

**EXODUS Project**  
**Interview of Alla Ilyin**  
**August 2, 2016**

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**EXODUS**

**Alla Ilyin.mp4**

**Date: 08-02-2016**

**Alla Ilyin:** ...anything.

**Lynn timervis:** I'm Lynn timervis here with Alla Ilyin at Temple Israel, and it is August 2, 2016. Tell me your name and your date of birth.

**Alla Ilyin:** I'm Alla Iryin. My date of birth is 11/07 – **July** -- 1946, so I'm older than him.  
(Laughs)

**Lynn timervis:** Okay. (Laughs)

**Alexander:** I used to say, Lenin and **Krupskaya**, his wife was older than them.

**Alla Ilyin:** It's not good example. (Laughs)

**Lynn timervis:** Aw. So where is your place of birth again? Tell them your...

**Alla Ilyin:** I was born in Sevastopol. At that time, Sevastopol was a Russian town.

**Alexander:** It's Crimea.

**Alla Ilyin:** And this was Crimea, where they're now. It was... what would you say? What happened with Crimea now? They take back because when I was 7 years old, Khrushchev make a nice gift, and he make this town... not town, the Crimea, Ukrainian. And at that time, we start think that Crimea is Ukrainian. He make this with his will or I don't know. Alexander, help me.

**Alexander:** Khrushchev was the First Secretary of Crimea's party. He was the head of Soviet Union after Stalin, and he visited those in Crimea, and he was shocked by that because, you know, there was that ancestral quarrel, Tatars from Crimea, who was the most hard-working people over there. They put them into Siberia, to Kazakhstan, and there was nobody left over there to work, and Crimea become just to... collapsed. And Khrushchev was from Ukraine actually. He was born in Ukraine, and he knew that the Ukrainian people working better, and he said to all guys, "Guys, let's put Crimea under Ukrainian control, and let's put some Ukrainian guys in and we'll raise up this region." And they sign paper. Nobody argued with that. It was civil because in those times, nobody could imagine that Soviet Union could collapse. And really, after several years, it become different, absolutely cruel area. They built up Crimea on Ukrainians actually. But

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now this idiot has come to power, I mean Putin, and he started to pull out everything he could from where you are.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** I hear that.

**Alexander:** That's how it started.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Thank you.

**Alexander:** So my wife has right to be Russian...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** So she's...

**Alexander:** ...and she has right to be Ukrainian in the same way.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** So you could be both.

**Alexander:** Yes.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** You're from both. Tell me about when you were growing up as a child. Where did you live and what was your family like?

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes. Why I was born in Sevastopol, because my father was a military navy officer.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Mhmm.

**Alexander:** Jewish person.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Jewish person.

**Alla Ilyin:** My father...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** What's...

**Alexander:** It's really real.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Are they Jewish?

**Alla Ilyin:** They're Jewish, but I will tell you and you will be very upset probably...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** I will not.

**Alexander:** (Laughs)

**Alla Ilyin:** They don't celebrate the Jewish holidays because my father was military man. It was forbidden to tell about this. It was, you know, when I was... know that I'm Jewish when I was 15 years old.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** And when I came to visit my grandma in Kiev...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** How did you find out?

**Alla Ilyin:** Very simple, because they just talk about this, and my parents brought me in Kiev, and I start... one part of the school year, I start **run** in school, and then I see the different people. They speak different, they look different, and then I start to be curious. What is this about? And my cousins and we start talking about this because actually it wasn't so normal to talk about this **Jew**.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Jewish. Right. Sure.

**Alla Ilyin:** No. It wasn't popular being Jewish.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right, right.

**Alla Ilyin:** You know? And I will tell you that my father, to be in military, he actually — how would say? – didn't show that he is Jewish.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right.

**Alla Ilyin:** Okay?

**Lynnie Mirvis:** They hid it.

**Alla Ilyin:** They hid it.

**Alexander:** He had last name, but...

**Alla Ilyin:** My last name was very pretty.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** What was your last...?

**Alla Ilyin:** It was **Moravina**. \_\_\_\_\_ **Moravina**.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** What does that mean?

**Alla Ilyin:** **Moravina**. Just nice.

**Alexander:** **Ravin**, it means “\_\_\_\_\_ **boy**” in Russian. But **Mo-**, I don't know what. **Moravin**, it's Russian. It sounds Russian.

