Archival Footprints

In Search of the Grishavers
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Speaker: Herman Grishaver

Transcribed by: Jenny Donovan

Holocaust Living History Workshop
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Time Transcription

00:00 [The Library / UC SAN DIEGO]

00:05 [Archival Footprints: In Search of the Grishavers / with Herman Grishaver / March 11, 2015]

00:09 Susanne Hillman: Welcome to the Holocaust Living History Workshop. I'm Susanne Hillman, the project manager, and I'm delighted to see you all at this event today. Before I continue, I would like to acknowledge our sponsors. For, well I don't know, eight years now at least, the UC San Diego Library and Judaic Studies have supported this program. I also would like to say thank you to those who have made all these events - well, I was going to say possible. Not possible, but they have helped with the organizational process. There's Mark Kasimatis, he's been most helpful with the IT, the technical aspect of these events. I would like to thank Dan LaSusa for taping these events, and some of them are actually available on the library channel, or on the YouTube channel that is connected to the library. So you can look up programs, and today's event will be featured in a few days, or a week or so. I would also like to draw your attention to upcoming events, many of you have already taken flyers out there. We have the next workshop on April 15th, on growing up in the shadow of the Holocaust. And then on the 22nd, we have a special event featuring two local filmmakers who will show a film - a brand new film on Lou Dunst. Lou Dunst, as many of you know him, he's quite a well-known San Diego Holocaust survivor. As many of you know, the library launched the Holocaust Living History Workshop to showcase - to draw attention to - the Visual History Archive.

01:57 Susanne Hillman: The Visual History Archive is the world's largest database of videotaped testimonies, with interviews of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust, and it is a tremendous resource. It's very big. And, we actually have a special guest here tonight, Jackie Gmach, who is currently working on expanding the archive. She's collecting testimony on Mizrahi Jews, is that the correct expression? Yes. So, it's still growing, the archive. Why am I mentioning this? Well, I'm mentioning it because I want you to know about this wonderful resource. But I'm also mentioning it because, even though the archive is so huge - it has currently over 53,000 testimonies - it still does not contain all the stories that are connected with this tragedy that we know as the Holocaust. And we have another speaker here, Mark James, who has - or, former speaker, Mark James - who has also helped preserve a story that has been forgotten. Or would have been forgotten, if it hadn't been for the efforts of Mark James. So I think it is important to know that despite the huge size, and the great inestimable value of this archive, there are stories that are not in it, and we depend on the work, the labor - the labor of love - of people like Jackie Gmach, Mark James, Robert Nichols, and of course, tonight's speaker, Herman Grishaver. I'm pleased now, to introduce Robert Nichols, who is himself a child survivor from Nazi Germany, another German - actually a Russian - or an American

I should say. But officially, he was Russian. He has spoken years ago and has told us his fascinating experience of his childhood and his illustrious grandparents - Gustav Landauer. Those of you who are interested in German intellectual history, you will know his name. So Robert, will you please come up here? Please help me introduce Robert Nichols.

04:08 [Applause]

04:12 Dr. Robert Nichols: I have to say, Russian only in the sense that my father was Russian. And at that time in Germany, your citizenship was 100% through your father. But I was born in Berlin, but I am an American, you're right. I think all of us realize the pivotal role that chance plays in our lives, beginning with the accident of our birth and extending through the careers we follow, the friends and partners in life that we meet, and which of the myriad of forks in the road of life that we take every day. For those of us who were born into Jewish families in Germany during the time of the Nazis, or born Jewish in the countries overrun by the Nazis in the late [19]30s and during World War II, the one overriding fact in our lives that can never be far from our minds is the enormous good fortune that we had in escaping the fate of so many millions whose lives were lost or terribly damaged. To be able to live out our lives in America, to be able to love and to work, to have children and grandchildren, rather than to have suffered grievously, and died miserable deaths as so many millions did, is an indescribable blessing. And these are the world's entire that never would have been, had we not had our lives saved. Dr. Herman Grishaver, a good friend of mine, will today relate his story and that of his forebears, just as I did a couple of years ago in this room. Now, speaking of chance, although we did not meet until 1968 here in San Diego, our early lives were remarkably and almost inexplicably similar.

05:58 Dr. Robert Nichols: Although Herman has had the continuing good judgment to be and remain three years younger than I. I haven't been able to change that; I've tried. We were both born in Europe and came to America at age three, and settled with our families in Manhattan. We attended the same elementary school, P.S. Nine in Manhattan, and the same junior high school, known as Joan of Arc Junior High school, which sounds like a Catholic parochial school, but in fact, it's a public school filled with little Jewish kids like us. We both attended Bronx High School of Science. Now we did go to different colleges and medical schools, but we both interned at San Francisco General Hospital, and we both took neurology residences and became neurologists. Now, there is no explanation for that extraordinary coincidence, because we never knew each other, or knew of each other, and we only met here in San Diego in 1968, when he was an incoming new clinical neurologist joining a practice in East County, and I was the first full-time neurologist at UCSD [University of California, San Diego] - the new UCSD School of Medicine. Now, I'll leave myself behind, thankfully, and relay some of the bare facts about Dr. Grishaver's background and he of course will speak of his family's odyssey.

07:24 Dr. Robert Nichols: Dr. Grishaver attended, graduated from the University of California, at Berkeley, and graduated, and got his M.D. [Doctor of Medicine] Degree in 1964 from the Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York City. And Dr. Grishaver reminded me that - the fact that had slipped my mind - the Albert Einstein School of Medicine came into existence specifically because of the quotas on Jewish students at the medical schools in the United States, particularly around New York. Columbia, some of the most prestigious schools, had strict quotas on Jews. And I had forgotten that, but it's true. I had forgotten that that's the reason for being at Albert Einstein. After his internship in San Francisco, he returned to the Einstein Medical Center for training in neurology and joined a neurology practice in East County, where he remained in that practice of neurology in San Diego for twenty years. Dr. Grishaver became much more adventurous in 1988 and actually spent five years in emergency medicine. And following that, took on a new adventure of becoming the one and only neurologist - instead of in a city like San Diego with dozens of neurologists - in a small town of Pennsylvania, Warren, Pennsylvania - where there were no neurologists. He was the one and only, and the best neurologist in town. And he is now retired. Dr. Grishaver has done very extensive and wide-ranging research on his family, and I for one, am anxious to hear about the results of that research.

09:09 [Applause]

09:14 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Thank you, Dr. Nichols. He did leave out one thing, which is that we also have chosen the same automobile, the same model car independently, so it's possible that we were identical twins raised three years apart. So, but anyway, this is my first slide. And, I was born in Antwerp, which has great significance as far as being able to escape from Europe during the German invasion of the low countries on May 10th, 1940. It was an accident really that we were in Antwerp. The entire extended family lived in Amsterdam. Most of the people were associated with the diamond business or trained in the diamond industry, including my father. And during the depression, the diamond industry collapsed all over, and when it picked up again, it picked up first in Antwerp, so my father moved the family there in 1935 or 1936, then I was born in 1938.

