

1 ORAL HISTORY OF: Mark Hauser
2 INTERVIEWED BY: Jim Grey
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5 Detroit
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7 family

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9 MR. GREY: My name is Jim Grey. I'm a volunteer
10 with the Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit, and it's my honor
11 and pleasure today to be interviewing Mark Hauser. Mark will
12 tell you all about himself.

13 What you need to know is that this is part of an
14 oral history project for the Federation, where we're
15 accumulating stories about active volunteers in the community
16 and somewhere down the road these stories will be part of
17 books or videos or whatever the technology needs at the time
18 as part of our Detroit history.

19 So without further ado, first of all, Mark, do you
20 agree on tape to let us use these stories as needed for the
21 future.

22 MR. HAUSER: I certainly do.

23 MR. GREY: Thank you very much and please tell us a
24 little about yourself.

25 MR. HAUSER: I'm Mark Hauser. I'm 62 years old. I

1 was born and raised in Detroit on the northwest side, went to
2 Mumford High School where I graduated in 1960. I went to the
3 University of Michigan where I majored in economics in under
4 grad school, went to Wayne Law School, where I graduated in
5 1967, and have been practicing law since that time.

6 I have been married to my college sweetheart, Jan
7 Drecher, from Port Huron. We've been married -- it will be 42
8 years this summer. We have three children, two of whom are
9 attorneys. My oldest daughter, Sandy, is an attorney in New
10 York. She's a partner at the Sohn & Chein law firm, and is a
11 major litigator who was one of the lawyers that just tried the
12 World Trade Center case, which was probably the biggest case
13 in the United States in the last couple years. She has two
14 sons. They go to Jewish day school in New York.

15 My second daughter, Molly Schneider, lives in San
16 Diego. She has two daughters. She's very active in her
17 temple and in AIPAC and she and her husband are both active in
18 the San Diego Federation.

19 And then my third is my son Michael Hauser, who's
20 32, who is a CPA and a tax attorney who recently joined our
21 law firm. Our firm is called Maddin Hauser. Technically it's
22 Maddin, Hauser, Ward, Roth & Heller, but everybody calls it
23 Maddin Hauser. Michael has two children. They are going to
24 go to Yeshiva Darchei Torah. Michael is a Baal T'Shuva, a
25 return to the Orthodox faith, which both he and his wife Julie

1 did separately, not knowing each other, after their
2 undergraduate years in college.

3 **MR. GREY:** Where did you go after law school?

4 **MR. HAUSER:** Upon my graduation from Wayne Law
5 School I was fortunate enough to get a job with the law firm
6 of Friedman, Meyers & Keys. When I graduated from law school,
7 there were three or four good Jewish law firms in the city.
8 There were probably a lot more, but known as good Jewish law
9 firms, and Friedman, Meyers & Keys was certainly one of them.

10 I was the 13th attorney at Friedman, Meyers & Keys
11 in those days, and my friend Larry Weinberg joined Honigman,
12 and he was the 15th attorney at Honigman in those days. So it
13 shows you how things change. Friedman, Meyers & Keys was a
14 firm that was very connected with the Jewish Federation
15 principally because of, at least when I was there, Joe
16 Jackier, who eventually became president of what was called
17 the United Jewish Charities then, and is now the United Jewish
18 Foundation. But a lot of people at the firm were very
19 involved, and we represented Federation and did a lot of legal
20 work.

21 I had the opportunity to represent the state of
22 Israel in one of the first cases that I handled.

23 When I started back in '66 or '67 one of the popular
24 movies was a movie called *The Young Philadelphian*, starring
25 Paul Newman. In that movie this young lawyer joined a very

1 big Philadelphia law firm, was stuck in a little office back
2 in the corner. One day an old woman wandered into his office,
3 just got furlblunget ?? in the firm and ended up in Paul
4 Newman's office. He became her lawyer and he became very rich
5 and famous from this.

6 So my story is, when I joined Friedman, Meyers &
7 Keys, they really didn't have enough space to give me a really
8 nice law office. They gave me an office that used to be a
9 secretary's little office. I always wondered whether this
10 woman might wander into my office. But I was fortunate enough
11 to have something different happen.

12 Tom Borman, who was the campaign chair and who along
13 with his brother Al were major philanthropists in the city,
14 one day Tom Borman came walking into my office, knocked on the
15 door, walked in, said hi, I'm Tom Borman. I'm introducing
16 myself. I want you to know, Mark, that you are in a community
17 and you're at a firm and you're at a time in Jewish history
18 when you can do something and mean something and I'd love to
19 see you get involved. And I guess from that little thing,
20 instead of making a lot of money, it cost me a lot of money,
21 but it certainly enriched my life tremendously.

22 **MR. GREY:** How long did you stay with Friedman,
23 Meyers & Keys?

