ORAL HISTORY OF: Michael Maddin

INTERVIEWED BY: Wendy Rose-Bice

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SUBJECT MATTER: Jewish life, family history,

community life

MS. ROSE-BICE: This is Wendy Bice. I am conducting an oral history interview with Michael Maddin on June 20th, 2005, at Jewish Federation.

Mr. Maddin, do we have your permission to use your words and thoughts in the future for educational and historical research and documentation?

MR. MADDIN: Yes, you do.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Thank you. Your career as a community leader and as a mentor to many is inspiring and the purpose of this oral history project, as you know, is to try to capture memories of where we've been as a community and where you've been as an individual and where we're going into the future. So I want to step back a moment and just get some detail. Can you tell me when and where you were born?

MR. MADDIN: I was born in Detroit, May 18, 1940.

My mother of blessed memory was very worried about the impending war and was going to wait until after the war to have her children, her family, which would have been a long

time since we're still at war. So thankfully my father and mother went ahead and began their family and I was their first child.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Of how many?

MR. MADDIN: Of three.

MS. ROSE-BICE: And who are they?

MR. MADDIN: I have a brother Richard and a sister Roselyn. My brother is two and a half years younger and my sister is seven years younger.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Was your father in the service?

MR. MADDIN: My father was not in the service. He married a little later in life, at 39. During World War II my father was involved with several draft related organizations, but he did not serve directly because of his age at the time.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Your father was Milton?

MR. MADDIN: Milton, who had been active in the community in various ways prior to that.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Your mother?

MR. MADDIN: Esther Lowenberg.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Were they both born in Detroit?

MR. MADDIN: My father was born in San Francisco, the youngest of four. His siblings were all born in Paris, France. My grandfather on my father's side, Maurice Maddin, was a tailor in Istanbul, Turkey, and went to Paris to further his tailoring trade where he met my grandmother. They were

married and moved to San Francisco, then Kalamazoo, and then to Detroit. We have Turkish and French on one side. The other side of that equation is German. My grandfather, Robert Lowenberg, who was active at Shaarey Zedek, ended his business career and became superintendent of the cemetery. My grandmother, who I never knew, passed away as a young lady after she gave birth to two children. My mother Esther and her sister Frances My grandfather

My grandfather

My grandfather

MS. ROSE-BICE: As a child your grandparents were here in Detroit?

MR. MADDIN: My grandparents were all in the Detroit area and we had vivid memories of Pesach seders, but everything from crawling around under the table to various holidays in particular. Being the oldest, I remember when they passed on, parents are now gone, so I am the oldest of our family.

MR. MADDIN: My father was an attorney. I call it my privilege to practice with him for 18 years. He's now been gone since 1984. We were a small firm until we merged with another little firm which has now become clearly mid-sized, which is nice. I have a son who joined us so we have third generation in the profession. Of our four children, one decided that he was willing to become an attorney.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Which one is that?

MR. MADDIN: That's my number three, Marty. He's 28 and he's recently moved from Chicago, which is another rarity but we're very blessed. We have three of our four children here in Detroit, one in Seattle.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Your father was very active in the community. I know he was involved with the Tamarack Hills Authority. What were some of his other organizations that he spent time with?

MR. MADDIN: It was really remarkable. Parents of that generation, my father in particular, his parents had died during World War I from the flu epidemic so he really grew up without parents for much of his later teens. They didn't talk about the war or a lot of things that I wish they had, but nonetheless bestilled on us various traits that have given us whatever traits we have today that have caused us to become involved and active and caring.

But my father was involved with Tamarack Hills
Authority, which is the agency that really bought the camp
property for Fresh Air Society. Especially the camp which we
now know as Ortonville Camp Maas and that was the assembly of
the property. He was involved with Fresh Air and actually was
the president in 1953 if I remember the year. So it was very
logical for me to become involved with Fresh Air when I became
a young adult and was looking for things to do. I'm glad I

did, because I'm involved as recently as before I left for this interview to talk to the current president of Fresh Air about a project that he would like me to help with. I find that camping and Jewish camping and the informal aspect of camping and Jewish experience is a very positive and effective way to instill the good values in children and parents. The Bubby-Zaydde Camp, the Family Camp, as Donna and I have tried to help with some endowment for the program aspects of it, have really found it to be useful for families to spend time in the outdoors with their children and families. It's a unique experience. We've always been outdoors people.

MS. ROSE-BICE: While you're on the subject of family camp, did you help create the family camp program?

MR. MADDIN: I don't really claim credit for anything, but in reality Donna and I were a young couple and I was on the Young Leadership Cabinet or the UJA at the time. We were looking to do a program and I was very anxious to do it in such a way as our children could be involved. I presented that idea and everybody said that would be great if we could have some sort of an activity that included our children, because these are young adults, very active trying to establish their careers or professions and liked the idea.

Well, where would we have such a thing and over what period of time? So I believe it was 1973 and then 1975 we had two retreats at Butzel. I was first met with the traditional

approach, "No, Butzel's never had young children." What would happen would stand after the event occurred and I convinced them that we would take a great responsibility, that we were careful, that we would be careful, we would supervise our children in addition to whatever staffing they provided. We wound up having two weekend retreats under the auspices of the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet.

But nonetheless, if you were to look at the list of people that were there, and I certainly don't remember every one, but many of the people who were in those two early camp sessions, if you will, became more active in the community.

Names like Jackier and Frankel are among many that clearly are those type of people.