**Alla Ilyin:** **Moravina**. It sounds very...

**Alexander:** Ilyin, **Moravin**, it's very close.

**Alla Ilyin:** It's kind of... we can survive on this because I will tell you honestly, those people who didn't have such good-sound last name as mine, they struggle a lot. A lot. You can't imagine.

**Alexander:** Reinstein or...

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**Alla Ilyin:** \_\_\_\_ .

**Alexander:** (Laughs) They could not \_\_\_\_.

**Alla Ilyin:** Friedman. I just tell you...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Jewish names.

**Alla Ilyin:** The name of my friend's name, and I know how they struggle. It's every, every time they struggle to get job, to get some, you know, everything. You just go to... because it was a lot of, I think, that you depend on other people.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Mhmm.

**Alla Ilyin:** Every time. You depend on people who come to you to repair your bathroom or...

**Alexander:** That's why you become Russian.

**Alla Ilyin:** Oh, you become... No, I don't.... Okay, so this is a problem, okay? And I will tell you, yes, in my past part, I was Russian. How I was Russian, at the time, I was 16 years old, and I live in different city than my parents live because we live on... not Siberia, but it's north of country on Murmansk. Maybe you know, because my father was...

**Alexander:** Kolsk Peninsula. It's a straight far to north from Crimea.

**Alla Ilyin:** Straight on north. It's six months just only winter. This is what... And I lived separate from them because I start, you know, music college. I came to music college.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** And it's time to get a passport, and when I come to get this passport, she doesn't test me. Are you Russian? Are you Jewish? At that time, I look like Russian, and she just put Russian. She doesn't test me about this, and this is how I get this document, and because of this document, I can get anything, everything.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** I can go to conservatory. I can go to music college. I can get everything, you know? But all my friends, a lot of Jewish, and I know how they struggle a lot, a lot. So we're lucky. This is why I say...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** ...that probably we will disappoint you because we just lucky that we have... That this is mixing now, my family, because my mother family was **evacuated** in Georgia.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

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**Alla Ilyin:** All my aunts married for Georgian, Armenian people.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** So all of my family come from...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Inter-marriage, you mean?

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** It was like inter-married?

**Alexander:** Yeah.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes. Completely mix, so we don't... so what we celebrate, you ask do we celebrate Jewish holidays, we don't, because we don't know about this.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right. You didn't know any of it. Sure.

**Alla Ilyin:** No. We celebrate Soviet Union, 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 7<sup>th</sup> of November, of course New Year.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Mhmm.

**Alla Ilyin:** When we came here, we start to feel the difference, and we start to understand this. All things would happen, you know, with Jewish community. And actually, again, we're lucky that we came here because of Alexander's sister's husband.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** And he was a victim of all...

**Alexander:** Yeah, he was a \_\_\_\_.

**Alla Ilyin:** You can't imagine what other Jewish **person**.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Is he still here?

**Alexander:** No.

**Alla Ilyin:** He is alive, but they now live in Columbus.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Okay.

**Alla Ilyin:** Uh-huh. Because his son, he did this wonderful career in Memphis in America. Very smart, very interesting person. He got to this... what the level of... Master degree and...

**Alexander:** Ph.D. He get Ph.D. In 33 years, he get Ph.D.

**Alla Ilyin:** Ph.D. He got Ph.D.

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**Lynnie Mirvis:** Wonderful.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes.

**Alexander:** He finish **Christian Brothers**.

**Alla Ilyin:** He's bright. Bright.

**Alexander:** He is as beautiful as **John** \_\_\_\_\_. He looks like him.

**Alla Ilyin:** (Laughs) It doesn't matter.

**Alexander:** And smart like \_\_\_\_\_ (Laughs)

**Alla Ilyin:** And he made beautiful family here, and actually he met his future wife when we left Kiev, and she was 15 years old.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Aw.

**Alla Ilyin:** And they do have...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** And they came here to Memphis?

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** His children. She didn't.

**Alla Ilyin:** She immigrated in Australia.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Oh.

**Alla Ilyin:** And they keep in touch, and one day she came here, and she stay here.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Ah, that's wonderful.

**Alla Ilyin:** (Laughs)

**Lynnie Mirvis:** So go back to you. I'd like to go back to your... You went into music school.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes, yes.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** And so tell me about that. And you were able to have that piece of paper that said you were Russian, so you didn't experience anti-Semitism or anything.

