

Oral History of: Roz Blanck
Interviewed by: Michael Berke
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Location of Interview: Max M. Fisher Federation Building
Subject Matter: Women's Philanthropy Dept. of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

Michael Burke: 00:01 My name is Michael Burke, and today is June 18th. I'm interviewing Roz Blanck at the Max M. Fisher Federation Building in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. This interview is being recorded as part of the Women in Leadership Oral History Project. Roz, do you give permission to the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives to publish, duplicate, or otherwise use this recording for educational purposes and for use as deemed appropriate by the archives?

Roz Blanck: 00:29 I do.

Michael Burke: 00:30 Good, I'm glad. The Women's Philanthropy Department of the Jewish Federation has had several names throughout its history, including Women's Division and Women's Campaign in Education Department. For the purposes of this interview, the questions will refer to it by the current name, Women's Philanthropy, but you may use whatever name you're comfortable with, and me, too, because I remember the Women's Division.

Roz Blanck: 00:58 Yes, but it changed during the time I was president, so Women's Philanthropy is easy to come out of my mouth.

Michael Burke: 01:06 Let's start at the beginning. Where were you born?

Roz Blanck: 01:08 I was born in Detroit in December of 1952, and I lived with my grandmother and my parents, and then we moved to Oak Park in '54, as is a typical thing.

Michael Burke: 01:21 What part of the city were you born in?

Roz Blanck: 01:24 On Sturtevant, so around Central and those things. I obviously don't remember that too much, but then I lived in Oak Park until I was 16 and then Southfield, the typical-

Michael Burke:	01:37	Oak Park High School?
Roz Blanck:	01:39	No. That's when I moved to Southfield. After junior high school, after Clinton, then I went to Southfield Lathrop, where I graduated.
Michael Burke:	01:44	That's where my kids went, to Southfield Lathrop. How was religion observed in your family as a child in your household?
Roz Blanck:	01:56	I grew up in Oak Park, as I said, where everybody was Jewish. I remember I had one friend, one friend when I was in second grade. There was one girl that wasn't Jewish. That was so unusual. Judaism was just part of my life. We, everybody was Jewish. My aunt lived on my block. My two other aunts lived a couple blocks away. We had chicken and brisket every Friday night. My mother lit candles. We went to the High Holidays services. My dad worked on Saturdays. We [inaudible 00:02:27]. It was just part of my life, but it wasn't talked about that much. It was just there.
Michael Burke:	02:32	Where did you live in Oak Park?
Roz Blanck:	02:33	On Gardner, south of 9.
Michael Burke:	02:34	Mm-hmm (affirmative). I lived on Kenosha, south of 9.
Roz Blanck:	02:38	Really?
Michael Burke:	02:38	My first house as a married man. What synagogue did you belong to?
Roz Blanck:	02:45	B'nai David.
Michael Burke:	02:45	Mm-hmm (affirmative), okay.
Roz Blanck:	02:50	[inaudible 00:02:50] yeah.
Michael Burke:	02:49	What role did philanthropy play in your life growing up as a child?
Roz Blanck:	02:55	Really not much. My parents, my dad worked really hard. My mother was a stay-at-home mom. Part of my life, I think my dad worked seven days a week.
Michael Burke:	03:05	What did he do?

Roz Blanck: 03:06 He had an auto parts store. Just him and his mother, because his father passed away when I was six weeks old. He and his mother had a small auto parts store. If they weren't there, then the store wasn't open. I can't remember the question. You'd better edit this. Oh, philanthropy. They weren't philanthropists. I think they gave a couple bucks here, a couple, but it wasn't talked about. It really wasn't part of my life growing up.

Michael Burke: 03:33 What was the trigger for you? It's a little out of order, but since we're there, that caused you to consider philanthropy an important part of your life?

Roz Blanck: 03:45 I think it's being part of the community. I don't like calling it philanthropy or what I do philanthropy. I don't, even though everybody who gives some money, who gives back, is considered a philanthropist. That's why they changed the name to Women's Philanthropy. To me, I think it's just being part of the community. I went to Camp Tamarack as a kid. I was a candy striper at Sinai Hospital as a kid. It was a very stereotypical upbringing. I went to Hebrew School my whole life.

Michael Burke: 04:11 Which Hebrew school did you go to?

Roz Blanck: 04:12 B'nai David. What really changed it is when I was in college, I was in the first cohort of Project Join, Jewish Occupational Entrants from JVS. That was an eye-opener to me. This is this mini-government that's taking care of the Jewish people. In Project JOIN, you go to visit all the different agencies and then you work. I worked, actually, at Federation with Alan Candell in the Planning Department in those days, downtown, whatever it was on downtown.

Michael Burke: 04:44 163 Madison.

Roz Blanck: 04:45 Yes, 163 Madison, that's it. I learned a lot that summer, and it was fascinating to me. I really, that changed my whole way I, it changed my life, I think.

