

Oral History of: Linda Klein
Interviewed by: Susie Pappas
Date of Interview: June 27, 2019
Location of Interview: Max M. Fisher Federation Building
Subject Matter: Women's Philanthropy Dept. of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

Susie Pappas: [00:01](#) My name is Susie Pappas and today is June 27th, 2019. I'm interviewing Linda Klein 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. Do you give the 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?

Linda Klein: [00:35](#) Yes.

Susie Pappas: [00:36](#) The Women's Philanthropy Department has been known by several names throughout its history, but for the purpose of this interview, the questions will refer to it by its current name, Women's Philanthropy. But you may use whatever name you're comfortable with when discussing it. Linda, when and where were you born?

Linda Klein: [00:58](#) I was born in Detroit at Women's Hospital on January the 8th, 1940. That's it. I was born. Like everybody else.

Susie Pappas: [01:19](#) Where did your family live when you were born and where did you go to school and how long did you actually stay in Detroit?

Linda Klein: [01:29](#) I've always been in Detroit. My schooling situation is interesting because my parents were young, a young couple, with literally nothing. We lived, I went to seven different schools before I got to college. The little house I was born in was on a street called Eileen, a little teeny weeny adorable little house. Then my father, who went into the peanut butter business, and as he got more and more successful and worked harder he obviously wanted a little bigger house. Then we lived on Wisconsin. I think we were on the corner of Pickford and Wisconsin. He built the house from stem to stern. Then a few, just a few years later,

when I was seven, we moved to Warrington Drive, which was in those days in Sherwood Forest, near Livernois and Seven Mile Road. Then eventually, When I was almost in college, they moved out to Fairway Hills Drive, which was on the golf course of Franklin Hills.

- Linda Klein: [02:31](#) In that, with all those moves, I started at Fitzgerald School, went to kindergarten. Then when we moved to Wisconsin, I went to Bagley School. Then when we moved to Warrington Drive, I went to Hampton School. Then Hampton School changed the district lines. I loved Hampton School. Broke my heart. I was supposed to go to Pasteur School, which I would've loved to do but my parents had other ideas. In the sixth grade, which was not a good choice, I went to Brookside School out in Bloomfield Hills. I got up at 6:00 in the morning, got on a bus with a whole bunch of strange kids in the sixth grade, and went to Brookside school. Then I went on to Kingswood for two years, seventh and eighth grade.
- Linda Klein: [03:18](#) Then I begged my parents to let me go to Mumford High. I was so sure they weren't going to, but they did. I went to Mumford High for four years, and that was the happiest days. I loved it. I then went to University of Michigan where I met my husband.
- Susie Pappas: [03:33](#) Very nice. I just have to say, I've known Linda for a long time, but did not know that.
- Linda Klein: [03:42](#) The one consistency in my life was Camp Tamakwa, where I met Doreen and Reggie and a lot of people from there. I went to Camp Tamakwa from the age of 10 to 18, so that was my one consistency.
- Susie Pappas: [03:55](#) Interesting. When you were growing up, how was religion observed in your household?
- Linda Klein: [04:01](#) We were extremely Reform. My father had joined Temple Israel because he was a Zionist and Rabbi Fram had left Temple Beth El to go to Temple Israel. From the time we lived down on Eileen, we went to Temple Israel. When I was a little girl, we went to services at the Detroit Institute of Arts. They didn't even have the first temple. We were very, very, very Reform. I don't think I ever had a Shabbat dinner in my life. Growing up-
- Susie Pappas: [04:34](#) Did you have a Christmas tree?
- Linda Klein: [04:36](#) Sometimes we had a little Christmas tree that my dad would bring home from the office. One famous family story was that

we had a real Christmas tree on Wisconsin one year and Irwin Cohn came over to bring bagels, lox, and cream cheese on Sunday. My father, who was pretty tough, almost fainted dead away. Ran to the door and tried to block the door. I don't think we ever had one. But yes, my parents had Christmas trees from time to time.

