

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Jewish Project

Youngstown Area

O. H. 467

HILDA BROIDA

Interviewed

by

Irving Ozer

on

July 14, 1986

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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INTERVIEWEE: HILDA BROIDA

INTERVIEWER: Irving Ozer

SUBJECT: Family, Schooling, Organizations, Anti-Semitism,
Depression, Trips to Israel

DATE: July 14, 1986

O: This is an interview with Hilda Broida for the Youngstown State University Oral History on the Youngstown Area Jewish Project. The date is July 14, 1986.

Where were you born Hilda?

B: I was born in Youngstown, Ohio on December 13, 1913.

O: Where did your family live at that time?

B: At that time my parents lived on McKinney Street; I think it eventually became Kenmore, which was on the south side off of Hillman Avenue.

O: How long did you live there?

B: About a year.

O: Then what?

B: From there we moved to Marshall Street, which ran off of Glenwood. We lived there until I was about four. My brother Arthur was born when we lived on Marshall Street, and from Marshall Street we moved to an apartment building on Thornton Avenue.

O: How many siblings did you have?

B: Arthur was born on November 9, 1916. Naomi Julia was born November 7, 1920, and Jean Edith was born October 23, 1922.

O: You were the oldest child?

B: I was the oldest. My brother Jerome was born July 28, 1930.

O: What are your earliest recollections of life in Youngstown? Was that on Thornton Avenue?

B: As strange as it may seem, I remember when my brother Arthur was born. I was two years and eleven months old. The only thing I remember was that my Aunt Jenny Fish carried my brother down the steps on a pillow and laid him on the table in the living room and then I was sent into the kitchen where my cousin Helen Fish kept me busy writing on a blackboard. This was the day of the "Bris" or circumcision.

My next recollection is living on Thornton Avenue. Nothing in particular happened there, except that we all had the "flu".

O: Where did you go to school?

B: From Thornton Avenue we moved to 603 Fairgreen when I was about five or six years old. I went to Parmalee School first for grade school. I attended a private school, Yale School, for kindergarten.

O: Were there many Jewish families in the area where you lived at that time?

B: There was one Jewish family in the terrace building that my father owned, a Mr. and Mrs. Morris Collins. Other than that I don't know of any other Jewish families. Wait a minute, there was another Jewish family that lived a block down the street from us on Fairgreen Avenue, a Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hamburg. I don't know of any other Jewish families.

O: You didn't play with Jewish children then?

B: No, I had no Jewish friends. I did start going to the Youngstown Hebrew Institute while we lived on Fairgreen Avenue, but prior to that a Rabbi Bazell started a Sunday school and classes were held on the second floor of what became V.F.W. building. That was in 1918. It was on Boardman Street. The teachers were Grace Kriger, Elsie Hodes, Bertha Barker, Marion Schwartz, and I think Marion Rand. I don't think we had classes there more than a year. By the way, most of these young Sunday schoolteachers I don't think were any more than fifteen or sixteen years old at the time.

O: In terms of your education, what do you recall, what impression did it make on you?