And really remarkably I just spent over the last six months with one of my sons, who's an artist, about 10, 12 hours of time going through old 8 mm movies and 35 mm slides which we just had converted some of them to DVD, and found pictures of those 1973 or 1975, I don't know which one because I didn't take the time to figure that out. Really well done. Plus I found the files of the organization I did for those two family camp experiences. So it became clear to me that it actually happened even all these years later. And it became the beginning of the opportunity to do family camping in the way that now we're trying to do it.

MS. ROSE-BICE: It's an amazing program. Let me go

back in time. Where did you grow up, what part of town?

MR. MADDIN: I grew up on Broad Street, which I call one of the old neighborhoods. Broad Street and Glendale. The address was 12733 Broad Street. Nice little boulevard street that had homes that were just a hair bigger than the ones on the side streets. So instead of a 40 foot lot we were on a 50 foot lot which today sounds very small to most people who live out in the suburbs. It was a very nice home. It was a real stretch for my parents at the time to buy it in 1939-40 when they bought the home. We grew up there. I went to Winterhalter Elementary, Durfee Junior High and then Central for a year, and I finished at McKenzie. The area was starting to change and become less safe, but I finished my high school at McKenzie.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Did you move?

MR. MADDIN: My parents moved as I became a senior but that would have been four schools in four years which I wasn't comfortable with and I was allowed to finish at McKenzie. Then I went on to the University of Michigan. Central was one year and McKenzie was two of the three years of high school. Durfee was at that point ninth grade.

MS. ROSE-BICE: So when you went to McKenzie, your family hadn't moved at that point?

MR. MADDIN: Not until my senior year, my last year.

MS. ROSE-BICE: So what year did you graduate high

school?

MR. MADDIN: 1958.

MS. ROSE-BICE: It was just starting to change.

Describe some family life in your home. Were you Conservative?

MR. MADDIN: My father grew up basically having no parents. 1914 when he was 12 his father died. In 1918 his mother died so he was 16 then. So effectively he had to fend for himself. He had an older sister, an aunt, but there was no real strong relationship. She would help when she could but he basically was on his own. So he grew up not only alone but as a Depression Era young attorney. He struggled and developed his attitudes. He was fairly conservative, very bright and very good at what he did.

My mother on the other hand, was a little sweeter. She grew up in Detroit. My father grew up in Detroit as well. When they got married, they got married at Shaarey Zedek because that's where my mother belonged. My father basically was a temple person but really there was no strong connection there. So he became connected to Shaarey Zedek because of my mother's family. That's where we grew up religiously. I still belong there. My brother and sister belong elsewhere. Our children are just at that age where they're going to make their decisions. My daughter and son-in-law and granddaughter, they belong to Shaarey Zedek. We're

comfortable for the time being.

MS. ROSE-BICE: So was your family fairly observant then?

MR. MADDIN: They were not until sometime during World War II. They kept kosher but I don't recall that specifically. Religion was part of life but not something that ran our lives. That's the way we grew up. Frankly I was comfortable with that. If I challenged something and I couldn't get an answer that I was comfortable with, I chose to believe my own beliefs. As you get older you develop your own sensitivity toward religion and what's important about it and how it helps certainly through life cycle events up and down and deaths and marriages and bar mitzvahas. When it was important, I became vocal about something, and when it wasn't, I left it.

An example would be our daughter Melissa. All of our four children went to Hillel Day School for a period of time. When Melissa was about to be bas mitzvahed, it was not approved at Shaarey Zedek to have a bas mitzvah on a Saturday morning. You could have a Friday evening. So I think 25 or 26 of us who were members, we just felt that was wrong. Young women ought to have the same privilege as a young man, recognizing all the halachic issues and answers that didn't make any sense. We wrote a letter at the time to Rabbi Groner and basically said why are these other institutions allowing

it, and frankly if you can't give us a satisfactory answer some of us for sure are going to find another spot where we can go. Long story short is they came around and allowed it, which I'm glad because I think it's the right answer. Because of that there's enough flexibility in that Conservative mode to have kept us going. That's good.

MS. ROSE-BICE: So was she one of the first young women to be bas mitzvahed?

MR. MADDIN: Yes. She certainly wasn't the first, but I know Larry Jackier, he was part of that group and a bunch of other people who would be identifiable. I know there were problems with dates and how many dates you can have, but I'd rather have two people or three on Shabat morning and let everybody have the same opportunity. Since then they've done it, so I feel good about that.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Broad Street was a fairly Jewish area?

MR. MADDIN: Yes, in the old days that whole area had a strong Jewish -- you couldn't go more than a house or two without there being another family. Gradually that shifted as the movement went north. We were late in moving. They moved to Parkside, which is between Six and Seven Mile Road, when I was going into my senior year. That move didn't mean anything to me because I was at McKenzie for a year, graduated and then went away to Michigan. We lived there and

that was a home when I wasn't at school. Ultimately they moved into a condo.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Who are some of your peers in your high school years?

MR. MADDIN: Because I went to McKenzie and my graduating class had 496 graduating seniors, there were six of us identified as Jewish. That's a major change had I been at Mumford. The Mumford crowd I became acquainted with more at Michigan because a lot of them went on to Michigan or through other means, fraternity, law school, whatever. Not during my high school years. That was fine with me. I was a bit unusual in a sense that a lot of my interests were far different than others. I was interested in sports and that was the same, but I was also interested in mechanical things, classic and old cars, boating, water sports, a lot of things that many of the people I knew at that stage were either not interested or less interested.

MS. ROSE-BICE: You went to Michigan and what did you study there?