24 **MR. HAUSER:** Friedman, Meyers & Keys actually broke
25 up the day that I got my bar results. The firm split into two

1 groups, and one group was Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, who
2 were slightly the younger group, and Friedman, Meyers & Keys
3 then was Joe Jackier and Sylvan Rapport and some of the
4 "older" people. That firm eventually became part of
5 Schluskel, Lifton, but kind of disappeared. Barris, Sott has
6 continued on till today, and it's one of the very finest firms
7 in the city.

8 I mentioned before that there were four good Jewish
9 law firms. In those days nobody applied for a job to the
10 gentile law firms. When I found out that Ira Jaffe had been
11 at Miller, Canfield -- Ira Jaffe was somebody that we didn't
12 know. He went to MIT and Michigan Law School. It was just an
13 anachronism to find a Jewish guy at one of the gentile law
14 firms.

15 Anyway, I left Barris, Sott after about a year and
16 set up my own practice. I was never one to work for anybody.
17 Eventually, in 1974, I got together with one of my good
18 friends and we formed a firm which led to merging with Maddin
19 & Maddin in 1982, and today we're just under 50 attorneys.

20 **MR. GREY:** A tremendous accomplishment. Along the
21 way you've had continuous activity with the Jewish community,
22 starting back 25, 30, 35 years ago.

23 **MR. HAUSER:** When I was a young kid, my mother
24 worked on the campaign and she did her kit. She would take me
25 with her when she went to people's homes to call on them to

1 see if they would give \$5 or \$10 or \$15 to the Allied Jewish
2 Campaign that year. My Aunt Diane Hauser was very active.
3 She was ultimately president of the Women's Division, national
4 president of Hadassah, very involved in the Jewish community.

5 Her father, Israel Davidson, was a very wealthy man
6 and a great philanthropist. He owned Federal Department
7 Stores. It's my understanding that everybody that worked at
8 Federal Department Stores got a pledge card and was told that
9 they had to give to the campaign. Bob Aronson told me that
10 story.

11 **MR. GREY:** No relation to Bill Davidson?

12 **MR. HAUSER:** No relation to Bill Davidson.

13 So I kind of grew up knowing about Jewish
14 philanthropy a little bit. I was fortunate enough to go to
15 Israel in 1960, a graduation from high school trip with my
16 family, and my sister and I really loved Israel. And that was
17 the beginning.

18 I remember when I was still in law school getting a
19 call from Al Colman, whose picture I see sitting over there, a
20 former president of Junior Division, asking me for a campaign
21 pledge. I said, you know, I'm still in law school. Do you
22 think \$25 would do it? He said, yeah, that will be fine.

23 In 1967 it was just after the '67 War, and it was
24 very, very compelling to get involved in those days and at
25 that time, and I was asked, Are you interested in working on

1 the campaign? I said yes. Are you interested in being on the
2 board of Junior Division? Yes. And I did and ultimately I
3 rose to the position of vice president of Junior Division in
4 1971 probably. In those days Junior Division was 30 and out.
5 Although that rule got relaxed a little bit to let some people
6 be president after they were age 30, whose pictures I see
7 here.

8 When I graduated from Junior Division, I started to
9 work in the Attorney Section of the campaign and I really
10 liked doing campaign back in those days and I still think it's
11 the most important single thing we do, but I really loved it
12 and was enthusiastic about doing it back then.

13 I brought a lot of people into the Attorney Section;
14 a lot of my friends back then, we had divisions of the
15 campaign. I was asked by Larry Jackier and Stan Frankel to go
16 on a mission called This Year in Jerusalem in 1976. Our
17 children were of the age where my wife could go. She had
18 never been to Israel before, and this was a Holocaust rebirth
19 mission where we went to Mauthausen Concentration Camp in
20 Vienna first, got back on the plane in Vienna. The rear
21 section had been empty going over to Vienna, and we found out
22 why when we got back on the plane. It was filled with Russian
23 emigres who were going to Israel. In those days Rome and
24 Vienna were the two debarkation points. It was a very
25 emotional thing. Nothing could be more emotional than the day

1 that we had spent, at least then, in the concentration camp,
2 and then to get on the plane and go to Israel with the
3 Russians who were let go, because at that time it was, you
4 know, "let my people go". It was a great trip to Israel.

5 It was a Young Leadership Cabinet Mission. I didn't
6 know what the Young Leadership Cabinet was. We were on a bus
7 and a couple who I didn't know at the time got on the bus,
8 Joel and Linda Gershenson. Joel was the chairman of the Young
9 Leadership Cabinet. They said, you guys think you had a trip,
10 we just came back from Poland. I said, Poland? Why would
11 anybody go to Poland? Five or six years later Jan and I went
12 to Poland as well on another UJA mission and had the
13 opportunity to see the shetl that my grandparents on my
14 mother's side, David and Eva Baum, had both left around 1905.

15 **MR. GREY:** You've been to Israel since then, what,
16 maybe 50 or 100 times?

17 **MR. HAUSER:** No, not that many times. Probably 17
18 times or something like that.

19 **MR. GREY:** Well, you've seen the country evolve a
20 lot.