**Alla Ilyin:** I will tell you, when I went to the conservatory, personally I not experience, but I knew what goes around.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Yeah.

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**Alla Ilyin:** And in conservatory, I went to Odessa the town Odessa. You know it's Ukraine.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Sure. Yes, Odessa.

**Alla Ilyin:** It's this beautiful conservatory, but it was very difficult to get to the place on this, okay? And I remember when my old documents were set on the big folder, they put big names, "Russian."

**Lynnie Mirvis:** (Laughs)

**Alexander:** For the Russian, it was \_\_\_\_.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right. Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** And this is how I get it. So if I wouldn't be Russian, I would never get this. No way.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** You wouldn't get that...

**Alexander:** Right papers.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** You wouldn't get that paper.

**Alla Ilyin:** No way. So it's hard to...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** What was that like? How did that feel to you?

**Alla Ilyin:** I feel lucky.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** (Laughs) Right.

**Alla Ilyin:** I feel lucky because I pursue my dream.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right.

**Alla Ilyin:** And my friend would... not just my friend, but we just met on the... and she was so bright and so great, and she didn't get it.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Mhmm.

**Alla Ilyin:** And then when I ask her, "What happened?" Well, the question you cannot answer, and she told me about the question, and I told her, "But what's the answer you said?" She said, "This is answer." I don't remember what it was, you know, 40 years ago, and I said, "But your answer was right."

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** But she said, "No, they said it's supposed to be like that."

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**Lynnie Mirvis:** Ah.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** So they just didn't want her there.

**Alla Ilyin:** So it was every time. It was not like something special. Every time, every time, this is why the Jewish people just start to go, and I think this is right. And then, what I think, I will tell you, that if I would have different last name, if I would have different nationality in my passport, I would **have lived** in Israel.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Mhmm. But what kind of work did you do in the Soviet Union?

**Alla Ilyin:** I was a teacher. I was a piano teacher and theory in music, history of music teacher, and then my career just grow, grow, grow, \_\_\_\_ deputy director of director. Very, very special school. School of art.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Oh.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah, it was beautiful school.

**Alexander:** Number one school in Ukraine.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah, it was beautiful school. Because of this, I start travel with the school students because there a lot of very nice and talented students, and we go in different countries. So when I came to America, it wasn't shock for me.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Ah, because you had traveled.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** You were able to travel.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes. I travel a lot.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** And this was during the Iron Curtain before... It was after the fall of the...

**Alla Ilyin:** Of course. After.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** After the fall. Before, you were just a little girl.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah, because Alexander said that they're a **bunch of hoods**. No, he's not kidding. I think that \_\_\_\_ was very great **partner**. So I not agree with this.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right. I hear that.

**Alla Ilyin:** We start feeling the freedom.



**Lynnie Mirvis:** Freedom. Yeah, so you talked about before we got on the record, life under a totalitarian government. Do you want to comment on that at all, what it was like?

**Alla Ilyin:** We were young. We didn't understand.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** We just like everybody, okay? It was... you know, I headed to the Komsomol, and actually I was a little, like, free spiritual, and I left Komsomol.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** You left...?

**Alla Ilyin:** Komsomol. You know what Komsomol?

**Lynnie Mirvis:** What is that?

**Alla Ilyin:** Oh.

**Alexander:** That's because you're younger. At the end of Crimea's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Alla Ilyin:** You know Pioneers organization for little kids?

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Yeah.

**Alla Ilyin:** And then for young youth.

**Alexander:** Teenagers.

**Alla Ilyin:** Youth.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Are you talking about under the Communist party?

**Alexander:** Yes.

**Alla Ilyin:** It's of the....

**Lynnie Mirvis:** It's like a....

**Alla Ilyin:** It's Soviet Union.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Okay, like a... But it's like a...

**Alla Ilyin:** It was Soviet Union.

**Alexander:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Pioneers.

**Alla Ilyin:** It's absolutely the same.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** I see. So they kind of tell you what to think?

**Alla Ilyin:** Everybody in the school... what's first school? Not middle school but before middle school? First school. How would say?

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Like elementary school?

**Alla Ilyin:** Elementary school. Elementary school, they just go straight to Pioneers.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Pioneers, and they tell you...

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah, they put the red ties...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** What do they tell you? Do you remember what kind of things?

**Alexander:** Oh yeah, it was so boring. It was the whole time you have to stay in line and listen and listen to stupid... Ah, it was so boring.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah, but you know, we don't understand because it's everybody.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** That's what you'd do.