MR. MADDIN: My major was history in under grad. I was always interested in history. Themes of my history connection as a college student served me well in my adult career as well as some of the things I've done for the community. As you know from our connection with each other at Fresh Air and some of the historical things that I've saved or

are interested in what happened and not repeating, and looking at ways to make things better and what did we do in the past to deal with it. Plus the centennial.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Your wife is Donna. What was her maiden name?

MR. MADDIN: Donna Hartman.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Where was she raised?

MR. MADDIN: She grew up in Oak Park. Her parents moved there from an apartment before there were streets in most of Oak Park. They were really early pioneers in the Oak Park scene. Her mother Helga, who's still alive, basically escaped Germany in 1938. She just got out. She was a sole child. Her parents owned a little department store in a town called Kershen, just outside of Frankfurt. They moved here basically with what they could carry. Their life started anew with the language problem and everything.

My father-in-law was a salesman. He sold costume jewelry. They had a modest life. She had two brothers, one older, one younger. One brother lives in New Jersey the other lives here and runs a little business. She grew up having to work from the time she was 13 in order to help support and actually pay for her own way to get through college.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Did you meet at college?

MR. MADDIN: I was in my last few weeks of law school when we met. We have a lot of fun talking about she

kept me from studying the last three hours before my last exam in law school. I think I got a C+ on that course. She finished after we got married.

MS. ROSE-BICE: What was her study?

MR. MADDIN: She became a teacher, physical education and dance. Her first assignment was at Northeastern High School, which was tough even then. She was teaching dance to primarily Afro-American young girls. She developed relationships with them. She taught for a number of years until we wound up with four children. She became very busy. We worked hard, but it was enough to be able to have her stay at home with the kids and help raise them. She did a terrific job and she deserves most of the credit for that. She now is teaching at Hillel, cooking, part time just to keep her finger in it. She loves it. Kids love cooking even the boys.

MS. ROSE-BICE: That's a great way to connect with kids.

MR. MADDIN: And now it's almost all geared to Jewish food and holidays from Shabat to --

MS. ROSE-BICE: Does she use some of her mother's recipes?

MR. MADDIN: Not really. Her mother's Germanic background was very dictatorial and opinionated and basically wouldn't allow her daughter in the kitchen, which is all the more remarkable. She never taught her because she wasn't

allowed to be in the kitchen. She's become not only an excellent cook but she enjoys doing good things with food in a healthy way.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Your dad went to Camp Tamarack or Fresh Air Society as a youth, which you found out after his death.

MR. MADDIN: I found out after his passing that he was actually a camper. I think there might be a picture which we identified him from other pictures about the same time of his age in 1910 when he was eight years old. Really remarkable. When he was young, he was involved with Boy Scouts and other things which led him to outdoor activities. Nowhere to the extent that Donna and I have become. We love being outdoors, hiking and biking and just walking, even going up in the mountains. Most of that I don't remember from my parents, especially my mother.

But my father was involved with Tamarack Hills
Authority and then he became president of Fresh Air Society in
1953. So he obviously was interested in camping but oddly
enough none of us kids went to camp. There was kind of a
dichotomy between whether they felt it was right for us to go
to camp. They always rented a modest cottage and we used to
have our summers in that atmosphere, which I grew up and
really loved and it wasn't like I was missing anything because
I enjoyed what we did. When I got older in my teens, I

started working on jobs from those places that we rented. I'm very happy with my background. When our children were young, we used to take them camping all the time. Camping our way, it wasn't like formal camping. Three out of our four children went to Tamarack, but the other wanted a different kind of program where he could have activities all programmed for him. Tamarack was kind of a bunk kind of an approach. There's good to be said about both.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Was Donna a camper?

MR. MADDIN: Donna went to camp I think once or twice, but her parents couldn't really afford it or didn't prioritize it so she only went a few times.

MS. ROSE-BICE: What are your earliest memories of how and when you began your involvement as a communal leader?

MR. MADDIN: It's pretty vivid. Until the Six Day
War broke out I was interested but not really involved. When
the Six Day War broke out, I received more than one call
basically asking if I would participate in some communal fundraising because nobody knew on day one of that war whether or
not it would be as successful as it was, but nonetheless it
was very exciting for me. It was, of course I want to be part
of this and I want to help in any way I can. I remember
vividly in a few days because it was after the six days ended,
it was pretty obvious that Israel had succeeded in doing in
that war at least what it hadn't been able to do in other

wars. And so I was really taken up by the number of people that showed up, what we were able to do, learning from it and becoming interested more in what it all meant. At the same time I was a young attorney and I had to really work hard at getting started. I was also newly married, finished my active duty from being in the service, so I had the rest of six years of military duty at summer camps and one weekend a month. I was very busy from day one. But the community became something I embraced and wanted to participate to the extent I could.

From there I became involved in the Junior Division, now Young Adult Division, and I guess I must have done enough good things that whoever was part of the nominating process at the time nominated me to become president in 1971 of the Young Adult Division. I tried to do what I thought was important to move the agenda along and my philosophy with all the experience I've had is that it's a sacred trust to take what you receive and if you can carry it through the year or two or three and leave it in certainly no worse condition and possibly better, then you've done a good job. That was the approach.

I was president and probably among the things that I carried forward ever since then is that young people deserve an opportunity to grow and learn and become seen, and if they're good, to move forward into new positions. So I

strongly believed in young people having an opportunity to sit on boards of agencies, to be on committees of Federation or Foundation, and there was a lot of resistance unfortunately, mostly because it hadn't been done, just like family camping, and mostly because what could they add, why should they be here. Let them grow and learn. Well, how are you going to do that without being part of it?