10:32 Dr. Herman Grishaver: My family never really talked about the escape very much. A few highlights. Within a few days of the invasion, my father somehow purchased a car - he had never learned how to drive - and he packed us all up, the four of us, into this car with two other people whom I've never been able to track down, and fled south. That much I knew. It was a big deal that the car broke down at some point in France, and then the rest of the story becomes kind of foggy. I knew that we were in an internment camp for a brief period of time. We were gotten out by a Dutchman. And then we found our way to Lisbon, and then to the United States, and that was it. I had no idea, really or concept of the extent of time, or any details. And they just didn't talk about it, which I think is true of many families that came to the

United States. They just didn't talk to the kids. They didn't want to. My parents, maybe they thought that I was learning it in school, or something like that. And I didn't have much curiosity.

11:44 Dr. Herman Grishaver: In fact, I constructed a little story that we got a car, it broke down, we went to France, waited for a visa, we got a visa, and then we made our way to Lisbon, and then we came to the United States, no problem. Wasn't that easy? I didn't think much about it at all. I lived my life growing up in New York, then in 1972 my mother died. I was living on the west coast. I was in San Diego in fact, and my brother, who is eleven years older than me, was on Long Island and we met and went through my mother's effects. My parents had separated by then. And, basically, he got the heavy things, because he was local, and I was in California, so I got a lot of light things, including this box of old photographs, which is not the exact box, but it really looked like this. It was a jumble of old photographs and some papers in it. My brother didn't want it. He didn't have a happy childhood basically, he didn't want to be reminded of anything. And so, I took the box, took it back to California, and put it up in a closet for thirty years. Until I retired in 2000 and looked at it, and there were all these interesting old photographs and pieces of paper. I thought well I'll organize it into an album, you know, for the kids and just organize it.

13:08 Dr. Herman Grishaver: One of the pictures was this. Which is me when I'm about two years old. And this is the actual size of the photograph. They're just teeny things. There's a group photo, and then there's me at about age two, unknown girl, unknown location. And then there's this group photo, and it took me until I got a computer where I could kind of blow this thing up, to realize that this is my brother in the picture, which I never realized. And he's still alive, and I showed him the picture, the enlargement, and I said, where is this? What is this? He had no idea; he couldn't remember at all. It took me a while to figure out that this is a Dutch flag, not a French flag, so it's a bunch of Dutch people in an unknown town. And at the time that I located the photograph, this is what I wrote on the back, France, Spain, Portugal, I don't know. So I took the papers out and they're all folded up as one would do if they were in a billfold. There's different pieces of paper, some with pencil writing on them. And I open them up and suddenly realize that this was our escape. These were documents that my father had carried around in Europe during the period of the escape, which it turns out took thirteen months. And I was able to outline the time and the place for where we were and what the course of our escape was. And it was, this way to Le Mans area, and then towards Bordeaux, south then we cut west, and then finally reach Marseilles, and then Perpignan, then Barcelona, Madrid, out Lisbon.

15:17 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So, from these documents, I started to look at what was it like, what was happening at each place and at each point in time. And the first document, chronologically, is the garage bill. He was carrying around the bill for when the car broke down, and it has a date, June 1st, 1940. It has the location,

which is this town which is near Le Mans, which is south and west of Paris, and it describes they wore out the clutch, they fixed gears, they gave them a tank of gas. It has the name of the car, the registration, everything that you would want to know about the car, and the date. Well, the interesting thing about the date is that it's June 1st, we had left Antwerp, probably May 14th or 15th, rather than May 10th, because I think nobody realized how fast the Germans were approaching. The other thing is that he had to get a car, and he had to get maybe money, cash, something, diamonds, gold, and this was a holiday weekend. This was the weekend of Pentecost, which is a holiday throughout Europe, so the banks are closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, so they couldn't really have done anything with a bank until Tuesday. So I figure we left the 14th or 15th. Here's June 1st, and conveniently about fifteen days to travel three-hundred miles, which means twenty miles a day, so if they were in a car four hours a day, they were traveling at an average speed of five miles an hour, so I'm thinking, why is it five miles an hour? Google says six hours.

17:13 And the reason is that this was not my father's bright idea to leave Antwerp, twenty percent of Belgium decided to leave Belgium. A population of eight million people, approximately one and half million people fled Belgium. There was an enormous panic. It was huge at the time and reported all over and largely forgotten because the rest of World War II kind of dominated the news. But at the time this was big, this enormous flood of people leaving Belgium into northern France. And of course, the German army was advancing through the north of France as well very quickly, and then the north of France emptied out. Such that, by the time the Germans reached Paris, Paris had emptied out. The population of five million had reduced to about 700,000. And during the whole period before the armistice or the surrender, and the separation of the country into so-called Free France, *Vichy France,* and German-occupied France, between nine and ten million people were on the roads fleeing.

18:34 Dr. Herman Grishaver: This is a pilot looking down. I was able to find the date that he took off, which was May 22nd, and what he was looking at, which was the city of Arras, in northern France. And Arras is halfway between Antwerp and the town where the car broke down. And May 22nd is halfway in time between when we left Belgium and when we reached where the car broke down. And he describes - and this is where this is the town. This is one week's drive, and then another week and we're down in Le Mans. Here's Paris, so we were here by then. And what he saw was the roads, all roads, filled with people. Most interesting sentence in the quote is that somewhere in the north of France a boot has scattered an ant hill, and the ants were on the march. And we were one of the ants. It's possible that we were down there in these crowds, mobs of people, cars, baby carriages, bicycles, buses, animals. The roads were strafed by German planes and Italian planes, and approximately 100,000 people died on the roads during the great exodus. So finally

- that's good for the Q & A, what they did for food, but I don't have the time for that right now.

20:25 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Okay, so France is divided the third week in June. This is German-occupied France, my parents were aiming for a coastal city to escape, that avenue is closed, so they had to cut east. The next stop is in a little town called Bordes, and it's based on this document, which is again one of these little tiny kind of airmail-type of paper that you can see through, and on the back - you can see through to the back - is all the details about the car. It's from the Gendarmerie in Bordes, and it gives us permission, and it outlines the name of everybody in the family. Gives the job as businessman in French. He's Dutch, my father. There's me, infant age one and a half. And it says we're going to this town called Capendu. And there it is on the map. So, we're aiming for Marseilles. The neat thing about this is that what I learned quickly is that every single document is packed with information if you look for it. So, Capendu. I looked up Capendu. Capendu, at that time, and even now, is a tiny village. Under a thousand people, it was probably under 700 during the war. It's - you know, there are vineyards. Why were they going to Capendu? France has approximately 70,000 villages of 1,000. What could possibly be the reason?

