

**ORAL HISTORY OF:** Manny Charach  
**INTERVIEWED BY:** Sharon Alterman  
**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** July 22, 2013  
**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Home of Manny and Natalie Charach  
**SUBJECT MATTER:** Jewish Community Leadership Oral  
History Project

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**SHARON ALTERMAN:** Today is July 22nd, 2013, and I'm sitting in the Charachs' home with Manny Charach doing an oral history interview for the Albert Dubin Leadership Project. And Manny, we are so delighted to be here. And let me ask you a question. Is it possible that we can use the material that we speak about today in an educational forum?

**MANNY CHARACH:** As long as you don't ask about the sex.

**SHARON:** All right. We won't. I promise.

When we do these interviews, we like to start with family history and talk about your family as you remember and as far back as you remember. So tell me about your parents and your grandparents.

**MANNY:** Well, my grandparents came from Russia. We believe my father was from Poland, but we're not too certain because he never spoke too much about his youth. However, in going back and looking and listening, we believe he was from Poland. One of the reasons I say that is that my mother of

course came from Russia, and her mother, when she was alive, stayed at our home back in Pittsburgh, and they spoke a lot of Yiddish. My father never spoke Yiddish, so I don't believe that there was a time in his life that Yiddish was an important part of it. He knew nu and things like that, but basically he never spoke the language. So whenever they wanted to speak, my mom and my grandma, they spoke in Yiddish.

My mother's father was a cantor. She was born and raised in Odessa, and he left Odessa when he had a chance to come to Canada originally. A relative said he had found a place for him in Canada, so in 1914 he left all alone. He left my mother, her three sisters and a brother. Then three years later, in November of 1917, he sent a letter finally saying please send Klara. That was my mother's name. So she was given enough money from her mother and her other relatives to leave and come to Canada.

Her trip took her nine months from Odessa to Vladivostok, and that was during World War I. You had two revolutions, and then you had the White Army and you had the Red Army and the Cossacks. She barely made it, excepting because of her youth -- she was born in 1900 -- she was hidden most of the time when they would be attacked by Cossacks or Red Russians. Women would hide her under their skirts.

**SHARON:** She traveled alone?

**MANNY:** All alone. She made it all by herself, yes.

**SHARON:** She must have a remarkable person.

**MANNY:** Well, she was a toughie. When they finally settled down years later, all her sisters, her family, moved to Winnipeg, and from Winnipeg we wound up in Pittsburgh, because her father eventually became a cantor there.

When the sisters had daughters, for the most part, they would come to our house. They would sit on the floor, and my mother would regale them with her story of the nine months she was traveling, which is why I told you about the book.

**SHARON:** So it evolved into a book.

**MANNY:** Yes. My dad never said much about his early life. He wound up in Winnipeg. I don't know the year, but he and my mother got married in 1924. My dad was a barber, his father was a barber, and his grandfather was a barber.

So he had a wife, and as a young man in Pittsburgh, I was born in 1925. So when we had our first Depression, I knew what it was like to live in a poor home.

**SHARON:** What was it like?

**MANNY:** My father would do a shave and a haircut for 25 cents. There used to be a song, Shave and a Hair Cut, Two Bits.

**SHARON:** Two bits. That's where it came from.

**MANNY:** So when he came home, if he had a few pennies in his pocket, they always went to the blue box. He

always put a few pennies in the blue box. Not that he was outwardly philanthropic because he didn't have that much money, but he believed that whatever you have, you can share it, and he did share it, which I think was a good way for me to learn about giving money. I have to say it was the beginning of it.

**SHARON:** Was it a religious home?

**MANNY:** Not so great a religious home. My mother carried more religion than my father due to the fact that her father was a cantor. We did keep kosher until the time I went into the service, and when I came home, things had changed a bit. It wasn't as kosher as it had been before.

However they were proud Jews. They wanted to be religious. They couldn't afford it. One of the saddest periods of life was when they went to a synagogue for the holidays, and I was with them, and we were asked to leave because they didn't have a membership. And that has always bothered me to this day. I don't feel that it was proper, but you know, religion is religion.

Now, as far as Natalie and I, we're very proud to be Jewish. We're staunch believers in Israel. We're staunch believers in Judaism. We have a religious school that we have founded. However, I won't say that we're overly religious, but I will say that we are religious.

**SHARON:** So did you get a religious education as a

young man?