21 **MR. HAUSER:** I've seen the country evolve a lot. In
22 1960 you could see just by looking to your right and your left
23 what was Israel and what wasn't by what was green and what was
24 brown. Israel has changed dramatically and tremendously. The
25 first time we were there, of course, Jerusalem was divided.

1 We couldn't see east Jerusalem and the Wall. There was the
2 Mandelbaum Gate that separated the city. Then our trip in
3 1976 everything was different.

4 In subsequent trips as we drove up through Symaria
5 you could see how the West Bank turned from a desert, awful
6 rocky thing to beautiful farm land just like Israel. Of
7 course we're giving that back now, a big part of that back.
8 I'm talking from Jerico going north to Beersheva that way and
9 that road up there. Israel has changed a lot, hopefully
10 mostly for the better.

11 **MR. GREY:** With all of your activity in the United
12 Jewish Charities, a lot of our money from here, locally, goes
13 to Israel. When you go on these trips, do you occasionally
14 see areas that are earmarked by Detroiters in a way?

15 **MR. HAUSER:** Oh, yes.

16 **MR. GREY:** They appreciate it to know in Israel that
17 it was from us?

18 **MR. HAUSER:** Yes. Well, it'll take a little time to
19 answer the question. Our first direct involvement with a
20 community in Israel was Project Renewal. Project Renewal was
21 in the late '70s early '80s, and Detroit teamed up with Ramla,
22 which was a depressed community. We gave them money to help
23 make it a better place. Max Fisher and Al Taubman were the
24 main contributors, and there's a Fisher Taubman Jewish
25 Community Center there that's quite beautiful; at least the

1 building is beautiful. The inside was a little rundown when I
2 was there.

3 More recently we have the Partnership 2000 Program
4 where Detroit is partnered with the central Galilee, with the
5 main cities there, Migdahl Haremet-Nazareth Illit, and a lot
6 of Detroiters have made friends there. A lot of wonderful
7 things have really happened, mostly for Israel for also for
8 us. Jan and I have friends there that we see when we go on
9 our trips to Israel. There's a direct connection. But I have
10 to tell you, it's because Detroit supports that city in Israel
11 makes no less important the needs of every other city and
12 every other place in Israel.

13 One of the trends that's evolved in the last five or
14 six years is that communities have decided that instead of
15 directing all their overseas money to Israel to the UIA, which
16 split it up between the Joint Distribution Committee and the
17 Jewish Agency for Israel. Now a lot of communities have their
18 own electives. For example, in addition to our Partnership
19 2000 Detroit has a program for Ethiopian Jews in Natanya.
20 When communities have their own programs in Israel, they
21 become extremely invested in those programs, and they tend to
22 want to do more self-direction of where the money goes in
23 Israel.

24 When you step back and think about how the many
25 hundreds of millions of dollars of American UJA money that

1 went to Israel to help develop it, it was basically just
2 poured in and let them decide. Today the thing is, well,
3 we'll give you the money, but we need to decide.

4 That's not the biggest problem. The biggest problem
5 is that all communities are challenged to fulfill the services
6 of their own local communities, their own local needs. So the
7 easiest thing to do is to cut back on the overseas allocation.
8 Detroit is in the forefront of a tremendously strong
9 allocation to Israel, thanks in great part to Max Fisher, but
10 also a lot of the people in Detroit feel that that's extremely
11 important. Some communities have cut way back, so that
12 they're giving 20, 25 percent of the money that they raised
13 for Israel, or less.

14 **MR. GREY:** Over the decades of your involvement in
15 Israel you've met presidents and prime ministers and leaders
16 and the political climate changes from time to time. How has
17 this affected your volunteerism with who's in power? Or is
18 volunteerism really separate from the political climate?

19 **MR. HAUSER:** Well, I think it's separate. There was
20 a time when people said, you know, I was a good contributor
21 but I won't give as long as Begin is prime minister. That
22 was for about a five-year period. Then I think Begin turned
23 things around for a lot of those people, that a lot of good
24 things happened while he was in power and a lot of those
25 people changed their mind.

1 The idea is we're here. We're not in Israel. We're
2 not making the sacrifices. We didn't fight in three wars.
3 We're not losing our children. The life style in Israel, as
4 good as it is now, doesn't compare to the United States. I,
5 as an American Jew, don't want to tell the Israelis how they
6 have to live or what they have to do or who their political
7 leadership should be. That's a decision they have to make,
8 that they have to live with. I would say it's basically a
9 small issue, not a big issue, in terms of campaign and money
10 in Jewish community.

11 **MR. GREY:** From your perspective though we still
12 have an ongoing need to raise money and contribute to Israel
13 and other charities; isn't that correct? Because this has
14 been going on in your life for three decades at least.