22:L19 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So, and there's another note which is interesting, that my father wrote, and this is the back of the garage bill. And he's writing a note saying, I've had yet another accident with the car and they're giving me a hard time. I'm in the Gendarmerie, I'll be back in Capendu in a few days. Don't worry. And what this is, obviously, or become obvious, is that he's sending a telegram to my mother, who's in this little village, and he's in Carcassonne at the Gendarmerie because of the car accident, and he's using the back of the garage bill as a notepad. So, they stayed in Capendu for a while. So, I went to the Google and typed in Capendu 1940, and the second hit is, gave the answer. The answer, a woman, who was a teenager in 1940, is talking about her wartime experiences. She was a messenger for her aunt in Capendu. Her aunt was part of a resistance network, and lo and behold, the aunt, first of all, had been a spy for Belgium during World War I, and secondly, she had married a doctor, in 1920 in Amsterdam, a Dutch Jewish doctor, who practiced in Amsterdam from 1920 to 1935. So, it's hard to imagine that there's any other reason why they would aim for Capendu, except that they found out, they knew that this doctor had practiced there. They learned it on the road, or they went to the doctor as a patient. I contacted municipal archives in Amsterdam and they determined that he'd had offices in various places in Amsterdam during that period of time. So that was the reason for that little town.

24:30 Dr. Herman Grishaver: And this is the house. He bought a very nice, really a mansion, called the Château du Parc. And this was actually the center of a little resistance network, later on during the war. Undoubtedly, this was a family that would be sympathetic to a Dutch family that was fleeing. But they couldn't be of

much help, and they probably were directed to go to Marseilles. So, here's Marseilles, this is the old port region. This is the main drag, La Canebière, and this is the end of the old port. It goes out like this. Marseilles was jammed with people as well. Population was 600,000 before the great exodus, and it's expanded to probably close to a million for at least a while. Not everybody was Jewish. Eventually, the non-Jews migrated slowly back up north, but the Jews were not allowed to return to occupied France. This is a picture taken at the time in front of the American embassy in Marseilles. People lined up trying to get a visa out.

25:47 Dr. Herman Grishaver: And these are photographs that were taken for the purposes of a visa or passport. This is my father, mother and this is my brother, he was thirteen at the time. On the back is the date, 3 September 1940, and the street exactly where the photograph was taken. Has anyone heard of Varian Fry, the journalist? Okay. This is exactly the neighborhood and the time when Varian Fry arrived in Marseilles to give, to try, and get help and visas for a select group of refugees. My family was not part of this select group. He was not, you know a writer, a painter, an artist, a mathematician, etcetera, etcetera. Here's the photo studio, this is the hotel where Varian Fry set up his first office. This is the American Embassy. And then these other dots are places that my father, that my parents were at or Varian Fry was at during the same period of time. And this is all within walking distance. Here's the train station where everybody arrived. I assume that he didn't have the car by then. But there's no evidence that Varian Fry ever helped our family. And I've looked at the New York, at the Columbia University or Varian Fry archives for information, and there was nothing there.

27:26 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So, we're proceeding through France. And, on my birthday, October 4th, 1940, a Vichy law was passed saying that all Jewish foreign nationals can be interned by decision of their local Police Chief. And we were in a camp. We were obviously not in a camp in September, but sometime in October, we were in a camp. This is a map showing the concentration camps or internment camps in France during World War II. This is Occupied France and this is Free France, Vichy France. We were - Marseilles is down here, and we were undoubtedly at one of these three camps, probably Rivesaltes, which was a family camp. And the next document is from Perpignan, and it's dated October 20th, 1940, and it's signed by presumably a Dutchman, J.W. Kolkman, and it has a diplomatic stamp on it. And it says, the undersigned J.W. Kolkman - how many people speak French here? A good sum - most of you will have to believe everything I say. But it says - yeah you can see, but don't tell them what it really says.

29:00 Speaker 1: He knows the French words very, very well.

29:02 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Thank you, thank you.

29:03 Speaker 1: Perpignan, Capendu...

29:04 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Right. Oh, good, now I'll really turn it on. Okay. The undersigned, the undersigned Vice-Consul for the Netherlands certifies that the Grishaver family can remain in France - and he tells who they are, we're all named - can remain in France, because they are unable to return to their customary residence, and they have sufficient means that they will not be - need to be supported by the state. In other words, they won't need to be on welfare. The phrase that the American government used to keep refugees out was that they would not become LPC, which stood for liable to become a public charge. So this is saying the same thing, only in France. He's saying something which is really ridiculous, but it's an official-looking document. It certainly helped us stay in France and get us out of a refugee camp. Whether he did it or not is unclear at this point.

30:12 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Ummm okay. So who was J.W. Kolkman? That's the next question. As far as I knew he was like a clerk or a functionary. He was working in an office with a diplomatic stamp. And after some searching, I was able to find an article in a rather obscure journal. This is the *Journal of the National Institute for War Documentation* in Holland, the NIOD - National Institute for War Documentation. And there was an article in there about Kolkman, and the title was, *J.W. Kolkman* the subtitle was *The Rescuer Who Could Not Rescue Himself* and it goes through the life of J.W. Kolkman. He was born into a prosperous family, Catholic family, kind of obviously. His father was a finance minister in Holland. There were a number of brothers and one sister. He entered a Jesuit academy and finally after - he was born in 1896 - and he went through a full Jesuit training until 1926 or so. He was 29 or 30 and then left the priesthood. Because of his family background, he was reared with a French governess, he spoke French fluently and he went into journalism, and became a journalist in Paris, sending - he was like a stringer - sending articles back to newspapers in Amsterdam, or Holland. There's him in his twenties with nieces and nephews.

32:15 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So, he's in Paris, and there's an invasion. Eventually, everybody flees to the south, including Dutch diplomats. And they set up, the diplomats set up refugee offices to handle Dutch refugees. The professional diplomats, a number of them were called back to the Dutch government in exile in London, and there's a vacancy in Perpignan, and they ask Kolkman, who's just hiding out in the town. He's not Jewish, he doesn't really have to worry that much. They ask him to help in the Perpignan office, and they give him an honorific title of Vice-Consul, and he plays the role completely. What does he do? He makes tours of the refugee camps and gets the Dutch people out. He tries to get visas for them. He sets, in January 1941, he establishes a safe house in a tiny village right near Perpignan, where he houses people who can't live in a hotel, or don't have the means. So this is what he does to Dutch refugees in general, and they fall into two distinct groups.