**MANNY:** Yes. As things progressed I did have a bar mitzvah. I was bar mitzvahed in 1938. That was a good many years ago. I did not read Hebrew, but I must say that I have followed through since then, but I can go into a synagogue and hold the book and I'd probably be 40 pages behind the rabbi, but I can still read the book.

**SHARON:** Did you have siblings?

**MANNY:** I have a brother, yes. He was born 13 years after I was born.

**SHARON:** And did you go through the educational system in Pittsburgh?

**MANNY:** Oh, yes. I actually spent the full twelve years, from kindergarten to high school. I graduated in 1943 and the next day I was wearing an Army uniform. So I was in the Army on my 18th birthday.

**SHARON:** So what were your war experiences?

**MANNY:** My war experiences? Well, I did participate in the invasion of France on D-Day.

**SHARON:** Tell us about that.

**MANNY:** I wound up being on the Elbe River in Germany on the day that the war ended because across the river were the Russians. We were told to stop. So I had a very good experience in World War II, yes. And as a matter of fact, I was in training in Marseilles, France, when the war

ended in Europe to prepare to go to Japan for an invasion which fortunately never came about.

**SHARON:** So how many years were you in the service?

**MANNY:** Well, I went in in 1943 and I came out in 1945, so a little over two years, two-and-a-half years.

**SHARON:** What were the lessons you've learned from those years?

**MANNY:** Be tough if you're Jewish.

**SHARON:** Did you encounter a lot of anti-semitism?

**MANNY:** Well, I had a few instances, but there's one that I always talk about and laugh about. Because I had enlisted in the service, I went over as a single individual as a replacement. And this is prior to the invasion. I landed in England, and I was assigned to a tank. And the day that lieutenant took me to the tank I was assigned to, I looked at it, and the name on the tank was D-a-g-o, Dago. You understand what Dago is?

**SHARON:** Sure. Of course.

**MANNY:** So I was assigned to be the gunner on that tank. The next day the lieutenant came back and said, Charach, I wish to talk to you. So I got into his Jeep and we drove away. He says, They don't want you. I asked why, and of course he couldn't tell me. So we had a little discussion. And he said, What do you think? I said, Frankly, tell them to go to hell.

**SHARON:** So did you wind up on their tank?

**MANNY:** Not only did I wind up on their tank, in two months I wound up being their leader. There's one of us left. He's Italian. He's the one that they actually named the tank after. He was truly a Dago from Chicago. He now lives in New Mexico, and we talk once a month on the phone, and the last words he says to me is I love you. So we've had a good relationship, yes.

**SHARON:** So you came back in '45 and what did you do then?

**MANNY:** In 1945 I had a great thing going for me for 52 weeks. We called it the 52-20 Club. Veterans were entitled to get a \$20 check every week for 52 weeks as restitution. I came out of the service in December of '45. In February I got a phone call from a young lady in Detroit who said her brother wished to have me come for his 21st birthday. He was Jewish by the way, one of our replacements. One of our guys had been injured so they replaced him with another Jew. So two Jews on a tank called Dago.

So I came to Detroit. I came on a Greyhound bus overnight. I landed here in Detroit on a Saturday morning. And the first thing he said to me was, I met a girl from Pittsburgh, but she doesn't know you. I said, Fine. And he said, We're going to visit her. So he took me out to visit the young lady. And I don't think she liked him too well,

because she certainly didn't want to impress me.

SHARON: What did she look like?

MANNY: Well, if you had a dictionary and you could see the word under ugly, and there's a picture, you might find Natalie's picture there. She did everything she could not to look pretty, which was very impressive as far as I was concerned. She was very witty, very sharp. And she knew all my friends. In fact my best friend was a next-door neighbor back home in Pittsburgh. So we had something in common and yet we didn't realize it at that point. But it worked out well. After 67 years I think it worked out well.

SHARON: Well, tell me about your courtship.

MANNY: My courtship? Very short. We met on a Saturday. I proposed to her on a Sunday night, which was the next night. I went home on Monday morning. I told my parents I'm going to get married. I think I can still hear my mother yelling, Do who? Do who? And the second word, Is she Jewish? And I said, Yes, she's Jewish.

Our courtship was very short. I would say after about a month or so -- we had our courtship over the telephone basically; we spoke to each other maybe two or three times a week, and Natalie said if we're going to get married, I'm going to tell you you're going to have to move to Detroit. And I said willingly. I was only in Detroit for two days, but I was quite impressed with what I saw. In those days Detroit



really was a beautiful city, no question about it.