Michael Burke: 04:57 What agencies stuck out in your mind as you did the, because it was a unique project, and being able to go to each one of the agencies and learn about them, I'm curious. Which were the ones that really resonated with you?

Roz Blanck: 05:12 Oh, way back then?

Michael Burke: 05:13 Way back then.

Roz Blanck: 05:14 I think the whole Federation concept. I didn't understand the concept. Like I said, I had gone to Camp Tamarack. I had been a candy striper when I was 12, 13, 14. Did I have any idea that it really came together, that it was really, this Federation was this umbrella organization, especially then more than today, when each of the agencies are doing their own fund-raising. Then, the centrality of the Federation was even more so. I was just fascinated by the whole concept, and still am. I love the concept of the Federation and what it does for our community. I think it's a mini-government. The agencies that I remember from those days, I definitely remember going to JVS. I remember Al Asher. I remember him talking to us. That's probably the one that really sticks out in my mind, because a lot of the agencies, this is 40-some years ago, combined or are different, but JVS, I remember going there.

Michael Burke: 06:12 When did Federation come onto your doorstep? When did you become involved with Federation, and what was the trigger there that you wanted to get involved in Federation?

Roz Blanck: 06:22 I was asked. I'm sure, I think that'll be a recurring theme for everything that I'll say. I was asked. I don't remember who asked me or why, but I'm a lawyer by degree. I came home from law school, and someone asked me to be on the board of what's now YAD. It was YAD, Young Adult Division is now Next Gen. I don't remember. I just remember being on the board at the time.

Michael Burke: 06:47 Who were the leaders when you first got involved, that were running the engine? Do you remember them?

Roz Blanck: 06:55 Not really. I knew a little bit. I knew of the names. If you name them, I'll go, "Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah." It was a long time ago, so it was probably since 1978 or '79, those were. I was just on the board, the little, doing my thing. I remember Norman. I remember the Young Adult Division presidents, my friends Norman Bitener and Betsy Heuer was really involved. At that time, David Wallace. It might have even been David Wallace that asked me to be on the board.

Michael Burke: 07:28 What were the things that you became involved in immediately back then? Can you remember?

Roz Blanck: 07:33 No. No, I can't. I remember being on the board. That's about what I remember. Then I remember maybe a few years after that, Herschel Sandberg, who was my doctor, asked me to be on the Board of Jewish Apartments and Services, which was the first board I ever was on. I loved it. I didn't realize how much I

would love being at meetings, which I do. I always learn from it and meet people. That was the first board. I guess I was on the Young Adult Division board, but that was the first agency board I had been on.

- Michael Burke: 08:03 Tell me about the other agencies along the way that you've served.
- Roz Blanck: 08:06 I've been on a lot of agency boards. I like it, and I think it's all one big circle. We're all one big family, one big community. I've been on, I was on Jewish Apartments and Services for many years. I was on Jewish Vocational Service, or JVS. We don't call it Jewish Vocational Service any more. I was on there 20 years ago when I couldn't go to morning meetings, because I had kids at home, and I'm now on it again, when I'm able to go to more meetings. Great agency. I was on Tamarack for a while. I've been on Jewish Family Service. I don't know. What other agencies are there? I have not been on any of the education in the schools, and that's a lot of it. Jewish Community Relations Council. I've been on that. I've been on a lot of them, which is really good, because I can see the whole thing, I think.
- Michael Burke: 08:58 Yeah. Let me ask you a question that's not in. You've been very involved, really, very community-wide. I think you're not unique, but you are unique. Do you have a sense that other people, the every person, understand the Federation concept that you suggested at the beginning, until you went through the JOIN program, you didn't really understand the connection. Do you think that the women, particularly, because that's what we're talking, understand the Federated concept? Are we being successful in helping them to understand that concept?
- Roz Blanck: 09:37 I think that you constantly have to do it. The type of programs that we had 40 years ago or 30 years ago from Women's Philanthropy until now are the same. You want to keep educating and engaging women. I think it's not something you inherently understand, what the Federation system is and all the different programs, by whatever name you want to call that, Community Connections or Jewish Working Women's Network. It used to be BB&P. All of those things, when they have a new woman there, or a new person, we'll talk about women versus not women, new person, it's not inherent. You have to learn it, and I think most people in our community don't understand what Federation is. I think that's so important. I really think, I don't know how you get to each person, but I think instead of whatever, 12,000, 13,000 people giving to Federation, we have a community of 60-some thousand. We should have 30,000

people giving or more. I think every adult should be giving to Federation.

