

Oral History of: Gertrude Glogower

Interviewed by: Mary Baroff

Date of Interview: November 1975

Location of Interview: Home of Gertrude Glogower

Mary Baroff: [00:00:01](#) This is an interview with Mrs. Samuel R. Glogower, a prominent leader in the Metropolitan Detroit community. In connection with the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the United Jewish Charities and the 50th Anniversary of the Jewish Welfare Federation, these organizations have undertaken to record the memories and experiences of a number of community leaders which highlight developments in the organized Jewish community. This interview with Mrs. Glogower is being taped in her home in November 1975. The interviewer is Mary Baroff.

Mary Baroff: [00:00:47](#) Mrs. Glogower, before we begin discussing your memories of your involvement with the Jewish community, I'd like to talk with you just a little about your own background. Could you tell me a little bit about yourself? When and where you were born?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:01:04](#) Yeah. I was born in New York City, June 27, 1884. You don't have to emphasize the year.

Mary Baroff: [00:01:14](#) Okay.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:01:18](#) My parents had come from, they both lived, in what I would call today, the suburbs of Frankfurt, Germany. As a matter of fact, I visited the house where my father was born, which was just five miles outside of Frankfurt.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:01:39](#) My father came to this country. I don't know the year, but as children he told us many stories of Civil War times, so he must've been here during some of that '61 to '65 period. What brought them here? Well, it's hard to say. They never mentioned it. My father became a very patriotic American. He thought more of his American citizenship than almost anything else. His early purchases, when he was able to make them, were histories pertaining to the United States and to liberty-loving countries published in German because at that time he wasn't proficient in English. We had the history of France, and we had the history of the American revolution, which I turned over to the public library when I no longer had shelf space for them.

- Gertrude Glogower: [00:02:45](#) My education, I went to grade school, eight grades, and high school. At that time, I wanted to become a teacher, but St. Louis, Missouri ... where we had moved when I was five years old ... had no teacher's college at the time. But they had a normal course that you entered for the full four-year term, which was a very stiff course and included, besides the regulation subjects, many that were useful in teaching pedagogy and that kind of thing. Although I was not a graduate of college, I had the equivalent ... At least they presented it that way ... of an education. When I graduated, I was a graduate teacher and became one in the St. Louis public schools until my marriage in 1914. I taught for 12 years.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:04:00](#) I had one brother and two sisters, and we all lived at home. My brother became older, he was the oldest, and he finally went into business in New York City. My sisters followed the same profession. They both became teachers and taught in the St. Louis public schools. Later when I moved to Detroit, the one sister with whom I still live, we still live together, Minnie Rand, she's the youngest in the family. She was eligible to teach in the Detroit public schools, so she taught in the Detroit public schools.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:04:51](#) I married in 1914 Samuel R. Glogower, G-L-O-G-O-W-E-R. My husband's family lived in Louisville. He had worked out of Louisville and was finally transferred to Detroit, Michigan, by his firm-
- Mary Baroff: [00:05:20](#) What was his ... Oh, okay.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:05:20](#) ... Johnson & Johnson, the manufacturing surgical supplies. He remained with the Johnson & Johnson until his death in 1937.
- Mary Baroff: [00:05:43](#) Let me ask you. Oh, okay.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:05:44](#) I came to Detroit when I married. He, my husband, had been here for two years, and we married in 1914. I came back with him to Detroit, and we lived in Detroit. That's why I came to Detroit. Now, you want to ask me something.
- Mary Baroff: [00:06:04](#) Yeah. I wondered how and when you became interested in social issues and in community affairs?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:06:14](#) Well, I became interested, really, in social issues in my high school days. I was exposed, if you want to call it that, to very unusual teachers. I was very fortunate.

Mary Baroff: [00:06:30](#) You were.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:06:30](#) I had an unusual group of teachers. Social problems were often discussed, although apparently they had no connection with the subject that we were learning. The school in which I taught had as a principal a brilliant woman who had come from Boston. She was not only brilliant as a principal, but in everything else. If you were interested in the kind of thing in which she was interested, she realized it and she found some way of including you in a little group that met occasionally for lunch or in the afternoon. I think much of my slant was directed there.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:07:25](#) Then on Saturdays, Saturday noon was the only noon that we three girls were home for lunch with our mother. My mother was the kind who said, "Well, now we're going to do something on Saturday. We're going to have a discussion every Saturday." We sat at the lunch table for hours.

Mary Baroff: [00:07:45](#) Is that right?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:07:45](#) And would discuss things. I would say also during my teaching days, the Ethical Culture Society, to which we did not belong. We were members of the Reform Jewish Temple. I had a branch in St. Louis, and they brought outstanding speakers and thinkers every Sunday afternoon to St. Louis. When my sisters and I heard of it and were first asked to go, we made that a regular program, and I'm sure much of that influenced my thinking. In fact ... I hesitate to say this ... influenced my thinking so much, my father didn't like it that I passed my first vote for Eugene Debs.