- B: I went to the Youngstown Hebrew Institute. Classes were held from Monday to Thursday after school at the old Wood Street School. On Sunday classes were held at Temple Emmanuel. A Dr. Maximan was the director or superintendent. The teachers were a Mr. Pincus Bernstein, two Mr. Abromovitz's, and Naomi Ozersky Hill. To be honest with you, I hated the place. After about a year or two of attending classes my father decided I wasn't learning enough, so he pulled me out and hired Mr. Pincus Bernstein as my private tutor. I studied with Mr. Bernstein until he left Youngstown in 1929 to go to Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- O: What kind of things did you learn?
- B: I learned how to read, write, and translate Hebrew, the Bible stories, but not the kind of Hebrew that is spoken. It was the written word and that was it. Even to this day I am able to read, write and translate, but don't ask me to talk. Even after eight years of Ulpan Hebrew conversational course, I still can't speak Hebrew.
- O: Where did you go from Parmalee?
- B: From Parmalee I went to Harding School where I graduated in 1927. From there I went to Rayen where I graduated in 1931.
- O: Were there any Jewish kids in your past?
- B: Yes.
- O: Who were some of them?
- B: It wasn't a question of Jewish kids in the class, it was the Jewish students that I ran around with. Some of them were at Harding and some at Parmalee. There was Jean Yarmy, Dorothy Unger, Frances Schwebel, Florence Kannansohn, Mildred Spero, Mildred Gefsky, Temma Bellinkoff, Ruth Hatrzell, Vera Ettinger, Caroline Lourie, Minette Spiegel, Lucille Rosenbaum, Some of the boys were Alvin Isroff, David Finkle, Stanley Banks, Ted Regenstreich, Asher Randall, Syd Davidow. As we got older we started going out with older boys.
- O: Were you aware of any anti-Semitism at that time?
- B: Not really. What I was more exposed to than anti-Semitism was the fact that blacks sat in the balcony at the theatre, and also children. As far as overt anti-Semitism, I don't recall any.
- O: From your fellow students?
- B: In high school we didn't get in to certain clubs. In fact,

we didn't get in any of the clubs in high school. The boys didn't get in to High-Y and the girls didn't get in to any of the so-called sororities. The Jewish girls had their own sororities. I was also aware of the fact that certain residential areas on the south side were restricted--"No Jews Allowed". The country clubs had the same restrictions. We had Squaw Creek Country Club, to which my parents belonged.

O: You weren't called names?

B: Never.

O: Harassed?

B: No.

O: When did you first become aware that your parents were something special in community leadership?

B: My first recollection was when I was six or seven years old. something must have been going on at Temple Emmanuel and my father thrust a bunch of blue and white flowers in my hand and said, "This is flower day. Sell flowers." He gave me a blue and white Jewish National Fund box, and I sold flowers.

My next recollection after that was when I was eight or nine. Dad gave me a bunch of cards with names and addresses of people who lived within the confines of Fairgreen Avenue, Lora Avenue, Norwood Avenue, Crandall Avenue, and Alameda, all running off of Fifth Avenue going east. These people whose cards he gave me all had blue boxes in their homes. He gave me a key, receipt books, and a pencil. He said, "Go open the boxes; count the money carefully; give the lady of the house a receipt; lock the box; give her the box back; when you get through come home." He gave me a brown paper bag, in which to put the money. At that time I had no idea what JNF stood for. To me it was J and F, not JNF. Later on I found out that it meant Jewish National Fund. However, my real induction into Zionism and Palestine was when my father took me to my first Zionist convention when I was ten years old.

O: Where was that?

B: Pittsburgh, in 1924. At that convention, I remember sitting in the lobby of the William Penn Hotel with dad. At one point he pointed to a man and said, "Look at that old man; his name is Rabbi Maxmillian Heller. He is from New Orleans. He is the father of Rabbi James Heller from Cincinnati. He is a reformed rabbi, but he is a very ordinant Zionist." I don't think I ever saw him again after that. At that convention I also saw and heard the Rabbi Zui Hersch Mislansky,

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Abe Goldberg. I don't know what they said, but the fact that I met them made a lasting impression on me.

Another thing that happened at that convention that was very strange at the time was during a breakfast in the drugstore. Mother and dad and I walked in and Rabbi Silver was sitting at the drugstore counter with a very unkept-looking man. We all had breakfast together and then when we got up to leave Rabbi Silver took this man's check. Only as a ten year child can say as loud as I could possibly say it, I said, "Dad, why is Rabbi Silver picking up that man's check? Shouldn't that man be picking up Rabbi Silver's check?" Rabbi Silver looking at me said, "Little girl, when you get to be older you'll understand why Rabbi Silver picked up Chona's check." Do you know who Chona was?

O: No.