- Michael Burke: 10:40 Do you think Women's Philanthropy does a good job in educating the people who they serve in the community?
- Roz Blanck: 10:47 Educating the people who they serve? Are you talking about the women in the community who donate?
- Michael Burke: 10:52 The women in the community, yeah. Yeah, the women in the community.
- Roz Blanck: 10:53 I think that's a constant theme. I think they try. I think the women who come and do the Community Connections or whatever the engagement programs are do learn. I think they get a much better idea. I think it's necessary, but there's always new women coming up. There's always women. You just have to keep going and going and going, keep trying to do it. Yes.
- Michael Burke: 11:14 What about the rest of the Federation? How do you grade them in their ability to educate the community?
- Roz Blanck: 11:22 I think these engagement things really work. I don't know, but I know there's other engagement things. I know Next Gen has engagement things. I know there's this Affinities thing that has engagement things. I think all these engagement things where you're exposed to really what our community does works. Some people, after seeing it, aren't interested, but some people are. What I found was that the leadership, not all. Wait, not everybody who came to these engagement things became leaders, but almost all leaders went to one of these engagement things. Years, decades ago, I was in a room filled with past presidents. They were talking about how they get involved. Every one got involved, almost every one got involved by doing one of those engagement things first and learning about the breadth and the depth of what our community does. Yeah, I think it's really necessary.
- Michael Burke: 12:17 Do you think that's true for the men, too?
- Roz Blanck: 12:21 First of all, I think we're people. I've never been one to think there should be women or not women. When I became president of Women's Philanthropy, I had to figure out a reason why I thought Women's Philanthropy was still good as a standalone. Is it okay that I'm going off-script?
- Michael Burke: 12:37 No, I'm going off-script, too.

Roz Blanck: 12:39 Is it okay that I'm talking this way?

Michael Burke: 12:41 Absolutely, absolutely.

Roz Blanck: 12:43 What I truly believe now is that Women's Philanthropy engages more women than general Federation. It's more, they don't have as many programs. They can't reach as many people. It's just not. The Women's Philanthropy is necessary. It's got a history. I'm very big into history and tradition, so they have a history of Women's Philanthropy. It's proven that if you have two separate, if you get from the women and the men and you have a women's campaign, in total, you're going to raise more money, so that's really important. I also think that Women's Philanthropy, I know it provided for me, but a platform, whatever the word is called now, a platform from which I could learn all these skills that maybe I have developed over the course of the years. Regular Federation wouldn't have. I'm not one of those people that, they wouldn't have latched into me at regular Federation. They wouldn't. That's just me. I don't have the background. I wasn't given to the degree that people look for. I think Women's Philanthropy is a very more easily entry point for becoming involved in the community and gathering those kinds of skills.

Michael Burke: 13:58 Do you think that the general community can learn some lessons from Women's Philanthropy to make us a better Federation?

Roz Blanck: 14:08 I think they're doing that with the Affinities groups and with these other things that I don't really know about. You have to engage. People have to know what you're doing, and you have to learn about it. It's so fascinating, what the Federation does.

Michael Burke: 14:22 Yeah? Let's talk about your family for just a moment. Was your husband, is your husband involved in Federation activity at all?

Roz Blanck: 14:29 No, because that's just not his nature, but he has, I was thinking about it when I was reading the thing. I don't know, if it wasn't for me, that he would be a donor to the degree that he is today.

Michael Burke: 14:38 What did your family think as you became more and more involved in Federation? How did that resonate?

Roz Blanck: 14:46 With my personal family, my family?

Michael Burke: 14:47 Of course.

Roz Blanck: 14:50 They want me at their beck and call, so they didn't love it. I didn't go to meetings at night anymore. I didn't go to meetings. I was around for my family. That was why volunteering, I think volunteering is great because when my kids were little or when they were growing up, I could be with them. My day was from 10:00 to 2:00 or 10:00 to 3:00. That's when I could go to meetings. I would never go on a board that had night meetings, because then I wasn't available for them. I used to go, I had to come late, go early. It was just ridiculous. For me, volunteering from 10:00 to 3:00 was a great thing for me to keep busy and stimulated.

Michael Burke: 15:29 Talk about the whole educational process. We've talked about it. What role did you play in helping to educate Women's Philanthropy in specific and maybe a broader base from all of the involvement that you've had with other agencies?

Roz Blanck: 15:47 I've been on a lot of committees that do that. I don't think I spearheaded that much, but I was on the committees to do it. They, Community Connections may have come. I might have been the head of it at the beginning of that, where they had it where you go through the different agencies like I said. They have, I helped with the Penny Harvest. You know what that is? [inaudible 00:16:15] That's one of the things that I started, I did start with funds of mine. I thought that really taught kids how to look at giving money and the collective as opposed. The collective's really important to me. I think that's what I want people to learn. The Penny Harvest part of it, and different agencies. Nothing tremendous that I know of.

Michael Burke: 16:44 What positions did you hold in Women's Philanthropy over the years?

Roz Blanck: 16:49 Probably everything. I was on committees. I was the co-chair of committees. I was associate co-chair of committees. We're talking about 30 years, so I was on lots. In Women's Philanthropy, I probably did over the course of the years I probably did most everything.

