he saved my life with my shoes, because that was very, very important later on, you'll find out.

10:13:50;12

So this was the beginning of Auschwitz. You read about this. You know it was the most terrible hell, if I could say this word, that anybody can go through. For hours and days, you would stand on roll call, and they were

counting and they putting (UNINTEL) that I don't have luckily, because I have only eight days in Auschwitz. They took me for much more important work. And I'm standing.

10:14:20;27

The food, nothing. Some kind of beef they put in a-- kind of-- not rice. Grits. And they brought in a garbage can, big can. And everybody was running. We had a wooden dish. With-- spoon. And we try to get to it, but it was impossible.

10:14:48;16

The guar-- the girl-- the woman who was giving us (UNINTEL) here and there, by the time he got to us-- she got to us, we had no food. And we went to the bottom of the can and ate it.

10:15:02;27

At night, there was no-- of course, no toilet. We had to go out, find some bush or - not bush, but some (UNINTEL). These are

things that I don't want to-- to talk about.

They are horrors. What is the most important thing to learn from this, that you have to cope with your inner-- hope and ability to cope with difficulty.

10:15:28;14

If we did make the mistake that we do not-- we were not diligent enough to find out what going around us, what can we do, but we were so innocent. We-- We couldn't believe that this would happen to human beings.

10:15:48;10

But if you see somebody lying on the sidewalk sleeping or you don't know what happens, maybe he is drugged, maybe he's sad and (UNINTEL) because he didn't-- didn't have what (SIC) to eat, maybe, don't just pass by.

Indifference is worse than anything else. If you cannot help-- because you are too little, too young, call somebody for help. Do something about that person who is

(UNINTEL) who-- who-- who doesn't know what's going on around.

10:16:23;27 We didn't ask enough questions. We took-- We obeyed. That was our way of life, to obey to grownups. So, Auschwitz--

10:16:37;22 (IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)

(BREAK IN TAPE)

CLARA:

10:18:41;01 You know, if you think of all this death, it's good to say-- to give you advice now after so many years. But I don't know if I were in your shoes now and this old lady comes to speak about horrors and her experiences, how would I react? What would I feel?

10:19:04;12 But you have to be exposed to this. If I am gone, I-- after Auschwitz, I thought I am immortal. I will never die if I survive that hell.

10:19:16;14

Then when my husband died in an accident and my mother died two years ago, I realized that I am mortal too. So as much as I can, I will do it for you people, so you wouldn't be surprised, so you would-- have questions, inquisitive questions. Look around what's going around. Not just me, me, me, me.

10:19:45;04

You have to think of others. To feel compassion for those who died. For those who are dying, depressed or failed (SIC) in something. And-- And simple-- simple-- c-- activity like one of my friends is (UNINTEL) "What's wrong with her? Where is this coming from? What can I do for her or him?"

10:20:15;12

I infer these listen-- little lessons for you because I know you will connect to (UNINTEL) and you will (UNINTEL) that I was right to do that. From Auschwitz, finally on the eighth

day, they-- we were selected again. You don't know how I was trembling my mother shouldn't be separated, because they loved to separate sisters and mothers and daughters. They didn't want that.

10:20:48;06

But they say somehow always that they didn't recognize the (COUGHING) similarity or-- So anyway, we were selected to go. Again, with wagon. A little better wagon. Not seven feet. Not cattle wagon, but-- a merchandise wagon that took us from Auschwitz to Riga (PH).

10:21:13;29

Everybody knows. Your teacher is here, so she will know that (UNINTEL) Riga is in Lithuania (PH), up in the Baltic Sea, where we did a different job.

10:21:32;14

Now you have to know that Riga is a city, and in the outskirts, (UNINTEL) which was like

Auschwitz, but not an extermination camp, just a concentration camp and a work camp. We worked putting va-- in the barracks again, but much better than in Auschwitz. In Auschwitz, we didn't have-- if we had a little rain, then the rain came through the-- the ceiling and that was our water.

10:21:59;06

But here it was neater, and the in-- the gu-- the woman we introduced who was our capo, she said, "This is a nice place, not like your dirty place at home."

10:22:10;01

So, this is how they talked to us. We settled in that. Three in a bed. My mother was with me, and another girl. Bunks. Next day at six o'clock in the afternoon, we were taken to a place that's called (UNINTEL) Factory. The Germans did recycle that time already. Big batteries, you know the ones that we put in flashlights, we opened it.

10:22:43;26

And at the table were 60 women, long table, working near each other, separating the aluminum from the-- copper, w-- the wires of the-- of the batteries. And next day, that inside is the (UNINTEL) became gun powder. So the Germans want us to use that element from there and put-- and form gun powder. This is what we do from six o'clock at night and the next day six o'clock. Twelve hours.

10:23:20;15

How would you feel in the tenth grade, working at night from 12-- 6 o'clock next day. Of course, at 12 o'clock, everybody's head was on the table. We couldn't keep up our heads. We couldn't keep open our eyes-- our eyes.