**Alexander:** If the Soviets say \_\_\_\_\_...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** You did it. Everybody.

**Alla Ilyin:** Everybody. It was life. This is Soviet Union. It's very big **reorganization** for everything. For everything. But when it collapse, we're very happy.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh. You were happy.

**Alexander:** I wasn't. (Laughs)

**Alla Ilyin:** I don't know. He gets his own, eh...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right.

**Alla Ilyin:** But I was very happy.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** You were happy.

**Alla Ilyin:** Because we start travel. We start just different things.

**Alexander:** On this part, yes.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right, right. So for you, like growing up, what about the way you lived? Your house? What was that like, being able to get food? What was that like for you?

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes. I will tell you honestly, I had only one child because to get food, milk and et cetera, I should wake up very early. I should go to the **chain** and wait for the food.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Will you describe that? Can you describe that, what that's like?

**Alla Ilyin:** It just was very difficult. I will tell you that I lived in so difficult situation in north of country.

**(Video Clipped)**

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Let me just... Okay. Tell me about food.

**Alla Ilyin:** In the city where I lived at the time, it was **Arkhangelsk. Arkhangelsk.** My father would, oh, how would say...

**Alexander:** Number one military man.

**Alla Ilyin:** Military. Yes.

**Alexander:** All his troops was under his...

**Alla Ilyin:** He had some cars. Not his private, but under his, how would say...

**Alexander:** Order, control.

**Alla Ilyin:** ...order, control, and he has a lot of power in the city. We have food. We have food. But one time, we went to travel with family to Saint Petersburg, and we spent some time there, and we bought some very nice food, because, you know, Saint Petersburg is a big city, and they have...

**Alexander:** Special supplies.

**Alla Ilyin:** ...special supplies, and my mother put this and everything in a bag and unfortunately forgot it.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Oh. (Laughs)

**Alexander:** (Laughs) In the train.

**Alla Ilyin:** (Laughs) It was very special bag.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Aw.

**Alla Ilyin:** And then when we came to our **handlers**, we don't have anything to eat, and we come to the store. It was empty.

**Alexander:** Right. **I was a** witness. Just imagine like **other** half-size of grown, and only two food over there. It's macaroni and a small, like, this preserved small fish.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Oh.

**Alexander:** That's it.

**Alla Ilyin:** That's it.

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**Lynnie Mirvis:** Ah.

**Alexander:** And it's about half-million city. It's huge.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** And it's like that.

**Alla Ilyin:** Of course we both survived somehow.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Yes.

**Alla Ilyin:** You know, because they said in the store, "We don't have anything," but in fridge we have some.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right, okay. The fridge you do.

**Alla Ilyin:** (Laughs)

**Lynnie Mirvis:** (Laughs) So let me ask you something. So what made you decide to come to America?

**Alla Ilyin:** It's not like decision just, "Today, I will go to America." No. It's a process because it start process...

**Alexander:** Growing up. Growing up.

**Alla Ilyin:** This friend went. This friend go. This to Israel, one to Germany, one to Australia. It start, how would say, you know, you start seeing it, and you seeing that life is get worse and worse and worse. It's not about to eat, you know?

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** It's about how to life.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** How did it get worse?

**Alla Ilyin:** For everything. A lot of restriction.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** A lot of restriction. Like, you know...

**Alexander:** Violence. No food.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah. It was a very difficult time.

**Alexander:** Everything was expensive. No one can protect you. No police.

**Alla Ilyin:** And one thing \_\_\_\_ I think this was is that when I was a deputy of director and I see that kids come to school, they said, "You know what..." I said, "It's so challenging to kids, and I don't see them in the order of the student," and I said, "Where are these kids? Why you didn't get them in school?" And the director told me, "It's supposed to be a nationality..." How you say? "...the main nationality people."

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Mhmm.

**Alla Ilyin:** "The main nationality." I said, "What is main nationality? I don't understand."

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Yeah, what's that?

**Alla Ilyin:** And then, you know, step by step I start to understand that there's no future, and it was very difficult time.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Are you talking about that it was anti-Jewish or was it anti...

**Alexander:** No, it's Russian.

**Alla Ilyin:** It was not open anti-Jewish.

**Alexander:** Pro-Ukrainian I would say.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Pro-Ukrainian.

**Alexander:** The rest doesn't count.

**Alla Ilyin:** But you know, it's always something under blanket. It's always. Always.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh. It was there but unsaid.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah. And actually, you know, when we came here, we were after, you know, our 60s. I was 52, he was 51.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right.