15 **MR. HAUSER:** Well, let me go back and give you a
16 little anecdote. When I was first involved in Junior
17 Division, which is now called YAD -- Young Adult Division --
18 the professionals at Federation gave us a wonderful lady,
19 Lillian Bernstein, who is still alive and I still see around.
20 When we were talking at an officers meeting or an executive
21 committee meeting I remember saying to Lillian, You know,
22 Lillian, I'm really not that interested in Detroit's local
23 needs. I'm interested in Israel. And Lillian said, Mark, you
24 will be. Mark my words, you will be interested in local
25 needs.

1 Truer words were never spoken. Local needs will
2 always continue. But the question is for how long will we
3 continue to have to send money to Israel? You know,
4 significant amounts of money. Obviously the Ethiopian
5 immigration and absorption and bringing these people up to the
6 standards of the rest of Israel is something that we could
7 spend billions of dollars on, billions of dollars.

8 The things in Israel are good. They're much better
9 than they were. The economy is good. The country is
10 beautiful. So do they really still need our money? There are
11 some Israelis who say forget it, we don't want your money
12 anymore. But I think they're few and far between and they
13 really don't understand what the money is for and what the
14 needs are. As long as the country has the military challenges
15 that Israel has, I think we have to keep giving it money.

16 You know, we're sitting here in 2005 and talking
17 about should communities cut back from Israel? Does Israel
18 need it? To me, I'm looking at the year 2005 as the year in
19 which a Palestinian state might be established. Israel might
20 be forced to or might just voluntarily agree to -- forced
21 isn't the right word -- end up giving back part of the land
22 and lose the secure borders. So frankly, we're living in a
23 century where the rise of Islam or the possible rise of
24 fanatical Islam is one of the great challenges that I think
25 we're going to have to face. So I think Israel needs our

1 support now more than ever. Maybe for different things, but
2 more than ever.

3 **MR. GREY:** I think everyone agrees with you.

4 In reading about the many things you've accomplished
5 through your different committees, Real Estate Committees,
6 Attorney Committees, whatever, a lot of your activity is also
7 local, and you've raised recently \$500,000 from the state of
8 Michigan, which would be unusual nowadays, but it was only a
9 couple years ago, to use toward Federation use as it best sees
10 fit. What are some of your ongoing local goals and objectives
11 and projects?

12 **MR. HAUSER:** Well, good question. Lately I've been
13 involved in the Jewish Community Center. We raised \$30
14 million in our Millennium Campaign to help the Jewish
15 Community Center. We had some great contributors and it was a
16 great campaign. We hadn't figured out in advance, really,
17 what it would cost to do all the renovations, and while we
18 were doing it costs went up. We weren't sure what we wanted
19 to do.

20 My services, in addition to fund-raising, have been
21 utilized a lot by Federation in terms of business acumen and
22 trying to help with business deals, both as an attorney as a
23 businessman who understands real estate because I've worked a
24 lot on the real estate matters.

25 There are a lot of challenges at the Jewish

1 Community Center. As we speak, there are plans to renovate
2 part of the Jewish Community Center now to house the Jewish
3 Academy of Metropolitan Detroit. I've been in the background,
4 very involved in a lot of the decisions that have been made
5 for the JCC and hoping to have it go forward and be a place
6 that's filled with activity and filled with people.

7 The Jewish Community Center has two things. It has
8 a number of businesses that it runs: a day care business and
9 a health club business and a camp business and in-line skating
10 business. It also is a place of informal Jewish education and
11 it's a place that offers a home for our seniors, especially at
12 the JPM branch at Oak Park. And so we want the businesses to
13 flourish and make money to help support those things that will
14 never make money, that aren't intended to make money, without
15 an additional contribution by Federation. That's one of the
16 challenges that I've been involved with in the last couple
17 years.

18 Larry Wolfe and I just chaired the search committee
19 to hire a new director for the Jewish Community Center. We're
20 very happy with the man we've hired. I've been lucky enough
21 to see a lot of things happen on the Applebaum campus. The
22 Hechtman Phase V Apartments, the Meer Apartments, the nursing
23 home, which is called Danto. I was part of a very small
24 committee that negotiated the deal to privatize the nursing
25 home business and a piece of property that we leased to -- the

1 company then was HCR. They've since merged. So we have a
2 whole continuum of care on the campus.

3 I also acquired the property across the street for
4 Federation on which the new Family Service building is built.
5 It's kind of nice to see all these things go up. I mean as a
6 real estate attorney I see my clients doing this all the time,
7 but it's nice to see things that are done for the benefit of
8 the community. I enjoy that. Planning and working on the
9 campus has been a lot of fun.

10 **MR. GREY:** Going back to the beginning of what we
11 commonly call the Jewish Community Campus at Maple and Drake,
12 I remember about 30 years ago when they acquired the land, it
13 was a swamp land and forest, and nobody could possibly
14 envision future, but yet you were involved from the very
15 beginning, weren't you?

16 **MR. HAUSER:** I wasn't really involved at the very
17 beginning. Sam Frankel and Graham Orley were. My involvement
18 began when Graham Orley was president of the United Jewish
19 Charities. He asked me to become chairman of the Maple Drake
20 Committee, and that's when I really got involved. So it
21 wasn't from the beginning.