10:23:41;21

Now, I stop again here. Not every German was bad. Not every one was a killer. They were brainwashed. The ideology of Hitler was

insurpassable (PH). But look at this woman whom we had, and you see that you cannot be prejudiced. Learn this from me.

10:24:08;11

Who can imagine-- You can imagine how I hated the whole system. But when I saw a guy like this who said one night when he saw the sleeping habit already, forming habit, he said, "That little girl speaks German. She must sing German."

10:24:30;27

So, he called me to his desk, and I'm scrambling. What is going to happen to me now. He says, "Nothing wrong. This is all right everybody, what you did. But you have to sing." What? Sing.

10:24:42;25

At 12 o'clock when everybody gets tired and sleepy, you have to sing some song, but it must be in German. Again, my father, I was lucky. He had an idea. He was a good

musician, by the way. He had an idea that every composition of a German or English or Italian composer should be learned in (UNINTEL) language.

10:25:12;27

He taught a little aria from "Aida." He taught a little song from Mozart. A Schubert. And I knew two songs that m-- That was my repertory (PH), because he said, "You have to sing in German also." Romanian-- Hungar-- Whatever. Have to have in your-- in that language.

10:25:34;03

So I started to sing. What else could I do? And the people started to sing a long. (SINGING) They didn't sleep, and he didn't have to beat up anybody from the 60 women who didn't fall asleep. He knew this that if we don't produce that he has to beat us up and poke with the first-- the second night the poor lady who was Jewish, but she was ordered

to poke us with the-- with a long-- stick to--  
- to wake us up.

10:26:13;20

And this man had an idea. This is a German,  
older (UNINTEL) who wasn't used in the army.

He was used to-- to produce for the army.  
That's one example. But I have more and in  
my book you have many that do not be  
prejudiced. There are and were Germans who  
wanted to help us. Not very many. But a  
step (SIC).

10:26:46;01

This went on for two months. When the  
Russians started to come out from their  
country, it's right near the border where we  
were in Riga, and they came every night. We  
had ke-- We could see him-- them rather with  
like a candlelight were-- were-- Have you  
been to the opera? Metropolitan? You saw  
those beautiful crystals (SIC). They are  
coming down when-- when the performance--

stops, when the crystals are coming and out.

10:27:19;18

That's how the candlelight of Russians-- not candlelight, but-- playing (SIC) came. And these are-- Oh my god, let them bomb us. Let them do anything, but stop this type of living.

10:27:33;16

Well, they frightened these people, and they wanted to evacuate for our camp, because they didn't want to leave-- to show the Germans-- the Russians what they did to us, because the same thing, we didn't have-- we couldn't wash, we couldn't-- eat properly.

10:27:52;09

They-- They used only our energy and then we (UNINTEL). When we could not work, then they had their way to let us die.

10:28:05;25

Three months, after three months, a guy came to fix our machines in our factory. Very

young mechanic. Jewish. But he was used very well by the German efforts. He came and he told me, 'cuz I-- as-- as I was there in the 60-- among the 60, and I was known already of speaking German.

10:28:31;01

And he came to me and said, "Tomorrow there will be a selection. Watch out for your mother. You-- She might be selected and separated from you." He brought me a (UNINTEL) paper, put some rouge on my mom's face. My mom looked already pale-- of-- of l-- losing weight. So, he warned me th-- warned me that she might be separated. Stay away from her, five lines behind her, so she can-- she couldn't recognize the similarity between you.

10:29:06;07

I see my mother in the row, all this five in a row. And following the row call numbers. Not names, you see. We didn't have names.

She came-- They came close to her and ask her how old is she. And she said, "Thirty-nine."

She was 44, 45.

10:29:30;09

The guy started to yell at her. "(UNINTEL) to die. You want-- You don't want to serve anymore the German Army. You want us to lose the whole-- the war. You are not thirty-one, and you tell me that you are thirty-nine?" He lifted her terrible dress that we had-- you know, just one dress for 11 months.

10:29:51;11

Lifted her dress. "Look at her legs. Very strong. Good. You stay where you are and work for us. You don't want to be dead." And I heard this five lines. She's saved again. That was the second selection.

10:30:08;24

You see out of thousands women who-- who were in one group, there were four mothers and daughters together. Out of those four, two came home, because (UNINTEL) to be with a

mother, with a sister. We supported each other.

10:30:30;06

I don't know how-- I wouldn't-- I don't think I would survive, if she wasn't there. And out of those four, two came back. One died long time ago, and mom, two years ago. We're strong people. With courage. With hope. This was the family. You can only count on your family (UNINTEL). Even your mom who doesn't want to buy a new blouse today.

10:30:56;23

Yeah, we were-- That's another thing that (UNINTEL). You don't know, and I wish you never know, that you can live with one dress from May 31st till January-- 30th maybe. One dress.

10:31:19;19

No panties. No stockings in the winter. Maybe in Stuttholt (PH) we got blankets. Which covered us as the winter coat.

10:31:34;01

So, when you go to your closet and see 40 blouses or tops and you say to your mom, "Look, Julie, has a new blouse. I wanna new blouse." If she cannot buy it, don't fight it. It's possible with li-- to live with 20 blouses, with-- I don't know.