Mary Baroff: [00:08:42](#) Oh. Well, you really had a number of different people who influenced you then in this interest that has really added to your contribution to the community.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:08:56](#) That's right.

Mary Baroff: [00:08:56](#) Let me ask you this. You came to Detroit around 1914?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:09:03](#) Late 1914. We didn't really go housekeeping until 1915. We were married in December 1914.

Mary Baroff: [00:09:12](#) Yes. Where did you live?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:09:14](#) Well, we lived in a place that the Jewish people in Detroit never heard of on the corner of West Grand Boulevard and Grand River. That was really almost Detroit City limits. Just North of

that area was the Joy Farm, was all farmland. Uncharted, unbuilt and country, really country. When our first friends came to see us, when the first people ... I don't know whether I've told you this ... the first callers we had where Blanche Hart and Fred Butzel both active in the Detroit organization.

Mary Baroff: [00:10:04](#) How did they learn about you?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:10:05](#) Oh, my husband had met them. My husband had been in Detroit for two years before we were married, and he had met them socially. When he was married, they called on him, and we became very good friends. I was interested in what they were doing. Fred Butzel came for me a few Saturdays after his first call and took me to one of his pet non-Jewish organizations, the Boys Republic. I was fortunate to visit that during they held court on Saturday afternoon, the boys.

Mary Baroff: [00:10:46](#) The boys.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:10:47](#) I guess they still continue a similar program, so that I became a little interested in Detroit organizations through them. But I joined, very early in my coming to Detroit, Rabbi Franklin's bible class. We had joined his temple. We were members of it. I joined his class where I met more people who were of similar interests I'll say.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:11:25](#) I also joined what was then the Jewish Women's Club, which was an organization of women founded by Mrs. Ida Ginsberg long before my time and had a program in which I was interested. In fact, her sister, Miriam Goldman, was one of the people who influenced me to become a part of the Jewish Women's Club.

Mary Baroff: [00:11:57](#) I figured.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:11:58](#) I joined the Jewish Women's Club. I didn't join the Sisterhood of Beth El. I said, "I can't join too many organizations, and I think the Council has more than I'm interested in."

Mary Baroff: [00:12:09](#) What were some of the programs at that time that interested you?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:12:12](#) Well, the programs that they had were ... What shall I say? Well, the one program in which I became active was what they called their Penny Lunch Program. They went down to the old Bishop School in Detroit and furnished and served a penny lunch. We made sandwiches. We sliced the bread, and we sliced the meat

and whatever it was. I guess they were sold for a penny apiece. A sweet potato for a penny apiece. Well, the Jewish Women's Club carried that on so long until they got the Detroit Board of Education to institute lunch rooms in the public schools.

Mary Baroff: [00:13:00](#) Is that true? This was actually an influence for this program?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:13:04](#) Oh, definitely. There is no question about that. Then the Detroit, the Council, not the council, the Jewish Women's Club gave it up. Now, the Jewish Women's club had many good workers, many active workers.

Mary Baroff: [00:13:22](#) Who were some of the people that-

Gertrude Glogower: [00:13:24](#) Mrs. Max May. Well, I've already mentioned Miriam Goldman. Mrs. Max May. Mrs. Joseph Welt, Miriam Goldman, Mrs. Henry Krolik, Senior, that was Ida Krolik. She also was a Past President of the Jewish Women's Club. Then when Mrs. Max May came in and Mrs. Joseph Welt ... but mostly Mrs. May ... Mrs. May was very anxious that the Jewish Women's Club should become a part of the National Council of Jewish Women.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:14:07](#) Then the Jewish Women's Club was older, much older. The Council of Jewish Women was formed at the Chicago World's Fair ... I think that was 1901 or '02 ... by Hannah Solomon and was a national organization. Mrs. May would say, "When you go away in the winter or you go in the summer, you'll meet women who belong to the National Council of Jewish Women. They don't know anything about the Jewish Women's Club."

Mary Baroff: [00:14:42](#) The Jewish Woman's Club was a local group. Is that a local group?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:14:46](#) That was a local Detroit group.

Mary Baroff: [00:14:48](#) Yes. Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gertrude Glogower: [00:14:49](#) Well, then there was quite an argument and a discussion. Shall we join? Shall we not join? Well, finally Mrs. May and Mrs. Joseph Welt, who were the leaders for joining, won out. The Jewish Women's Club became the Detroit Section, National Council of Jewish Women.

Mary Baroff: [00:15:11](#) Uh-huh (affirmative). I see.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:15:14](#) And has had, I would say, a very successful career as a Council. Mrs. Joseph Welt became a National President of the National

Council of Jewish Women. She was local first and then national. Jo Weiner did the same thing. She was local and then she became a National President.