So on the 5th of April, 1946, I got off a Greyhound bus again. I had my little cardboard suitcase. I must have had a few civilian clothes at the time, I can't recall. But I remember I had \$7 in my pocket, and I came to Detroit. No friends other than the one guy that was in the Army with me.

**SHARON:** That was Red?

**MANNY:** Yep, Red. And no history as far as schools or anything like that. So Natalie's mother was very kind. She took me in as a boarder. I had no money, but she took me in as a boarder. Then one morning as I was reading the Detroit Times -- do you remember the Detroit Times?

**SHARON:** Yes, I do.

**MANNY:** There was a lot of ads in newspapers for people to go to work in factories and so forth. Half the positions I didn't even know what they meant, but it was all factory work. Natalie called me from her job. Thank God she was making \$37.50 a week. She always adds the 50 cents.

**SHARON:** That's a big deal.

**MANNY:** And I had no job at all. She said, we're going to get married in New Kensington, which is where her uncles had lived, and they were the only ones that could afford to pay for the wedding. And we had to go through the rigmarole of getting the blood tests and all that. And we have the Jewish holidays coming. She knew more about it than

I did. But she said, We could can get married today. I said, How can we get married today? She said, This young lady who works there, she has a friend, and he knows the judge, and he's made arrangements for us to get married. I said, When? She said, On my lunch hour.

So she told me how to get downtown, to get off a bus at Kern's clock, and she met me at Kern's clock a little after noon while she was on her lunch hour with her friend. I think the friend's name was Leota if I'm not mistaken. And we rushed to the county courthouse. We got married by Judge Murphy. I don't recall the name of the gentleman who was the best man, but he was her girlfriend's boyfriend at the time. When I said to the judge, How much do I owe you? he said, Oh, anything. So Natalie had to give me \$5 for the judge. And then she gave me a few more dollars to take my best man to lunch. She went back to work with her friend. And I went looking for a job.

**SHARON:** Did you find one?

**MANNY:** Not that day, but a week later I did find a job. I got a job as a salesman on Woodward and Adams. It was called Brooks Brothers. It was a men's clothing store. So I went to work on my first day, which was a Saturday. I reported there at nine o'clock. I never had any experience working in a store or anything. I came right out of high school and went in the Army. So they showed me where the ties

were and the shirts were. It was a very fancy store.

Just about noon the manager said to me, You can go to lunch now. I said, How long do I have? He said, An hour. So I went for lunch, and I went directly home. When I came home, Natalie said, How's your job? I said, Well, I don't think I can work in a store. I have to stand on my feet all day. So I didn't quit. I just left for lunch and never went back.

Well, from the period of 1946 to the time I started our own business -- that's eleven years -- I had ten different jobs. They were all selling. So it was just a little bit of hard work, perseverance and trying to make our way up.

**SHARON:** What kind of work did you do in that eleven years?

**MANNY:** Selling. As I always tell people, Levi Strauss, he was a peddler. So was I.

**SHARON:** Clothing or a variety of things?

**MANNY:** Oh, I had many, many types of jobs, but eventually when I did settle down, I settled down basically selling appliances and electronics. I was there when television first came out, and I was hired by a local company at the time to sell a line of televisions by the name of Olympic. I don't think anybody ever heard of Olympic.

**SHARON:** Didn't last too long?

**MANNY:** Didn't last too long, no, because in those

days everybody was coming out with television sets. But that was the beginning of my selling career, and as it wound up, I eventually got more involved with electronics. I think my second or third job in town was really a good one. I was hired by a local company that made Jewish records. So I used to have a bag of Jewish records. I would walk up and down on Dexter and on Hastings, calling on the various record shops, and with good luck we had a hit. That was called Joe and Paul a fargenigen.

**SHARON:** So talk about Hastings Street. Not too many people remember it. What was it like?

**MANNY:** Well, Hastings Street was an interesting place. We had a number of record shops on Hastings Street. Most of them were in barbershops would you believe. I would say seven out of ten were actually owned by colored people, but we had a few Jewish people who were still in business there. One man had about the biggest distribution of records I ever saw in my life. We called him the Mad Russian. And he was a mad Russian. I don't remember his real name, but he was really something. I spent a lot of time in his store and I learned a lot from him. But I used to walk up and down Hastings Street with a little box of sample records, 78 rpm records, that sold for 79 cents retail. I made a living.

**SHARON:** Were there a lot of other Jewish businesses on that street at that point?

**MANNY:** Yes. Oh, yes. Hastings Street was an interesting street in many ways. We had a predominance of black, but I would say 60/40 would be the mix. The Jewish businesses thrived at that time. And it certainly would not be what Hastings Street would be in 2013.