10:31:59;10

You want to be pretty, but don't make so much emphasis on clothing, on-- Be happy with little things. I would have been happy with a soap for 11 months. Oh yeah, I forgot to tell you that in Riga, I also got from this mechanic a toothbrush, hardly used toothbrush. That was a big thing for me. Nobody el-- Somebody brought me, this German brought me this scarf to cover my-- my shaved hair-- head, rather.

10:32:37;18

Little things. Be happy what you have. Enjoy it. That's my third lesson.

10:32:47;16

After this selection, I was so happy. I didn't mind anything. What would happen as long as my mom is with me. Then we were taken to Danzig (PH). A little farther than Riga. A beautiful harbor. Beautiful. No-- the New York Harbor, but it's beautiful. Beautiful.

10:33:08;03

We-- we didn't know that this was a harbor or what, because on the ship, we were six person in a bed, a bunk bed. It was a-- again, a merchandise ship. I didn't even believe that they won't get rid of us there in-- in the ship, because we had to go three flights or four flights up to get a little air.

10:33:29;26

The air came in one segment of the ship, and if we could breath, okay; if not, we had to go up and do the rest of it upstairs, if we had to go to the bathroom. That was the

ship.

10:33:45;09

But we were only for three, four days on it, not even-- And then we ga-- came to this harbor. Now this is where I lost the-- the photography, because this was again a-- the ph-- the photo from my boyfriend. This is again a concentration camp that was called Stuttholt. It was the third where we were--

10:34:08;27

Again, we had to undress. Again, we had to be disinfected. And then we had to put our shoes in the water, and then I took it out. This was the end of the photo. But again, we were lucky. (UNINTEL) in a concentration camp like this, you don't do anything, you just wait for a little food that they give you. Poor mom went to have a little more, because they said there was left in the can and she was hit so badly in front of me. I knew she did it for me.

10:34:43;01            But that's what happened.  If she wanted a little more for me, then they hit her, slap her, almost fell.

10:34:54;14            We were taken to another place from Stuttholt.  And this time is digging ditches, anti-tank trenches.  Six yards wide.  Six yards deep.  And it was going like a trapeze (PH) in the middle ver-- very small, but when the t-- tanks, Russian tanks would attack, these will pour into the trenches.  This is what we did from-- Aug-- September.  September, November, till January the 31st.

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

CLARA:

10:35:38;16            Fro-- In this place there we made the anti-tank trenches.  Around November, it was terrible weather already.  This is in East Prussia where we were now, up north, snow, rain, whatever it was, always, we were still

digging. The ground was already hard sometimes, frozen. We still digging.

10:36:08;17

There comes a young man like you. A supervisor. Because they are-- Of course, they won't use for this work, only an engineer who-- drove-- drew the-- the lines of the anti-tank-- o-- of the trenches.

10:36:23;27

And young boy, so-called Hitler Jugen (PH). Sixteen years and up. Up to seventeen. They supervise our work. I don't think they had arms. They had sticks. They could beat you with (SIC). Like a baseball bat.

10:36:43;22

He comes one day and from-- my mother was out. She was-- shoveling back ground that I threw up with my stake that I get in the bottom (SIC). Up. You know there-- And she was working. But she was already-- She lost I don't know how many pounds. She was weak,

and she probably fall down (SIC). And this guy comes there, and said, "You old bag. You work faster. You eat our-- dinner. You eat our food. You don't want to win the war? You slow down? You work?"

10:37:25;24

And she-- he starts to beat her with that bat (UNINTEL). I said, "I can't (UNINTEL) anymore. I am without my family. I live like an animal. I h-- don't have ever anything enough to eat." I got out from that trench, and I say to him, and I said, "Stop that. You know? She's my mother. She works here from morning till sunset. With the food that you give in the morning, you don't give the-- the pig that cereal that they give in the morning. Coffee, that was only brown, but it wasn't really any energy in it.

10:38:11;01

"At night, a soup where I could see only the peels of the potato. They call it potato,

but-- And you dare to hit my mother like this, to force her to work faster?" He looked at me flabbergasted. He didn't know this-- lady here, how can she stand up for her mother?

10:40:01;14

So, I saw his-- his surprise, and I said to him, "Don't you have a mother?" And then he was all red. Stopped beating my mom and disappeared.

10:40:16;28

All the girls who worked with me in the trenches. "You see what will happen. They are going to kill us. They are-- He is going to bring the S.S., the black S.S. who were our guards, and-- and you know what they can do."

10:40:31;00

The whole night I didn't sleep. My mother was crying, "Why do you do this? I could have survived. He would have stopped

anyway." Never mind. The next day, the boy came back. He brought me a carrot. And he said, "Eat this. There is some vitamins." He brought me a half of a cigarette. He said, "Smoke this. You will be less hungry." I was plenty hungry. A cigarette doesn't take out the hunger.