- Mary Baroff: [00:15:40](#) Let me ask you this. Once the Women's Club became the Council of Jewish Women, what would you say were some of the projects that have really interested you through the years that the Council has participated in?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:16:01](#) What contributors?
- Mary Baroff: [00:16:02](#) What were some of the projects that have interested you?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:16:09](#) Well, me, the one which interested me most was the formation of the Young Women's Hebrew Association. The Council of Jewish Women. The Jewish Women's Club. It happened almost simultaneously at the end of the War.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:16:37](#) The end of the War, Detroit had had a war chest of which Mr. David Brown was the head. At the end of the War ... all the debts were paid ... there was a large sum of money remaining, which was divided, as we understood it at the time, among the various organizations. Denominational and otherwise that were a part of it. The Jewish Women's Club ... that's before it became a Council ... received through Mr. Brown, a sum of money large enough to buy the home at 89 Rowena, which is now Mack Avenue, not far from Woodward, which we operated first as a home for girls who were stranded in Detroit, who had been brought here as war workers in munition industries.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:17:46](#) That same pattern was true all over the United States. Here were these girls, and there wasn't enough housing for them. But we opened this house, and it was very successful. Plenty of girls that wanted to live there and finally then they wanted some programs planned for them, and so we took care of that. Programs were planned for them.
- Mary Baroff: [00:18:12](#) Was this largely for Jewish girls? Or was this a non-sectarian?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:18:17](#) No, it was for Jewish girls
- Mary Baroff: [00:18:19](#) It was for Jewish girls.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:18:19](#) Definitely for Jewish girls.
- Mary Baroff: [00:18:22](#) There were a lot of Jewish-

Gertrude Glogower: [00:18:24](#) Because there was the Young Women's Christian Association who took care of the non-Jewish girls.

Mary Baroff: [00:18:29](#) There were a lot of Jewish girls who worked in the munitions industry? Is that so?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:18:33](#) Yes. All over, all over and nationally. They had that problem much more seriously than we did in the cities. At least the cities had something to base their work on. But you had to go out into the communities that sprang up over night, and you had to make the facilities.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:18:56](#) Well, we finally added ... We didn't have boy membership ... but the girls wanted dances, and they invited their boyfriends. We had the boys come, and the boys were quite an acquisition. One of them said to me one day, "Oh, Mrs. Glogower, why don't you have something for the boys? Why don't you? What we need is a lesson in table manners." Did I tell you this one?

Mary Baroff: [00:19:24](#) No.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:19:25](#) I said, "Well that's interesting." He says, "Yes. I don't know how to eat soup." I said, "You shall have a class in table manners and what's more, I'm going to teach it myself."

Mary Baroff: [00:19:36](#) That's what you did.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:19:39](#) Yes. That's the one thing we did for the boys who wanted it. Later we turned the garage in the rear of the building into a little theater, and we had dramatics. We put on little shows, just for the group, nothing for the public. We continued to expand the program.

Mary Baroff: [00:20:04](#) Let me ask you this. You were very involved with this program. What was your job? What did-

Gertrude Glogower: [00:20:11](#) I was Chairman of the Young Women's Hebrew Association Committee of the Jewish Women's Club.

Mary Baroff: [00:20:17](#) I see.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:20:18](#) That was transferred to the Detroit Section, National Council of Jewish Women. As Chairman, I had that responsibility.

Mary Baroff: [00:20:32](#) How long was that home open? Do you recall?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:20:35](#) How long was the-

Mary Baroff: [00:20:36](#) Was the home, was the building open on Rowena?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:20:42](#) How many years?

Mary Baroff: [00:20:43](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gertrude Glogower: [00:20:44](#) I'm sorry. I don't know. But I think it could be looked up, but must have been from the close of the War. When the war close? 1940? I'm not sure. Well, it must've been from the close of the War until the formation of the Jewish Community Center.

Mary Baroff: [00:21:07](#) Uh-huh (affirmative). Yes.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:21:08](#) Because parallel to the Council's work with young women, there was a Jewish Centers Association, which was based on a local Young Men's Hebrew Association. Their clientele was boys. They may have invited girls on occasion, but their work was with the boys. We both ... They were the boy population, we were the girl population ... were, I will say, serviced, if you can call an organization being serviced, by the National Jewish Welfare Board with headquarters in New York City. Which is the organization that services Jewish community centers and all Army work, all Jewish Army work. The chaplaincy service was a part of their responsibility. They were formed at the time of the First World War.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:22:18](#) Now Louis Kraft, who died this past year, was the Founder of the National Jewish Welfare Board, and a remarkable man and a wonderful social worker. He was after me and he was after Milton Alexander that we join forces and become a Jewish Community Center. Well, each group hated to give up its own ... What shall I say ... Independence as it were. There were some difficult times, but they finally satisfied everybody.