- Susie Pappas: [05:04](#) Did you have siblings?
- Linda Klein: [05:07](#) I had a brother, Norb, Norbert Zuckerman, and unfortunately he died at the age of 66.
- Susie Pappas: [05:16](#) Was your brother bar mitzvahed?
- Linda Klein: [05:17](#) My brother was bar mitzvahed. I was not bat mitzvahed. We didn't have that. But I was confirmed and had the little open house beautiful confirmation party.
- Susie Pappas: [05:30](#) Did you observe the Jewish holidays, do you remember?
- Linda Klein: [05:34](#) Yes. Yes we did. My grandmother, my both grandmothers, particularly Grandma Fleischer, my mother's mother, was religious. She was my favorite, anyway. We observed Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the majors, but as a family. But we very community minded right from the start.
- Susie Pappas: [06:00](#) That goes to my next question. Was philanthropy important to your family, and how so?
- Linda Klein: [06:10](#) The first real memories I have of my dad was he had a green Oldsmobile that used to be parked outside of our little house on Eileen and every Sunday morning, it must've been, he went to meetings for Israel. He was passionate about Israel from the time he was the very youngest man. We belonged to Temple Israel, which was the Zionist one at the time, and so I was always very, very aware of Israel. I remember sitting in temple the day the state was announced, or shortly thereafter, in Sunday school. I remember that was important to me because it had always been important to my dad.
- Susie Pappas: [06:52](#) Did your mother do anything charitable-wise when you were growing up?
- Linda Klein: [06:56](#) When I was growing up, not so much. My father was very powerful, very demanding. She was the typical ... but she was always smart and a big influence on my brother and I as far as

our morals and our values, but not so much. After my dad died, she really came into her own and she was pretty active.

Susie Pappas: [07:19](#) When you were growing up, were you involved in any teenage Jewish organizations?

Linda Klein: [07:28](#) I wasn't.

Susie Pappas: [07:29](#) You weren't. What about when you went to college at all?

Linda Klein: [07:33](#) Not very much. I met a boyfriend at the Hillel Mixer the first night of college, but not so much. I was in a Jewish sorority, and at Camp Tamakwa. I think I learned everything about my Judaism at Camp Tamakwa.

Susie Pappas: [07:53](#) Were you involved in other organizations besides Federation before you became involved at Federation?

Linda Klein: [08:01](#) Because of my family, when Tom and I ... We lived in Toledo for about two years, a year or two years. The minute we moved back to Detroit, we became involved in Federation because, again, of my dad and my mother. We got involved in the junior division, it was called in those days. No, I wasn't. I was involved not as much as probably I should have been, but I was involved in my kids' schools in PTA and things like that.

Susie Pappas: [08:27](#) But you also worked, so when you talk-

Linda Klein: [08:30](#) Not then, though. Not then. No. I worked in Toledo. Just worked. But in Detroit I didn't work.

Susie Pappas: [08:38](#) But you went back.

Linda Klein: [08:40](#) What happened was I was involved in junior division.

Susie Pappas: [08:43](#) Your husband was president.

Linda Klein: [08:44](#) He was president.

Susie Pappas: [08:45](#) Tom.

Linda Klein: [08:46](#) He won the Boesky award, or whatever it was. No, and I wasn't all that involved, but I was involved. Then he went on the cabinet. Tom went on the cabinet. But then I wasn't all that involved in Women's Division, at the time it was called Women's Division, because I went back to law school. I really wasn't a factor very much in Women's Division. Then, while I was in law

school, which was when I was like 35, so like 1975, '76, '77. They were starting a new group, and I think we call it Working Women. I think that's what it was called. It wasn't Professional Women yet. Working Women. They asked me, because I was going to law school and there weren't that many working women, if I would become involved. I said sure. It was at night, the meetings. That's how I got involved. I became the chair eventually of Working Women, or whatever it was called. That was my real entrance to the women's side of Federation.

Susie Pappas: [09:52](#) Who are the leaders that you remember working with when you first became involved in Women's Division?

Linda Klein: [09:59](#) After I graduated from law school and was practicing law in my fashion, I got involved in Women's Division. It was still Women's Division. In those days, I was trying to think over that. The older, older ones in those days, there were so many. After we looked at the list of presidents, they would all be there. But there was Tillie Brandwine. I went back with Edythe Jackier. Those were the ... I always love Jo Weiner because she was ... I don't think she ever became president, but she was just a force to be reckoned with. She appealed to me because I like to write songs and skits and stuff like that. Then there was Ruthie Broder and Dulcie Rosenfeld. Jane [Sherman] was already involved. She was our age.