B: The story that I got later was that Chona was an illiterate. He went to every convention that was held in this country and he never paid a penny for anything. In New York he used to go to the Tip Toe Inn. He got three meals a day there without putting his hand in his pocket.

The best story that I ever heard about Chona was the one Lipsky used to tell. Louis Lipsky has been called the Dean of American Zionism. He was the most committed Zionist of his era, which spanned more than 60 years. He was President of the Zionist Organization of America and was Chairman of the United Palestine Appeal a number of times. He was a friend of my father's and I met him many times. Anyway, Chona used to sit in the front row during a plenary session at a Z.O.A. convention. Whenever any of the main speakers got up to speak, if Chona would nod his head in the affirmative the speaker would continue speaking. If Chona would nod his head in the negative, then the speaker would bring the speech to an abrupt conclusion. In other words, although he was an illiterate, they still respected his opinion.

I went to Zionist conventions with my father almost every year until 1940. It was at those conventions that I met the greats and the near greats. During my growing up years in Youngstown I was a member of Young Judea and Junior Hadassah. It was always part of my life. My father was forever going to meetings. If it wasn't a Zionist meeting it was a UPA meeting or a JNF meeting. My father was on the board of the temple from the time of its inception in 1920 until he died in 1941. He was always chairman of the board of education. Education was one of my father's most important points.

I gave you a program of a March 25, 1917 Ohio State Zionist Region Convention that was held here in Youngstown. At that

convention Henrietta Szold, Dr. Schmarya Levin, and Jacob Dehaas were three speakers. In 1921 Chaim Weizmann and someone else--H. Szold, I think--spoke at the Hippodrome Theatre. In the middle of the 1920's, around 1926, Chaim N. Bialik, Dr. Schmarya Levin, and a third person spoke at Temple Emmanuel. It has always been amazing to me that a small town like Youngstown could draw such luminaries of the Zionist world to speak to such a small Jewish community.

Chaim Weizmann and Dr. Schmarya Levin spoke in Youngstown on June 8, 1921. Nachum Sokoloff, then President of the Zionist Organization of America, spoke in Youngstown in January, 1922.

Dr. David Phillipson, a faculty member at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, was a vehement anti-Zionist. He spoke some time in the mid-1920's at the Rodef Sholom Temple. He was a guest in our home for Friday night dinner. My father tried to convert him to Zionism. He did not succeed. Other luminaries who came to Youngstown during the 1920's and 1930's were: Louis Lipsky, Abba Hillel Silver, Barnett Brickner, Solomon Goldman, Maurice Samuel, Abe Goldberg, James Heller, Ida Silverman, Judith Epstein, and Chaim Ostrowsky, who was the Director of the Palestine Hebrew Theatre and Ittamar Ben Avi, the son of Eliezer Ben Yehuda, who compiled the first modern Hebrew dictionary.

May I "backtrack" at this point? The forerunner of the Zionist Organization and Hadassah in Youngstown was an organization called "The Order of the Sons and Daughters of Zion." This was founded by a group young men and women in their late teens or early 20's in 1909. Irv, I gave you three small booklets which contain the names of the charter members, the first officers and later members. Joseph Altshuler wrote up these booklets. One contains the constitution. To name a few of the charter members and officers: David Fish, Theresa Broida (my mother), Tillie Broida, Samuel Strassels, Anna Schulman, Ben Schulman. Judge Samuel Silbert came from Cleveland to speak at their 25th Anniversary dinner in 1934, which was held at Temple Emmanuel. They had fund raising affairs to raise money for Palestine--picnics and dances at Southern Park. A side activity for my father, Oscar Altshuler, Joseph Altshuler and Samuel Strassels was "boating" on one of the lakes at Mill Creek Park. I have a picture of the four of them sitting in a boat, out in the middle of the lake. How much they rowed is a question?