Michael Burke: 17:06 What caused you to want to be president?

Roz Blanck: 17:08 I never wanted to be president. I never aspired to be president. I saw that out of the question. I never even thought of it. I think that was probably the best for me. Susie Pappas, for several years, would ask me, "Are you interested in being president?" I go, "I'm not going to be president. I don't give enough money. I just don't have the ability. I can't stand talking in front of people." For years, she would say this. Then by the time that I

was asked, I was thrilled that I was asked. I guess, but it's not like there was something that I aspired to be or that I set myself up to do that.

- Michael Burke: 17:44 Describe your, before you were president, you were chair of the campaign.
- Roz Blanck: 17:47 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Michael Burke: 17:48 Describe your duties as chair of the campaign. What were the important things to you when you were the chair? This is the two-part question I don't usually ask. Go into the duties that you had when you were president. What were some of the things that you particularly focused on in both of those roles?
- Roz Blanck: 18:08 I think when you become associate campaign chair, and then you become campaign chair, and then you become president is the normal course. Nothing guaranteed when they say that, but that is the normal course of what happens. You really work with a team, so before me was Lisa Lees. Before that, Marcie and I worked with, I met with them several times a week for years. They are wonderful, wonderful community leaders, as you know. They are just, they both have so many strengths, but they're different. It was just a pleasure to learn so much from them. It's really teamwork, and you work a lot with your professional. As campaign chair, you try to get as much money from as many people as you can. What I wanted to do, which I hope to still be able to do, was try to get new donors. My goal was to try to get as many donors as I could, but as you're meeting and you're doing this fund-raiser and you're doing this telethon, the years go by and your time's up. I think we got some new donors. We had some initiatives, but that's hard.
- Michael Burke: 19:20 Was there anything that was particularly successful, Roz, when you were trying to broaden the base?
- Roz Blanck: 19:23 I don't know. I think the first time, we had this thing called, maybe it was two and through or something? You find two new donors, and then you don't have to find two more donors? I thought, and I don't know if that's the one that worked, or the one and done. We tried all these different ways. The truth of the matter is, it's not easy to get money. Today, over the course of the last 40 years, you have telethons, even though that's still the best way of doing. Who answers the phone? I used to go to telethons and 80% of the people would answer the phone and talk to you, and you got the money. Now, if you can sit there for three hours, if two people answer the phone, you're lucky. It's

just a very different way. How to reach people with different ways of communication is making it more difficult, I think.

Michael Burke: 20:08 Do you find the competition is stiffer now than it was when you first started, from other agencies, even our own family of agencies, but beyond that?

Roz Blanck: 20:17 That's what I was saying. I think at the beginning, from my position, which wasn't really in the know, from what I understand is that the agencies really couldn't do their own fund-raising. It was very limited, so I think it was Edith Jackie who used to call it the supremacy of the campaign. Everything was the supremacy of the campaign. So, the other agencies, there wasn't the same kind of competition at all. Now each agency, I've been told and I'm sure it's true that in the aggregate, doing it the way it's been done now, you raise more money for the community, which is really important, but it is causing competition. If you don't know what Federation is, as opposed to Jewish Family Service. The Jewish Family Service is the safety net of the community, then why wouldn't you give directly to Jewish Family Service, and not give to Federation or not as much to Federation. You have to really understand the whole system in order to understand how important Federation is.

Michael Burke: 21:14 It seems to me that Women's Philanthropy does that, maybe not perfect, but better than most entities in our family. Go from where we were to being the president and what were your priorities when you became president of Women's Philanthropy?

Roz Blanck: 21:36 First of all, those two years went by so fast, so it's hard to, but the same kind of thing. It's two-fold. You want to educate as many women as you can, so engage. More than educate, I guess educate and engage go hand-in-hand, because you're going to educate some, educate a lot, and from that, you're going to hopefully engage some. Then, to the end, as Federation does raise dollars. It took me probably 20 years involved in Federation to realize that Federation is the fund-raising organization. That's what it does. That's the whole purpose, so the education is so you understand why the money, the dollars are important, and why you should give, they used to say, which resonated with me, is that it's the Jewish government. It's like your taxes. Now taxes have a dirty word, but I don't think so. Taxes pay for the streets and the fire and things that you need. Federation provides for things that we have as a Jewish community, whether you, God forbid, need some of the services, or God forbid, or that you go into the Jewish center.

We have a vibrant Jewish center. You send your kids to Camp Tamarack. You go tomorrow to the Israel at 70. That wouldn't be without Federation. All the agencies wouldn't be what they are today without Federation.

Michael Burke: 22:54

Do you think the agencies understand that?

Roz Blanck: 22:57

Some more, some less. Some more. I've sat on many, many allocation committees. It's been, over the course of these decades. It's been very interesting. I think that probably is the most interesting thing as I became on the planning and allocation steering committee, that was probably the most interesting meetings that I've gone to. It's more or less, and it's all dealing with people, and it's all numbers. There's never going to be enough money to fund all the needs. It's an interesting system, but it kind of works.