**SHARON:** Of course. And were there still Jews living in the neighborhood?

**MANNY:** In the area, yes. Oh, yes, there were quite a few. Not like there were on the Dexter area. We lived off of Dexter and Tyler, and of course that was basically what you would call the Jewish ghetto. I came from a Jewish ghetto in Pittsburgh. It was called Squaw Hill. I lot of people know what Squaw Hill was, and we had the same thing in Detroit.

**SHARON:** So what was your experience coming to the city? You didn't know anybody but Natalie.

**MANNY:** I didn't know anyone at all. Natalie of course had friends who she had gone to school with and worked with. But over the period of time I think we were very lucky because while living on Tyler and not making a lot of money, I think we were one of the first to buy a little 10-inch black and white television set. Well, in those days a black and white television set was like a magnet.

**SHARON:** You were popular.

**MANNY:** So we were very popular. We had people who would come to our house to watch whatever they could see.

Milton Berle and Sid Caesar, baseball, whatever the case may have been. Those were fun days. So we made a lot of friends, a lot of good friends as a matter of fact, and still to this day. The young lady who went with us to Pittsburgh on our synagogue wedding when we went to New Kensington is still alive and very friendly with us. So is her husband. These things have lasted a good many years together, yes.

**SHARON:** So you're happy to made the move here.

**MANNY:** I believe that if I said I was not happy, I was lucky to have made the move. There was a big difference between Detroit at that time and Pittsburgh at that time. I think things have reversed. Today if I were a young man, I'd say Pittsburgh would be a better place to live in for the potential, but you couldn't beat the potential in Detroit after the war. It was very, very nice. It was a clean city. It was a pleasant city, and was very proud of it. And we'll see how things work out in the coming years. But no, I've always enjoyed Detroit. Had a lot of friends.

**SHARON:** So you went into business after eleven years and ten jobs, and so where did that business take you?

**MANNY:** Well, in 1957 when I started, I actually started a company called Manny Charach Associates. What was it? It was manufacturers representatives. A lot of people don't understand when you tell them what a manufacturers representative is, so the best way to say it is I'm a peddler.

I went to a trade show, which at that time was in Atlantic City. It was what they called the National Housewares Show. And at the National Housewares Show I walked the boardwalk and shook hands and passed out a card. I ran into some people who had known me who were originally with the Olympic Television Company. Olympic Television had gone out of business. So they were just starting their own business at that time, and they gave me their card and said why don't you come and visit us when the show opens on Sunday.

I said, Well, what do you have? Well, one of the gentlemen whose brother had been in Japan during World War II, when the war started, he was imprisoned, and he stayed in prison until the war ended. One night when he went to a bar, he met a few Japanese gentlemen who were starting up a new company. The company was Sony.

**SHARON:** Oh, I've heard of that.

**MANNY:** So they hired him to represent them in the United States. Having had a brother who was in the television business, he got his brother involved, and they formed a new company. So when I went to visit them, S-o-n-y didn't mean a thing to me. I was hired immediately to represent them, and when I came home I represented three or four different companies, but they were a little bit of this, a little bit of that. I had some teddy bears to sell, I had some binoculars, baseball gloves, things like that. Imported. And nobody knew

what S-o-n-y -- and I say it because it was true at that time.

I made a call to the buyer of the Good Housekeeping shops, and I had this little transistor radio with me. I didn't have an appointment, and he wasn't a very pleasant person when I walked into his office. He said, You have no appointment. I said, I know but I only have one item to show you. He said, Go downstairs and make an appointment. I said, Well, let me just show you this thing before I go downstairs. He allowed me to do that. I put it on his table. He said, S-o-n-y, what the heck is that? Believe me, I don't know what prompted me to say, Well, you've heard of Standard Oil of New York, haven't you? He says, Yes. I lied. I said, Well, that's how they get their money out of the Far East. He became a buyer, he became a very good buyer, and we became very close friends. And S-o-n-y became Sony as we know it today. So it was the beginning of my profession as a manufacturers agent.

**SHARON:** Did you travel a lot in your work?

**MANNY:** I did at a point travel. I had three states to cover, which is Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, which was very fortunate. We had some good businesses in all three states. And I made a living, fortunately. I frankly have to say I went into business as a manufacturers agent having borrowed money from a brother-in-law of mine who once said to me, Why are you working for these other companies and you don't go



into business for yourself? I said I would if I had enough funds to provide my wife and two children with bread and water on the table. He asked, What would you need? I told him I thought if I could have \$100 a week for a year, I would be all right. He was very nice to me. He wrote me a check for \$5,000, which I think I repaid many, many times.