10:41:01;04

But the thought that this boy was reachable, this boy could change from one day, another, gave me the hope that not everybody was (UNINTEL). And everybody can be reached. And the most vilest of Hitler (SIC), the most evil man can change, if you show him humanity. If you show feelings. If you bring him down to humanity. Not a dogma that he learned: He has to hit the Jew.

10:41:37;12

He work-- She go slowly, then he has to hit. He disappeared and never came back. He either gave up this work, I don't know. This

went on to January 21st when we still were digging. Then we heard every night the Russians are coming. The-- The-- The m-- The gunfires and those kind of things, and they decided again to evacuate our camp.

10:42:05;25

Out of thousands women, there were only 115 (SIC) who would be able to walk January 19 and go somewhere where they cannot reach us. Now, I have to tell you this story, because then you understand what is a birthday present.

10:42:23;27

On January 19th, on my birthday, they made the last roll call outside who can go and who have to-- has to stay behind in the camps with the other bad people who died, we couldn't bury them. My mother came up with a little package and gave it to me. "This is, my darling, your birthday present." Birthday present in camp.

10:42:53;27

In a old newspaper, there was three slices of bread with a little margin, and it was in layers. It was (UNINTEL). So it looked bigger. And that's your birthday cake. I opened and I saw it. "Mom, where did you get the bread?" Three slices of bread. That's three day's ration at night. I said, "You didn't neat last night, your bread. And night before. Mom, I could eat the stone, I was always so hungry."

10:43:39;13

She didn't eat for three days to be able to make a birthday present to her daughter. See. After 50-some years, I still cannot-- cope with this scene and scenario. (SIGH)

10:43:59;23

We started to walk for two days. Some died in the Death March, because they couldn't bear it, walking. Finally, we stopped in a-- a barn, arrange type of thing when the

Germans left or Polish. I don't know what was that time.

10:44:20;10

And we stopped in a farm. Most of the people went in the stable with-- some pigs were there and some little animals. There was only one cow. And those 150 people went there, and some of us were taken to the kitchen to cook for the Germans (UNINTEL). And we overheard the conversation.

10:44:42;18

And the conversation, another German who got for us without knowing that it's for us. They said, "What do we do with these people? The Russians are coming." He said-- one said, one of the black S.S. said, "Let's burn them in the stable, because there's enough straw there and they will die."

10:45:07;13

This old guy said, "Okay. That's impossible. The whole thing will stink, and we cannot do

that." "Let's shoot them," said another guy.

This guy said, the older guy said, "No. That's stupid. I need the bullets for me, to protect myself. Let's leave them here. Let them die where they are in the middle of nowhere, but let's take off."

10:45:33;09

Next day, we woke up without black S.S. guys in the middle of nowhere. We came home, walked home from East Prussia to Romania which was-- was Romania now in 1945. I don't know how, but we walked. I was sick, but-- Russian soldiers tried to rape us. The soldiers were in the war for four years. My mother protected me.

10:46:05;19

When we came home, and I found my friend that was my biggest surprise. They came like they-- like I never have left. And one of them, like you, next day when we came home, she had in her hand a navy blue dress. "This

is your sweet sixteen dress, Clara, that I saved from the truck of the German trucks that they left your house. And I put it down, I put among my-- my dresses, because I knew you would come back."

10:46:43;02

Another boy hid my accordion. He put the accordion in three months in the ground, and he took out, the box was in shambles, but he brought my accordion, because he hoped and believed that I will return. These were friends, Christians who didn't know the difference. And I don't want you to know the difference.

10:47:07;18

We are all born equal. We are blonde and brown. She's red head. I don't have any red head. But we are all people. We have our differences. We respect the differences. My religion, your-- you are a-- more giving. She's less giving. But we are all human

beings. Protect each other. Trust each other and have to grow up in good society.

10:47:47:01 And thank you for listening. (APPLAUSE)  
(UNINTEL) myself.

MODERATOR:

10:48:07:15 I know it's very late. But-- we want to give you all at least a couple minutes opportunity to speak with Mrs. Knopfler (PH). And we would love to know how you feel about anything that she's said. If you came in thinking about something one way, and after listening to her, think or feel differently about something? Has she caused you to feel something new? Do you have any questions you'd like to discuss with her? Or anything you would just like to say to her.

FEMALE VOICE:

10:48:37:23 They-- they have to come back from--

MODERATOR:

10:48:40:12 Yes. We'll give you a minute.

FEMALE VOICE:

10:48:40:20 A-- a-- a nightmare.

MODERATOR:

10:48:41:25 Yes. Right.

FEMALE VOICE:

10:48:42:29 You know. Been through a tragedy.

(OVERTALK)

MODERATOR:

10:48:45:09 Yes. As she tells the story-- she lived it.  
So.

FEMALE VOICE:

10:48:50:24 Never mind how many times.

MODERATOR:

10:48:53:12 So.

FEMALE VOICE:

10:48:54:23 But in a smaller group-- you know, you feel  
more intimate-- and you-- you can lose--

MODERATOR:

10:49:00:06 Yes. But that's--

FEMALE VOICE:

10:49:01:15            You know, if you-- it's a big group, then  
it's possible to hide a little feeling. In a  
smaller group-- they're human beings, like  
me.