Mary Baroff: [00:23:01](#) How did it work out? What happened to the boards, for example?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:23:05](#) Well, now, it worked out very well. We were very fair about it. We wanted the new board to be representative of both old boards. A small committee was appointed from both boards to work out the details, and they decided that so many members from each board, each board would have the right to decide on who on the membership. They would choose their own board members. They each had the same number of board members. That's how the first board was formed.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:23:44](#) As far as I remember, there was never any further ... There was never any friction. I mean, we accepted the situation, and we knew that it was to be that kind of a thing. I happened to be, I was elected as the first president. Now the important thing about that is not that I was elected, but that the Jewish Community Center was the first center in the United States with a woman at the head of it.

Mary Baroff: [00:24:18](#) Is that so?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:24:22](#) Yes. Now I think-

Mary Baroff: [00:24:22](#) That is important.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:24:22](#) ... that is important to the ... I don't know whether they've had any since then or not. Yes, I think they have. I'm not sure. Well, at any rate, they were the first ones who had it. They were followed by others. Mrs. Heller in Chicago, another woman in Baltimore. They became heads of their centers then.

Mary Baroff: [00:24:49](#) But you were the first?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:24:50](#) Yes. It was the first center that ever had a woman.

Mary Baroff: [00:24:54](#) You were one of the original women's libbers.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:24:56](#) That's exactly what I wasn't.

Mary Baroff: [00:24:58](#) You weren't?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:25:00](#) Personally, I haven't too much sympathy for the libbers, I guess, because I found much to do without being a libber.

Mary Baroff: [00:25:08](#) Right. Let me ask you this. The time that the Jewish Center, that the Center became an entity and merged, what were some of the needs in the community that you recall? Some of the needs that a for service from the Center?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:25:32](#) What were some of the what?

Mary Baroff: [00:25:33](#) The needs of the Center clientele of the people who came to the Center? What were some of the needs that the Center fulfilled?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:25:43](#) Needs?

Mary Baroff: [00:25:43](#) Yes.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:25:44](#) Oh. The Center fulfilled all the requests for classes of all kinds. Social affairs, dances. They had a much enlarged dramatic group. They brought HIAS here, so they had a-

Mary Baroff: [00:26:09](#) Under your?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:26:10](#) Oh, no. Not under mine.

Mary Baroff: [00:26:11](#) No, later. Later.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:26:11](#) I was only.

Mary Baroff: [00:26:11](#) Yeah, that's right.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:26:17](#) I was only President for whatever the period was, two or three years. We had quite a music school under HIAS as well. That's gone on and that has developed, and now they have a much more inclusive program. A program that I would say is the equivalent to a club, a private club for people who can't afford to belong to a club that costs more.

Mary Baroff: [00:26:57](#) How is it different now than it was in your time? What?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:27:01](#) Well now, I'm not really in a position to say. Because for the last seven to 10 years, I've been out of the organization picture. I had a lot of illness in my own family.

Mary Baroff: [00:27:20](#) But what were some of the activities then that you recall at that time? At the time that you were President?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:27:28](#) Well, those that I've told you. They were all started at that time.

Mary Baroff: [00:27:32](#) I see.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:27:35](#) HIAS was started. I distinctly remember having a meeting with Mr. Butzel about HIAS.

Mary Baroff: [00:27:44](#) Is that right?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:27:45](#) I don't know just what it was. We had to straighten something out between us that was going on inside. No. I don't remember that they were any different than, of course, now they have a much more extensive program. I still get their literature.

Mary Baroff: [00:28:09](#) Do you?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:28:09](#) I'm still on their board of directors. I look down the board of directors and I recognize very few people, which is natural. After all, that has always been a ... What shall I say? No. I won't call it a habit, but a very strong policy of mine that I think people should head organizations as long as they can fulfill a need. If they find younger people ready to step in, they should make way for younger people. That's the most important thing, to get other people doing the same work. I always felt as a Center President, my most successful job was to get Hyman Broder to take the Presidency.

Mary Baroff: [00:29:11](#) Did he follow you?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:29:14](#) I don't know whether he exactly followed me or not, but he had never been involved in communal work. Somehow I interested him in the program of the Center, and he accepted the Presidency. Unfortunately, he didn't live long enough to accomplish much.

Mary Baroff: [00:29:37](#) Well, that is a wonderful ability when you can encourage others to also participate. It's a real contribution.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:29:45](#) That's the important thing. This business of holding onto a job and extending the tenure, I disapprove of.

Mary Baroff: [00:29:55](#) Let me ask you this. Who were some of the very active people? The active leaders at the time that you were active in the Jewish Community Center?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:30:06](#) In the Center?

Mary Baroff: [00:30:06](#) Yes.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:30:06](#) In the Center. Let me see. Well, Milton Alexander, of course, because he had been head of the Jewish Centers Association. Mrs. Joseph Welt was active in the new Jewish Community Center. They've lost three members who are members of my board that were this past year. Saul Saulson. The architect, [Mr. Tobachnik 00:30:53].