So part of the process that occurred that I'm very pleased with is that we developed a program that put young people, two at a time. Some agencies wouldn't accept two, but the program was two or more. We would look for young adults who were interested in those areas. We sent out forms, asking them what do you like, what do you think you like, what would be interesting to you. Then at first they basically were to be sight unseen. You can come, but you can't vote, but at least they would be there to learn.

Gradually that moved into what's the problem, if you've got 36 seats on a board or 72 seats, two people will never make a difference. In most boards after investigation we found out the average attendance was X versus Y and having a couple people that were young and interested might create for the agency an opportunity to have young people who would turn into really good board members and even possibly donors, even possibly leaders in terms of helping with different committees. I think it's been proven. I think once that

program got started, everybody realized that it was good.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Did you have a mentor?

MR. MADDIN: I can't say that I did, no. My parents were always supportive and in their own ways were glad I took on some of these tasks and they were proud of it. But truly they didn't give me advice about what I should do. Maybe that's part of their wanting me to be independent, which is the way we've raised our children, which probably is good in many respects.

Secondly, I think the mentor if you can use it as a collective word, is the Young Leadership Cabinet. There were some really good young people, almost all of whom have gone on to be leaders in the community. Connie Giles, Joel Tauber, Stanley Frankel, Larry Jackier, a lot of names I could give you. I'm sure I'd omit somebody I shouldn't, especially people I'm close to. I was part of that Young Leadership Cabinet for five years and on the executive committee nationally for one. Then I had some eye surgery and said you know, that's enough, I can't do this.

I think that being around that atmosphere, the Young Leadership Cabinet, I know it's been better and not as good at times since then, but it was fairly high powered. The national structure was really good. The programs were national with local activities as well. We would go to a retreat at least once a year. There was song, dance, there

was solicitation, training. You came back really feeling invigorated and came back feeling like you could do anything. It wasn't geared to an agency or Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit or any, it was geared to Israel and Young Leadership Cabinet UJA. But how important communal involvement is. You keep recementing it.

MS. ROSE-BICE: That was in the '70s?

MR. MADDIN: Yeah. At that point I became involved with Fresh Air. I was on the board. In 1981 I believe I coled Hadracha. We took a group to Israel. In fact a very nice compliment I just ran into Howard Tapper. We were sitting at the Weitzman luncheon last Friday and he came up to me after and just reminded me, that's when he got started. It's nice to know. He said it was a great experience, a great mission. In some small way I was helpful in getting him to be active.

We had a group that went to Israel. At that time we did some maybe crazy a little bit but it was possible to do so I went and made sure we did, we went into southern Lebanon across through the good fence. There was some danger except the IDF approved the trip and we went and we saw remnants of war all over. We went in and out and there was a lot of activity on the bus as to whether we should or not. Anybody who doesn't want to go, don't go. We're going to go for those who want to go. Everybody that went was very happy we did. It really gave us a lot to see and talk about. The rest of it

was a typical Hadracha experience with camaraderie, a lot of movement around to see things, lot of questions. It wasn't like you have to listen and accept what we say, you challenge it. We saw absorption, we saw immigration, we saw the various agencies at work, we saw schools, old folks homes, and we saw people who came from something but escaped from wherever they escaped, grateful to be in Israel. I think it really helped everyone understand the beauty of Israel and how important it is to all of us, not just Jews but the world. Even today, the more things happen, the more it's the same in history, the connection between history.

MS. ROSE-BICE: When was your first trip to Israel?

MR. MADDIN: Donna and I went in 1971. We were such a young couple that we were literally not allowed back on a bus one day because they didn't realize we were part of that group. Obviously that was an eye-opening experience. We went to the Suez Canal at the time, which today would not be an open trip. It was when the Sinai was part of Israel after the war. Obviously in 1971, being president of the Junior Division, was all part of what kept me fueled. The kerosene lamp was lit.

MS. ROSE-BICE: When you received your Butzel Award in 2003, you structured your speech around the theme of embrace change but maintain tradition. I was taken with that. You talked about how this philosophy led you through some

difficult times and difficult decisions. Can you give some examples of how this philosophy guided the decisions that you made in your leadership roles?

MR. MADDIN: Well, the embrace change is because if you don't allow young people to be involved where there's been a procedure that's basically held them back, if you don't take a look at your budgeting on a zero based basis as opposed to saying last year we spent X, therefore we should give everybody two or three or four percent more, you've totally failed to understand that everything can be reviewed from scratch and that's the change. You should embrace that because the only way you get better is to reinvent yourself and reinvent the community, the organization, the agency, the Federation, the Foundation. Reinvent, reinvent because you'll be better.

To maintain means not to destroy the fabric of what got us here. People might argue from a halachic standpoint religiously, but I think that our tradition is wonderful. If you take the time to understand it at any level, even just touch it, it's remarkable. The Jews have survived these thousands of years. If you've been to Masada, every time I go, it renews my faith, renews my interest. Just in the paper recently there was an article about a seed that was from Masada that they were able to get to grow again. Whether you believe in miracles or not, it really is kind of a miracle if

you buy seeds from a seed catalog they might not germinate a year later or two.