MODERATOR:

10:49:09:17            Right.

FEMALE VOICE:

10:49:11:05            So they would understand.

MODERATOR:

10:49:11:12            Of course. And they do understand. And I  
think they're very appreciative that you did  
share your feelings. So, would we'd like to  
do is, if you would raise your hand. (BEEP)  
We're gonna come around with a boom. Raise  
your hand, we'll-- we'll acknowledge you.  
And then--

FEMALE VOICE:

10:49:26:18            Any question you want. Any question, you  
can--

MODERATOR:

10:49:29:14            Or feedback you would like.



10:50:17:20

It's a very good question. The reason is, that I do it for those who cannot speak out.

Remember when people died next to me? And we looked at each other-- they had all kinds of sickness, like typhoid fever, diarrhea, all kinds of-- in these circumstances. And they said, "Whoever survives, speak up. Don't let it happen again."

10:50:45:10

We didn't know who will survive. But anybody who did. And I suppose in the beginning, I couldn't spo-- speak for a long, long, time.

But in a country like America, to deny my experiences, to make a better world, it would be a crime. And I feel, actually, better since I've spoke up.

10:51:08:21

I did-- I hope, if I reach, out of 32, eight people who will be more compassionate with young and old. Who would understand to-- not to be prejudiced. Who will understand to be

courageous, and stand up for what you believe in. Then I reach my point. But it is a good question.

MODERATOR:

10:51:35:25 Anybody else want to tell her something, or--

10:51:44:01 (IRRELEVANT MATERIAL  
OMITTED)

QUESTION:

10:51:49:05 When you came back to your home after your experience or whatever, did the friends that brought your things back to you, did they really not have any idea what happened to you? They--

FEMALE VOICE:

10:51:59:09 Had no idea. Had no idea. Be-- yeah. But then, when I came home, I related some things. But I told you, I could not speak too much.

10:52:12:17 Because I didn't believe that they would believe. They were friends, and I have to

tell you that I still keep up with those who are still alive, in Europe. Packages, and whatever I have. Because they have a very, very-- poor life, in Communism, to live-- is not a picnic, either. It cannot be compared what I went through.

10:52:38:09 But, these people-- were-- were very helpful, good with me. And I think I consider them real friends. Yeah. Good question.

MODERATOR:

10:52:51:09 How about right here?

10:52:55:02 (IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)

QUESTION:

10:53:07:25 Had you not gone-- what you went through, do you think you would have been a different person?

FEMALE VOICE:

10:53:12:28 I would have not so much courage. I would have been-- more selfish. I would not understand, probably, what is-- motherly

love, so much as I do.

10:53:34:20

There would have been a lot of-- and I would have a-- a childhood. You know, that I-- did not have. I came home, and I had to start from tenth grade. In three months, I made up the tenth grade. Eleventh, twelfth. I wouldn't be able to do that, if I-- if I hadn't-- and-- and maybe-- maybe, it made me a stronger person. Maybe. I don't want you to go through-- anything like this to be stronger. You can be by hearing the past, and the bad experiences. That's enough. Yeah.

MODERATOR:

10:54:11:25

How do you feel about what she said?  
(UNINTEL) a question? How did it hit you?  
What is your response to it?

QUESTION:

10:54:18:28

I have a question.

MODERATOR:

10:54:19:19 Absolutely.

10:54:20:25 (IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)

QUESTION:

10:54:34:03 During your experiences, did you ever find yourself questioning your faith?

FEMALE VOICE:

10:54:37:16 Yeah. I did. I left my God for a short time, when my mother was hit by chance. I said, "Where is God?" And I lost when I found out about the gas chambers. I asked my mother, who never lost her faith. When we heard statistics. That 1 million five hundred children died in gas chambers.

10:55:11:20 And I asked my Mom, "Where was our God? Your God?" And she said very strongly and calmly, "That's not God. That's the evil people. God made one mistake. That's-- he gave us a choice, how to live. Didn't tell us, 'You be good, this, this, this.' But we have to change." "You-- Mom, you can't change the

world." "Well, everybody should contribute a little."

10:55:40:27

And you know, when the German television asked my mother, how come that she's so strong, and she can talk about this. And she's alive. And she said, "You know what? I have a grandson. I have two great grandchildren. And you know what? This is the punishment to all those who thought they can annihilate a people. We are here to stay. That keeps me alive. Now I have two great-grandchildren. Our future will go on and on." This is what she said. So, I-- I had my faith back, to God. That's a good question.

10:56:32:15

(IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)

FEMALE VOICE:

10:56:35:08

It's easier for them.

10:56:40:02

(IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)

QUESTION:

10:56:48:15 I just wanted to know, what did you and your mother do once you returned home, and-- to start (UNINTEL)?

FEMALE VOICE:

10:56:53:16 Do you have a hard question. After two weeks, coming home, and found nothing but my piano was too heavy for the Germans to carry on a truck-- we started a new life. First the neighbors helped us. Then friends came. And then I decided that I had to work.