Susie Pappas: [10:45](#) Carolyn.

Linda Klein: [10:45](#) Carolyn Greenberg. Shelby Tauber was involved. Just a lot of women. Those were the first ones. Now, later on, my mentors were Penny, Diane Klein, those women. It all evolved to where most of my best girlfriends became the women that were involved in Federation at that point.

Susie Pappas: [11:19](#) You did this Working Women's group. Then you were also working. Then, how did you ... Tell me about when they asked you to become campaign chair.

Linda Klein: [11:32](#) I think I came out of nowhere because I really wasn't around that much. I must have taken an officership, a chairmanship, of either education or whatever campaign or whatever. I don't remember. I just always remember, they always asked me. I was never out looking, but they asked me, and I was always happy. I couldn't even tell you the year that I was campaign chair, but I'm sure I did-

Susie Pappas: [12:01](#) Were you surprised when you were asked to be campaign chair?

Linda Klein: [12:03](#) I doubt it, because I think I must have been chair of Ruby, of Lion Division, and Ruby-Lion Division.

Susie Pappas: [12:08](#) You were president in 1995, so that means that in 1992 they asked you to be the associate campaign chair and then in '93 you were the, '93 and '94.

Linda Klein: [12:22](#) Before that I was definitely for sure chairman of the Lion [of Judah]. I'm not sure it was giving Ruby at that time.

Susie Pappas: [12:30](#) I don't think we had Ruby at that time.

Linda Klein: [12:31](#) I was the chair of the Lion. I remember that I was the chair of the Lion because I was chairing the Lion Luncheon. It was a lesson I never forgot. I wrote a really good speech. It was too good. It was too long. I hogged what the person, excuse the expression, but I ...

Susie Pappas: [12:48](#) That's okay.

Linda Klein: [12:49](#) It was too long, too much, and I kind of ... The speaker, whoever was the speaker, I had said too much and I learned a very, very wise lesson there, which is, when you're the ... You speak about what's appropriate for you to speak about. You don't have to be the star of the afternoon, especially when that's not your job.

Susie Pappas: [13:09](#) You learned that.

Linda Klein: [13:09](#) I learned that in a very painful way.

Susie Pappas: [13:12](#) I want to ask you, before we go into talking more about your time as campaign chair and president, what did your kids and your family think about your activities?

Linda Klein: [13:23](#) Tom was always very supportive. My kids I don't think were all that much aware of it. I don't think, I really don't. They knew what I was doing, but I don't think I talked about it all that much.

Susie Pappas: [13:37](#) When they were living at home, you probably weren't as involved. Although John ...

Linda Klein: [13:42](#) I wasn't an early one involved. I graduated from law school in '80, and then I worked, and then I was doing some Federation

stuff. I think they were more concerned and annoyed about the law school thing. They never were. That was secondary to that. When they asked me, I'm trying to remember. I don't think I was surprised at that stage of the game. I had been working pretty hard. I was also I think involved in JVS at that time. I don't think I was surprised, but I was thrilled. Let's put it that way. I was ready to do it.

- Susie Pappas: [14:22](#) JVS. I know you were president of JVS. Was that before or after Women's Department?
- Linda Klein: [14:29](#) You know, I'm not good at dates. I want to say, I think it must have been going on. Yes. I think I was president of JVS, or I was something at JVS, when I was campaign chair. I remember doing them both at the same time. I think it was around the same time. I was president of JVS for three terms. That might have been six years. I'm not sure.
- Susie Pappas: [14:53](#) That's a long time. Traditionally Women's Department had programs aimed at education. They had two tracks, education and also campaign. Do you remember working more on either side? Did you come up through education or did you ...
- Linda Klein: [15:13](#) I'm guessing that I came up through campaign. Then, when you're president, of course you're more into the education and that's where you learn that business.
- Susie Pappas: [15:26](#) What really inspired you to even aspire to be president of Women's?
- Linda Klein: [15:36](#) I pretty much, if I'm going to do something, enjoy leadership. I used to be terrified of speaking and I came to love it. I love speaking now. I used to be so scared. I'd be shaking like a leaf and couldn't even eat my dinner if I had to stand up and say my own name. But I really, I enjoy leadership. That's probably why. I don't think I actually aspired to any job, but I think everybody doesn't want to do it. If you're a person that wants to do it and you seem to be okay doing it, that's how I saw whatever I did, because I got very involved in general campaign too. General, I mean general Federation stuff. I did almost everything.
- Susie Pappas: [16:21](#) Later, right?
- Linda Klein: [16:24](#) Later and at the same time. I think it all happened together.
- Susie Pappas: [16:28](#) Can you describe some of the duties that you remember as campaign chair?