How we survived through all these years and how we have caused ourselves and our families to grow and be strong and to deal with anti-Semitism and to deal with all the pressures is really remarkable, and I think there's something special about it. I think the changing is more because of what's around you but the maintain means to preserve the core. It's like don't throw the baby out with the bath water. It's perhaps too simplistic approach to it, but we must keep remembering what we're saving and what we're preserving and why. But don't be afraid to adapt to the differences. It's a philosophy I've lived with in everything. Challenge it, make it better but don't destroy it.

MS. ROSE-BICE: What are some examples of where you as a leader were able to use your philosophy and teach that philosophy to others and implement change?

MR. MADDIN: I think a real core example would be as I was growing up and I was involved in Campaign and chair of this and part of that, I really kept thinking, I talk to people and they're upset with something. I couldn't get my parent into the home, I couldn't get my child into camp, whatever. One of my favorite expressions is every time I've had a position and somebody would complain to me, I'd say you know I don't remember seeing you at one of the committee

meetings. I'd love to have you participate and perhaps some of your ideas would be really useful. It usually quieted people down quickly.

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A concrete example for me was 1991 through 1995 I was chairman of the Federated Endowment Fund. Well, that whole purpose of the fund was to raise endowments. In 1984 when I was president of Fresh Air I was the first president to sign onto the commitment of endowment and helping agencies There was a lot of friction. The campaign side of that event was upset because they didn't want money to be taken from campaign to go to endowment. The agencies were concerned because they would lose control, if they ever had it, for the endowment monies that they were able to raise or people were willing to give them. I said, that's crazy. There's so much money out there and so many opportunities to raise it. about the concept that says there are just some people out there that are more interested in an endowment type of gift than a campaign gift. So if you say to them the only way we'll take an endowment dollar from you is if you make a campaign gift and you lose both; that's silly.

So why don't we look at an approach that says let's talk about the primacy of the campaign, let's talk about how without those dollars the community will not be able to function, and that without those dollars people that you know, if not your own family, will not have an opportunity to be

helped by Hebrew Free Loan, kid to camp, opportunity to go to the Center, Jewish Vocational Service, Jewish Family Service, emotional problems, all the other things that happen that we've taken care of for all these years. But at the same time let's look at the opportunity.

Well, the endowment has grown just tremendously. I think a lot of the things that I thought of -- I don't mean they're my thoughts alone, but I think that they realized to the point where and I tried very hard to add staff during my four and a half years. It was very tough to do. They didn't believe that there should be the expenditure for staff. Had we done it, I think we would be in better shape today.

There are people who have made decisions to give things to the community and the community had to decide whether they even wanted them -- an art gallery, a tennis court -- to the community. Well, the fact is, find a way to take it if you possible can. If it makes no sense, then see if the family would be willing to adapt it into something more workable. I think the community has realized this and Detroit now has become one of the premier communities. It is in every way but in terms of endowment we're now \$300-to-\$400 million of endowment money, and as a result of that there's a lot of things we're able to do with the interest that comes off those endowment funds. Agencies that have endowments are able to do a lot.

MS. ROSE-BICE: What are some of the other very poignant memories you have in your leadership career?

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MR. MADDIN: More of a culminating kind of thing. When I was chairman of the Federated Endowment Fund and that was one stage of what I did. When I got finished with that, it sort of flowed into becoming president of the United Jewish Foundation. I found that to be very rewarding. Detroit's unique. There's only a few communities that have a Foundation and a Federation separate. It's like having a senate in the house. There is a little bit of benefit to having the money separate from the organization that doles it out. It makes it just a little bit harder to get to if it's wrong to release it and not so hard if it's a good cause. Our Federation and our Foundation call themselves partners but the United Jewish Charities was founded in 1899. Federation wasn't founded until 1926. That says it all there.

I think the Federation does a wonderful job and I think that the tugs between the organizations really were unnecessary for those that felt they had to be there. It's now become more of a partnership. Meetings are joint, which I totally support. That was going on as a concept while I was finishing my term. I support it because I think there's no reason to have intelligent people go to multiple meetings. On the other hand, that organization also gave an opportunity for good people to have another organization they could connect

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One of the things that I felt strongly about when I became president is what else can we do than just hold assets and manage them and release money. We started with some initiatives. One of the concepts was to make insurance an avenue by which people could leave money to the community. It was something not embraced historically because it wasn't In reality now we have a lot of insurance policies. It gave younger people an opportunity to participate in the community, and yes, if you bought at age 27 a \$100,000 insurance policy you could pay a few hundred dollars a year but you could also say that I've made a commitment to leave \$100,000. It's been proven over and over again that people who have done this have become involved in different ways. Many of them have increased the insurance, many have given hard gifts so to speak, and the legacy. All sorts of things that have grown out of it are now partially based upon Second to die, and lot of ways you can leave a lot of money to the community, have a deductible premium and also be able to be up with people who have committed to higher amounts.

There are a lot of young people in our community that will do well, but not great. They have no factories that produce widgets that then can make them very rich people, especially manufacturing.

dealing with manufacturing differently. As a professional you may make a good living but you're not going to be come very wealthy. What's the best way for the future? Endowment activity through the means that I've just said is just one way to do that.

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You asked me a question and I think I've only skirted it. The centennial for me was kind of a little bit of a crowning thing because based upon my interest in history, based upon the fact that there was going to be a little celebration of some sort for the 100th year of the United Jewish Charities, now the United Jewish Foundation, I think the community originally thought of it as we'll have one little event and it will just happen. When they asked me to do it I literally took a day and went to Milwaukee and studied what they did for their 150th anniversary, and then decided it would be great if we could have eight or ten different events, some centered for young, young adult, older, an exhibit, a dance or music session. Bring all the different elements together and as part of that process to bring people together that might not otherwise be together. In looking back on it, it was a tremendous amount of work. I was blessed with Dale Rubin as my staff and we got along terrifically. A core group of people especially Carolyn Greenberg was my co-chair. had another co-chair that wasn't as active but that's okay.