Michael Burke: 23:33

You just mentioned Marcie and Lisa as people that you really met with to help with your education. Were there any others who particularly stand out to you as mentors and people who have helped create and mold you as a leader in the community?

Roz Blanck: 23:51

I don't think anyone really took me under their wing to do that. Florine, a little bit, has said, Florine Marx has said some things to me. She was talking about people being afraid to speak up. Then she came up afterwards. She said, "I'm talking to you, Roz," which made me feel wonderful. A lot of the women that came before me, because remember, 40 years ago, there were all these women who are no longer here with us. Their stories and what they did, it just, that's the kind of thing I wanted to do, because I like doing it, selfishly. I like going to meetings. I like helping people. I don't love raising money, but I like the whole system, and I like being part of the community. I do remember Tillie Brandwine and Edith Jackie and all those people who came before. I didn't know them personally, and they probably didn't know me, but just to listen to them speak and hear what they were doing is very, Penny Blumenstein. It was very inspirational. Nancy Grosfeld, all of them. They're very inspirational people.

Michael Burke: 24:50

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Let me ask you a question related to that. It's maybe a little out of order, but I'm not concerned. What's your sense about the security of not only the Federation but the Women's Department in terms of current and future leadership? Are you comfortable that there is a cadre of people moving into roles that are going to do well by us as a community?

Roz Blanck: 25:19 I think, as a community, first of all, when you're done being president of Women's Philanthropy, the past presidents all told me, "When you're done, you leave it to the next person." Since it's been only two years, but I'm not as involved in Women's Philanthropy as I have been before. I do think there's women coming up that are very interested. I think, so Women's Philanthropy, I do think, has a community. The community as a whole, I think, with, there's so many programs going on in our community that are really raising knowledgeable Jewish people that are interested. Wexner's here this year, in the last year, I think that's really important. Then there's something, I can't remember who else, another program that was brought here. There's a lot of programs coming to Detroit. I think those are wonderful training grounds. I think our Jewish community is going to be well-served in the future.

Michael Burke: 26:09 Do you think that the women are getting their due as it relates to some of these leadership programs? Are they being well-represented, in your opinion?

Roz Blanck: 26:17 This is my honest opinion.

Michael Burke: 26:18 That's what I'm looking for.

Roz Blanck: 26:18 I think that Women's Philanthropy, at least as of two years ago, and it maybe hopefully has changed, I think it was treated as its own entity and not part of general. We weren't included in, and then we started becoming included in the campaign meetings, the general campaign. Why we weren't, I don't know. For the past several years, there's many women who come up through Grosfeld, mainly Grosfeld. I would be seeing them on other boards that I served at. "I went on a Grosfeld meeting. Now I'm on this board. I went on," which is wonderful, but I've heard the phrase so many times. "We're not Women's Philanthropy people." What does that mean? To me, if you're a woman and you're in this community, you're Women's Philanthropy. I don't see. There shouldn't be a disconnect between coming up through Grosfeld or being part of Women's Philanthropy. I don't think necessarily. This year, maybe, I think landed more to include women who are part of Women's Philanthropy or active in Women's Philanthropy on the board and in other committees and other organizations without our community, which I think is really important.

Michael Burke: 27:28 You talked about a disconnect. Is there something that we should be doing more to connect women? Women always took pride. I can speak, because I was a Federation, before you were born, almost.

Roz Blanck: 27:42 No, no, no. I'm sure the same time.

Michael Burke: 27:46 Women took pride in the separation, the Women's Department. There is a sense now of the collective. I'm just wondering if you can articulate some of the things that we should and might be doing to merge Women's Philanthropy and the community at large. After all, we are one.

Roz Blanck: 28:11 I think that all the women, and this is what I never had time to. The women who are serving on all these boards within our community and the women who are participating in these leadership things through the Affinities group, through Next Gen, they should be told more about Women's Philanthropy, what is available through Women's Philanthropy, that we're one thing. When we have, and maybe this year they did, but when we have something, that they're as much a part of Women's Philanthropy as someone who goes to the meetings and are on the committee of Women's Philanthropy. You don't have to be on the Women's Philanthropy committee at noon or 11:00 planning a party to be part of Women's Philanthropy. We're one community. I think that, at least as of two years ago, it didn't have this culture. "I'm not a Women's Philanthropy person. I didn't come up through the ranks that way." I don't like that whole culture of that's what it is. It should be every woman is part of Women's Philanthropy.

Michael Burke: 29:07 That's kind of interesting what you say because I serve on a few boards as well, and women are being more and more and better represented on those boards in the community. It would seem to me, if you want to connect, what you've exactly articulated. Getting people to understand the responsibility of a board person to the community at large and to Women's Philanthropy could be a really great project for the community to move forward.