10:57:18:00 I was 18 at the time. I went to the town hall and worked. Not for money. For flour. For butter. For soap. And very little money to live on. Those times were after the war. It wasn't even finished, the war. I came home in April, and the war ended May eighth, legally.

10:57:42:20 So, I started to work. Then my mother started to bring back a-- a (UNINTEL) of--

business, and-- something-- I don't know.  
But in September, the Americans-- brothers of  
my father started to send vitamins, food.  
And slowly, we-- started to work.

10:58:09:17

And I went to college. I went to high  
school, without one penny of paying. Any--  
anywhere that was-- that was the Communist  
era. That was the only good thing. But it  
was a good question. From the stretch.

10:58:26:07

(IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)  
(SKIP IN TAPE)

11:01:00:24

(IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)

QUESTION:

11:01:05:20

Well, I guess especially with all that's  
going on in the world and everything,  
sometimes it's hard to maintain a perspective  
that everyone is essentially, there is some  
goodness in everyone's heart. And I just  
think it's amazing, when I-- to hear you  
speak. And to know that you still have faith

that like, there is goodness in every person's heart, after all that's happened to you. (UNINTEL)

## FEMALE VOICE:

11:01:27:25

I hope you feel-- what you said. Because after September 11th, again, our hopes were taken back. How could this happen to us? My experience, combined with this, what happened now, gives me more courage. And you have to feel more courage to fight all this.

11:01:52:21

Whenever, and whatever level you can-- you know-- cuz you don't have-- guns. And you don't have-- anything that-- that could, in a block. But the good-- just the first step is, what is good, and what is bad. And actually, you can learn that from the fourth or fifth debate already. Or even earlier. And you don't put your hand on the fire.

11:02:20:24

You know what's right or wrong. You have to

feel it. You have to feel it. It's not logically, or rationally. Feelings are very important.

11:02:37:05

(IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)

QUESTION:

11:02:47:12

Did you feel that there were already like, warning signs? Or, did you feel that they're like-- you felt, and then could have happened, that you could have-- like, moved away, or gone-- or done something that wouldn't have-- this wouldn't happen?

FEMALE VOICE:

11:02:57:25

In my situ-- in our situation, was not too much to be done. As I said, secrecy was terrible. Sometimes we'd-- the radio was taken away from us. We have not news. I haven't seen a newspaper for many months and-- and-- you know, it was terrible.

11:03:17:27

But in your case, where you are, you have a press. You have the TV. You have the

computer. Keep your eyes open. You have much more-- I-- I couldn't-- I don't think I have-- I could have done something that-- that could prevent it. There was only one case when I could have done differently. And I don't regret it, that I didn't.

11:03:48:07

A cousin from the mountains came to my father. And he said to me, "Listen. If you go to work, they are-- they are taking you to work-- leave this girl with me. She looks like my daughter. She looks like my family. I could hide her." I could have said yes. And I said, "No. I go where my family goes."

11:04:13:16

This is one thing that relates to you-- to your question. I could have done this. Now, I don't think that I-- I would be happier. But at least I was with my Mom all the time. And I felt in the ghetto, the family together-- and-- that's the only thing. I

could have-- because from the ghettos, two people escaped under a coach.

11:04:45:13           And-- they survived. So, maybe-- maybe, I could have done that, too. I didn't try. You can have a lot. I didn't know anything. Innocent. Maybe stupid.

11:05:06:08                               (OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

11:05:17:19           Do you hold any resentment against the Germans?

FEMALE VOICE:

11:05:22:04           For a long time, I said, "Germans." You know, like a black plague about me. Then later, I realized how nowadays, responsible are they of what a crime they did.

11:05:39:20           You know that some of the students, German students, go to Israel to see those people who are (UNINTEL) and their children. They don't know how to make up. For them.

11:05:57:19

This is what changes my mind. I had students, Germans, who came to this country.

And in the beginning, I was afraid. Would I be biased? I taught French for-- and Latin, for many years. In (UNINTEL). And I wanted to get rid of that feeling. I don't want to be biased. I want to be fair.

11:06:22:03

Because that child is not responsible, what her grandfather did. So, as I said, even in my story, don't be prejudiced. Take the person, of what he is. Or she is. To hate is terrible. It's hate for the one-- for-- the one who hates, and the person whom she hates. It's terrible.

11:06:51:20

I don't want to learn that word. It's born with-- envy. It's word with-- why does he have, and I don't. Why-- it's-- it's usually material. But you have to go over the "if"

things. The-- more animal. It's not human.  
We could be good. We can be good.

11:07:20:04 So, I don't think that I-- I am-- if I recall  
the 1944, I think of as black, as-- I don't  
think of their children or grandchildren, as  
Germans. Killers. Good question.

MODERATOR:

11:07:42:04 This young lady right here.

11:07:49:14 (OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

11:07:53:13 When you came back, and you saw all your  
friends, what did you tell them? Did you say  
anything about what happened?