22 Graham had acquired property for Sinai Hospital, the
23 western part of the campus, if you drive around the campus
24 now, we just built a ring road, and the property to the west
25 of the ring road between the rest of the campus and what is

1 now the campus of the Lubivichers, that was called the Sinai
2 property, in case Sinai wanted to expand and build something
3 out in West Bloomfield. Of course we know that Sinai was sold
4 to the Detroit Medical Center (DMC). And I was privileged to
5 be involved in that transaction, got the deal closed.

6 **MR. GREY:** Do you see the Jewish community staying
7 put? We all grew up in northwest Detroit and Mumford, you and
8 me and others, and we saw the migration north and west. Then
9 we went out to Maple and Drake. Are we running out to
10 Commerce and beyond or is the Jewish community done running
11 and are we going to stay put?

12 **MR. HAUSER:** Well, it's both I think. It's running
13 out to Commerce and beyond. Housing prices in Detroit,
14 compared to other cities, are still very reasonable. But
15 people who want new -- "we want new" -- if they want to stay
16 close in, have to tear down, and that's a very expensive
17 proposition. Or go out to what used to be farmland and now is
18 part of town.

19 **MR. GREY:** Oak Park is still strong; we still have a
20 strong Oak Park community.

21 **MR. HAUSER:** Yes. Another one of the things I was
22 fortunate enough to have a chance to be involved in was the
23 Neighborhood Project, which was a project where Federation or
24 actually the foundation would lend money, come up with the
25 funds to lend money on an interest-free basis for people who

1 wanted to live in Southfield and Oak Park, with the idea of
2 saving those neighborhoods, and it was very, very successful
3 for Oak Park, which has remained a stable community. It
4 wasn't just for housing. It was also to help with stores and
5 the shopping centers, and it had a minor effect there. It
6 helped part of Southfield.

7 Every loan was paid back. It was a wonderful
8 program, and we ran it for about 15 years, and we decided to
9 sunset the program last year because there just didn't seem to
10 be that much of a need for it anymore. The loans that are
11 still outstanding are being paid in accordance with their
12 terms, and it's really amazing that we had almost no defaults.

13 My involvement early on was just to come up with
14 some of forms and some of the help on the committee with some
15 of the guidelines and things like that.

16 Akiva Day School was looking for a new home and we
17 were on the committee. They had a building on Southfield that
18 was falling apart. It's a nice looking building from the
19 outside but the engineering reports and everything were that
20 every window had to be replaced, all the heating had to be
21 replaced, and it just wasn't doable. At that time Beth Achim
22 Synagogue was talking about merging with Adat Shalom, which
23 eventually happened, and their building became available. To
24 make a long story short, the Foundation purchased that
25 building and leased it to Akiva for \$1 a year. We thought

1 that was part of the justification for so doing was helping
2 the neighborhood, keeping the neighborhood strong. So the
3 Neighborhood Project has been a good thing.

4 But your question about movements in the Jewish
5 community, at one time most of us lived either in the Dexter
6 area or northwest Detroit, Six Mile, Seven Mile, Livernois,
7 Wyoming, over to Woodward and moving a little west, and
8 Mumford High School was mostly all Jewish.

9 Of course I knew Catholics because there were a
10 small number of Catholic kids that lived in our neighborhood
11 because of U. of D., because of Marygrove, so in grade school
12 and high school my non-Jewish friends, people that I knew that
13 were non-Jewish were mostly Catholic.

14 The first week at Michigan I met a guy from
15 Birmingham named Bob Bergman, and we became good friends, and
16 I was the first Jewish person I knew and he was the first
17 Presbyterian person that I was ever friends with. I'm not
18 sure that has anything to do with this interview.

19 **MR. GREY:** In the Neighborhood Project, do you have
20 remembrance of how many millions of dollars have been loaned
21 interest free, most of which has been repaid you mentioned?
22 Or how many houses?

23 **MR. HAUSER:** I'm sorry that I don't have the
24 statistics.

25 **MR. GREY:** Hundreds of houses?

1 **MR. HAUSER:** Oh, yes, definitely. Hundreds of
2 houses. When you go through Oak Park now, because it's an
3 Orthodox enclave, there are a lot of big additions. There
4 have even been some tear-downs, and 8,000, 10,000 square foot
5 houses built on two or three lots. The Orthodox community
6 there is strong. My son lives there.

7 **MR. GREY:** So the Oak Park area should remain strong
8 as well as the northwest community and everything in between,
9 hopefully.

10 **MR. HAUSER:** Yes. Of course schooling is the big
11 issue, and most of the kids that live in Oak Park go to day
12 schools; the Jewish kids go to day schools.

13 That's one of the reasons that the Neighborhood
14 Project wasn't successful, so to speak, in saving Southfield
15 because there was just too much burden to try to keep the
16 Southfield schools at the level that the parents wanted.