33:49 Dr. Herman Grishaver: About half of them are young men, 90 percent non-Jewish who have fled Holland but want to join the Allies, and they get trained as military people. And then there's older people, Jewish families mainly. So he's helping everybody. He continues to help people through 1941 and [19]42, and then in 1942 in November, the German authorities basically fire the Vichy government and they take over all of Germany and they order all refugee offices closed. Well, the safe house is filled with refugees, and they tell the people that are working there to get the refugees out, but they want preference given to the young man who can fight for the military, the other people can fend for themselves. And they send repeated messages to Kolkman, telling him to get out. And for some reason or other, which they don't understand, he doesn't leave until a month later, til January 1943. And he and his wife, they have been arranging for passeurs for 2 years. They are waiting for a passeur, and witnesses say that they were stopped by German officers who were alerted, possibly alerted, by the fact that his wife was so nervous that her glass was, her teacup or glass of wine was trembling. They inspect his papers. They arrest him; he remains arrested for a year. His wife is released. He is eventually transferred to a concentration camp, Dora, where they made rockets. He falls ill. He's put on what's called a himmeltransport, if the workers were sick, they would just get rid of them, and he dies on the train.

36:00 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So my next step was to do more research about the family and also more about Kolkman, and so I went to the National Archives in the Hague. And this is the author of the article, who's one of the chief archivists, or was, but he just retired, who did all the research. And of course, Kolkman was his hero. He discovered him. And so, I start to get interested in applying to Yad Vashem for him to be a righteous gentile. That's me taking notes. So I'm in - and his name is Sierk Plantinga. I'll refer to him as Sierk from now on. I'm in his office, my wife is taking the picture, and on the wall is a poster because Sierk is giving talks about Plantinga, about Kolkman. Here's the picture from the book, and this is another picture which I didn't see before, and there's this interesting group photo which is on the poster, like this. And here's this arched doorway and here's this flag and this group of people. Actually, Kolkman is in this photograph, and here's the one that I had in the box, so we were there. And in the previous one, I'm holding the hand of a little girl, and that's the little girl there. Now, a back story is that this girl here published this photo. She's also here. She published this photo in a memoir, which came out last year. So she's alive and wrote a memoir and has this exact photo in her memoir. So I called her up, and that was interesting. Kolkman also got us a visa out of France, to go to the Dutch West Indies. Here are our names on a group visa out of France.

38:29 Speaker 2: Had you not been named yet?

38:30 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Well he also - everything has a reason. He writes that I'm two years old, and I was born in Switzerland. Now, maybe this was some protection? That I wasn't, I don't know. I haven't figured that out. And finally, there's

another letter dated March 26th, 1941, signed by Kolkman, and it says that the first letter he wrote was - they don't need any help because they have money. They can support themselves. Here he's writing the letters to the Dutch diplomats in the refugee office in Lisbon, and he's saying - so obviously we're in Lisbon - please help the Grishavers, they've run out of money. He's desperate to get to work because he can't sustain his family anymore. And he gave up his place on the visa list. This was like, the dumbest thing you could possibly do. He must not have realized how hard it was to get a visa. He had one but he didn't want to go to the Dutch West Indies. Why? Because the Dutch government wanted to set up a diamond industry in the Dutch West Indies, the Dutch government in exile in London. And he didn't want to go to the West Indies, he wanted to go to New York where there was a diamond business. So he gambled that he would get a visa. So, this summarizes what, which I've told you, what Kolkman did for us. He gave us a letter of recommendation. He helped probably getting into Spain, visas, the letter, getting us out of the internment camp.

40:16 Dr. Herman Grishaver: This is a little raggedy piece of paper, again maybe this big. This is by a French Préfecture saying we can leave France to get a visa in Lisbon. There's no permission to go into Spain, or through Spain, which must have caused some anxiety because Spain was one of the three axis powers, right? Germany, Italy, Spain. But in fact, [Francisco] Franco let Jews through, he did not turn Jews over to the Germans. Now on the back of the paper that lets us out of France are these scribbles. These are two things in pencil, which when I manipulated the image a little bit, again he's using, my father is using this as a notepad. This is a paragraph, which is repeated down here, and it's saying please help a Dutch family in need get a visa for Ecuador, or some other country, in order to transit to the USA. So as of this point, he doesn't have a visa. He had a visa to the West Indies. He gave it up, but he doesn't have a visa, and he's writing to some stranger - Alpoppers. And on the top is a copy of what the heading of a telegram office would be. It says name, address, who's writing the telegram, and then it gives his address - Grishaver, Avenida 5 Outubro, 145. And this is Portuguese, and this is a main avenue in Lisbon. So, we're in Lisbon, and we don't have a visa.

42:22 Dr. Herman Grishaver: The Dutch refugee office in Lisbon had a guestbook, which is in the National Archives in the Hague. So, I looked in the guestbook to see if my father had signed into the guestbook, and here he is. This is March 26th, right when Kolkman's letter arrived in fact. This is his signature, and I found seven times that he checked into the refugee office, March 26th, and this is April 9th. And here he is at the bottom, he got in late. And then after that, there are no signatures, so I have to assume he got a visa. He doesn't need their help anymore. And sure enough, I mean, there's more story I could tell, but anyway, we got on a ship. This is the ship, the Nyassa. It was a mixed passenger and cargo ship, which the Portuguese inherited from Germany after World War I. And what they did was, they converted the cargo area into a dorm. And these are all bunks, bunk beds, tiered bunk beds for

- they doubled and tripled the passenger space by doing that. And we got to New York. The ship was stopped by a submarine on the way, but nothing much happened other than that. This is my passport photo. Now, I think I win a bet with Dr. Nichols.

43:53 Dr. Robert Nichols: Mine's cuter.

43:54 Dr. Herman Grishaver: [Laughs] No. He says that his two-year-old photo is the cutest possible, and this is mine. Now, my father did tell me practically nothing about the escape. I did ask him when he was in his eighties. He was still alert, but cranky. But he was always cranky. How did you manage this? This was before I did all the research. And he said, the answer was, three words, we were lucky. Which, not much help. Then one of my sons visited later on. He was a little older, and he's still cranky, and he asked him, how did you do this? And he said I had diamonds in one hand, gold in the other, and a blonde baby. So that's the long and the short of it. Okay, we made it out, but everybody else was trapped in Amsterdam. Holland surrendered in four and a half days, people tried to escape and they couldn't. So, what I'm going to try and do is quickly run through two stories of families, and how I got them through documents.

45:22 Dr. Herman Grishaver: You don't have to study this, there's not going to be a quiz afterwards, but this is a rough genealogy chart. This is the Grishaver side, this is my father and his brothers and sisters. This is my mother and her side of the family, the Natkiels, and then one of her sisters here married into this family, the Morpurgos. The Morpurgos are the family I'm going to talk about. Black means they were sent to concentration camps and killed, these people. The lines mean they were in a camp and survived. And, I'm putting our internment camp thing as a survival thing, and the yellow means escaped. So we were in a camp but escaped. This is me and this is my brother. These folks were in Amsterdam and escaped in 1942, right when Anne Frank was going into hiding, and people were getting call-up notices in July [19]42, and they got one too. There will be a little story about this one. So, let me talk about the Morpurgos. A terrific source for anybody who's been in a concentration camp, if you want to learn about them is to contact the International Tracing Service. They have masses of detailed information, which they have gathered together. They're all on huge CDs, they give you the information, and then you have to deal with it.