- O: Were you ever, in the course of the blue box and flower days aware of a rift between the Eastern European Jews and the Western European Jews? Did you ever feel that?
- B: Of course. All I know is that of all of my friends I was the only Zionist of my group. I couldn't get any of my

friends to join Young Judea or Junior Hadassah. They wouldn't have any part of it. I was a loner as far as Zionism and Palestine were concerned. Eastern European Jews and their children and the German Jews did not socialize nor belong to the same organizations.

My mother came to this country with her parents and three sisters in 1900. They went to Oil City first, then to Pittsburgh, and arrived in Youngstown approximately 1905. My father arrived in the States in 1904. He lived in New York for six months and then came because my uncle Max Fish had already settled here. They opened a dry cleaning plant at 5 Oak Hill Avenue.

O: Had they done this in Europe?

B: No. I don't know how they ever got into that business. From there they moved to 1414 Market Street where they opened a larger plant.

O: Why did they come to the United States?

B: Because of the poverty of Europe.

O: Were they victims of the pogroms in any way?

B: I really don't know. All of my relatives settled in Youngstown. The one thing that my father left behind in Europe was his Orthodox Judaism. When the Fish Dry Cleaning moved to 1414 Market Street, Aunt Jenny and Uncle Max lived above the store.

My parents were married March 23, 1913. They lived on Kenmore Avenue off of Hillman. Then they moved to 5 Marshall Street, which was off of Glenwood Avenue. The furniture, when they moved was moved by horse and wagon. They moved to Thornton Avenue in 1917, to 603 Fairgreen Avenue in 1918, and to 273 Norwood Avenue in 1923.

My aunt and uncle, Allen and Tillie Klivans, were planning to move to Cleveland about that time and my parents bought quite a bit of furniture from them. The Klivans lived in the white brick home at the corner of Fifth and Alameda.

Going back to the war years, in 1917 the Ohio State Zionist Region held a conference in Youngstown. It was in November. They had a parade down Federal Street. Most of the women in Hadassah all served on the dance committee.

In 1921 there was a mass meeting in Youngstown held at the Hippodrome. Chaim Weizmann spoke at that meeting. Weizmann asked for money and my father told me that there was a "thing called the Depression" at that time and that most

of the people really didn't have ready cash. The women threw their jewelry up on the stage at the Hippodrome and a few men bought pieces of jewelry and gave the money to the speakers. I have a few pieces of that jewelry today which my mother and father gave me.

My mother became a member of Hadassah about six months after Hadassah was organized in Youngstown. It was formed in 1913.

My father was very active in the Zionist organization, Jewish National Fund, and the United Palestine Appeal. I don't think that whatever he did for Palestine (Isreal) interfered with our home life at all. I think it enriched all of us, especially me. He went to meetings constantly. He helped to raise money.

In 1926 Hadassah put on a play with all local talent, "Humoresque" by Fannie Hurst. It was to raise money for Hadassah. In 1926 a bazaar was also put on to raise money for the JCC. In 1927 Hadassah put on a bazaar and in 1929 Hadassah was instrumental in putting on another play by Philip Barry, titled "You and I" with all local talent. These things were all done to raise money for Hadassah or for the JCC. My mother and father were active in all of these activities.

Youngstown was a "hotbed" of Zionist activity in the years of the First World War, the 1920's, and the 1930's. What happened in the early 1940's I'm not too well acquainted with because my father died in September of 1941 and was completely incapacitated during the last year of his life. I was living in Cleveland. However, Oscar Altshuler, David Fish, and Abe Kamenetzky comprised what came to be known as the "Kitchen Cabinet" in the 1920's and 1930's. Zionist activities, fund-raising projects were all discussed within the confine of the Fish kitchen or the Kamenetzky kitchen. It got to be a joke because they would discuss business and then they would take their decisions to the board and general membership and things were passed without any question.

I went to my first Zionist convention in 1924 in Pittsburgh. There were conventions in New York, Buffalo, Washington, Cincinnati, Chicago, and Detroit. Whenever the convention was close by where mom and dad would drive, I went along.