The core for me about the events is we had a Menorah

exhibit at Somerset. It gave us an opportunity for a venue for those who fancy menorahs. We had a jazz evening at the Gem Theater. I had our workers meeting at the Gem Theater just to give them a view of downtown Detroit which is where it all started including the Federation building which is no longer. We tried to pick different venues. We ended at the Center in Oak Park which is a very fitting way to bring this whole picture together. It worked well. We had a concert at Orchestra Hall. I think we had 1900 people.

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The whole series of events kept feeding on each other to celebrate, renew, have people connect to the Jewish community, there is a Federation, a Foundation, here's all the good things that happen. We had an exhibit at the Center which was a major effort. I have vivid memories of taking my mother there who just loved it. We saw pictures from the '20s, '30s and '40s and she identified every era and recognized faces in those pictures and told stories about them, which was an experience that I never had with my mother quite that way. She was not only pleased, I found a picture of my mother's eighth grade Hutchins Intermediate School graduation where we identified some people, and I sent it to everyone we could identify. These kinds of experience charge This one particular person sent me a note how grateful She was in her late 80s. If you give somebody happiness, a smile and they can connect, it's just all part of the we, and what we do and why we do it. It wasn't asking for money.

I still feel the same way. I think there's a lot of good things that need to be done. I'm currently involved in the Jewish Fund, what's left of Sinai having been sold and giving those dollars out not only a mitzvah, but it's an opportunity that would never have been there but for the fact that the fund got created. \$2-\$3 million a year is doled out, vast majority of it goes to the Jewish community.

There are agencies that are desperately in trouble right now, JFS for example. I had a phone conversation this morning and a meeting on Wednesday morning to basically find a way to give them more money because so many families who you wouldn't think but because they lost their job or were cut back, they basically can't take care of their real needs. We're talking about serious needs, not luxury. There was an article about Hebrew Free Loan, the work it's doing and how many people are in need of those kinds of dollars. I'm sure you read the article.

The point I make is that these are real needs and when I have friends or acquaintances or people I might solicit tell me that it's just a gimmick to get money and everything, they just don't understand. I consider it part of my job to try and convince them if I can how important it is. If we don't do it, nobody else will. A lot of places out there can

be tugging on your coattails for money. You have to be careful.

MS. ROSE-BICE: How would you describe your leadership style?

MR. MADDIN: I think I like to engage people in the topic and the task and develop a consensus. If that's a style, I think I'm more of -- I don't mind making decisions, but I do like to get group involvement and consensus because I believe that that would get people more involved than if I made a decision and say let's do this. So where I'm involved in a leadership capacity, I will discuss a topic, I will present the materials, I will ask for input and then try and guide it to a conclusion which I feel is effective.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Do you have middle-of-the-night visions of all these creative ideas you get? When does your thinking come to you?

MR. MADDIN: It comes at different times. I could be anywhere. Maybe it's because I'm older, I tend to get up a couple times in the night, and if I do, and I have something that I need to think about or that comes to my mind, I'll often think of it. I had some surgery five years ago and I walk now every morning probably six, seven days a week, so it's real regular, about a three to four mile walk in the morning. Could be dark in the winter, could be light, often with Donna or other times alone or somebody else. It really

gives me a chance to clean the cobwebs and do a lot of thinking. Whether it's simple as Father's Day or personal to the community that I'm working on or thoughts how I want to present something.

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When I got the Butzel award, it was real interesting because I had a lot of people ask me for the right reason, do you want me to review your comments, can I help you write I said, no, I'm doing just fine. It was because I wanted them to be purely me. I did do them entirely on my I didn't share them with anybody until after I delivered them and then they wanted a copy in which I was happy to give them. That one time I felt strongly that I wanted to deliver my message. It was a wonderful event and opportunity, but the best part of it for me was my four children were here including my son who lives in Seattle. They were there not so much to celebrate that I got the award, but just that we were together as a family. That's always been important to me. Yet we're all independent and everybody's got something to do.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Are your children following in your footsteps?

MR. MADDIN: It's a great question because we've taught them to be independent, which means they should do whatever they think is right as long as they are good people. I'm comfortable that we raised four good people and that they will in due course develop their interests and ability to

become communal in their own ways. Yes, but it's going to take them longer because it's a much different world. Israel is not the daily serious thing. Yes, the bombings, and I send them things all the time and I'll try and talk to them.

They're coming along at different stages.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Did we get all their names?

MR. MADDIN: My daughter is Melissa and her husband is Brian Weisberger. Melissa is a school teacher. She has taught the Holocaust program at various times in a school district that's not Jewish, St. Clair Shores. When she was at Western in college, she actually had a job teaching sixth grade Sunday school three days a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at Congregation Moses, which really helped her build on her already strong background. We have a granddaughter Miah. Brian is a financial analyst.

My son Mark is basically an artist. He went to Kendall College of Art Design. He basically is doing free lance related work.

My third is Marty. He went to Michigan and then onto the University of Wisconsin Law School. He's a graduate attorney, licensed in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. He'll probably be the one that follows in some measure a pattern that I did. He's an attorney, he thinks alike, he's here, he's got lots of friends. They all went to Hillel at some period of time. Marty in addition to that was active at

Hillel. He's personally friendly with Michael Brooks in Ann Arbor. He was active when he was in law school, University of Wisconsin. He went on Birthright, and now that he's back he's really spending time settling and getting started in a career. But he'll become involved.