**Alla Ilyin:** So we kind of...

**Alexander:** We started from scratch actually.

**Alla Ilyin:** We start from scratch for just see what is different.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** How did your life change after you came here?

**Alla Ilyin:** Oh...

**Alexander:** Entirely.

**Alla Ilyin:** Beautifully. Everything was beautiful. You know, again, we're not typical family then maybe because we knew some English. We can communicate, especially him. Me not so good, but I came just to university and start learning language, and in one year, even less...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** What did you do here?

**Alla Ilyin:** In university? Just learning English.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** I see.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes. And then I start looking for job, and I was lucky. Then I got job as a piano teacher in a studio. Yes, and actually, you know, one... My friend from Chicago, he said that if you do the same thing in America that you did before, you're already lucky.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** And you did.

**Alla Ilyin:** Because you know what I say.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Do you still play?

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah. I play here.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Oh, you play?

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** At a Temple Israel?

**Alexander:** For 14 years.

**Alla Ilyin:** I work in...

**Alexander:** For Jewish Community Center.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah, the Jewish Community Center.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Oh, you do?

**Alla Ilyin:** I work as a piano teacher.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Oh, wonderful.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes, and I work here in Temple Israel for kids. I just \_\_\_\_ need something, and I work in the University of Memphis's Suzuki program.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Oh, you teach Suzuki?

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah. Yes.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** That's great.

**Alexander:** She has her federal certificate.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Oh, wonderful.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah, I have the certificate. But do you know what? It's just kind of the same. What is different? That is different attitude to music because sports is number one, and then the rest of them.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** (Laughs) Yes. Oh, **but at FSU**, music was more important.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes. I will tell you that in spite of these all negative things what I told you, it was very, very serious thing. Education of art was very, very good, and education of art after the Soviet Union collapsed was the same. And even now, the education of art is very, very **old**, and they have different institution to keep this on so high level, so we said a lot of bad things, but we can say something good.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Yes, yes. You say something good.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yes.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** What I didn't ask before, before we finish this, what did you decide to take with you? What did you decide to pack? What could you take with you to come to America, and what did you have to leave behind?

**Alla Ilyin:** Oh, we leave everything. We just pack some little things.

**Alexander:** Little things, and my sister says there \_\_\_\_\_ so we sold everything.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Why?

**Alexander:** Because we had the car. We had the apartment. We had a lot of stuff in it. We left everything because it's...

**Alla Ilyin:** See, we weren't a very wealthy family, but we wasn't very poor.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Uh-huh.

**Alla Ilyin:** Okay, so...

**Lynnie Mirvis:** You left it.

**Alla Ilyin:** Yeah, it's okay. It wasn't... I told you, again. We're very lucky. We feel very lucky. First time we feel like we're tourists. We not, you know...

**Alexander:** My slogan was you cannot be happy in an unhappy country.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Say that again.

**Alexander:** You cannot be happy in an unhappy country.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** In an unhappy country.

**Alexander:** When I saw on the market, my employees would sell you their stuff from houses, I could not handle that. I cannot.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right.

**Alla Ilyin:** We feel that we need to go because this was...

**Alexander:** For our parents, then son.

**Alla Ilyin:** We just got this opportunity. How can resist opportunity?

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Right.

**Alexander:** Actually, we sacrifice all our life because we can't have any problem just for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** So tell me, is there anything else that you would like to say before we conclude?

**Alla Ilyin:** Finish? Again and again, we're lucky that we're here, and we had great time here and great life. Now we, of course, we are 70s, and this is 18 years that we live here, and just like every day holiday.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** You're retired?

**Alexander:** How can I compare? If my mother's family jumped one of the last train out of Germany, just come **interrupt** one of the last flight to America from the Soviets, because you know what happens over there. I had a Swedish friend. He was working in \_\_\_\_\_ for Swedish and Ukraine, and he ask me, "Why you leave Ukraine? It will be a great country in five years." I tell him, "Hans, you don't know these people. In five years, I definitely know that I will be in the city of number one country. What will be here, you could not imagine," and I was absolutely right.

**Lynnie Mirvis:** Thank you. Thank you so much.

**Alla Ilyin:** You're welcome.

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