At one point in his lifetime, dad was on the national administrative council of the Zionist Organization of America.

My uncle Max Fish called a meeting of a few members of the Children Of Isreal Congregation in 1919, with the idea to found a Conservative Synagogue. The meeting was held in his

home, which was on the corner of Fairgreen and Ford. Ignatz Schwartz, Sigmund Yarmy, A. M. Frankle, are a few who were there. I believe I gave you the program book of the 50th Anniversary of Anshe Emeth, which includes a copy of the minutes of that meeting, with the names of all those who were present. Uncle Max was the first President of Anshe Emeth Temple, and when my father joined, he became Chairman of the Board of Education; a position he held until his death in 1941. My father also served on the Building Committee in 1927 and was a very active member of the Temple. My sisters, brothers and I attended Sunday school and Hebrew School there and were all confirmed there, as were my own children.

Uncle Max was president until he left for Baltimore in 1922. Uncle Max and his family moved to Baltimore, Maryland in 1922, at which time my father became the sole owner of the Fish Dry Cleaning Company. In 1927 he moved the company to new quarters--newly built plant at 3405 Market Street. Morris Scheibel was the architect and Emanuel Katzman was the contractor. The old plant at 1414 Market Street was sold, or rather I should say, the building was sold.

In 1935 the Youngstown Jewish Federation was formed. The purpose was to combine all Jewish organizations into one pot, all fund-raising organizations. Dad was one of the charter members of this group and became its treasurer I think. There was one problem with the Federation as far as my father was concerned, and that is that forty percent of the monies raised for overseas went to Palestine and sixty percent went to the Joint Distribution Committee. Dad fought his entire life for a fifty-fifty split. That never came into existence until after the state of Israel was created in 1948. He did work for the Federation; he had a prodigious memory. He remembered names, addresses, phone numbers, and what contributions people gave to the Federation, UPA or JNF, year after year.

In 1938 the Youngstown Jewish Federation honored three of its outstanding members at a Testimonial Dinner: David I. Fish, Roy Hartzell and Harry Levinson. It is very gratifying to have men honored during their lifetime for their contributions to their ideals and goals and the Jewish Community did honor these men. Ruth Hartzell (Goldstein), Roy Hartzell's daughter and I, were truly proud of our fathers that day. Ruth, who now lives in Los Angeles, and I are still very close friends.

At my dad's last Zionist convention in 1940, Hitler was already ruling over Germany and parts of Europe. The Nazi extermination program was in full swing. Although we really didn't know to what extent Hitler was killing off the Jews, most of us who were in the Zionist movement and in Hadassah knew what was going on because we read periodicals and newspapers. All

leading newspapers carried headlines as early as 1938. Dad was getting mail from New York about mass meetings that were held in New York and he was asked to hold mass meetings here, in protest to what Hitler was doing in Europe.

I'm going to go back to 1919 to tell you about dad's private life. Dad came here in 1905. In September of 1919 he returned to Europe to round up the members of his family and my mother's family who survived World War I. My Grandmother Fish at that time was old and she would not come to the United States. A couple of my father's brothers and sisters had already passed away. The group arrived here in September of 1920, about fifty men, women, and children. My father and uncle Max Fish paid for this "expedition".

My parents took a trip to Europe in April, 1930. The main purpose of the trip was to visit my Grandmother Fish, who was living in Dynow, Galicia, with her daughter, Itale. Uncle Max and Aunt Jennie went on this trip too. They spent the Pesach (Passover) Holiday with my grandmother, Uncle Moshe and his family and Aunt Itale. I have a picture taken at the "third Seder"--my grandmother would not permit a picture to be taken on the holiday night. Mother and dad also visited mother's family in Vilna, Lithuania--my grandmother's two brothers and their children. They also toured through Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and France.