Mary Baroff: [00:30:55](#) Yes. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gertrude Glogower: [00:30:56](#) And another one. Who was the other one we lost this year? I'll tell you who else was active. Charles Rubiner. He was a President. The other Rubiner, his older brother.

Mary Baroff: [00:31:12](#) Samuel?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:31:13](#) Sam Rubiner. He was a Past President. Well, he died. Henry Meyers was a Past President. Well, I think I have the more the recent ones, well, Presidents of the Center. Of course, they have them all ... The center has them all strung up on their wall. They had a very active board always and a very good board.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:31:51](#) I tried to think of some problems because you had asked me something about problems. Well, there was one problem at the beginning. The board was made up Council of Jewish Women's Club women and men from the Jewish Centers Association. They came from varying religious backgrounds with varying ... What shall I say? ... ideas, naturally. One of the first problems was the Saturday opening or closing. It took a while until we resolved that. Jewish Centers throughout the country, each one has its own decision on it.

Mary Baroff: [00:32:44](#) How did you resolve it?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:32:46](#) I think at the time we closed on Saturday. We did have Oneg Shabbat once in a while. We could have a social afternoon, something that, well I guess it differs from work. Whatever it was, we answered whatever was necessary in having the kind of an entertainment that we could have. Now, I don't even know now what the Jewish Community Center does about Saturdays. I'm sure they must have some activities.

Mary Baroff: [00:33:23](#) I believe the health club is open.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:33:27](#) The health club.

Mary Baroff: [00:33:27](#) I believe so.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:33:27](#) That's just what I thought. Now, that they're going to have a tennis club, they're certainly not going to give up. I won't answer for them, but I don't imagine that they are.

Mary Baroff: [00:33:37](#) That's one of the changes that has taken place and one of the issues that-

Gertrude Glogower: [00:33:40](#) Oh, yes. Those are changes that have taken place.

Mary Baroff: [00:33:40](#) Were there any other issues that you-

Gertrude Glogower: [00:33:48](#) They've made changes in board of directors. I'd say that the whole community has undergone that change. The reform has become less reform and the conservative has become more

reform, if you want to put it, less conservative. It has influenced all those groups to work together.

- Gertrude Glogower: [00:34:20](#) When I first came to Detroit, there was really ... I hate to use the word ... but there was almost a feeling of enmity between the two groups. That was in 1914. Because I think the conservative branch had broken away from what was originally one Beth El.
- Mary Baroff: [00:34:44](#) Beth El. Right?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:34:45](#) That probably caused it. But I would say today certainly there's not that feeling now.
- Mary Baroff: [00:34:52](#) Was there a predominance of any one group on the boards at the original, at the time that you came? Were most of the board people from the reform group or from the-
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:35:07](#) No. They were not mostly reform. They were not mostly reform. I guess perhaps the women were reform who came to the Jewish Women's Club.
- Mary Baroff: [00:35:20](#) I see.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:35:20](#) But the Jewish Women's Club isn't as reformed as it used to be either.
- Mary Baroff: [00:35:23](#) There have been all kind of changes.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:35:23](#) I mean they-
- Mary Baroff: [00:35:27](#) There've been all kinds of changes.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:35:28](#) Yes, there have been all kinds of changes. There's been another change that I'm not so sure is a good change, but I don't know what can be done about it. That is the importance of the dollar. But in the age we're living and with the things we're going through nationally ... that have nothing to do with the Jewish community and all the rest of it ... it's understandable that it is important to involve the interest of the people who can pay for things because they cost so much. It didn't cost so much in the years when the United Jewish Charities started and the Federation was started. Now it costs. They put almost billions into their buildings now.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:36:26](#) Well, there are other changes. If there were any recommendation to make ... I mean, I'm not making any recommendation because I am not in a position to know what

they're doing. I've been too much out of touch with what's going on. I'm sure they have already re-evaluated some of the work that they're doing. Because with all the help that the government is giving us in the medical field, in the educational field, I'm sure that some of the work that was originally undertaken by all these organizations is no longer needed. It must already have branched into something else. Now, further than that, I mean, there's nothing I can add to that.

Mary Baroff: [00:37:28](#) With regard to your last comments about changes and social planning, I would like to divert at this time to discuss the two important organizations whose 75th and 50th Anniversaries we are celebrating, the United Jewish Charities and the Jewish Welfare Federation. With regard to the United Jewish Charities, do you remember the old Hannah Schloss Building on High Street?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:37:52](#) Oh, I certainly do. I remember the Hannah Schloss Settlement House, and I remember old ... Well, she wasn't old then ... Mrs. Sarah Foley who was, I guess, the mother of the Krolik Family who was not a [inaudible 00:38:11] but who was very active in serving the needy and the youngsters who came to the Hannah Schloss Building. I'm not a sewer, but I know I was finagled into helping in a sewing class down there where she had a group of girls, young girls, who came in for that.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:38:35](#) There were groups of boys who met for other things. I think the Hannah Schloss Settlement was very active as an almost, you might say, a forerunner of what was later carried on by the Jewish Centers Association and the Young Woman's Hebrew Association.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:38:54](#) But when the United Jewish Charities, which was the only organized group in charge, felt the need of further expansion, and that need was brought home because they realized that the needy in our city were going to too many sources for the same help. There was no division of responsibility among the agencies. I think those people who were in charge of the United Jewish Charities felt that it should be separated into groups. They not only were helping the same people and probably others were neglected because of it, but they had no professional workers on their staff. They felt that need at the same time. This committee-