FEMALE VOICE:

11:07:59:09 I started to say some things. But you know,  
they are-- they were so far away from  
reality. And I also was afraid that I would  
be isolated again. What kind of person I am,  
who had life in concentration camp. Who-- I  
never talked about this thing.

11:08:20:16

Because in a normal life, it's impossible to believe it. Later, when-- you know what? When I went back, visiting them from America, in 1965, and one of my friends-- this one who was-- she had already five children. What can I tell my children? I-- I am ashamed of my community, who did not find out more, where are you going, and what can we do about-- your leaving?

11:08:53:28

You know, it's interesting that in a Catholic school, I was talking about my experiences. A sixth grade-- boy stood up. And he also wrote me a letter. "Mrs. Knopfler. What can I do, if another Hitler comes?" And he wants all Catholics to be taken to a concentration camp. Extermination camp. "And I'm separated from my father. And my mother." I felt sorry for the kid. You know? And I said, "Just one thing." See what's right and

wrong.

11:09:30:21 I-- in the sixth grade, you can't tell already, who is prejudiced. Whom do you have to-- teach feelings, or-- or-- or bring up to reality? This was a little boy. Sixth-grader. And then he wrote me a letter. I have about 2000 or more letters that students relate to me. And he told me that-- he really felt that I helped him. So. But. I hope-- I hope that I can help some people.

MODERATOR:

11:10:07:19 Somebody else? (UNINTEL)

11:10:12:25 (OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

11:10:28:03 I know that you said you had no resent (UNINTEL)-- well, eventually you didn't have any--

11:10:33:14 (IRRELEVANT MATERIAL OMITTED)

QUESTION:

11:10:49:22 I know that you said eventually you didn't have any resentments (UNINTEL) the Germans on a whole. But, do you ever feel any resentment for the Americans or any of the Allied parties who didn't intervene sooner to stop it from happening? Or, (UNINTEL) think about that?

FEMALE VOICE:

11:11:03:22 Now, I am more afraid. You know, than-- than-- (UNINTEL). I am afraid that our freedom here, our good (UNINTEL) America is the first country where I felt free, and not from anybody.

11:11:22:20 If our peace can be interrupted, with these evil guys, that they did-- then what can we do? We have to double our-- double, triple our vigilance. And watch their schools. Everybody's schools. What do they teach in those schools? From the beginning. We have to stop this at the very beginning of our

child's growing up. Those who come from Iraq, and from-- the only way, if we know what they are doing, what-- in-- they intend to do. Don't forget that these people were in our schools, learning about airplanes.

11:12:09:13

Did we do enough? I don't know. I don't think we did enough. What are their intentions? Because they might study for American good. They-- they might. They are people who do that. But we have to watch. Everybody who learns in our school-- the school is the focus of our education. And what a way to go. That's what I will do. That's what we are doing here. You are my future.

MODERATOR:

11:12:43:28

I'm curious. Do you feel the Allies did enough for people like Clara? What are your feelings about the British, and the Americans and the Russians? Do you-- do you have any

feelings about their participation, or lack of participation, and-- helping all the people who were in concentration camps and extermination camps? Because as we know now, they really didn't do very much. In fact, they tried to keep Jews and immigrants out of this country on purpose.

11:13:18:15

So, having heard a story like Mrs. Knopfler's, what do you feel about the Allied participation, helping to save their life, or even allowing them into the country? They stopped them. And-- (UNINTEL) feelings about that?

11:13:45:02

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

MALE VOICE:

11:14:03:12

I think that the Allied powers recognize that they didn't do enough during World War Two. And so right now, we are intervering (SIC)-- intervening in other countries, like Bosnia, so that it doesn't happen again.

11:14:21:01           And they recognize that what they did was wrong. And so they're being more receptive, and taking a more active role so that it doesn't happen again.

FEMALE VOICE:

11:14:33:10           So, you believe in learning the history.

QUESTION:

11:14:37:15           Yeah.

FEMALE VOICE:

11:14:38:25           If we don't have a past, we don't know our past, we don't know what to do in present and in future. And that's my point, too. They could have done much more for us. They knew more about us, that they could help.

11:14:58:00           Somehow, the war made me change-- I don't know what excuse can I find. But-- there is possibility for co-existence, and help each other, without pushing-- people. A-- a group of people, to the breach. I (UNINTEL).

Yeah.

MODERATOR:

11:15:25:26

We all know that everybody in this country, Roosevelt (UNINTEL) Roosevelt and the State Department, had information as early as `42 and `43 about everything that was happening.

And that we had the State Department (UNINTEL) keeping out immigrants. Because they said that we don't have a Jewish problem, and we don't want one.

11:15:46:21

So, that's just something to think about. People like Mrs. Knopfler went through what they did-- (UNINTEL) our state's-- policy. And many people in this country, I'm sure you know this, were isolationists. They did not want immigrants. They did not want Jews. Anybody else?

11:16:12:11

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

11:16:20:21

When and for what reason did you come to the

United States?

FEMALE VOICE:

11:16:26:00

I want to get out of that country. That was one reason. First, because they kept reminding me of what I went through. Even-- if not my friends. But I still felt an anti-Semitic-- rejected an-- anti-Semitism. Because according to the-- Communistic laws, there is no difference between people.