Linda Klein: [16:33](#) As Women's Department?

Susie Pappas: [16:35](#) Yes.

Linda Klein: [16:36](#) Women's Department.

Susie Pappas: [16:37](#) This is for Women's.

Linda Klein: [16:37](#) First of all, I want to say that I worked with Sally Krugel in my days there and Sandra Jaffa were the main two that I worked with. I think you had to inspire people. You had to show people that you would be willing to do the solicitations, which I don't like any better than probably most people. I like to speak, but I don't like to solicit particularly. You have to make the meetings fun and interesting and try to inspire people by letting them know how very important each dollar is that we raise and where it goes. I just enjoyed it. I liked it. I didn't find it overly challenging.

Susie Pappas: [17:21](#) Can you talk about the role of women in fundraising and women in the whole.

Linda Klein: [17:29](#) Federation.

Susie Pappas: [17:29](#) The whole thing.

Linda Klein: [17:31](#) I was saying to Robbie Terman, I wish I had ever unearthed my Butzel award speech, because it was all about women. Marion Friedman told me the purpose of my speech was to inspire, and I decided to inspire young women. The Women's Division department philanthropy is it. It's the incubator, the innovator. It's where the ideas came out of. It was our job. We made friends and colleagues and we enjoyed being there. It was our work. We showed up four or five times a week I think for different kinds of meetings, whether you were president or not. So many of the ideas, and I was struggling with that a little bit, but so many of the ideas that came out of Women's Division and department found their way up to the general campaign because it just was that way. It was a very collegial and it still is. Our staff worked very hard, but we worked very hard.

Susie Pappas: [18:29](#) We did.

Linda Klein: [18:30](#) We were on the ground.

Susie Pappas: [18:31](#) We did.

Linda Klein: [18:31](#) We were in it up to our eyeballs doing it. We had fun.

Susie Pappas: [18:35](#) It was a good learning place for us to learn. It was a good training place. It helped us for all of the things that we did and were going to be doing.

Linda Klein: [18:48](#) So many women went out and got amazing jobs because of the leadership and the work, what they had learned.

Susie Pappas: [18:55](#) During the time that you were campaign chair and president, Women's Division became Women's Department. Do you remember why that happened and how you felt about it at the time?

Linda Klein: [19:10](#) I remember that Sandra Jaffa I think was kind of strong for it. She was our-

Susie Pappas: [19:16](#) Exec.

Linda Klein: [19:17](#) ... professional. She went around the country to different meetings, and that was definitely a trend. I'm trying to think what the other divisions were. Help me. The other divisions in the general was like ...

Susie Pappas: [19:31](#) There was a Mercantile Division.

Linda Klein: [19:32](#) PAC. No but also the PASC was a division, the Campaign Division. 'Division' did not have the gravitas that it was felt that the women, half the population, had and that we were, if you took a scale and put down all the divisions, that we were much more frankly important and to be respected than a division. There were other departments, which I'm not sure about the departments and divisions, but departments were definitely elevated over divisions. Our professional and probably the national women's were already probably the Women's Department and they just felt that it wasn't a-

Susie Pappas: [20:19](#) Is this the time when we became the Women's Education and Campaign Department?

Linda Klein: [20:24](#) No.

Susie Pappas: [20:24](#) Was it a long thing?

Linda Klein: [20:26](#) It was first I think the Women's Department. That sounded not descriptive enough. Then at some point we became the Women's Campaign and Education Department. On the scale of

how the Federation presented itself is like a family tree. A department, that's part of it. It was elevated.

Susie Pappas: [20:49](#) What were some of the challenges that you faced as campaign chair?