Mary Baroff: [00:40:02](#) On which you served, the Survey Committee.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:40:04](#) ... on which I didn't even realize I served. I mean, today I didn't realize it. It must've been one of my very earliest activities. I know I was a member of the United Jewish Charities Board. I didn't know, I'd forgotten, that I was a member of this committee. That according to the records, your records, show that this committee recommended the formation of the Jewish Welfare Federation and the bringing of a top professional to help in that organization. Which led to the engaging of Mr. Morris Waldman who came here as the first Director following Ms. Blanche Hart who had been the so-called Director but was very avowedly, a nonprofessional. I mean, she made no claim to being a professional, but she, I think, did as good a job as one could expect from a volunteer.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:41:12](#) After Mr. Waldman came, I'd forgotten whether she found a place in the organization or not, but there was cooperation all the way around, and everybody helped in that reorganization.

Mary Baroff: [00:41:28](#) What changes took place in the structure of the community organization once the Federation was formed? Were new organizations started? Where-

Gertrude Glogower: [00:41:41](#) I don't remember the details at all. But the Jewish Welfare Federation has gradually organized or helped organize various avenues of work in which groups were interested. I guess the Family Service was a part of it. What later became, what probably started as a health committee, later became the North End Clinic, which led finally to Sinai Hospital.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:42:14](#) In that way, the various organizations grew from small committees. The Jewish Centers Association grew from a small group of boys who were interested in forming a Young Man's Hebrew Association. The Young Women's Hebrew Association was formed by the Council of Jewish Women. Well, I think that's just an illustration of how one need led to the formation of another group.

Mary Baroff: [00:42:47](#) Okay. The community structure and its added sophistication was more able to plan and to take this on probably.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:42:57](#) Yes. Yes and a little later then came the unified fundraising, which, of course, was a big step forward.

Mary Baroff: [00:43:03](#) When did that begin? Do you have a date?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:43:09](#) A date? I don't know. It probably started in Mr. Waldman's time. I don't know. It started the non-professional. The

volunteer who is very active in it was David Brown who headed the first fundraising campaign [inaudible 00:43:35]. Then the Federation unified fundraising led to the total community unified fundraising and the Detroit Community Fund and Detroit Community Union Reform. The Jewish Welfare Federation became a part of both of those organizations.

- Mary Baroff: [00:43:57](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative). Let me ask you this. What has been your role with Federation?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:44:04](#) I think I was just a member of the board. I wasn't anything but a member of the board, and I was probably on committees that organized for a specific purpose. I don't remember. I'm afraid it's too long ago for me to remember the details.
- Mary Baroff: [00:44:30](#) Were you active with the fundraising for Federation?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:44:35](#) Oh, yes. Active with the fundraising. In fact, at the bottom of the present board of directors of the Jewish Welfare Federation is the name of Ms. Esther Prussian, who served as the first Secretary for Fundraising, and we as volunteers worked with Esther Prussian. She would remember all of that. Today she's no longer able to be active, but I think everybody has recognized the contribution she made in the past.
- Mary Baroff: [00:45:15](#) Esther Prussian was interviewed for this group of interviews.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:45:19](#) [crosstalk 00:45:18].
- Mary Baroff: [00:45:19](#) Yes. Uh-huh (affirmative). Yes. Were you also active with the Women's Division?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:45:24](#) Was I?
- Mary Baroff: [00:45:25](#) Where you active with the Women's Division?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:45:29](#) Oh, yes, certainly, I was active in the Women's Division. I think as I remember I ... My memory isn't too good on that score and I don't want to give misinformation ... but I think Mrs. Joseph Welt and I were the first Co-chairman of the Women's Division of the Jewish Welfare Federation. Esther Prussian can confirm that or correct it. She probably has more vivid recollections of it. I think that's the way it was.
- Mary Baroff: [00:46:00](#) Then you were there right at the time of its formation?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:46:05](#) Yes. At the unified start. Yeah, at the time of the start of unified money raising and unified money raising probably the whole non-Jewish community as well when the community organizations were formed. The big gifts and a general solicitation when you ring doorbells, are assigned certain neighborhoods and you try to cover it.

Mary Baroff: [00:46:36](#) This is side two on the taped interview with Mrs. Glogower.