My son Matt is an engineer. He works for Microsoft in Seattle. He understands where he came from but that's going to be a longer process.

MS. ROSE-BICE: In your Butzel speech you brought up tikun olem. I wondered if you can think of the time you began to truly understand the meaning of tikun olem.

MR. MADDIN: I probably understood it just because they're words and you understand what the words say. But I think what you're really asking me is when did I start to feel it. I think I felt it really from the Young Leadership Cabinet point on the Israel experiences, the various trips we've taken to Israel, the missions or whatever, and seeing how the community functions. It's part of our heritage. We as Jews are to repair the world. Our kids were driven with the notion to do the right thing, do good things, care.

One of my favorite expressions to them as they were growing up, "did you make a difference today?" It wasn't just to do good things, did you make a difference, did you help somebody else, did you do your work, whatever it might be.

They got tired of me saying it, but I think after hearing it

over and over and talking about it -- I didn't come home and talk about what I did so much, but we always had dinner together as a family, no matter how hard it was, unless I absolutely couldn't or somebody couldn't. Donna and I made a priority to say that every day there was no excuse, you be at dinner, even if it was later than when the kids' friends ate. As recently as last year one of my older children used to say -- I used to complain but I understand it now. That was the one time, whether it be 20 minutes or an hour, you'd sit down, everybody would have their chance to say about how lousy the teacher was or why this grade was something else, whatever it is. World events, what happened on the street, the newspaper, we would talk about it.

And we would follow up. Donna and I went to virtually every parent/teacher conference, every session at school for all of our kids, which is a big commitment. Where we couldn't both go, one of us went. Our kids knew it and we'd talk about it. As a result they had a hill to climb, both at school and with us if they didn't perform. On the other hand if they had a problem we always tried to help them. That all fit into making a day work.

A busy person can always be given one more thing, a person who isn't busy probably can't take anything on because they don't think they can. Life is much more exciting and full when you're busy and it's much more exciting and full if

you can help make the world better. If you believe that and do that, I think we each do our share, it will be a better place. I don't do it for the religious aspect of why we do it, although I understand that. I do it because it's part of me. I grew up with it and I think my children in each of their own ways will do it, even if it's as simple as helping somebody with a problem. My son helping somebody with a computer problem, it's all part of the same thing. It grows out of it. Being selfish is not helping, not caring, not trying to find out what the problem is.

MS. ROSE-BICE: That's nice. I'm curious to know your thoughts on the geographic changes in the Jewish community. We went through the early ghetto environment on Hastings Street to where you grew up and Central High School where everyone lived within a block of each other, to today we're much more spread out. How do you think as you watch young leaders grow, how has the diaspora affected leadership development?

MR. MADDIN: I think people become leaders for all sorts of reasons. Some is because they understand it and they want to be part of it. Some it's social, some it's business, some it's in and out. I think I'd rather take people for whatever they are and try and encourage them to be something more in tune with what's needed.

With that said, we were a ghetto because we weren't

accepted. We were a ghetto because the only way we could function is if we worked together. Today in America it's very assimilated. We're totally free to take almost any job, to take almost any opportunity. If you look at the boards of directors of most of the secular community charities or even non-Jewish charities run by other religions, you will find Jewish presence throughout. I think Jews have a talent. They're more studious, generally. I don't mean that there aren't very bright other people but they seem to be liberal, ones that reach out.

United Negro College Fund is a perfect example.

Tremendous amount of money raised comes from Jewish people.

I'm not concerned that the diaspora has grown. I'm not concerned that the neighborhoods have changed. I think the problem is that assimilation is a major problem and I think that in order for us to maintain our Jewishness, there has to be a core that's always lit, the center of the volcano, so to speak. I think it's still there. You can look to the Orthodox, you can look to areas where there's a vibrant Jewish community, and certainly Detroit is a vibrant Jewish community. Any number of people who visit Detroit and say they cannot believe this community. It isn't because we're all going to shul or temple every week or that we keep kosher or we study with a rabbi. Those are all wonderful things if you're interested in them. I think that the synagogue and

temple have been by the rabbis considered the center of their existence but they're not the center for everybody.

My center, good or bad, became the community and the Foundation and Federation as a method by which I could express myself and do what I felt I wanted and could do. To this day I feel that whatever those contributions were, and really they are tiny in the scheme of history, but whatever contributions I made I feel good about the time that I spent and I don't have any regrets about it. I chose to use that model for that vehicle to help improve it.

MS. ROSE-BICE: What would you say the critical issues our community faces today are?

MR. MADDIN: As always there's not enough money to pay for all the services that are needed. I think probably education on the one hand, the youth, and education really throughout is a very important segment. But I think probably the most important is aging and I think that all the statistics indicate that people are living longer and therefore whether it's Social Security on the secular side or in a Jewish community or Lutheran or any other community where there's a concern about the elderly, there's going to be people living longer and the average age of the people at the home keeps going up, up, up. Years ago it might have been in the 70s now it's 80s, Alzheimer's and other diseases that weren't particularly known 50 years ago or prominent today are

very important because people have lived through that. My mother passed away and was 89 years old. Last couple of years weren't good, but she was taken care of and I guess that's important. But there's more people and less people to take care of them. So between less people in terms of numbers and less people committed causes us to have a huge problem.