Roz Blanck: 29:34 They did try. That's when we tried to get community. It's hard, because it's a lot of time, but when we did Community Connections, which is our engagement program, we looked at the boards of all the different agencies to try to get women who were on those boards to come to Women's Philanthropy. It happened.

Michael Burke: 29:52 It was successful?

Roz Blanck: 29:54 I think it's successful. I think there also was a program that doesn't exist anymore, where we took Women's Philanthropy and we had liaisons, called Link. It was Lisa Leisel's idea. They were on the boards, too. I thought, and I still think that's a

program we should bring back, because if you're on Women's Philanthropy, that's a way of learning from the other, not other side, but another aspect of the community. Just like you said, is there an adversarial relationship between, you see both sides, and you understand how it works as a whole. I think that's really important. If you look at these boards that you're on and how do the women get on that board? What are they involved in before they're on the board? That's something to-

- Michael Burke: 30:37 Take a look.
- Roz Blanck: 30:37 To just look at.
- Michael Burke: 30:39 Good point. We talked about the partnership between the women and the general community, but there's another partnership out there, too. It's the volunteer to professional. Maybe you can speak to me about the people that you've worked with, and the role you think volunteers play in helping to move the agenda forward and who stands out to you particularly, Roz.
- Roz Blanck: 31:10 First let's go back to the role of the volunteer. I think that's where Women's Philanthropy is different than the Federation as a whole, because Women's Philanthropy, I've always thought, is more. It's not hands-on. That's not the right word, but affords you more, like we talked about, the ability to use your skills and to learn more skills. There's time to do that, whereas in general, they don't. You're not coming to Federation and going to an allocation committee meeting and doing skill-building for you. I think Women's Philanthropy, if you want to build your skills, and whether you want to take it back and go be the president of your kid's PTO or work at a kadima or Jewish Family Service, that's where Women's Philanthropy can do something. I think, I know we talked about it. I'm sure we had some of those skill-building kinds of things, but I think that's where Women's Philanthropy can excel.
- Michael Burke: 32:06 Good point.
- Roz Blanck: 32:07 That's, in terms of skill-building and volunteerism, I think it's important. I don't know if this is, after I said this a few times, and it never happened, but if somebody within Women's Philanthropy has a good idea, Women's Philanthropy should be an enabler in the good sense of the term. Not that they should spend all their time doing it, and resources. If it doesn't use resources, they can help. I think the two things that I did or that stand out is the Penny Harvest part, which was my idea. I remember somebody saying, "if you do it, that's fine." It was

part of [sudduca 00:32:45] experience. I got on the phone. I called all these places and got bags and schools and parent liaisons. That's where I learned. It was fun. If it didn't work out, it didn't work out, but it happened to work out.

I would never have started or been involved with Bookstock, if I hadn't done that. Bookstock, the same thing. The other organizations all help. Without that, there would be no Bookstock. I think that's, Women's Philanthropy afforded me those opportunities. I think that it should afford those for other women as well. I think it shouldn't be so, and it depends. I don't know who's come with ideas, but I think it should be known for that. You have an idea. You want it. Let's see what we can do to help each other. That's what I think Women's Philanthropy can do. I've worked with wonderful professionals over the years. Like I said, it's been 40 years I've worked with.

Amy, who's working now, could not be any better. She really wants to work with you and help you and anything you want. Before that, I worked with Jennifer Levine. They switched, and they have very different styles. Just like everybody else, I love Jennifer. She's very passionate. She's very knowledgeable. Before that, Jennifer Noparstack, which was right before when I said I would work. I like her as a person. She's a lot more forceful. I don't know, if we worked together throughout those five years, she probably would have, everybody works differently. Personally, I love her. I've worked with a lot. Marian Freedman was wonderful. I think Cheryl Gaier at the time, maybe, was a professional. Lots and lots of them. At the beginning of the first ones, did I really know them? No. They were just the professionals, and I was on a committee.

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| Michael Burke: | 34:33 | Speak to the partnership. You've talked about wonderful people. I share your joy in that, but how would you describe the ideal partnership, knowing that there are different personalities between the volunteer and the professional? |
| Roz Blanck: | 34:54 | I can't. |
| Michael Burke: | 34:54 | No, we're talking about Women's. |
| Roz Blanck: | 34:57 | At Women's Philanthropy? |
| Michael Burke: | 34:58 | Yeah. |
| Roz Blanck: | 35:00 | I think it's worked out. The different personalities, I think everybody, the one thing, I think it was Lisa who said that, but |

maybe Marcie and Lisa before I became president. They said, "Every president has to make it their own. You have to be yourself and make it your own." I think that every Director of Women's Philanthropy has to make it her own, and they will, it's always been a her so far. They will deal with, not deal with but work with the pro- It's all relationship building, and every group has different relationships. It always seems to, it always works out. I haven't, for many, many years, many, many, many years when I was nothing heard back things about a professional. We really have wonderful people who work here.