46:54 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So, this is a card I got on the Morpurgos, which again, is just jammed with information. It tells, like the whole story of the war is in this one card. Chronologically, the card begins with typed entries, and this - what's circled here tells me that this card was made before this family was sent to a transit camp. Because it has this - it says, gesperrt wegens diamant, and it means postponed or delayed. Reasons for postponement or delay of being picked up and sent to an internment camp because of the diamond business. Well, my uncle Lion was not in the diamond business, he was an antique dealer and a painter, an artist. That's him

here - gives his job, so the diamond was his wife. The reason was, the Natkiel family, the father - my grandfather - was in the diamond business, and he made everybody in the family learn the diamond business. So all the girls learned how to do something to do with diamonds, cutting, polishing, girdling, various specialty items. And, when the Jewish, there was a Jewish council, which gathered the information for all the Jews in Amsterdam, they were required to turn over X number of Jews per week for transport to Westerbork, the transit camp, and from there they would be sent to extermination camps, Auschwitz, Sobibor, Bergen-Belsen, and then Theresienstadt. So this is the reason for holding somebody back because the Germans wanted the diamond industry. They didn't want to deport all the Dutch because they wanted the diamonds as jewelry and currency, and for industrial, for tools.

49:10 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So this is the first entry. And then everything else is handwritten later. This was interesting – P-I-G - you know, pig? It was nothing to do with - can anyone guess? Okay, good. It's for the Portuguese Israelite - this is gemeenschap, which means community, Portuguese Jewish Community. The Jewish community in Amsterdam was divided into the older, more prestigious immigrants from Portugal, who came to Amsterdam with the Spanish and Portuguese expulsions, and the Ashkenazi Jews. And people in the Jewish Council were aware of status, and this was another reason for delay. There was also a cockamamie theory that the Portuguese Jews weren't racially Jews for some reason. Somebody concocted the theory, and some Germans believed it, and so there were a number of Jews that were able to get certificates of non-Jewish blood authenticity based on the fact that they were Portuguese Jews and their facial characteristics were of a certain nature, and they were exempted. And the fellow who certified all of this was a German lawyer in the SS legal department in the Hague named [Hans Georg] Calmeyer, and he knew what was going on, and he probably saved a large number of Jews by certifying them as not being racially Jewish through this ridiculous system. So that was a potential out for this family.

51:02 Dr. Herman Grishaver: This is a WBK. It says Westerbork which means Westerbork, and this is the date that they were picked up in Amsterdam - 20 June 1943, and they were put into barrack 55 in Westerbork. And it goes on. They survived the war, and it has the addresses of where they came back to because their house had been taken over by another family. And here's a photograph of Jews being picked up on June 20th, 1943 in their neighborhood. And the fascinating thing about this photograph, you know it's worth a thousand words. You gotta, you know, here's the neighbors, they've finished their little cups of coffee and they're looking out their window, and there are all their neighbors getting picked up to be transported to the East, never to be seen again. And here's another family, just looking out the window, seeing what's going on. Hmmm?

52:03 Speaker 3: Is that your family?

52:04 Dr. Herman Grishaver: No. They are the neighbors who are not Jewish. And it was this person who helped save the Morpurgos, based on the fact that my uncle had painting skills. On October 18th, 1943, this man [Erhard] Göpel, who was an art historian called a meeting of the top SS Leaders in the Hague, and gave them a list of approximately 20 people, all Jewish, that he said, I want them assigned to help me with a special project, which is to collect art for the proposed Hitler Museum [Führermuseum] in Linz. And, here's my uncle and the whole family are mentioned. They were in Westerbork. He says to them, to the head of the SS, the head German Nazi in the Hague, I want these people out, they're going to evaluate art and so on. And they do it, why? Because his chain of command is from him to somebody else, to Hitler himself. So he can go in there and say, I want these people and - yes sir. And this is a folder of National Institute of War documents, which has all the documents concerning this art historian getting the family out. Now we also got, and this is, here's his signature. Dr. Erhard Göpel, and he gives the order to get the Morpurgos out of Westerbork, and the person who implements the order is this person. Who's this person? Well, it turns out that this person is a secretary. Her name is Gertrude Slottke, she's the secretary in the SS in the Hague, and her job is to make sure that anybody who applies for an exemption from transport really has a legitimate excuse, otherwise, they go for labor in the East. And this is her little symbol saying that she's read the document and the document is dated 15 January 1944, and this goes straight to IV B4, which is [Adolf] Eichmann's headquarters in Berlin. So this is like, top-tier stuff. And here's Slottke's signature again, and she signs it as police employee.

55:20 Dr. Herman Grishaver: We had a lecture here by Wendy Lower, and she talked about these horrible women in the East. Well, it turns out that Gertrude Slottke finally met justice, because right after the war she was arrested and interrogated. And she said, well, I'm just a secretary. I'm just following orders. These people that went to the East, I had no idea that they were being killed. Well, actually, in 1967 in Munich, there was a trial of two top Dutch leaders, Nazi leaders, and Gertrude Slottke, and she was found guilty of implementing the murder of 54,000 Dutch Jews. So, but she was a super secretary. She would personally interview everybody, but she was also somebody who, if the document was given to her - she wouldn't take a document directly from the Jew, it would have to be through an intermediary, so she wouldn't have to come in direct contact. So, she was a committed Nazi, and she is mentioned actually in this book, in a footnote, but she's like in the West, not in the East. Even Göpel, who dealt with Slottke, he gives her the order, get these people out of Westerbork, and they do, she does, said after the war. He was interviewed about all the stolen art that he was involved in as a chief buyer for the Netherlands, he said that he had never met anybody with such inner coldness. And she was roundly hated during the war by any Dutch who met her.

57:17 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Part of those documents - the meeting on October 18th, 1943 - is an arrangement that Göpel was implementing for the Katz family. He's also

ordering that - with the Dutch SS - that 25 members of the Katz family can leave Holland and immigrate - or emigrate - in exchange for this painting, a Rembrandt. And this was felt to be so important that the deal go through and appear legitimate that the family was escorted by Germans to the French and Spanish border, and only when they crossed the border was the painting released to the German authorities. And this would end up, you know, in the Hitler museum. So the Katz family had a good deal, the brothers also had good deals. They actually, Benjamin Katz stayed in Amsterdam during the war and sold a lot to the Nazis, and his brother Nathan stayed in Switzerland.