Being creative with the money we have, getting people engaged in the process, understanding it, I think are also important problems. Just raising dollars is a small part of it that comes from all these other good things.

MS. ROSE-BICE: What organizations are you involved with at this time?

MR. MADDIN: I'm still involved with Fresh Air because when you're on the board you're on it for life. I sit on the Federation Foundation board Executive Committee because I guess you have that privilege at least part of it is because you're a past president. I'm not sure that the Federation is the same, but anyway I'm on that executive committee. The Jewish Fund, I spent a fair amount of time working on that. I'm involved in the audit committee, the nominating committee. I'm chair of the social welfare groups. That's the group that's really doling out the largest sum of money so that sub committee, if you will, reviews everything and then presents it to the board for consideration. We're dealing with some really important issues to the community now.

In terms of other organizations, I basically have cut back on some of that. I had a hard time saying no for a lot of years. Now it's important to pick and choose and say no. Be careful and still be involved. Certainly campaign calls, done a few projects. The Neighborhood Project, I was involved in a committee that really looked at it carefully when we needed more money, and then we sunsetted them because they basically had done their job. There are only so many families and so many homes that would be available. What's left to be done can be done by the community.

I'm going to be involved in this family camping situation now that they've made a decision not to operate the Mullett Lake property, the Grand Resort. And I know that they folded a portion of it into the Butzel program. We really need as a community to find creative ways to keep families involved together in the community exercise. That's something I've always felt strongly about.

MS. ROSE-BICE: A lot of your time and talent.

MR. MADDIN: It's a program that Donna and I feel strongly about. I think that families are under more stress today than any other time in a long time because of the economy, the need to raise your children and do it right. And to be Jewish in the middle of all that is a strain. A lot of people have over extended themselves and that's a different issue. But I'm talking about people who really need -- Donna

and I went to three shabat dinners. We visited Grand Resort. To have people come up to us and we were never promoted as creating the program, we were just somebody coming up to visit. If we were identified we were helpful with the program, which is fine, I didn't want any recognition from it. But listening to people talk about how grateful they were that the community had a program such as this. Examples of people saying, we have never been on a trip with our children. In one case there were two autistic children and so it was very hard for them to go anywhere. They said it's the first time we've ever been able to be away together for a week and literally have some connection with these children and other children. It makes you feel good.

So I'm saying to myself, it's like so many other agencies or non-agencies that provide a service in our community. Until it hits you or until you see it or it affects you in your personal life, it's hard to express. So exposing people to some of these things is helpful. I personally believe that people who are involved in community, people who give back, and there's a lot of ways to do that. You can do it if you don't have a lot of money but have a little bit of time. It could be as simple as Meals on Wheels, helping with a campaign, simple as housing somebody during the Maccabees Games or it could be a mentor to somebody. You could do a little something. I feel you'll be better for it.

It's not what you gave it's what you get out of it. Kind of makes you want to do it.

So talk about big problems, I think money is a problem, aging is a problem and I think keeping people interested in the process. That's part of our job as leaders to try and keep people involved and to tell them why it's important. I hope to be able to do that for many more years.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Me, too. That's it. I've gone through my questions. Is there anything you want to add?

MR. MADDIN: No, I think I've said everything I want to say. I would say to you that it's important to have a supportive spouse and a family that at least understands why you do it. But the spouse part is difficult because when you're running a career and you're doing community work and you're doing whatever else you're doing, that's more time away. And you know I'm blessed. It wasn't always easy. A typical woman taking care of four children in my case, you know, I'm not there for certain of the activities but you make up for it in other ways hopefully. And having a supportive spouse, which is an understanding spouse, is very helpful.

I think today no different than I feel about young people and having worked hard to give them opportunities I think women today, just like they take all kinds of jobs and professions, they absolutely have come into their own in terms of the community whether it's tasks, whether it's leadership

roles, whether it's organizations that are geared to women like the Women's Division and the Women's Endowment now is something that I support because it makes it possible for other people who might not otherwise been involved to become involved and do it in a way that satisfies them. Not that satisfies me or some other leader, it satisfies their need and they're happy doing it, that's good, it's all good work.

Women today tend to have more independent means because they're working and so they're less dependent on the old route which meant that they might not have had money or was doled to them or whatever happened. So I think I understand that it's a positive that's happening. That adaptation is part of what maybe makes our community special because this isn't true all over the country.

MS. ROSE-BICE: Detroit is definitely unique in a most stellar way for the philanthropy and leadership.

MR. MADDIN: The only other thing maybe I would say, I'm kind of in awe when I received this Butzel Award. I looked at the list of people that was sent to me and I really don't understand why I'm on this list because I didn't do it to gain anything, had no clue in my wildest dreams that I would be given an award for anything. But when I looked at some of the people who received it, I'm talking about people who have tremendous means, some people who did some really fabulous important things, and then the only reason I came to

peace with it is because the process had it happen, and I decided I must have made my own mark in what I did. That was also reassuring. I had a number of people come up to me, especially staff, which was very heart warming to say how pleased they were that I received this award. It's because I was approachable, I was one of them, I was able to communicate with them. That's how I consider myself, somebody that I know I'm humble, I know that I don't accept the praise of the award very easily. That's me. I mean it is what it is. As I look at the people that have received it or may receive it in the future, I hope that the models they establish are models that people would look up to. That's a lot more than giving money.

MS. ROSE-BICE: And I think you clearly defined in your Butzel speech and today those models. That will be a helpful message as we go forward.

Thank you.

MR. MADDIN: Thank you.