Linda Klein: [20:54](#) I think in those days we were losing families, as we'd been doing many of the years, so new gifts was a very important, very important thing. Getting people involved. Getting women involved. Somewhere in when, Susie reminded me, I think when Penny was president and I was campaign chair, but for many years they had been pushing Detroit to get the Lion of Judah pin, which had started in Miami Beach I don't know how many years before. Maybe 10. Our community, most of us, many of us, were very much opposed to the pin. I was personally opposed to the pin. It was a new concept for me and I was opposed to the idea of Jewish women giving at a certain level, which was \$5,000, which was a great deal of money in those days, and that the symbol of that was becoming a large gold pin. I just didn't like the concept at all. I just thought it was not where I wanted to go.

Linda Klein: [21:57](#) But it was proving to be very effective. They were from right from the top down at National were really pushing all the communities to do this. I remember Jane being against it. I was against it. Probably Penny was being against it. I'm not sure. But anyway, finally, finally, finally we decided we had to be enough of team players as long as it was working. I was really annoyed, but I was campaign chair and so I had to go out and I had to push it. I would say even in those days, "You know, even if you don't think, like me, that this is the best symbol, but it hopefully it will inspire women and it will become a positive sign, and when people will see women wearing it in an airport or in another city or somewhere, it will become a little bond." It still isn't my favorite concept, but it works. It certainly is very entrenched in the women's world now.

Susie Pappas: [23:03](#) I think you'd brought something up. They had envisioned that women would wear it outside of their campaign ... like wear it in the airport. Wear it in the airport, or wear it ... which I'm not sure that exactly happened.

Linda Klein: [23:17](#) I think in certain communities it has. They had also envisioned that every time you gave a gift or raised your gift, you put another diamond or another ruby. Detroit drew the line on that one and we never went for that. But I've seen a lot of women, probably not younger ones, but older ones.

Susie Pappas: [23:35](#) Where did the Lion of Judah Conference come in?

Linda Klein: [23:40](#) I was at the first one.

Susie Pappas: [23:42](#) We were at the first one. But I don't remember who was president.

Linda Klein: [23:44](#) It wasn't the award yet. No. The Lion of Judah Conference came when the National, it's all strictly National, wanted to do a big important meeting. That evolved into the Kipnis-Wilson award, which was sheer genius because I still continue to go to those conferences, which always prove to be fabulous. But I never really want to go till I get there because there's always a friend of mine receiving the Kipnis-Wilson, whatever, honor. I was the first one to get it in Detroit.

Susie Pappas: [24:19](#) I know.

Linda Klein: [24:20](#) They called me the little Kipper. Then Susie got it.

Susie Pappas: [24:24](#) But I was involved with you getting it.

Linda Klein: [24:26](#) I'm sure.

Susie Pappas: [24:28](#) The thing about the lion conference and the lion pin, people strove to ... It was a good marketing tool because people definitely ... Husbands would see the pin and they'd say, "I want my wife to have the pin."

Linda Klein: [24:43](#) Absolutely. No, no, no. It's turned out to be a very positive thing, even though it still isn't my favorite thing. But it's still it's a good thing. I was somewhere today and I was wearing it and somebody admired and said, "What a beautiful pin that is." I said, "Well, what is it?" I said, "Well, that's the Lion of Judah pin, and you receive that for giving a large commitment to the Jewish Federation." As I left there, she said, "What a beautiful pin and what a beautiful idea." There you go.

Susie Pappas: [25:14](#) I guess it works. Were you affected at all by transitions in staff and leadership changes when you were ... Do you remember that affecting?

Linda Klein: [25:25](#) I love the staff. I got very friendly with so many of the staff. Laura Linder has become a very good friend of mine. She was our exec when I was campaign chair for the general campaign. I just have a lot of respect for the staff. It's changed. It's more staff-driven, I understand. But I don't know if it's that much

more staff-driven in Women's Philanthropy. I don't know. Probably. I don't know.

Susie Pappas: [25:50](#) How would you rank Women's Philanthropy among your other philanthropic activities? Because you've done a lot.

Linda Klein: [25:57](#) It was my number one, other than the general, and I did a lot in the ... a lot. I did a lot in the general campaign. I was campaign chair. Then I was president of JVS. Those were it. I did a lot of other things, but those were my main things. Now I'm very involved in the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind. But Federation was always it for me.