17 **MR. GREY:** Wearing your leadership hat and how
18 you've evolved over 30 plus years, do you see the same energy
19 from the new young leaders that you saw 30 years ago with your
20 contemporaries? Where's the future going with this community?

21 **MR. HAUSER:** That's a great question. It was much
22 easier to be emotional about Israel when Israel was in a war,
23 in the '67 war, when you saw the movie *Exodus*, when you went
24 to synagogue on Yom Kippur and heard about the Yom Kippur War.
25 It was pretty darn hard if you cared at all about being Jewish

1 to not want to be involved in those days. We were there with
2 the birth of Israel. It made it a passion that most of us
3 have, we've had for years, and we'll always have.

4 Today the kids go to Israel a lot younger. They go
5 on the teen trips, they go in college. Although they see
6 problems in Israel, they don't see as great a need, and they
7 see a lot of other things. So in one sense you're never going
8 to get the group of Zionists that were like my aunt's father,
9 Israel Davidson, and a number of other people I could name,
10 one of whom was Max Fisher, who just passed away, and Paul
11 Zuckerman. You're never really going to get that group again.

12 People of my age group that have the passion, it's
13 going to be hard to find. But there are a number of people in
14 Detroit who are very, very interested, who have made a lot of
15 money at a young age, and who are really a great part of the
16 future of this campaign. Dan Gilbert is one of those
17 examples. He sold his company and made a lot of money and has
18 been extremely generous, but more than that, he's been a real
19 leader in getting his contemporaries and friends to go in.

20 Detroit's main fund-raising event is the Fisher
21 meeting that was held at Max Fisher's house, and at which more
22 than half of the campaign was raised by the donors there who
23 gave \$75,000 or more. Whether it's still going to be held at
24 the Fisher home, probably not. But the last Fisher meeting
25 was preceded by a mission of young leaders who Dan Gilbert

1 really organized, who gave \$75,000 or more, and it was really
2 wonderful how many people, these young guys, stood up. A lot
3 of it wasn't inherited wealth. A lot of it was new money that
4 was made.

5 So I think there's a great future for the Detroit
6 community. But you have to remember that there aren't very
7 many communities like Detroit, but there aren't very many
8 communities that have million dollar givers like we have. As
9 we lose million dollar contributors either through death or
10 through moving away, we face a lot of challenges. But I think
11 we'll meet the challenges.

12 **MR. GREY:** Many of these large donors also have
13 children, now adults obviously, who are active in Federation
14 and other activities and charitable giving, and they saw the
15 importance to carry that enthusiasm forward to the next
16 generation.

17 **MR. HAUSER:** Yes. Well, that's certainly true of
18 the Fisher family. Warren Rose, who I don't really know, is
19 getting involved in Federation now, and his family has been
20 immensely supportive of the Jewish community. Bill Davidson
21 is another one of the million dollar contributions. I don't
22 know what his long-range plans are. He doesn't have any
23 children.

24 He's building a wonderful house, and he's done great
25 things for the Jewish community and for Michigan and for the

1 United States, and I'm sure that he'll do something great, but
2 I'm not sure that there's going to be a continuing family
3 connection there.

4 Steve and Nancy Grand, who moved to San Francisco,
5 they're still very supportive of the Detroit community, but
6 not in the same way. Nancy is going to be the campaign chair
7 in San Francisco next year.

8 So we can't rely entirely on our donors. You know,
9 one of our important programs is our PACE funds, Permanent
10 Annual Campaign Endowments, where if you are giving \$50,000 a
11 year, we'd like you to make an endowment gift that will make
12 that \$50,000 gift in perpetuity. When we set up the PACE
13 program, we guaranteed donors 10 percent return, and we were
14 able to accomplish it because during the '80s and '90s our
15 overall returns were 13.5 percent on investment, and paying
16 them 10 percent on PACE was doable, and we paid 7.5 percent to
17 other donors on their philanthropic funds, and we were able to
18 build up a big war chest that at one time was as high as \$60
19 million. When I became president of the United Jewish
20 Foundation, we had \$62 million in our war chest.

21 But unfortunately when the stock market started to
22 turn down, and the community had decided that that money was
23 best spent, not just sitting there, we spent a tremendous
24 amount of it on Jewish education and on local needs. Most of
25 that money was spent on local needs. It's not all gone, not

1 by a long short, but we're down closer to \$20 million today.
2 So we can't pay 10 percent anymore on our Allied Jewish
3 Campaign endowment. So if somebody is giving \$50,000, we now
4 have to ask them for \$1 million now. Instead of \$500,000 to
5 pay the 10 percent. So it's a great challenge.

6 **MR. GREY:** With all your involvement at so many
7 different levels, what are the new projects that you see that
8 you would like to get involved in for the next 25, 30 years
9 while you still have the energy to work on them?