**SHARON:** It happens.

**MANNY:** However, he got repaid within a year. So that was the beginning of it.

Then in 1960 I got a phone call from a gentleman who wanted to come and visit me, and it was based on the fact that they had run an ad in the trade paper saying a company was coming to the United States by the name of Matsushita. Well, I called that gentleman the next morning and I said, How do you plan to go to business in the United States? He said, We haven't made up our mind as yet, but what do you do? I told him that I was a manufacturers agent. And at that time, even though I was representing Sony, rich I wasn't getting because Sony hadn't quite evolved as a big name yet. About two weeks later he called and said, We're thinking we're going to hire manufacturers agents, and we'll have you interview for the job, which I did. He hired me on the spot. He had four little radios wrapped in towels they carried in their suitcase. They were all with the name Matsushita.

Well, he had no experience in the radio industry. I

had a little bit more than he did. So three months later he said, They would like to meet you in Japan. So that was my first trip to Japan. I was taken first class to Japan by the gentleman who was the sales manager at the time, and I met Japan's richest person. He was Mr. Matsushita himself. And the reason I say he was Japan's richest person was that year he was on the cover of Time Magazine and it said he was Japan's richest person. So I had to believe that. And I have that.

**SHARON:** In your archives.

**MANNY:** Well, in the meeting that we had with him, he asked me a question as to what do you think we have to do be popular in the United States. I said, Well, you know you have a lot of competition in the United States, and your name, Matsushita, is very difficult to say. So one of the Japanese interpreters said, Yes, we have that problem here in Japan. I said, What do you mean? He said, Even in Japan we don't have the name. We call our product National. And I said, Oh, that's why I saw the National signs on the train from Tokyo to Osaka. I didn't know who National was. Oh, that's us.

So then Mr. Matsushita, who spoke no English, said, What do you think we ought to call ourselves? I hadn't any idea at the time, but I said, Well, let me think. We live in an area of sonic boom and everything is sonic. Well, in three days we came up with the name Panasonic.

SHARON: So you're responsible for that.

MANNY: I'm responsible for that. So that was the beginning. And that was the real beginning. And since then I have been known as Mr. Panasonic.

SHARON: Oh, my, what a story.

MANNY: So it's luck.

SHARON: Luck and hard work.

MANNY: Luck and hard work and perseverance. And that was really the beginning. So we've evolved.

SHARON: But then you started to look at the community a little differently?

MANNY: Well, I think as things began, I started with Panasonic in 1961, basically, after I came back from Japan, and I would say by 1965 or 1966 we were at least stable enough that we could start looking at what we could do to help those in need, and I think it's been a steady thing since then. But I give all that credit to that young lady over there. She was the one that said, Why don't we do this? Why don't we do that? Eventually it caught on.

SHARON: So you had a value system in your home.

MANNY: Oh, yeah. Oh, definitely. Our children were taught to be giving. Our daughter was very giving until she passed away. And our son to this day is very giving. So we're very proud that our kids picked up where we left off.

SHARON: And you are a known philanthropist. How do

you determine the causes that are dear to you?

**MANNY:** Well, I have a philosophy. I came into this world with nothing. I'm going to leave this world with nothing. So if and what I have is left, who is going to better use it than somebody who needs it? So I feel that way and I know my wife feels the same. So if you came in with nothing and you leave with nothing, what did you lose? Nothing.

**SHARON:** Were you as involved in the gallery as Natalie was, the development of it?

**MANNY:** Oh, definitely, yes. Our daughter was a good artist. She tried very hard to make it work, and she did. And her experiences with other galleries was not the best, and of course she used to complain about the fact that for all the effort that she put forth and all the things that they said about her, and people came to the shows and bought her merchandise, she wound up with basically nothing. Well, we figured that one day we would have something for her to be proud of. Unfortunately she took ill and passed away within a year.

But the theory was that as we sat here in this same room, during our shivah, the gentleman who was then the executive director of the Center came to visit us, Mark Plotnik, who you know well. I took him aside, we went outside. I said, We'd like to have a gallery as part of the

JCC, and we offered that, and it was taken up with the Federation, and it took them about a year to figure out that we could make it work, and finally we went ahead and built the gallery, which, as you well know, has been part of the JCC, and I would say today we're very, very happy and very proud of what we do there at the gallery.