Susie Pappas: [26:22](#) Do you feel women solicit differently than men?

Linda Klein: [26:26](#) Yeah. Most women I think are more empathetic, compassionate, interested in listening. It's not in our nature to push people around, I don't think, which might be good, might not be good. But I just think that's in the nature of a woman.

Susie Pappas: [26:44](#) Do you feel that Federation in general has valued Women's, our Women's Department?

Linda Klein: [26:52](#) Not enough. Not enough. Because in my day, when we were here, and I don't know now, but we had zero budget. I remember trying to get a speaker that Chicago had and saying, "How did you get that speaker?" They go, "Oh, we just go to Nasatir and we just tell him who we want and they just get them for us and they don't even ..." We were just really struggling. I don't know how it is now. But, like in everything else in life, I think women are undervalued. I don't know now here in Federation. We've had plenty of women in high office. You'd have to talk to some of the women who are here now. But if it were my guess, I would guess that ... We're the best. The Women's Department frankly is the best.

Susie Pappas: [27:36](#) Let's talk about that. What are some of the reasons, and I agree with you, that Women's Department is the best?

Linda Klein: [27:43](#) First of all, it's forever because you make your best friends, seriously make your best friends through here. Most of my best friends. And you work together and you're really trying to be innovative and we have fun. We have real fun. One of my fondest moments was doing with Diane Klein the archival exhibit for I forget which anniversary and the show we did. It was a very all-encompassing life for the women, and the women are bright and brave and willing to offer all sorts of suggestions

and really willing to go the whole way. I think we, I think the Women's is the real driving force.

- Susie Pappas: [28:28](#) Talk about leadership training that women do.
- Linda Klein: [28:30](#) When I first came in, we used to do these marvelous seminars. That's how most of us got into Women's Department. We'd get on a bus once a week for maybe six, eight weeks, I don't remember, and we would go visit every single agency in the community. We were literate and knowledgeable. We would have meetings where we would learn to speak, where we would learn about Israel.
- Susie Pappas: [28:52](#) Briefing meetings.
- Linda Klein: [28:53](#) Briefing meetings, ice breakers.
- Susie Pappas: [28:57](#) You were involved with the Midwest.
- Linda Klein: [29:02](#) I was a regional chair for the Midwest Region.
- Susie Pappas: [29:04](#) Which we don't have anymore.
- Linda Klein: [29:05](#) Which we don't have anymore.
- Susie Pappas: [29:05](#) What was that?
- Linda Klein: [29:08](#) That was right down between our community, the regional, which was in Chicago usually, and the national. I was never on the national board till way later. I really, I wasn't. But I was regional chair. We used to come with our region and get all sorts of ideas from each other. That's the thing about Women's Department. We're always looking for ideas. Of course, so is Federation. We network with each other. I still think the Women's sent up more info and more ideas up to the general than any other force.
- Susie Pappas: [29:47](#) Why do you think it's important for women to have a separate campaign?
- Linda Klein: [29:53](#) It's the old solve. Plus dollars. It's definitely plus dollars, number one. Number two, and especially I would think in today's world where women stand for themselves for everything, not only that but many women were the impetus for their husbands and got their husbands, who in those days had the big bucks, to give the big gifts, but inspirational to get involved in Federation. I think it's very important. I think you have to respect a family

who wants to give as a family. Then, just even everyone gives as a family. Then convince them to carve out something, and not today because so many women are working and to heck with it. It's equal. But I just think it's important. We're our own person and we want to be our own person in everything else. Even back in the day, those of us at Federation wanted to be our own people. We weren't just an appendage of our husband. Very important.