11:16:52:22

And-- but I felt, still, anti-Semitic. Because of my background. And then, we tried to go to Israel, where some acquaintances were, who survived. And the Egyptians stopped that. Because they thought we were-- Israel will be too strong if we come, and build up the country. This is politically. So we couldn't come.

11:17:24:08

I had some surviving-- relatives, who went long time ago to France. And they sent us an

affidavit. And we were very happy. We went to France, and lived there for a year. Then Kennedy-- in the time of Kennedy, there was a law that whoever lost his family in those circumstances, and has some family in the United States, we might come, with their help. And of course, this was my dream. Even though I studied in France, my profession was France-- I admired their culture. But I felt much more-- attached to America. And whatever I read and studied about it.

11:18:15:07

To come here. I had my disappointments, when I came. But I still think that this is the be-- best country in the world. This was my choice. So, I wasn't born like you, in a beautiful country. I chose this country, if you could.

11:18:31:28

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

(BREAK IN TAPE)

## QUESTION:

11:31:43;10

What do you feel your students get from listening to a survivor speak? Listening to Clara, you said-- let's make it Clara, that they get from you, or a book, or a film, or a trip to a museum? What do they get from (INAUDIBLE)?

## FEMALE VOICE:

11:32:02;12

Well, I think that-- they get so very much more than I could ever give them, or a book, or anything of-- any of nature. They're hearing something from somebody directly who went through this experience.

11:32:16;05

And no matter how I try to explain it, I didn't experience it. But Cl-- but Clara and the other survivors did. And I find that students really relate very well to that, that they-- they can feel it more, because they know it's somebody speaking from their own true experience.

11:32:31;04

And it-- it truly has an impact. I've seen it for 20 years. So it-- it just makes all the difference in the world for them. And we tend to-- emphasize so much the importance-- especially in history, of looking at a primary source. And certainly the survivors are primary sources.

11:32:51;11

And-- they-- our students are lucky that at least they have the opportunity to hear them. One-- even if it's just once in their life, hopefully it'll be more than that.

QUESTION:

11:33:04;12

How has Clara and-- whomever else (INAUDIBLE) contributed to affecting your life? And we can talk about (INAUDIBLE). And the lives of your students? And any particular student, and yourself.

11:33:20;18

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

FEMALE VOICE:

11:33:23;05

Well, I think since-- one of the things-- and it's interesting. I-- I had spoken to my superintendent about the filming today. And-- she said, "Do you realize that-- brothers and sisters of the students you have now have been impacted by the survivors that you've had to speak to the students?"

11:33:39;29

And you don't-- you know, you do it every year because it's what you feel in your heart (HITS MICROPHONE) is the right thing to do, and what you really, truly believe in. And-- and then you hear that, and you realize, "Yes, it's just-- it's-- it's continuing over and over and over the years. It's made-- it really has made a difference."

11:33:53;26

And it's something that a sister will tell their brother. "Listen, I-- I heard this gentleman speak," or, "I heard this woman speak. And you're gonna learn so much. And

you're gonna have a firsthand account of what happened."

11:34:06;23

And-- so I have no doubt in my mind that it's made a difference. In my own life-- it certainly has made a big difference-- from the first time I heard-- the first survivor that I hear speak, Jack Pollock (PH)-- over 20 years ago now-- I have become more and more immersed in the subject.

11:34:24;07

And I really think that it's impacted me on a day to day basis the way I live my life. At least the way-- or try to live my life, I should say. Hopefully, it-- it-- has affected me in that way, and it shows in my teaching, and it shows in the way I treat other human beings-- and the way I like to see other people treated.

11:34:42;18

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

11:34:43;20 Is there anything that you would like to say?

11:34:50;00 (OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

FEMALE VOICE:

11:34:54;13 All I can say is thank you. Thank you for being willing to tell us what you really-- feel and what you've been through, and your willingness to talk to us. And-- because of you, (VOICE BREAKING) we have-- understanding, some little understanding, of what happened.

11:35:07;07 And hopefully it's gonna make us-- better people for it. I don't-- I-- I always try to put myself in a person's position, and whether I could be that strong enough to do it. And I don't know if I could. I w-- I hope I would think to. It's kind of like-- sometimes I say to my students--

11:35:23;13 (OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

FEMALE VOICE:

11:35:25;00 Sometimes I say to my students-- (VOICE

BREAKING), "You know, put yourself in the position of the person. You know, would you-- if somebody knocked on your door, would you hide them if-- it meant your risking your own student's li-- your own-- your own family's lives?"

11:35:37;19

And-- you know, I tell them, "It's not an easy question to answer." Hopefully you'll have-- strong people, and you will be a strong person, to be willing to do those kinds of things. And listening to somebody like Clara, and Jack, and the others, you get the idea that there is strength, there is a way to survive, and there is a way to really make a difference in the world. And I think that's what they've done for us.

11:35:59;05

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

\*\*\*END OF TRANSCRIPT\*\*\*