10 **MR. HAUSER:** Well, one of the new projects that I'm
11 working on now is called Legacy. Legacy is to try to build up
12 a rainy day fund like we had before through testamentary
13 giving, where people will remember Detroit in their wills and
14 in their trusts. It's a fairly new program. Bill Berman is
15 the chair, and Bob Slatkin and I are the kind of assistant
16 chairs, or we're called the chairs on the community level,
17 which means Bill's trying to get the million dollar gifts and
18 we're trying to get other significant gifts. We would love to
19 be able to have the community 25 years from now have \$100
20 million in reserves that could be used for emergencies,
21 unanticipated things. So Legacy is one of the challenges that
22 I'm working on now.

23 Two years ago I was elected vice chair of one of six
24 or seven vice chairs of the United Jewish Communities, which
25 is the national successor to the JUA and CJF. I haven't

1 really taken as active a role there as I would have liked to
2 for health reasons. In the last couple year I had two major
3 operations, and just haven't been able to get that much in
4 tuned.

5 But the Detroit community and a lot of the
6 communities feel that too much of the money that we raise is
7 going to UJC for dues. The UJC takes part of our overseas
8 allocation and uses it and prorates it among communities based
9 on strength of the campaigns. UJC does a lot of great things,
10 so it's a little difficult to sit as a vice chair and one of
11 the officers who should be rah, rah, rah, 100 percent in favor
12 of all the new programs, and there are a lot of great programs
13 that they're doing, and at the same time sit at the table with
14 the Detroit community saying, yeah, everything they're doing
15 is great but we can't afford it. We want that money to go to
16 Israel. And it's not just Detroit that's saying it. It's
17 Philadelphia and other communities. So to try to go forward
18 and get some kind of a resolution on what is really the best
19 way for the future for overseas money.

20 I mentioned before that some of the money for Israel
21 goes to the Joint Distribution Committee and some of the money
22 goes to the Jewish Agency for Israel, and you'll say to me the
23 Joint Distribution Committee is for Jews in the Diaspora.
24 It's for the programs in Russia and Eastern Europe, and it's
25 for emergencies in Argentina, and indeed it is, but there are

1 many programs in Israel that are run by the JDC. It would
2 seem to be common sense that Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)
3 should run the programs in Israel and JDC should run the
4 programs in the Diaspora, but I'm told that that will never
5 happen in my lifetime because of the political issues. But it
6 would be nice to see those things resolved so that the hard
7 raised money is spent in the best possible way.

8 I'm not being critical of what the Joint does in
9 Israel. I'm told that the Joint probably would welcome that
10 kind of arrangement, but that JAFI wouldn't.

11 **MR. GREY:** There's politics in everything.

12 **MR. HAUSER:** There's politics in everything. Right.

13 **MR. GREY:** In looking over information on your
14 personal side, I notice that you actually may have a little
15 time for hobbies. I notice you're in the Victors Club. Does
16 that mean you go to Michigan football games sometimes?

17 **MR. HAUSER:** Yes. It would be nice to put this on
18 the tape for Jan, if my wife ever sees this. She says that
19 there are a few important things in Mark's life: his family,
20 his business, Jewish survival and Michigan football. Those
21 are things that are important. We go to as many games as we
22 can.

23 One of my big achievements last year was I had
24 cancer surgery on September 28th and I was very lucky, it
25 worked out very well, but I missed most of the football

1 season, but I was able to go to the Rose Bowl. And I got
2 there and I just felt so good about being there, you know, and
3 saying, hey, I beat this thing and I'm here.

4 **MR. GREY:** That's great. I notice you do
5 photography, grandchildren photography.

6 **MR. HAUSER:** I'm a fairly good child photographer.
7 Other people say good photographer, great cook, lousy lawyer.
8 No. Yes, I like photography. I specialize in taking close-up
9 pictures of kids, especially in black and white. I did them
10 in my darkroom for years. I don't really get down to the
11 darkroom too much anymore. I just don't have the time. Now
12 everybody's doing digital and we're playing on computers, and
13 I can do some beautiful stuff, but it doesn't really compare
14 to the pictures that I've done over the years, large format
15 pictures using lighting like we have here and stuff.

16 **MR. GREY:** When you went to Israel on those early
17 trips, did you shoot a lot of black and white photography?

18 **MR. HAUSER:** No, because I really only got
19 interested in photography when my kids were born. Our trip in
20 1960 we took a jillion pictures. We had a camera called the
21 Stereo Realist, which takes a double picture, it shows it in
22 3D. So you look through a viewer and you see the two into
23 one. They used to have projectors for those things, but
24 they're all long since gone, broken, and I guess one of my
25 challenges is to take those old pictures from 1960 in Israel

1 and digitalize them, and see what my dad and I did.

2 But I've taken hundreds of pictures in Israel. Some
3 of the best pictures I took were when I led a men's mission,
4 the Hadracha Mission in '81 or '82. Hadracha was a program
5 where we got volunteers who really hadn't been involved in the
6 community to agree that they would go on a free trip to
7 Israel. They would attend three or four educational meetings
8 before and agree to solicit 15 people face-to-face when they
9 got back. I led one of those trips. It was a lot of fun and
10 I took a lot of great pictures on that trip. A lot of black
11 and white stuff.