- Michael Burke: 35:47 Where does Women's Philanthropy fit into your priorities of things that have been important to you as a volunteer?
- Roz Blanck: 35:54 The most, the most. I've met more people. I've become more involved. I've learned more. I felt good about it. That's just all about me, but as I was saying, I believe in the Federation system. I truly believe in the Federation system. I've learned that through Women's Philanthropy.
- Michael Burke: 36:14 Has Women's Philanthropy provided the impetus for you to get involved in other agencies or is it vice versa, or is it a combination of both? Does Women's Philanthropy, can they play an important role as that kind of a tool to help the community broaden and strengthen?
- Roz Blanck: 36:39 I think it should. That's what I've been saying. I think it should, and that's where its strength is at. I think it was probably both, like I said, after Sandberg asked me to go on the Jewish Apartments board and I was on this board, and I could see that you get a better feeling for the whole thing when you are on different, you just learn from everything you're involved in.
- Michael Burke: 37:01 How did Dr. Sandberg hear about you?
- Roz Blanck: 37:02 I was a patient. I imagine that's how he heard about it. I don't know what went on in the nominating committee. You know nominating committees are who's on the committee and who knows you. I'm on the Jewish Fund board now. Jim Belinson called me, who I really didn't know, and he asked me. I was shocked. I always wanted to be on the Jewish Fund board, but I didn't think I would ever be or maybe not for 10, 20 years down the road. When he called me, I was a little shocked. I said, "You nominated me, didn't you?" He doesn't know me, but I met Cindy Eggleston, who started this non-profit, Brilliant Detroit, with him. She has these wonderful, rose-colored glasses. I know she talked about me, and that's why Jim nominated me. That's

why I'm on it now, which I'm very honored to be. Nominating committees are like that. It's who's in the room. It's a lot of luck.

- Michael Burke: 37:58 Do you feel that the Women's Philanthropy program has interacted reasonably effectively with the community at large as we've moved forward?
- Roz Blanck: 38:07 I think better than other parts of Federation, because you do have all these programs where you go into the different agencies and learn about them.
- Michael Burke: 38:15 How has the Women's Philanthropy changed in your estimation since you first started, to where it is today, just a couple of years after your presidency?
- Roz Blanck: 38:25 I think, as I said, I think the goals are still the same. I think the goals are to raise engaged, educated, engaged members of our community and in order to raise the dollars for the needs that we have. I don't think it's changed much. I think you're reinventing. I think what used to be Business and Professional is now the Jewish Working Women's Network. It's the same thing. It's to learn about Federation. It's to network, and it's ultimately to get an appreciation for our community and raise the dollars that are needed to make it work.
- Michael Burke: 38:57 Do you think there is and there should be a continued role for Women's Philanthropy in our community agenda? Does it play an important role in your estimation?
- Roz Blanck: 39:08 I do. I really do. When I was president, it was like I had to talk about that. I had to think about that. What I said to you before, it's an easier entry point for people. You can learn more about the community. I think it serves that point, and I think there's a role for it there. I think when you're dealing with, if there wasn't a Women's Philanthropy, I don't think that, I know I wouldn't have been afforded these positions and opportunities that I have been.
- Michael Burke: 39:42 This question isn't on the agenda, but it seems like a good question. What is the relationship, or what should the relationship be between Women's Philanthropy and Next Gen in terms of strengthening the community and the nature of people funneling in appropriate ways?
- Roz Blanck: 40:03 This has been, I'm telling you, that conversation has been ongoing for 30 years. I remember sitting at United Hebrew School, that exact same conversation. How do you get people

from YAD to go into Women's Philanthropy? It's the same thing. There's new people every time, and you just keep grappling with the same thing. It's the same thing over and over again. You will get some people involved, and you'll lose some people. That's just the way it is as people get involved in other things.

Michael Burke: 40:33 Why do you think it's important, and we've talked about it, but I'll just kind of, that Women's Philanthropy have their own campaign? It's separate and distinct from the-

Roz Blanck: 40:45 Because it does raise more money. I've been, that's what I've been told. If you ultimately raise more money for our community, then it's important.

Michael Burke: 40:53 Do you think that the Women's Philanthropy-

Roz Blanck: 40:55 It really isn't separate. It's one pot, so you're just, they call it that. It's one pot of money.

Michael Burke: 41:00 You mentioned earlier your husband and he wouldn't be as involved philanthropically had you not been involved. Do you think that that is true in other scenarios, that because of women's involvement, husbands and families are more philanthropic?

Roz Blanck: 41:20 I would assume so. Isn't that what they say in Judaism, "You teach a woman, you teach the family?"

Michael Burke: 41:23 Yeah. That's what they say.