In June, 1936, after my father had his massive coronary attack, my parents took off on a Mediterranean cruise--which took them to what was then Palestine, where they spent two weeks. This was dad's only visit to Palestine and he fell in love with the country. He said it was the most beautiful land he had ever seen. Zion, Palestine, Israel were his life. He lived it; he breathed it. Ruth Klivans, who was living in Kibbitz, Afikim at that time, managed to see my parents during their visit. I think she met them in Tel Aviv or Haifa, I am not sure.

My mother took over the Fish Dry Cleaning in 1936 when dad had his coronary. After that my father never set foot inside any of the Fish Dry Cleaning Company stores or the main plant. Mother took over the plant and brought it out of the depths of the Depression. It became a very successful enterprise. By the time we closed all of our stores and the main plant in 1962, we had a main plant and twenty-eight cash and carry stores. From 1941 on we went from just the dry cleaning business to bachelor bundles, family laundry, one-hour cleaning units, one-hour laundry units, and even into the linen supply business. By 1958 or 1959 business started going bad in Youngstown and we just had to go out of business. There were too many cash

and carry stores coming in, too many one-hour cleaning stores coming in and we just couldn't keep up with it.

- O: How did the women in Hadassah regard pioneer women in those days?
- B: They were two separate organizations and I don't think one had anything to do with the other.
- O: A lot of women seem to think nothing of the fact that they belong to both.
- B: I don't remember that many who belonged to both.

Before my mother married she belonged to a club called the "Jolly 8", which was really twelve or fourteen. This group included young girls who were also charter members of the Order of the Sons and Daughters of Zion. Mother was one of the first to join the Youngstown Chapter of Hadassah after it was founded in 1914. Mrs. Abraham Kamenetzky (Hattie) was the founder and first president. Hattie and my mother remained very close friends throughout their lives. Mother was active in Hadassah all her life. She was a permanent fixture on the board. Her most important position was as "Special Gifts Chairman for Donor." She did more to raise the level of donor giving in Youngstown than any other member. She was chairman of the Annual JNF Land Redemption Dinners from the early 1940's until that late 1960's. She was a one woman committee who called each person herself, got a pledge and a dinner reservation at the same time. She never took no for an answer. Her dinners were always successful. From the late 1960's until her death, she was Honorary Chairman. Mother took over where my dad left off in 1940.

She was on the Board of the Jewish Federation and the J.C.C. and the local Zionist Organization. She attended Zionist conventions with the men. (The only woman). In 1952 she was the organizer and founder of the Womens Division for State of Israel Bonds and was its chairman from 1952 to 1954. At the same time, she was active in the Mens Division for Israel Bonds. Being a woman in business, she made herself a part of the Mens Division. She was the first woman in Youngstown to become a "sponsor" in the Womens Division, by the purchase of a \$1,000 Israel Bonds. She served on the Boards of the Mens and Womens Divisions for Israel Bonds until the mid-1970's. She had many "teas" and "cocktail parties" in her home for Bonds For Israel, which attracted such speakers as James Heller, Avis Shulman and Mrs. Alex Lowenthal. Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt was a guest speaker one year. The cocktail party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Friedkin; the dinner was at Anshe Emeth Temple.

Both mom and dad had an abiding love and devotion to Isreal,

Jewish education and Judaism.

My mother took sick in 1962. She had major surgery and after that she sort of started doing less and less in the Jewish community. She did retain her seat on the Federation board. Oscar used to pick her up and take her to meetings. By 1968 to 1970 she sort of dropped out of everything actively. However, at the time of her 80th birthday, my mother informed me that she wanted to take another trip to Israel. We took off for Israel in February of 1970. We were there for four weeks. She was amazed at what she saw; she could not believe that the country had progressed that much in ten years time. She was very glad that she went. Mother was 89 years old when she died in October of 1978.

Going back to my early childhood, I recall many trips to Cleveland with my father, sometimes by train or automobile (like a 1922 open sedan). My father visited with A. H. Friedland, or as he was called, "Chet Aleph", who was the head of the Cleveland Hebrew Institute. I was put into a classroom (second or third grade), and dad visited with Mr. Friedland. This was always on a Sunday. We lunched in the Friedland home, then back to Youngstown. Dr. Friedland was a Judaic scholar and Hebraist and had a number of Hebrew books published.