**SHARON:** It has a reputation that is not only local, but it's national.

**MANNY:** There was an article in the Wall Street Journal ten days ago about our gallery. And we're very well known throughout the Midwest. And we getting more and more popular because we now have a relationship with the museum in Tel Aviv. They've given us the go-ahead to have more shows. The last one we had is still on. It's Let My People Go, which is a show about Russian immigration. We already have set up a second one coming sometime the end of the year, and the young lady who runs that museum says we're going to have plenty more. So I think with our association, we're going to get even better known and well recognized. But we're happy with what we're doing. Very happy.

**SHARON:** Your focus is a lot on the helping.

**MANNY:** Well, we try. I think if I must say ourselves, we spent probably as much of our time helping the gallery in what it does. We have a very, very efficient director, and other people have been in there, but you still

have to give them a little bit of a push. And Natalie and I do spend time helping as best as we can.

**SHARON:** Talk about the philanthropies in Israel, because I know you're very connected to them.

**MANNY:** I got a call today. They just got our check for our 37th ambulance.

**SHARON:** How wonderful.

**MANNY:** Yes. We're proud of that. These ambulances are mobile intensive care units, and a mobile intensive care unit is a hospital on wheels, which is very important in Israel. I would say that over the years we've made our mark in Israel. Among other things. There are a number of other things we've done there.

**SHARON:** You have nurseries.

**MANNY:** We have a nursery in Janice's name in Siderot. We have another nursery in Rahovath with Jeffrey's name on it. We have the Mogan David Medical Center in Ashdod.

**SHARON:** Have you ever spent considerable time in Israel?

**MANNY:** Well, we've been there -- our first trip was in 1965. We went with a group called the Pioneer Women. Natalie was a member then. That was a great trip. We spent two weeks there at the time. Since then we've been to Israel eight or nine different times. We've been there with the IDF recently. We went there with the JNF before that. But we've

always paid our own way. I'm very proud of that. We're invited and we go, but with our own expenses. But we feel that Israel is really a worthwhile effort on our part, and I think if I were to give you a list of various things we've done in Israel, you'd be impressed.

**SHARON:** I am. When you think of your life and all that you've done, what kind of a message would you have to the young people growing up?

**MANNY:** Well, I have to laugh. You know, if you work hard, you're going to be successful. But you have to believe in working hard. I don't know that we have that same feeling today. I think we have a little bit more relaxed attitude about work. And you have to have a working habit. In our days, both Natalie and I, we worked very hard. And it wasn't difficult because we had to. We didn't have the money that we could afford the luxuries that we have today.

So I think if you could instill that in young people today, it would be wonderful. But you know the situation as well as anybody else. Those that want will, and those that won't depend on God will provide. GWP; God will provide. And who is God? He thinks I'm God.

**SHARON:** I know that one.

**MANNY:** So there you go.

**SHARON:** Well, we're coming to the end of the interview. Is there anything I didn't ask you about that you

would like to speak about?

**MANNY:** Well, I would say that we're very fortunate, the two of us. We have our health, and that's important. We've been together 67 years; that's most important. I would only hope that people would learn to stay with each for a longer period. That's the thing that bothers me the most.

**SHARON:** What is your recipe for a happy marriage?

**MANNY:** Don't talk to each other.

**SHARON:** Beyond that?

**MANNY:** Lack of communication works out well sometimes. No, it's a changing world, there's no question about it. But we've done a lot together, and I think very fortunately.

We've been very fortunate because Natalie in 1976, the children were grown and they were able to take care of themselves, and Natalie said, I have nothing to do. Let me come and help you.

**SHARON:** So you've worked together even though you don't talk to each other.

**MANNY:** We've worked together since then, yes.

**SHARON:** And although you're retired, you're not really retired.

**MANNY:** I did retire in 1993, which is 20 years ago. But when I retired, Natalie retired. I think two weeks after I said we were retiring, we went and rented an office and we



do spend a good four or five days a week in the office working. On what? On our charities. That's basically what. But it keeps us busy.

**SHARON:** And you have a structure.

**MANNY:** We have a structure. A couple weeks ago Natalie didn't feel well; she fell. We stayed home more or less because of her illness. I don't think I could live that way. No. I have to be carried out of my office.

**SHARON:** I understand. Well, thank you so much.

**MANNY:** You're very welcome.

**SHARON:** It's been a pleasure speaking with you.