12 Basically I like to take pictures of people. The
13 ones that are tempting to take pictures of in Israel are the
14 Hasidic with the shtreimels and all that, and they don't want
15 you to do it for whatever reason, for their privacy or because
16 they think photography is iconoclastic or whatever reason, so
17 I don't have a lot of that.

18 I enjoy photography and cooking, but I don't really
19 have that much time anymore. It's been a real challenge to
20 convert to Kosher cooking, because I like to make things like
21 beef Wellington, things that you just can't do kosher. Now
22 that my son and daughter-in-law are kosher, we want them on
23 dinner for Sunday night, we're kosher in the house. So a
24 little different cooking.

25 **MR. GREY:** As you've seen, there are only so many

1 hours in a day, and in a 24 hour day you work about 26 of them
2 between volunteer work and legal work. You must have a
3 tremendous support system between your partners, your wife,
4 your family.

5 **MR. HAUSER:** Yes.

6 **MR. GREY:** The community, the Federation. How do
7 you get it all done?

8 **MR. HAUSER:** Well, Jim, it's really nice that you
9 say that. One of the things, my wife has always been
10 extremely supportive. When I gave my farewell speech as
11 president of the Foundation, I thanked all kinds of people,
12 and I forgot to thank Jan. She didn't say anything. It was
13 in my speech, but I didn't really follow my notes. I did it
14 extemporaneously. But she's been my biggest supporter, and
15 obviously to do these things -- the bottom line is still fund-
16 raising and it's giving and it's leadership giving, and we've
17 always given more than we could afford. I certainly judge by
18 most people. And Jan has always supported me in that.

19 As far as our firm, you know, I'm very proud that
20 our firm has a lot of leaders of the Jewish community. My
21 partner Mickey Maddin, who was president of Junior Division
22 when I was vice president back in 1971, who went on to also be
23 president of the Foundation and won the Butzel Award a couple
24 years ago. My partner Richard Roth, who was president of the
25 Sinai Health Care Foundation and the Jewish Sports Hall of

1 Fame. A number of my partners have been presidents of local
2 agencies. John Jacobs was president of the Family Service and
3 now is the head of COJIS, the Jewish elder care service.
4 Michael Perlman has been president of the Jewish Apartments
5 and Services. We keep changing the names of the agencies.
6 Ron Sollish is just finishing up his term as president of Camp
7 Tamarack. He was preceded by Mickey Maddin in that many years
8 ago. Richard Maddin was president of the Jewish Community
9 Center. We have a lot of folks in the firm that are active.
10 My partner Lowell Salisin, who's young, is also getting very
11 active now.

12 To us this work in the Jewish community, we treat it
13 the same way as we treat our business. It's no less
14 important. During the three years I was president and spent a
15 lot of time away from the office, I got a lot of support from
16 my partners. Nobody said you're not putting in enough
17 billable hours because you're at Federation every day.

18 **MR. GREY:** You have a tremendous support system, and
19 actually you've been a role model to the others in your firm
20 because you're a senior partner, and the young guys say, wow,
21 look at what he can accomplish, and get involved, and maybe I
22 could do that, too. So you're a role model to your firm, too.

23 **MR. HAUSER:** And I tell all of them, get involved,
24 but don't get involved because you think it's going to be good
25 for business. Get involved because it's going to be good for

1 you because you're a Jew in America. We're living at a time
2 that's probably the greatest time for the Jewish people ever,
3 but it could end tomorrow, and never forget that.

4 **MR. GREY:** If we ended the tape now on your closing
5 remarks, what would you like to say to your family, your
6 children, the community, the future of Detroit and Jewry and
7 whatever?

8 **MR. HAUSER:** Many years ago my friend Linda Klein,
9 who's also been active her whole life, told me your Jewishness
10 is a gift, and those of us who appreciate the gift and move on
11 with it have really realized an important part of their life.
12 Those words really hit home because that's really what it's
13 all about. Anybody can go to Mexico, but when you go to
14 Poland and see the roots of your family, when you learn Jewish
15 history, when you have the opportunity to grow up at a time
16 when the state of Israel is growing up, how can you have a
17 life where you have the opportunity to be a very small part of
18 Jewish history and not take advantage of it?

19 So I've been lucky that I've been able to do it, and
20 I've been financially successful that I've been maybe in the
21 right place at the right time to get positions that there may
22 have been others that were much more worthy than me to get
23 these positions, but it's been a great part of my life. I
24 know I've given that message to my children, that this is the
25 gift. There are many ways you can accept the gift. You can

1 accept it by being Orthodox, you can accept it by having
2 Federation as your religion if you have to, which isn't a
3 great idea. But one way or another, this is our opportunity
4 and this is what we need to do to help Jewish survival,
5 because it is great to be Jewish, it's wonderful to be Jewish,
6 and no time in history has existed where more could be done
7 than today, so let's continue it.

8 **MR. GREY:** Thank you for sharing your time with us.
9 We all appreciate it in the community.