58:38 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Okay, the Morpurgos are sent to Theresienstadt. Theresienstadt was a fortress town that was built in the 18th century. There are the fortifications, and there was a village inside, which held 7,000 people normally. And it had various uses until World War II when the Germans turned it into a show camp or propaganda camp. That's what Eichmann called it. It's the only camp that's mentioned in the Wannsee Conference minutes, which Eichmann wrote. It was called an old age camp, and it was a place to stick Jews who were internationally known, some Danish Jews that the King did allow to be removed. It was felt to be like a paradise ghetto and was even advertised and sold to people. However, it was, in essence, a transit camp. 140,000 entered, and only 17,000 of them survived the war because they either died in the camp - about a third died in the camp - and two-thirds, the camp got too crowded, which was when the population was at 40-50,000, instead of 7,000, they would just transfer them out. There was an inspection of the camp by the Red Cross, and prior to that a certain region of the camp was cleaned up, painted, made beautiful, and the International Red Cross toured it, everything looked great. They gave a good report, the Danish Jews were being treated fabulously, and after that everybody during that inspection, all the Jews during that inspection were rounded up and sent to Auschwitz. So you know, dead men tell no tales.

1:00:39 Dr. Herman Grishaver: There was a photo crew, a film crew, on arrival when the Dutch, when the Morpurgos reached Theresienstadt. They left on January 18th, 1944, they left Holland. They arrived January 20th, and these are the Dutch Jews from Amsterdam arriving. And here they are unloading at the camp. The railroad station was about a mile from the camp, and everybody schlepped their stuff over that mile - it was winter, it was snowy - until they got into the camp. The international tracing service also provided the room list, the arrival list, showing where the Morpurgos, here the Morpurgos are arriving and the room they were assigned to. It was a converted, kind of a group kitchen. And, with a map - this is where they lived while they were in Theresienstadt. Interestingly enough, Lion Morpurgo was supposed to work on four paintings, which went with him on January 18th. The Morpurgos arrived, but the paintings didn't. The German authorities in Berlin decided that they could not trust Jews to work on valuable paintings, so they kept the paintings and they put it in a storage facility in Prague. And Göpel then actually

went to bat for the Morpurgos, or for the paintings, and said, hey, the paintings are not valuable unless they are restored, and I want these people to restore them. So, five months later the paintings were transferred to Theresienstadt, and this is part of the reason or half of the reason why the Morpurgos survived the war.

1:02:35 Dr. Herman Grishaver: They were restoring paintings. But the daughter, at the bottom of the genealogy chart, the daughter is alive, she's my cousin. And I asked her, how come you survived? And she answered, well, my father. She didn't say well my father was restoring paintings. She said, my father was painting pictures for the camp commandants, still lifes and landscapes. And he would take them, and put his name on them and sell them in Prague and Vienna. So this is maybe why instead of restoring paintings, he was actually saved because I was able to find a recording of a woman who worked in an art shop right next to the Morpurgos. Her name was [Karoline Luise] Lily Fischl. She survived the war, she lived in London, and she was giving a testimonial about her war experience and she said, yeah, I used to make these like little place cards that they made and would sell them in Vienna and Prague, and then they didn't want me to make them anymore, so they shipped us all to Auschwitz. But before they did that, these two nice restorers from next door, Morpurgo and Cohen, would come over and they offered to teach us how to paint and how to restore, and you know, I had been working 8-10 hours making the little place cards and I was so tired and I just couldn't do it. And I should have done it, because then when I made it to England I could have had this craft of restoring paintings. But she survived anyway. But what point could I make about that? Yeah, the more you look. I mean, everything I looked at, it turned out to be bigger. You know, could I figure out whether Morpurgo really restored paintings or just painted them for the camp commandant? The answer is, he did both. And I proved it with this testimonial.

1:04:54 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Okay. Uncle Salomon. This is somebody I discovered, an uncle I never met. I don't have a photograph. He's on my father's side. And what happened was, one of the families who escaped - they were all in yellow on that side - one of the people who escaped, one of the reasons that they escaped when they did was because the month before, one of the daughters had been arrested for not wearing the Jewish star, and was put in jail for two weeks. And she got out of jail, they got a lawyer and they got her out of jail, and then they got the notice for her to report to the central station for deportation. And so, they had an escape planned for three weeks from then, but they moved it up to the next day, and it was very complicated and expensive. And so, this one surviving cousin, I said, just for the fun of it I said, let me see if I can find the arrest record of your sister in Amsterdam. And it turns out that in the past five or ten years the Amsterdam police blotters have been digitized. There are PDF files, but they made all the names searchable.

1:06:14 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So I put in a search for the Morpurgos, the Grishavers, the Natkiels. And this Grishaver turned up, a Morpurgo turned up and a Natkiel turned

up, which was also interesting. They reported that their bicycles were stolen, this is in 1941, and it shows that even during the depth of the occupation, they still had some trust or faith in the civil authorities. Even though they were being persecuted by the Germans, they figured, well the Dutch police. Somebody stole my bike, it's a theft, and they'll maybe try and find out. But anyway, the third one was this. So it's, this is the uncle. I'm telling you ahead, he died in a concentration camp. And this is their son. And this is an image of a police blotter, and it says, Salomon - this man - Officer Voskuil brought in Salomon Grishaver and it gives his age and address, which is definitely in the family. And he says, we're bringing him in to be transferred to jail for his two-year jail sentence. And I thought, oh nobody ever told me about that. If there's a jail sentence, it means that there was a trial So I was referred to the North Holland Archive for the trial. And I couldn't get the trial, but I got an appellate court. He was found guilty of something, and he appealed, and what it was, was a scheme that Albert Einstein, one of Dr. Nichols' [unclear] relatives would not have done.

1:08:06 Dr. Herman Grishaver: What he did was, during the [19]30s, probably [19]37-38, he tried to make a little extra money by teaching young Jewish draftees into the Dutch Army - prospective draftees - teach them how to fake being deaf in one ear. To fool an ENT [ear, nose, and throat] specialist, an ENT specialist would certify he's deaf in one ear so he doesn't need to serve in the Army. And he charged 300 guilders for these instructions, which was a considerable amount. It was equal to about the average laborer's monthly wage. But I guess the ENT physician became suspicious when all these young Jewish men came in deaf in one ear, and one of them said, you know, the jig is up and this is the guy that's been giving me all these lessons. So, he was sentenced to three years, and on appeal, it was a first offense, two years. So this poor guy, they arrested him during the occupation, one month after the German invasion. They picked him up, put him in jail for two years. And then when he got out of jail, they picked him up and sent him to Westerbork, and then he was killed in Auschwitz. So that was not a happy story. So now I want to see if I can quickly - it's getting late - get back to Jerusalem and Mr. Kolkman. I thought, I mean this is just so simple that he should be honored as a righteous gentile. He saved so many people, he helped our family, so on and so forth. It turned out that Sierk was sick of dealing with Yad Vashem.

1:10:00 Speaker 4: Who was this?