Roz Blanck: 41:26 That's what they say. I'm sure that I'm not the only one that that's what it is. I think in a lot of the cases, their spouses become more involved. They do it together as a couple. They do it together as a family. That's, to me, the ultimate thing that you really want. You want your whole family engaged.

Michael Burke: 41:44 Do you find that your involvement in Women's Philanthropy and the community at large has had a positive impact on your children? I want you speak about your children just for a little bit, because-

Roz Blanck: 41:55 I have three children. My oldest lives in Denver. She's more like my husband. She's quieter, and I think she sees me do it. She's not that involved, but maybe she will be one day, but not unless her personality changes. My son is extremely involved. He's part of Wexner. He's president-elect of Next Gen. He's more involved than I am. Years ago, they wanted him to say, for an

article or something in the Jewish News that it's because of me, that that's why he does it. He said, "No!" The truth of the matter is, he's a lot like me. He likes to be busy. He likes to learn. He likes to be involved. He likes to feel part of the community. He's not doing it because of me, but he's doing it because he has the same kind of likes as I do and interests as I do. He's really learning a lot more than I am with this Wexner, and I'm so thrilled for him.

Then I have a younger daughter who is 25 and lives in New York. She's not involved, but who knows? She went to, they went to Tamarack. They see the community. They see what I've done. They see how I've enjoyed it.

- Michael Burke: 43:08 For the record, if you want to, you've got to at least name who they are.
- Roz Blanck: 43:13 My oldest daughter is Lisa, and her last name's Erlich, and I have a five-month-old granddaughter now in Denver.
- Michael Burke: 43:21 [inaudible 00:43:21]
- Roz Blanck: 43:21 My son is Adam Blanck, and he's getting married to Lauren Mondrie this summer, which is wonderful. Hopefully, she'll be involved with him, I hope. My daughter Jenna lives in New York and has a boyfriend from New York. Hopefully, she'll come back here. Adam doesn't want to be the only child home when we get older.
- Michael Burke: 43:41 Yeah, tell me about it.
- Roz Blanck: 43:42 Yeah.
- Michael Burke: 43:43 Why is philanthropy so important to you, Roz?
- Roz Blanck: 43:48 I don't know. Like I said, at the beginning, I don't know if what I do is called philanthropy or it's just being part of the community. The community is really important to me.
- Michael Burke: 43:53 Why is community, you're right?
- Roz Blanck: 43:55 I feel part of it. It makes my life. I feel like I'm part of something greater than myself. It brings me joy, and I feel that it, it brings me joy, and I think it brings everybody who's involved joy. If you can lift up as an individual, if I'm fortunate enough to be able to give of my time and whatever treasure I have to be able to lift

up the community a little bit, but mostly, when you're doing that, it's doing it for everybody including yourself.

Michael Burke: 44:22 What are your hopes for Women's Philanthropy in the coming years? If you had to articulate two or three things you'd like to see.

Roz Blanck: 44:31 I'd like to see it more ingrained in Federation and more of an appreciation for the leadership skills and what the people involved have and not have women say, "I'm not part of Women's Philanthropy." I don't like that conversation at all. That's one. I'd like to see more women donating. I'd like to see more new gifts. I'd like to see an appreciation in the Jewish community as a whole of what Federation is, that everybody gives something. I don't care if it's \$18, \$10, but you should be a donor. I'd like to see those numbers go up. I think in terms of engaging women, they're doing a wonderful job, and just do more of it.

Michael Burke: 45:13 I'm going to ask one last question because it's not on our list anymore, but I think it's important that you say a word or two about what you feel the relationship is between the Women's Foundation and Women's Philanthropy.

Roz Blanck: 45:27 Yesterday, somebody asked me, "Should I, what's the Lion of Judah, and what does it mean?" That, you know, is the \$5,000 giving level. You're giving more to the campaign. You can go to the Lion of Judah [inaudible 00:45:40], and you go to the Lion of Judah conference, which is all wonderful and you're doing more for the community. Every dollar does something for the community. We know that. Then she asked me about the Jewish Women's Foundation, which you know is a pool. It's more like a giving circle, and you learn about the agencies, and you give. You make decisions of where your money is going. When you give to Federation, there are committees that make the decision because you don't know as much. I believe in that.

The Jewish Women's Foundation, I see for me, and I have been part of it since pretty much the beginning, is a gift to myself. I learned a tremendous amount about sitting in that room, listening to how ideas are made, listening to what they're looking at, how they're giving. That's the icing on the cake. Federation provides for the community, and Jewish Women's Foundation supplies more. It's all good. They're all good, but they're two different things, and they're both important. The most important is Federation.

Michael Burke:	46:41	Is there anything else that we might have missed, that you would like to suggest?
Roz Blanck:	46:49	Nope. I said just make me look young and articulate. That's fine.
Michael Burke:	46:52	Well, you're both.
Roz Blanck:	46:56	No, I'm not, but thank you.