Mary Baroff: [00:47:04](#) Could we talk a little bit about some of the lay leaders in the Jewish community that you remembered? Well, Mrs. Glogower, of course, you knew Fred Butzel well. What do you think was his unique contribution to our community life?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:47:22](#) Well, that's a very big order so for me. I can't do the answer justice that it deserves. As far as my experience goes, my recollection of what took place when I became a part of the community, Fred Butzel was the leader as far as social work was concerned, not only in the Jewish but in the non-Jewish community.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:47:52](#) There were others active. I think many of them were motivated originally by Fred Butzel and became very active and very good leaders. I think Julian Krolik, Henry Wineman. Rabbi Franklin was a worker on his own because at that time the temples when needy people wanted someone to help them, they went to the temples. In that way, our rabbis were involved. Both Rabbi Franklin and Rabbi Hirshman were active in that capacity.

Mary Baroff: [00:48:42](#) They were really responding to a new, it was rather a new problem at that time in the community and that was the very large influx of immigrants.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:48:53](#) Yes. Yes.

Mary Baroff: [00:48:54](#) Was that not one of the reasons that it became a real problem?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:48:59](#) Yes. Yes. I think that was one of the reasons. I don't know that it was just at that particular time. It had been prior to that, and then it continued. The immigrants continued to come until there was the quota came in to existence. I'm not an authority on the immigration, although all through the years, the Federation played an important part in taking care of the immigrants when they came.

Mary Baroff: [00:49:41](#) Was this need for a unified planning group, for example, when the United Jewish Charities grew up, was that taking place all

over the country simultaneously? Or was Detroit unique in its beginning of a planning group such as United Jewish Charities?

- Gertrude Glogower: [00:50:00](#) Well, I don't think I'm in a position to answer that question.
- Mary Baroff: [00:50:04](#) I was just curious that-
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:50:06](#) I know that I had come from St. Louis where I was raised from five years up until my marriage when I came to Detroit. The only thing I knew about what was going on in St. Louis, I knew there was unified giving. I knew that the scale of giving was way ahead of the scale of giving in Detroit. I remember my comment when I heard what the top gifts were in Detroit, although that wouldn't be considered a top gift in St. Louis.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:50:48](#) Now whether it was a wealthier community or not, I don't know, whether it had been organized or not. I was a school teacher, and I didn't have any time and, the at that time, no interest in actively taking part in social work.
- Mary Baroff: [00:51:09](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay. One of the other people that I wanted to ask you about that I think you had a rather active association with was Dora Ehrlich.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:51:18](#) Yes. I had very pleasant associations with Dora Ehrlich from the time I met her, and I met her as a very staunch, fervid Hadassah devotee. It was something that appealed to me in a way, but it didn't make the impression on me that Dora would've liked it to make. We didn't argue about it. We were friends about it, but she knew there were other issues that I considered more important.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:51:58](#) Nevertheless, all through the years we were good friends, and I think we both respected each other's viewpoint, and we were glad to have each other's friendship. I think anyone in the community who remembers her today would remember her only with affection and with respect and with admiration.
- Mary Baroff: [00:52:33](#) One of the other people that you had mentioned a number of times was Mrs. Joseph Welt. You had a rather close association with her also, did you not?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:52:43](#) We became closely associated in the original Jewish Women's Club, which later became the Detroit Section, National Council of Jewish Women. We have been friends over 50 years. We had worked together in the Council. We worked together in other organizations.

Mary Baroff: [00:53:05](#) What other groups was she involved in?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:53:07](#) Oh, she was very active in the Visiting Nurse Association, was the President of that. Then later, she was active in the NSO. I'm trying to think what that stands for. It was a service organization, but I don't know what the N stood for.

Mary Baroff: [00:53:29](#) National?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:53:29](#) No. Neighborhood. Neighborhood.

Mary Baroff: [00:53:32](#) Oh, Neighborhood Service.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:53:33](#) Which is still in existence. It's still and very active.

Mary Baroff: [00:53:34](#) Oh, yes, it is. Mary Lake has been on the board in recent years.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:53:38](#) Yes. She was very active and President of that. Then she became a National President of the National Council of Jewish Women. Well, between that and the Visiting Nurse, her whole adult life was devoted to those organizations.

Mary Baroff: [00:53:57](#) We've really been very fortunate to have so many outstanding people among the doers in the Jewish community. Is that not true?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:54:06](#) I think so.

Mary Baroff: [00:54:08](#) Let me ask you this. What about some of the professional people? Who are some that stand out in your mind among the professional leaders?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:54:20](#) Well, of course, first I started with Waldman, and then his successors. I wasn't as close in my work there with them. I think when Mr. Sobeloff came as Executive Director and he made a big impression on this community and was very successful as a social planner and as a campaign planner. He's retired now. Now, let's see who else? Mr. Silver, who was head of his Family Services.

Mary Baroff: [00:55:01](#) I guess it was the Jewish Social Service Bureau.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:55:01](#) Jewish Social Service Bureau. Who was the other head of a clinic? Who was the professional head?