1:10:01 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Sierk, the archivist. The archivist who got all this biographical information on the ex-priest who was saving Jews. A man named Philip Jacobs had applied to Yad Vashem in 2000 and 2006 and the claim was rejected. And in 2008, based on my, I thought, new information about all of the things that Kolkman had done, I applied and it was also rejected. Now, what do you have to do to be approved as a righteous gentile? You have to risk your life to save Jews, you have to do it for no monetary gain or there's no quid pro quo that has occurred, and you

have to show a specific commitment to saving Jews. So, one of the objections why Kolkman did not get the award from Yad Vashem, as Sierk understood it, what he was told was that, well you know, he worked in a refugee office, and he helped everybody who came in. He helped Jews and non-Jews. Where is the specific commitment? He was just doing his job. And there was an objection, the objection was that for a one-month period in December in 1942, he disobeyed the orders of his government. He was supposed to help all these people get out, and we don't see these people having arrived anywhere. They didn't get out. And, for one month, he was told to get out immediately, and he delayed a month. He brought it on himself. So those were the objections.

1:11:56 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So, actually I did some more research. And here's a copy of a telegram. It is a transcription of a telegram to authorities in Lisbon, from the Foreign Minister for the Netherlands in London. Eelco van Kleffens, and this is Eelco van Kleffens, who was a noted diplomat, then and after the war. But it's saying, we want them to get out. We want these people evacuated, and preference must be given to people who can help in the war effort. So basically, who is that? That's the 50 percent that are young men, who are predominantly non-Jewish. And people with families, they're not going to be in the war effort. Sierk, between 2006 and 2009, 2010, 2011, Sierk had logged all of the people who arrived in London and said Kolkman helped me escape. And their debriefings were, described when they left Holland, when they left France, and they're all during the December period when Kolkman seemed to be doing nothing. In red are the Jews. So Kolkman was not giving preference to the non-Jews, if anything he was ignoring the orders to give preference to people who could help with the war effort. On top of that, these are other people who could not, how did you leave France? The visas were stopped, the refugee offices were closed.

1:13:59 Dr. Herman Grishaver: You had to go over the Pyrenees during the winter. These are the people who could not make it over the winter. Here is the Lopez-Cardozo family - born in 1873, they're not going to be hiking in their seventies over the Pyrenees, and so on. And twelve out of eighteen of those people were Jewish. This was a peculiar name which Sierk recognized as not being Jewish, so I put it in italics. And it turns out that, somehow or other, with archivist magic, he was able to determine that this was really a Dutch-Jewish physician for whom Kolkman had gotten false papers and a false identity. His name was Bernard Roe, and he was recreated as a Catholic, Mr. Nooteboom, and he was the protector of this group, for whom Kolkman found safe houses up north. So, again, no preference for non-Jews, rather the opposite. And secondly, specific - oops - knowledge of the plight of Jews by giving a Jew a false identity.

1:15:18 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Then we found out that somebody had found some previously undiscovered archives in Perpignan with Kolkman's name all over it. I'll kind of make this fast. One of them was Philip Jacobs, whose application for

Kolkman to Yad Vashem was turned down in 2000 and 2006. He was still alive, and here is his visa application, filled out by Kolkman, and he's an Orthodox Jew. It has his occupation as Protestant and he's listed as a student. Well, he was a student. He was young enough to be a student. He has his religion falsified. And here's another man who's a jeweler, who's Jewish, and his religion is Protestant. And since he's a jeweler, which is a tell-tale Jewish occupation, he's listed as an employee. And here's Kolkman's application himself, written by him. He tried to get out with a visa. Here's his passport photo, enlarged. He's dressed to the hilt. He's a diplomat, pinstripe suit, a little pin here, and it was rejected. Don't pass it on. And the date is January 8th, 1943. And January 11th is when he tried to escape with his wife. So, the total people he tried to save is this sum. This is what Sierk got; this is what I got. These are all the archives that Sierk scoured to figure out his 241 list, and this is my contribution.

1:17:37 Dr. Herman Grishaver: So, the irony here is that Yad Vashem finally gave in, and there was a ceremony. Now, normally the Yad Vashem ceremony is given to the person who's been rescued - excuse me - the rescuer, or the rescuer's family, or a descendent. In the case of Kolkman, there was no direct descendent. There were some remote relatives, they'd never heard of him. So Sierk prevailed on them to have the award go to the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. And then this became an intergovernmental ceremony instead of the usual Yad Vashem thing where there's 20 old people in a room off the lobby of a Holiday Inn, or something. This is the Van Kleffenzaal. Van Kleffen was the minister who asked Kolkman to give it preferentially to non-Jews. This is the international conference room in the foreign ministry where international conferences are held. These are translator booths. I mean, it's a nice place. This is an Israeli singer who began the ceremony. Here's me and the passport photos that I showed earlier. I gave a little, shorter spiel. Here's the Israeli Ambassador to the Netherlands giving the award to the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - she is the equivalent to the Secretary of State - and this is the Foreign Minister for the Netherlands. He gave a speech, she gave a speech, I have a speech, Sierk gave a speech. So, this is what organizing this box of old photographs led to. Thank you.

1:19:59 [Audience applause]

1:20:09 Susanne Hillman: Are there questions? We're coming with a microphone, please wait until we hand you the microphone. Yes, if you could please.

1:20:29 Myriam Miedzian: Hello, my name is Myriam Miedzian, and I have a lot in common with both of you. I was born in Belgium just before the war, but in Brussels, and my family left Brussels the day that they started bombing, went to the seashore of the closest town, La De Panne, close to France, and then when the Germans marched in, we did the trek which you had there. Through France, Toulouse, Spain, and then Morocco, and arrived in New York July 22nd, 1941. My parents, unlike your parents,

spoke a lot about the whole exodus, and I think maybe in part your family seemed to have gotten a lot of help from the Dutch. My parents got no help from anyone. In fact, when they left Belgium they were about to become Belgian citizens, so they had not bothered to renew their Polish passports. My father was born in Poland. So they had no passports. So they were traveling, they had no way to get out of Europe without passports. And in Perpignan - and this is an example of the type of chutzpah they had - a combination of what got them out was chutzpah, a lot of smarts, and luck. When they got to Perpignan - I'm sorry to Toulouse - they tried, they went to the Polish consulate to get passports, the Consul had fled to England. They went into the office and essentially wrote up their own passports. My father filled them up, they had brought pictures, they found the stamps, stamped them and that's it, from then on we had Polish passports. They did this kind of stuff over and over, but they were also very lucky. And I think that maybe because they had, their getting out was so extraordinary that they talked so much about it, especially my father. So I was actually here about two years ago speaking about a book I wrote, in my father's voice, about the exodus, and I'm just wondering, did your families by any chance live on Central Park West in New York?

1:22:42 Dr. Herman Grishaver: No. We were between Broadway and Amsterdam, on 86th Street.

1:22:48 Myriam Miedzian: Oh, okay. You were close. And you?

1:22:50 Dr. Robert Nichols: I lived between Broadway and Amsterdam, on 71st.

1:22:53 Myriam Miedzian: Okay.