- Susie Pappas: [30:57](#) Why is philan-
- Linda Klein: [30:57](#) How much do we raise these days? Do you even know? We raise a whole lot.
- Susie Pappas: [31:01](#) We were raising in Women's Department close to \$5 million, which is a very ...
- Linda Klein: [31:08](#) I remember when we hit the \$1 million, I think.
- Susie Pappas: [31:11](#) Why is philanthropy important to you?
- Linda Klein: [31:17](#) Philanthropy is the most important thing to me. It always was. Now that I have more money than I ever did before, it's even more important to me because it's such a thrill to be able to give it. When I was younger, I loved it because it's just, if you're a good person, you just want to help somebody and you want to inspire other people. I can remember once saying, "It's not quite as much fun for people that don't have a whole lot of money, but it's wonderful in your heart, even if it's not as much fun." When you have a lot of money, I have relatively a lot of money, not compared to a lot of other people, but a relative lot. There's nothing more thrilling to me than being able to help and do and make a difference. To me, in doing, too.
- Linda Klein: [32:09](#) That's the other thing about Women's Department. We did as well as gave. The men never had a chance. I sort of feel sorry for them on that one. But we did as well as gave.
- Susie Pappas: [32:18](#) That was part of the fun, wasn't it?
- Linda Klein: [32:19](#) That was the fun.
- Susie Pappas: [32:21](#) You know what else, Linda, that we could talk about is your involvement with Israel.
- Linda Klein: [32:29](#) From the time I was a little kid, and I said that my dad and mom, they had a home in Israel. My father was the national campaign

chair. His passion was always Israel, Israel, Israel, so I always loved it. I went for the first time when Tom and I were ... We went in 1968. We went on a young leadership mission, and that was it. I fell in love and I loved it. I think I've been there 45 times. I want to say Tom's been there a third of that many times. It's a lot. I was very involved in Partnership 2000, now Partnership2gether, and I have real friends in Israel. Not family and not ... Real friends. Now I go to Israel with my girlfriend, Tova Dorfman, and we just play and we go to different causes and see where Tom and I are giving money in Israel, because we have a fund here at Federation called the Global, what's it called? Unmet Global Needs Centennial Fund. It only goes to Israel and overseas.

- Susie Pappas: [33:33](#) That's great.
- Linda Klein: [33:34](#) I'm always looking, trying to be a little bit innovative myself. After I'm gone, the Federation can do what they want to do with that.
- Susie Pappas: [33:41](#) Do you think your children ... Your children, did they pick up your charitableness? Do they ...
- Linda Klein: [33:49](#) They are now.
- Susie Pappas: [33:50](#) They are now.
- Linda Klein: [33:50](#) They always were loving Israel. They went to Israel a couple, two or three times, when they were little. Now we have a family foundation and, separate from this global one. It's a family foundation. My children and me and Tom are on the board and others. There always have to be an equal amount of people in the community who we know. We have these family meetings where my kids get a vote and they read and they do and they give the money along with us. We're having another one on July 22nd, our second one. Now they're very, very, very involved in it. It's fantastic. They are all now also involved in the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind.
- Susie Pappas: [34:42](#) That's great.
- Linda Klein: [34:42](#) They've each had a fundraiser at their house. They're involved in their kids' schools, kids' schools. My one daughter is very involved in things spiritual. They're all involved in their community and their schools. Not in Federation though. They're not involved in Federation.

Susie Pappas: [34:57](#) They're not involved. What are your hopes for Women's Philanthropy in the future?

Linda Klein: [35:05](#) I'm a little out of it right now, so I would hope ... Not mentally out of it, but out of the stream since I go to Florida in the winter. I would just hope that they would continue to thrive and strive and find their own place. I would hope they would always want to find their own place and swim upstream if it becomes more like only families want to give together, to accept that but try to make a still separation. Even if the family's quote unquote "giving together," carve the gift out. As I said, all families give together. There's no question. I don't know that I've thought that much about that. I hope the Federation gets ...

Susie Pappas: [35:51](#) Is there anything else that we haven't covered that before we end that you'd like to add because you've been very, very good?

Linda Klein: [35:58](#) I would add that many federations are falling apart and ours isn't. That's because of our leadership and because of the nature of our community in Detroit. My hope for the Federation would be that they grow with the times and are willing to change with the times, because I know certain things are getting stale and people feel like that. I'm not sure what or how or why, but just to keep our minds open and look at what's going on in the world, in the country, and see if certain old things we're doing are losing people and not inspiring people. The issue of the umbrella or the not umbrella. I'm an umbrella person. I hope that we can always find a way to make ourselves modern and important and relevant within the umbrella concept, because I think you can get into very sexy charities and forget the ones that really need us. That's a hard sell for some people, particularly young people. I would hope we can figure out a way to be modern and all-encompassing and doing the right thing for the right people.

Susie Pappas: [37:15](#) Great. Thank you, Linda.