Mary Baroff: [00:55:12](#) Selma Sampliner.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:55:13](#) Hmm?

Mary Baroff: [00:55:16](#) Sampliner? Miss Sampliner.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:55:18](#) Sampliner was a more recent one. She was more recent. But before that, three was ... I don't think she was Jewish, the first director of the North End Clinic. That's what it was called. I've forgotten her name, but the records would have those.

Mary Baroff: [00:55:39](#) Yes. Right. Right. Mrs. Glogower, I couldn't complete this taping without some reference to your work in the general community, both on a local and national level. You served in the capacity of Head of Solicitations for the United Fund, the equivalent of our present foundation, and as Past National Chairman of Service for Girls, the National USO. Has it been your philosophy that it's important to give service to both the general and the Jewish community?

Gertrude Glogower: [00:56:14](#) Oh, definitely. I think if your service is wanted and you have the time for it and you feel capable to do it, I don't think that makes any difference which it is. I think my service with a National USO was one of the most rewarding experiences I ever had because I came very close to what were the war needs. For the first time, women were called upon to do men's work and without preparation were thrown into men's jobs in communities where there really was no community.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:57:05](#) This National Committee for Service to Women and Girls was organized by representatives of the organizations that made up the National USO and set the policies for the military women, the women in service, the military service, the wives of the men in service. The women in industry, especially the women in industry, because this was the first time that women were needed in such great numbers because the men were going to war to man our factories, and that created problems.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:57:57](#) Communities were thrown up overnight. You visited some places actually in the wilderness ... in the middle of Ohio, in the middle of Indiana ... where there had been nothing. A munition factory was thrown up, thrown together, practically overnight, and the workers were brought in. There were no homes for them. There was no place to live. There was no recreation. There was no organized way of getting food to them.

Gertrude Glogower: [00:58:29](#) But that's what this committee undertook. Not to do it all, but to motivate the community in order to provide these services. As I say, it was a very rewarding piece of work because you

actually saw first this need where there was nothing available. Then in a short while, you saw what had been accomplished.

- Mary Baroff: [00:58:58](#) And had the gratification of seeing this wonderful accomplishment.
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:59:03](#) Oh, great, great gratification. This Women's Committee, I think, did quite a yeoman's service. Because, as I have said before, it was the first time that women were thrown into this part of the picture.
- Mary Baroff: [00:59:18](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative). Now, there you saw the fulfillment of needs that existed and the meeting of those needs. Do you have any comments about or ideas about unmet needs today that, perhaps, should be thought about or should be thought about in terms of meeting?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:59:45](#) Ideas about what?
- Mary Baroff: [00:59:47](#) Unmet needs today?
- Gertrude Glogower: [00:59:49](#) Oh. I don't know. Our needs have changed so. Even the things that we thought were needs have been shuffled off by some of this present generation. They want none of it. I don't know whether there are the same needs, whether there are different needs. From what we see in our movies, on the stage, what we read in the paper, I think we of an older generation think there are great needs. But I don't believe the younger generation-
- Mary Baroff: [01:00:29](#) What are some of the needs that you see?
- Gertrude Glogower: [01:00:30](#) ... would agree that it's-
- Mary Baroff: [01:00:32](#) Yeah. Well, how about you though? What do you see as some of the needs?
- Gertrude Glogower: [01:00:35](#) Well, the only thing I see is that I don't think the new generation really have any definite set standards. Anything that the generation wants, they think is okay. They should do it. I think, perhaps, we of the older generation have been lax in allowing things to develop that way. Maybe I'm all wrong. Maybe they should develop that way, and this other generation has the right to shuffle off the standards that the older generation had set. Maybe our standards were wrong. I'm willing to give them the benefit of the doubt, but I'd like to see them with some standards.

Mary Baroff: [01:01:30](#) In other words, one of the things that you see might be the fact that, perhaps, we have to get this generation to think about their values and standards. Is that it?

Gertrude Glogower: [01:01:44](#) Yes. To make up their mind what is really worthwhile and what's the best way to get it.

Mary Baroff: [01:01:54](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay. We'll have to see what we can do about it.

Gertrude Glogower: [01:01:58](#) Well, I won't worry about it.

Mary Baroff: [01:02:04](#) Okay. Mrs. Glogower, I thank you. It has been a real pleasure to interview you and to have this tape for our archives. Thank you very much.

Gertrude Glogower: [01:02:14](#) Well, I know I have enjoyed it. It's brought back to me the recollection of many happy hours. I'm grateful for having had that.

Mary Baroff: [01:02:27](#) And will bring to others some sharing of your memories.

Gertrude Glogower: [01:02:31](#) Well.

Mary Baroff: [01:02:32](#) This may be one of the ways of reevaluating our standards. To look back and really see what some of the accomplishments have been. Okay.