1:22:54 Dr. Robert Nichols: It was a different world. You played in Central Park, we played in Riverside Park

1:22:56 Myriam Miedzian: Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Because there was a whole Belgian Jewish enclave, maybe it was more Brussels Jews going from around 96th Street to 105th, along the park, and behind the park.

1:23:11 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Well, yeah, the whole West Side was Jewish immigrants. What I would say is that, first of all, Kolkman was the one who really helped us. He was helping people who were predominantly, I think, 100 percent Dutch. And there were complaints after the war that the Jews were not being helped as much by the people manning the offices in Marseilles, Sète, and sometimes Toulouse. So, it did sometimes depend on the individual in the office.

1:23:48 Myriam Miedzian: Oh yeah.

1:23:48 Dr. Herman Grishaver: And he was somebody who was not a career diplomat, and he didn't care about protocol. So he wrote all these false documents, he was also part of the French Resistance, I didn't mention that.

1:24:00 Myriam Miedzian: Yeah

1:24:01 Dr. Herman Grishaver: And he was awarded the Croix de Guerre by France, but he was awarded nothing by the Dutch government, except a plaque in one hallway of the Foreign Ministry, because the only thing in his records was this negative comment that he disobeyed orders, and these people didn't arrive. Well, the date of the critical report was such, it took a year for people who escaped the Netherlands to arrive in London. They didn't just go to London, they went to Curaçao, then they went to Canada, and then they maybe went to London. So all those people who escaped in December hadn't arrived yet. They arrived in May and June. So, there was an investigation after the war called the Cleveringa Commission, and a lot of diplomats were singled out as being not helpful, not recognizing the Jewish plight, except Kolkman.

1:25:03 Myriam Miedzian: Okay, I just wanted to say one more thing. My understanding was that you had to have visas to get into Spain. In fact, my parents, it was a whole other story of how they got visas to Spain. And then we were stopped on the Spanish border for two weeks, even though we had visas because the Spaniards just decided to close the border. So -

1:25:22 Dr. Herman Grishaver: They turned the border on and off, and the border guards were subject to bribes. A lot of that was going on.

1:25:37 Susanne Hillman: Any more questions?

1:25:38 Dr. Robert Nichols: Could you in fifty words or less expand a little on Yad Vashem?

1:25:43 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Okay, yeah, sure.

1:25:44 Dr. Robert Nichols: I'm not sure everybody knows.

1:25:46 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Okay.

1:25:46 Dr. Robert Nichols: Like me.

1:25:47 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Oh! Okay. Yad Vashem is a part of the Israeli government, and it's set up to basically never forget, to memorialize the people who suffered as a result of the Holocaust, to do to research and amass information about the Holocaust period. And there's a division which honors gentiles who helped to save Jews. And they have, you know there's a Holocaust Museum in Jeruselum, there's a whole Holocaust center. And then everybody who has been named righteous amongst the gentiles is honored. It used to be honored with planting a tree, but they got too many trees, and so now your name is put up on a board, or a bulletin board, and also on a website. That's about it.

1:26:47 Susanne Hillman: Any more questions?

1:26:51 Speaker 5: One fast one. I appreciated the map that you showed, and was there any evidence that your parents tried to get a ship in Marseilles and Barcelona? Cause they're two big ports, and to me, it would have been logical if they could have gotten a ship then instead of going to Lisbon.

1:27:10 Dr. Herman Grishaver: There were people who got out of Spain. They would get out of Vigo, which is on the Atlantic coast. Barcelona, no. I never heard of anybody leaving out of Barcelona. The problem with Marseilles was that, after the summer of 1940, the port was closed, so you couldn't exit. Some people did during the beginning of the summer, but towards the end, there was too much illegal traffic and so the port was simply closed. And then you could only get out through Spain or Switzerland. Yes - the back, yeah.

1:27:56 Speaker 6: You mentioned concentration archives. You had shown a list of people that, your family was in the concentration camp.

1:28:08 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Yes.

1:28:08 Speaker 6: Could you talk a little bit about the organization that's maintaining that?

1:28:14 Dr. Herman Grishaver: I'm not clear about.

1:28:15 Speaker 6: Called the International?

1:27:17 Susanne Hillman: Do you mean the Tracing Service?

1:27:17 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Oh, the International Tracing Service.

1:27:18 Speaker 6: Yes.

1:28:20 Dr. Herman Grishaver: I don't know if it's still called the Red Cross International Tracing Service, but if you Google international tracing service, they are connected with different archives that have amassed information about people who were in concentration camps, including this massive collection in Bad Arolsen, in Germany. And, it used to be cruder. I used them five, six, seven years ago. Now they have a much slicker web presence with an application form. You fill it out with the name of the person, birth date, everything you know, and they'll track that person and see if they can find their course through transit camps, concentration camps, anything. It's free, available, I filled it out for everybody I could think of. And I got tons back, there's just no time to go into it.

1:29:21 Susanne Hillman: I would actually like to add that at this point, our last event this academic year, which will be in June, is precisely on this archive. On the history of - or of the tracing service. So, it's in our brochure. J.J. Surbeck, who is an internationally renowned expert on the archive, he is going to speak about this, so all those of you who are interested, definitely come to that event. Do we have one final question? Yeah.

1:29:47 Speaker 7: Herman, I've known you for over thirty years, but I've never asked you - is there any reason you and actually, Dr. Silver went into neurology following this? I mean, is there some connection between looking at the puzzle that the human brain and nerves are and this whole thing that you went through?

1:30:06 Dr. Robert Nichols: I am not now, nor have I ever been Dr. Silver.

1:30:10 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Laughs Silver-haired possibly.

1:30:16 Speaker 7: I'm sorry. Dr. Nichols! Oh.

1:30:19 Dr. Robert Nichols: There is a Dr. Silver, who is a neurologist.

1:30:20 Speaker 7: There is? I apologize, I'm sorry about that.

1:30:25 Dr. Herman Grishaver: By no stretch of the imagination. No, the answer is identical twins are remarkably similar in their tastes and preferences and I think that's just part of the coincidence.

1:30:37 Susanne Hillman: Well, thank you Dr. Grishaver for a very interesting talk.

1:30:41 [Applause]

1:30:42 Dr. Herman Grishaver: My pleasure.

1:30:44 Susanne Hillman: Thank you for all your efforts you've taken. I'm a historian and I'm amazed. You've done some marvelous detective work. I'm sure we can all appreciate that.

1:30:54 Dr. Robert Nichols: I will say that one characteristic of neurologists. The question is always, are you compulsive because you're a neurologist, or did you go into neurology because you're compulsive? And I think the beautiful research you did attests to your compulsion.

1:31:11 [Laughter]

1:31:12 Dr. Herman Grishaver: Well, living in your house for two days testifies to yours. [Laughter]

1:31:22 Susanne Hillman: Well, thank you all for coming, and have a good night.

1:31:24 [The Library / UC SAN DIEGO]