Because of the Depression I had made up my mind that I was only going to college two years. I was studying to be a medical laboratory technologist. I was only going to go to college two years and then go into a hospital for a twelve-month training period. My father didn't like that idea because that wasn't going to get me a degree, so I went to Simmons three years and then spent my last year at St. Louis County Hospital. It was a twelve-month training period where you spent three months in each laboratory. I finished there in June of 1935, came back to Youngstown. I had a bachelor of science in chemistry. My father called me and told me not to look for a job anyplace, that I had one in Youngstown at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Back I came and I worked from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. My salary was \$70 a month. Dad was absolutely appalled because he was paying his pressers \$70 a week at that time. I stayed in Youngstown for a year and a half and then took off for Cleveland where I worked at Mt. Sinai Hospital in the blood chemistry laboratory. I became involved in the business and professional group of Hadassah. Also, if a Zionist or Hadassah convention was held in Cleveland or Pittsburgh, I went to it. There were a couple of Jewish National Fund conferences in Cleveland that I went to; I kept up with what my father taught me.

I got married in February of 1942 and came back to Youngstown because my mother had taken my husband into the business. I promptly joined Hadassah here and became Jewish National Fund chairman.

I lived in Youngstown from 1942 until September of 1963. During those years I was very active in Hadassah; I was president of the Youngstown chapter in 1947, and 1948. I was also on the board of the Jewish Community Center for a number of years. I was active in Jewish National Fund with my mother when she became chairman of the dinners and I was chairman of the Israel Bond drives from 1954 to 1956. I was also co-chairman of special gifts of the Jewish Community Federation Women's Division in the middle 1950's for four years. I earned my woman of valor award for Israel bonds in 1962. You had to sell \$100,000 in Israel bonds, at that time, to get the award.

I was a member of the Board of the Central States Region of Hadassah (Ohio, Michigan, Northern Kentucky, and West Virginia) from 1954 until 1963. I served as Speakers Bureau Chairman, Israel Bonds Chairman, American Affairs Chairman and Recording Secretary. As Speakers Bureau Chairman, I was the liason between the chapters in the region and national.

In 1963 after we had closed our business down, my marriage collapsed and being that I didn't feel that Youngstown was a place to live alone as a single woman, I moved back to Cleveland. My daughter Marilyn was a senior at the University of Michigan at this time, and David was a sophomore at Ohio University of Athens, and Michael was fifteen years old. I moved back to Cleveland and got a job at Polyclinic Hospital as a hematologist. I was lucky because they were still doing everything manually there. I did not know how to work the new equipment then in use. The first year or so I did nothing but work and it was a struggle. After a year of two I joined the Hadassah again and in 1967 I took off for Israel for six weeks. I came back just before the 1967 war. Had I been there over the 1967 war, I wouldn't be here talking to you today.

O: Why?

B: I would have stayed there. My first trip to Israel was in 1958 and again in 1960. I went to Israel in 1970 with my mother and went again in 1977, 1981, and in 1985. The only time I went on a Hadassah tour was in 1960. All the other times I went, I went on my own. I planned my own trips. I always stayed a month to six weeks.

During the years that I was in Cleveland I did become active again in Hadassah. I became a member of the chapter board and my group board. I also worked for Israel bonds. I also became active in the Jewish National Fund Council Women's Division. That is where I give most of my time today. I have been vice-president of the speakers' bureau for the last six years and I'm still serving in that capacity now.

I am also a member of the Board of the Women's Division of the College of Jewish Studies. I have been attending classes at the college for a number of years, in a vain attempt to learn to speak Hebrew. I attend Ulpan Hebrew classes.

If all goes well and God willing, I hope to make Aliyah and Israel by the end of January, 1987. Shalom.

O: Thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW