

1 ORAL HISTORY OF: Graham Orley
2 INTERVIEWED BY: Charlotte Dubin
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5 SUBJECT MATTER: Jewish community life

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7 MS. DUBIN: Mr. Orley, do we have permission to use
8 your words and thoughts in the future for educational and
9 historic research and documentation?

10 MR. ORLEY: Yes.

11 MS. DUBIN: Let's start at the very beginning. When
12 and where were you born?

13 MR. ORLEY: I was born October the 9th, 1924, in the
14 city of Detroit in what I guess would now be called Women's
15 Hospital. At the time of my birth my mother and father lived
16 on a street called Pingree, which is on the west side of
17 Detroit and runs east and west off of Dexter Boulevard. It's
18 half way between West Grand Boulevard and Davidson.

19 MS. DUBIN: Tell me a little bit about your parents.

20 MR. ORLEY: My father was born in Russia, and at the
21 age of 13 he arrived in America with a widowed mother and two
22 sisters. In order for them to come into America a distant
23 relative who lived in Indianapolis had to sign for them so
24 that they would not become chattels of the country.

25 My mother was born in Lithuania. She arrived in

1 Baltimore, and I don't know the year that she arrived, but she
2 came to Detroit because she had relatives in Detroit. My
3 father ended up in Detroit after spending about two days in
4 New York because it was too busy, too bustley for him. He had
5 some friends here and finally moved to Detroit where I was
6 born.

7 **MS. DUBIN:** Can you tell us a little bit about your
8 home growing up.

9 **MR. ORLEY:** Backing up for just a moment with my
10 father. One of the interesting stories that my father would
11 tell, as a young boy in Russia, was the fact that he grew up
12 in a little village called Krimenchak, which was right near
13 Kiev. His father was a grain merchant. They would ride the
14 grain into the big city every weekend so that they could sell
15 the grain to the various merchants. Somehow he learned to
16 ride horses during that period of his life, and when he
17 entered America during the First World War, he was in the
18 calvary in the United States Army.

19 Going back to your next question, Charlotte, what
20 would you like me to answer?

21 **MS. DUBIN:** Actually, this story was pretty
22 interesting. When he came to this country, did he start a
23 business or work someplace?

24 **MR. ORLEY:** No, my father was 13 years old when he
25 came to America. When he was 18 he was in the army. After he

1 came out of the army, he looked for a job, and he was just a
2 normal person with a job. Ultimately, when he was about 20
3 something he became a real estate broker, and was a real
4 estate broker until the Depression. During the Depression
5 things were different in America, and everybody struggled to
6 get by, and he and Mother did the very same thing.

7 They got by, and during that time there were certain
8 things that could be done and couldn't be done, but
9 nevertheless I grew up, my brother Joe, who was born three and
10 a half years prior to my birth, grew up, and subsequent to my
11 birth my sister Rhea was born and she grew up. Whether the
12 conditions stark or tough or whatever, Mother and Dad always
13 managed to save. We had food on the table and we were able to
14 go to school and continue with our education without having to
15 quit school, so that we were able to grow up in America and
16 become what we are today.

17 **MS. DUBIN:** What was it like in your home?

18 **MR. ORLEY:** Well, my mother was a very pro-Jewish
19 mother. And by pro-Jewish mother I mean that she was an
20 Orthodox woman. My father was not an Orthodox man; he was a
21 Conservative Jew. Between the two they would have a very
22 interesting relationship. When my mother got to be Kosher,
23 and my father would say, Couldn't we just do something a
24 little different? And the answer was no. I grew up in a
25 Kosher home.

1 I remember so vividly as we grew up that Friday
2 night dinners were very important to our family. My sister,
3 my brother and I during that time would absolutely be there at
4 the dinner table for the Shabat dinner and we continued having
5 those dinners up until our families, after my brother was
6 married, I was married, and my sister was married, and the
7 families grew so large that it was almost impossible for my
8 mother to have those dinners on Friday night, and each family
9 began a program of having their own Friday night Shabat
10 dinner, which in many instances throughout the family is
11 continued to this day.

12 **MS. DUBIN:** Did your family belong to a synagogue?

13 **MR. ORLEY:** Yes. I'm going to back up for a minute.
14 My mother lived as a young girl next door to Ed Levy, Sr. Ed
15 Levy, Sr. and I tell Ed, Jr. this story all the time, how he
16 would not let my mother go out with my father until he -- Ed
17 Levy, Sr. -- put the okay on my father, which he ultimately
18 did, and they got married.

19 As a young boy, because of my mother's family, we
20 belonged to a synagogue that was located on Linwood and Blaine
21 called Michigan Israel. I remember on the High Holy Days
22 playing with the hazel nuts outside of the synagogue, rolling
23 the hazel nuts against the wall of the synagogue to see who
24 could win the most hazel nuts, which were then taken home for
25 the High Holy Days.

1 Subsequent to belonging to that little synagogue we
2 joined Shaarey Zedek probably in 1930, prior to their building
3 the main sanctuary at Chicago and Lawton. I remember prior to
4 the building of the synagogue, and actually while the building
5 was going on, services were held in the catering hall on
6 Twelfth Street on the second level. When Shaarey Zedek opened
7 over there on Chicago and Lawton, I entered in the second or
8 third grade, and our family has been there -- this being 2004
9 -- for over 70 years.

10 We began with Rabbi H^ershman. I was there when
11 Hank Greenberg came into the synagogue and asked permission to
12 play on the High Holy Days. I remember Rabbi Adler. In fact
13 one of my sons was in the synagogue for one of his services
14 prior to his bar mitzvah the day Rabbi Adler was shot. All of
15 my children were -- my two sons were bar mitzvahed at Shaarey
16 Zedek.

17 Oh, I'll back up further. I was married at Shaarey
18 Zedek. My sister was confirmed at Shaarey Zedek. We have
19 been members there ever since and are still members there to
20 this day.

21 **MS. DUBIN:** Besides your marriage you mentioned two
22 other historic events that took place at Shaarey Zedek. I
23 wonder if you could tell us a little about the two: Hank
24 Greenberg and Rabbi Adler.

25 **MR. ORLEY:** I was probably ten years old at the

1 time, and at that time it was difficult for children to really
2 sit in the main sanctuary but they were permitted if your
3 parents were there. Hank Greenberg came into the synagogue.
4 At the time he was the great Jewish ballplayer for the Detroit
5 Tigers. He came in and had asked prior to the main service if
6 he could play on that particular holiday because the Detroit
7 Tigers were in the playoffs at that time. The rabbi gave him
8 permission, and it was really exciting for a ten-year-old boy
9 to see the Jewish ballplayer come in and ask the rabbi for
10 permission to play, which was granted. I think, if I recall
11 correctly, he hit a home run that day and they won the ball
12 game. So it worked out very well.

13 On the other hand, when I was in high school and
14 playing football, I had gone to the high school on a day that
15 was a Jewish holiday to play ball, and I broke my elbow that
16 day. So you never know if you're going to win.

17 **MS. DUBIN:** What was the reaction of the
18 congregation when Hank Greenberg walked in? Do you remember?

19 **MR. ORLEY:** The place just got up and began to clap.
20 Everybody was excited because this was a real happening.

21 **MS. DUBIN:** The other event, the sadder event, was
22 the death of Rabbi Adler.

23 **MR. ORLEY:** My son was pre-bar mitzvah. As you know
24 a bar mitzvah boy or a bat mitzvah girl to go to synagogue
25 ever so many times prior to their becoming an adult. Randy

1 happened to have been in the synagogue that day when a young
2 man walked up, a young man who Rabbi Adler was counseling, and
3 the young man walked up to the rabbi and said a few words --
4 and this is according to my son Randy, who has mentioned it
5 ever so many times -- pulled a gun and shot the rabbi in front
6 of the congregants, and the place -- I use the word exploded,
7 but I mean the place became pandemonium. Police were called
8 and the ambulance was called, and Rabbi Adler was rushed to
9 the hospital and subsequently died from the gunshot wound.

10 **MS. DUBIN:** You told us a little about your
11 neighborhood, where you lived. Can you tell us a little bit
12 more about what you did?

13 **MR. ORLEY:** My parents lived on Pingree for a short
14 period of time, subsequently moved to Calvert and then to
15 Webb, and they were always in rented units because during that
16 period of time it was the Depression, and as your fortunes
17 improved, you gradually improved your own standard of living.

18 I, like so many others growing up, went to
19 McCullough Elementary School, Durfee Intermediate, and then to
20 Central High School, from which I graduated in 1941. Very
21 interestingly, our class of 1941 had some very, very exciting
22 people, one of whom is Bill Davidson, one was Dave Mondry, one
23 was Victor Baum, the former circuit court judge. There were
24 just ever so many young people who grew up in the same era and
25 became upstanding members of the Jewish community.

1 Fortunately, God was good to my family and I, and as time
2 progressed, we also became upstanding members of the
3 community.

4 Backing up a wee bit, during the period of growing
5 up, I played ball, I played all types of sports and just had a
6 regular growing up life, but we were not well-to-do; we were
7 just average Jewish people growing up in that enclave of
8 Jewish people, which was bounded by let's say West Grand
9 Boulevard to perhaps Oakland Boulevard and from Fourteenth
10 Street perhaps to Homer. The area was predominantly Jewish,
11 and everybody knew everybody, and until after the Second World
12 War when the migration north and west began to occur,
13 everybody knew everybody by their having to go to the one high
14 school where 95 percent of the children were Jewish, and
15 everybody knew everybody.

16 Subsequently that changed after the war, and during
17 that period of time conditions in the Detroit area changed
18 dramatically.

19 Going back, from that point forward my life changed.
20 In December of 1941, as you know, December 7th, America
21 entered the Second World War.

22 In 1941 my brother Joe was at the University of
23 Pennsylvania. I was accepted to the University of
24 Pennsylvania but never got there. Joe wanted to get into the
25 manufacturing business. I might back up just for a moment by

1 saying that people to this day ask how long my brother and I
2 have been partners in business, and it's very interesting. We
3 were partners in the bedroom, sleeping in twin beds when we
4 were young boys, have been partners ever since, and will be
5 partners until the day we die. Our relationship is probably
6 as two close friends, notwithstanding the fact that we are
7 brothers, but it's a very close, familial relationship.

8 When Joe got out of the army he said to my father he
9 would like to go into the manufacturing business, and Dad gave
10 him a very few dollars to see what he could find, and he found
11 a very tiny manufacturing business. But when Dad gave Joe the
12 money, he said, Joe, you can't go into business unless your
13 brother is a partner, and he, meaning my father, would also be
14 a partner, and we stayed a third, a third, a third, until my
15 father turned 70, which was many, many years later, after
16 which Joe and I bought him out and remained 50 percent
17 partners each to this very day.

18 Backing up, Joe found this little business, and
19 during school I would go over there. I would type invoices, I
20 would deliver the parts, I would do whatever happened or
21 whatever was necessary because as the war came on we got
22 busier. I remember so well delivering parts. If something
23 had to be at a manufacturing plant for a war effort at two in
24 the morning, I would get into an old Hudson car and drive and
25 deliver the parts to the manufacturing company. The next

1 morning I would go to school. In the afternoon I would make
2 sure I typed the invoice for the parts so we could get paid so
3 that we could pay our bills and continue in business. That
4 was the start of the manufacturing business.

5 Subsequently Joe was inducted into the navy, and
6 then a year later I had a deferment for one year because
7 somebody had to be at the business, but subsequently I was
8 drafted into the army and spent seven months in the army. For
9 whatever reason when I was in high school, I had filed an
10 application with a Congressman to go to the Naval Academy.
11 When you're in high school you do many crazy things, and this
12 was one of them. As it turned out it worked out extremely
13 well. I was drafted into the army, and during that period of
14 time I was in the army, I went through basic training and
15 whatever other activities I was involved in.

16 Then one day the commanding officer of the base
17 calls me in and he says, You have a congressional appointment
18 to the Naval Academy. You're being discharged from the army
19 tomorrow, and you have one week to reenlist in the navy. So I
20 was discharged from the army after six or seven months, and
21 subsequently reenlisted in the navy at Bainbridge, Maryland.

22 The reason they picked Bainbridge, Maryland, was
23 because there was the Naval Academy Preparatory School there,
24 which was the equivalent of a college education. The exam was
25 given like two or three weeks after I had been discharged and

1 reenlisted in the navy, and I flunked the exam by .2 of a
2 point. I will never forget it. The other young men that were
3 there had been studying for eight or nine months.

4 As I had flunked the exam, I then went to basic
5 training for the navy, notwithstanding the fact that I'd
6 already done it for the army. I finished my training for the
7 navy and they sent me aboard ship. I was on a patrol gunship
8 that was in the Atlantic. I was aboard ship for three or four
9 months and I was studying to be a storekeeper striker. The
10 storekeeper because of my ability to type and because of my
11 having ability to know how to take care of supplies. Having
12 had this manufacturing experience, they made me a storekeeper
13 striker, which meant that I was learning to be a storekeeper.

14 After about three or four months aboard ship word
15 came out would I like a fleet appointment to the Naval Academy
16 to go back to the school to take the test. Studied for the
17 whole year and take the test and so forth and so on. I said
18 of course. So I went back to school and spent a year at the
19 Naval Academy Preparatory School, passed the examination,
20 flunked the physical, for a very innocuous reason, but
21 nevertheless it was something that kept me out.

22 I subsequently was attached to the commander of the
23 Fifth Naval District in Norfolk, Virginia, for the balance of
24 my naval career. Because of the training and the education
25 that I had had, they put me on his staff. From there I was

1 discharged from the navy, and here I am today.

2 **MS. DUBIN:** I want to go back a little bit, too.
3 You mentioned some classmates of yours at Central High School.
4 Obviously your class was a remarkable one. Among those people
5 did you have any special friends or those who influenced you
6 or teachers who influenced you?

7 **MR. ORLEY:** Well, Sunday School I had a teacher who
8 was terrific by the name of Charles Rosenblatt. He was
9 absolutely terrific. It's very difficult to remember, but I
10 do believe that he was one of my teachers at Durfee
11 Intermediate School. He was one that I really enjoyed.

12 Another interesting thing that happened, if it
13 wasn't for Ralph Borin sitting next to me, I'd still be in
14 high school. I think ~~it was~~ Irving Panish was the physics
15 teacher. There was no way in the world that I understood what
16 he was talking about, but fortunately I passed the final test
17 and that was it. But Ralph Borin was a very good friend, a
18 classmate of mine, and a still good friend today. He assisted
19 me in getting through that class.

20 There was a January graduating class and a June
21 graduation class. Bill Davidson graduated in January of '41
22 and I graduated in June with Dave Mondry and Vic Baum and
23 Ralph Borin and ever so many others. Some are still here,
24 some are not. It was interesting because when you look back
25 -- take Irving Goldman as an example. Irving graduated in the

1 same class we did. His wife's brother, Irving Rothberg,
2 graduated in the same class. The people scattered all over
3 the country, but nevertheless it was a very, very interesting
4 class because everybody was in the same boat, and everybody
5 wanted to strive to do better in America. If you look around
6 at the names, they all have. It's very interesting.

7 **MS. DUBIN:** You also mentioned that you had worked
8 with your brother, but I think you worked after school earlier
9 than that.

10 **MR. ORLEY:** Yes, I did. During the Depression my
11 father had a coal yard because most of the homes were heated
12 by the use of coal. He got into that business because during
13 the Depression there was no real estate business and he had to
14 make a living, and he got into that business to make a living.
15 As a young boy, I was perhaps 13 years old at the time, and I
16 remember jumping on the running boards of cars on a Saturday
17 with people who also were very poor, but they needed a bushel
18 of coal. I would drive out to the pile, fill a bushel of
19 coal, and sell it for 30 cents and collect the 30 cents and
20 take it in, and put it in the register.

21 Subsequent to that, when I was 14 years old, an
22 uncle of mine who had a coal yard needed some help, and he
23 would go in the back room for whatever and would leave me out
24 front to take care of the customers and the cash register.
25 Weigh the trucks to make sure when they went out they had the

1 2000 pounds of coal or 1000 pounds or 500 pounds, whatever the
2 order was for, and it was my job to take care of it.

3 During my growing-up period, when I spoke of my
4 uncle going in the back room, undoubtedly he went back there
5 to sleep because at night who knows what he did. But I would
6 take care of the front, and that's where I got some business
7 experience, which was very good at a very young age.

8 **MS. DUBIN:** Tell me about the girl you met named
9 Sally Hechtman.

10 **MR. ORLEY:** Very interesting story. My father and
11 Sam Hechtman were friends. Not close social friends, but in
12 the Jewish community everybody knows everybody, and my father
13 knew Sam Hechtman. I was probably 23 or 24 at the time and
14 Sally was 17, maybe even 16. I said, Dad, I'm not going to
15 take that girl out. He said, Do me a favor, take her out. I
16 said, No way. I had already come out of the service, had
17 already experienced a little of life with other young ladies.

18 One day Dick and Avern Cohn -- Avern was in my
19 graduating class also, as was Dick Slo~~an~~^{an}. One day Dick and
20 Avern decided that they're going to Europe for the very first
21 time, and Dick, who lived on Wildemere at the time, because
22 the migration had already started to take place to the
23 northwest, was having a party in the basement of his father's
24 house, and Bert Gordon brought Sally to the party, and I saw
25 her for the very first time. I said, She's too young for me.

1 I just can't go out with her.

2 I went back and reported to my father that I met the
3 young lady, and Dad, she's not for me. He said, Well, you saw
4 her, and I'll tell Sam that you saw her and that was it.

5 About a year later on Rosh Hashanah night, in other
6 words after the first day of Rosh Hashanah I had a date with a
7 woman of another persuasion and I went to the Statler Terrace
8 room with this young lady, and at the next table was Harold
9 Victor and Sally Hechtman. She looked entirely different. I
10 said, Holy smokes, what a change.

11 When I got home, the next day I picked up the phone
12 and I called her, and we went out, and the rest is history.
13 And it so funny because I saw her at this party in the summer
14 -- I've got to make absolutely certain I get the dates right.
15 I took her out first in September, and in November she was
16 going out with somebody else, and I went to the house, and I
17 had a little pinky ring. I said, I know you're going out with
18 somebody else tonight, but you're coming back, and I'm going
19 to be in this house, and I'm proposing to you. You take this
20 ring and stick it in your purse, and when you come back, we'll
21 talk to your father and mother. And she took the ring. We
22 got married the following April, and we've been married ever
23 since. 54 years right now and counting.

24 The results of that marriage are three children:
25 Jeffrey, Randy, and Pam, and between the three of them, Jeff

1 was married, has three grown sons, Randy has two boys and a
2 girl, and Pam has a boy and a girl. So out of our marriage we
3 have eight grandchildren, and God willing, we'll have many
4 more great grandchildren if God's good to us.

5 One of the interesting things that happened in my
6 life was how I got involved in charity, philanthropy, whatever
7 you want to say. During the Depression my mother had a blue
8 and white box in the kitchen, and I remember vividly in the
9 Depression when nobody had any money, she would take coins and
10 just drop them in that box, and make sure whatever little
11 spare change she had went into that box, and she said it's for
12 the Jewish people, it's for the Jewish people. Boy, that
13 stuck in my head ever since. Thank God God's been good to us,
14 and we're able to do what we're able to do. And that's where
15 it started.

16 **MS. DUBIN:** Tell us a little bit more about that
17 charity. I know that you have been charitable in a number of
18 areas. In fact why don't we start with the Jewish Federation
19 of Metropolitan Detroit and United Jewish Foundation. How
20 have you been involved?

21 **MR. ORLEY:** May I back up a moment? You had asked
22 on a previous occasion how we had gotten into the real estate
23 business, and it was very interesting. The manufacturing
24 business grew and grew and grew, and there can't be two bosses
25 in one business. My father was able to accumulate some

1 property over time after the Depression and after the war, and
2 I said to him one day, Dad, why are the two of us running
3 business when the two of us can be running two businesses?
4 And he said, That's a very good idea. I said, Well, I'd like
5 to do real estate. And that was the start.

6 Going into the real estate business I didn't know
7 very much. I had a little experience, but it just grew and
8 grew and grew and grew. One of the interesting thing in the
9 real estate business is here and there you acquired a partner,
10 a part-time partner, a partner in the deal, or whatever the
11 case may be. One of our early partners was Phil and Max
12 Stollman. And as you know, Phil and Max were very charitable.
13 And Phil would always say to me, Graham, what you give away
14 will come back in spades. Just keep earning and giving and
15 earning and giving. And it was absolutely the truth.

16 Over time I became a solicitor for the Allied Jewish
17 Campaign. Subsequent to that I then got involved in the Real
18 Estate Division for the United Jewish Charities, which is what
19 it was called at that point, and I was on that committee --
20 they didn't have term limits at that time -- for well over
21 ten years. Then as time went on I became a treasurer, vice
22 president, and then ultimately the president of the United
23 Jewish Foundation, and I was the president for three years,
24 which was term limited.

25 Ever so many things happened during my time as

1 president of the Charities Foundation, the most notable of
2 which was the acquiring of the Max M. Fisher Federation
3 Building, which is the building we're presently in, which
4 happened by a quirk. Bob Aronson -- and by the way I was on
5 the search committee that hired Bob Aronson, and if you ever
6 talk to Bob, he will tell you that I sold him on Detroit.
7 That was in De Modesto Restaurant on Northwestern. And as we
8 all know, Bob has proven to be an absolute gem for the city of
9 Detroit.

10 Backing up for just a moment, Bob was at my house to
11 discuss something in regard to Federation and charities, and
12 he said, I have to go over and see Bruce Politzker about a
13 building, and he said, Do you know him? I said, I know him
14 very well. I know his sister, I knew his father. I know him
15 very well. He said, Do you have anything planned right now?
16 I said, Yeah, I can call my office and change whatever I have
17 to, but let's go over to Bruce's office.

18 We go over to Bruce's office, and he sees me walk in
19 with Bob Aronson, and walks up to me and puts his arms around
20 me. Graham, I'm glad you came. And we sat down and worked
21 out a transaction where Bruce was able to donate the building
22 that we are presently in to the United Jewish Foundation. In
23 the very first week of ownership of the building there were
24 more meetings held in this building than were held at the old
25 Butzel building in a year because it was the center of the

1 Jewish community. And it's proven to be a wonderful building
2 for the Jewish community.

3 **MS. DUBIN:** The other positions that you have held
4 with Federation, I know in the campaign, are numerous.

5 **MR. ORLEY:** I don't even remember.

6 **MS. DUBIN:** Tell us then a little bit about your
7 other philanthropies within the Jewish community, not just
8 Federation.

9 **MR. ORLEY:** One of the interesting things that has
10 occurred between my brother and I -- and I should include my
11 sister also -- is the fact that we are very family oriented.
12 By that I mean simply that his family and my family get along
13 extremely well together, and in fact one of his sons was born
14 on October 8th, I was born October 9th, my son Randy was born
15 October 15th, and there's just a blending of the families, a
16 very close relationship.

17 That led us, when Bob Aronson came talking about the
18 gift to Jewish Family Service, it almost fit in perfectly to
19 what our beliefs were. And when I say almost, I mean there
20 are so many different things that they do and we being family
21 oriented -- I mean the family orientation doesn't relate to
22 how the immigration and the resettlement of the Russian Jews
23 through Family Services occurred, but nevertheless what has
24 happened is adoption, family problems, marriage problems. I
25 mean there are so many things that Family Service that fits

1 into our mode of thinking -- my brother and I -- that it just
2 fit right into where we wanted to put some money.

3 We are really excited about the fact that probably
4 in the fall of 2004 or no later than the spring of 2005 the
5 Family Service will move into the absolutely magnificent
6 building opposite the Jewish Community campus on Maple Road,
7 and it should be an absolutely perfect blend to what has been
8 done on the campus itself. Our families are very excited
9 about what we have done and hopefully what we are able to do
10 in the future.

11 If you say what other philanthropies, I could give
12 you Technion, Bar Ilan, Weitzman Institute, B'nai Brith. I
13 could go on and on and on and on. But what difference does it
14 make? It doesn't. I thank God whatever we're able to do we
15 do.

16 **MR. ORLEY:** Oh, I forgot two very important ones by
17 the way; they're local. We are major contributors to Ford
18 Hospital and Beaumont. I learned that lesson from Sam
19 Hechtman, my father-in-law. Sam used to go to Florida and
20 spend his winters there. To him the winter was six weeks.

21 One day he walked into Sinai Hospital in Florida, in
22 Miami, and said, Who's in charge of philanthropy? This was
23 maybe 20 years ago. They didn't know Sam Hechtman from a hill
24 of beans. He walked in and he said, I'd like to give some
25 money so if I ever die in Florida, you'll know who I am. I

1 will never forget this. He found the people that he had to
2 talk to. Right there on the spot he wrote them a check for
3 \$50,000. They remembered his name, and would you believe, he
4 died in Florida.

5 I learned from him also that giving to the community
6 locally, which he and my mother-in-law Lillian did -- well,
7 actually Sam was the first president of Federation Apartments
8 and was one of the proponents of the fact that the Jewish
9 community needed two types of apartments: they needed those
10 for low income families and second, needed some apartments for
11 those who were able to afford a little better service. And he
12 was president of Federation Apartments, donated a substantial
13 sum of money there.

14 Subsequently, he gave money to Sinai Hospital, and
15 third but not least has just given a substantial sum of money
16 to the Jewish Community Center for the Hechtman Gymnasium.

17 So running through the gauntlet of both sides of the
18 family, we are involved in the hospital. I learned that
19 little quirk from Sam of doing the hospital bit because we're
20 Detroiters, and my brother and I want to make sure the two
21 hospitals are aware of who we are.

22 **MS. DUBIN:** I think also the symphony has benefitted
23 from you.

24 **MR. ORLEY:** Oh, yes. And the opera house. One day
25 Peter Cummings picked up the phone and said, I have to see Joe

1 and you. I said, Okay, come on over. At the time I don't
2 think I had been to the symphony five times in my life. He
3 said, we're doing this and this and this and this, and I have
4 to have some money, and we gave him some money. Then he came
5 back, and I said, well, we really aren't symphony-goers, but
6 we'll give it to you. But let us think about it, and come
7 back in another year. He marked it down, and sure as anything
8 he came back a year later, and we gave him some more money.

9 At the time we thought, what are we doing this for?
10 And finally it was decided we're doing this for the city of
11 Detroit and for where we grew up.

12 One day I was at the Pine Knob outdoor facility and
13 the then director of the symphony, I believe his name was Emil
14 King, came over to say hello. I said to him, Emil, if you'd
15 have told me a year ago that we would have done what we did, I
16 would have said you were out of your mind, but it's done and
17 I'm happy.

18 The same situation occurred with David DiChiera at
19 the Opera House, when he was having his big fund-raiser over
20 there, came over to see us, and the same thing occurred. I
21 guess you have no choice. You do what you have to do, or want
22 to do.

23 **MS. DUBIN:** Some of the philanthropies you mentioned
24 are Israel based. What about Israel in your life? Why do you
25 support Israel as generously as you do?

1 **MR. ORLEY:** Oh, I'm a firm believer that the Jewish
2 people need a state. I am very unhappy with what's going on
3 in Israel right today, but I am a firm believer that we need a
4 homeland. We have a homeland and it must be protected and it
5 must be preserved for the benefit of the Jewish people. When
6 you look around the world, there are only 16 million people of
7 Jewish faith in the world, we're outnumbered by God knows how
8 many people, and we have to stay strong and we have to stay
9 with a state of our own, and we have to protect that state any
10 and every way we possibly can.

11 **MS. DUBIN:** Have you passed on some of these
12 feelings to your children?

13 **MR. ORLEY:** Well, it's very interesting that you say
14 that. Randy, our second son, is on the Real Estate Committee.
15 He has been on the Real Estate Committee for Federation now
16 for probably four or five years and is working his way up the
17 ladder over there. He and my nephew-in-law Larry Lax are the
18 two members of our family who are overseeing the construction
19 of the Jewish Family Service building.

20 My grandson Adam Orley is involved with the Junior
21 Division, and has just returned from Israel on the Grossfeld
22 mission, where he was the youngest of all the participants in
23 the Grossfeld mission. Hopefully he will continue becoming
24 more involved. He graduated George Washington University, and
25 he's working locally at a company called Marcus Millichap.

1 Assuming he stays in the Detroit area, he should become very
2 involved as time goes on because he has been indoctrinated in
3 the Young Adult Division and his trips to Israel. In fact his
4 mother, who is divorced from his father, lives in Israel.

5 **MS. DUBIN:** You've talked about how your descendants
6 are taking after you, and I wondered if you would also add
7 perhaps the legacy that you would like to leave them, a
8 message perhaps that you would want them to have.

9 **MR. ORLEY:** When I grew up, things financially were
10 not what they are now, and my children and many other children
11 in the same circumstances have not known what need and desire
12 and want is. And it's my hope and prayer that I and my wife
13 have instilled in them a work ethic that will permit them to
14 become upstanding, viable, contributing Jewish citizens to not
15 only Jewish causes, but to American causes and Israel causes.
16 The truth is that you have to pound it into them because
17 there's no other way they can learn that there is a need
18 beyond themselves, and that need covers a multitude of things,
19 whether it be Israel or local needs or whatever. We want them
20 to become involved so that they can continue to preserve the
21 Jewish faith.

22 **MS. DUBIN:** Is there anything I haven't asked you
23 that you would like say?

24 **MR. ORLEY:** My brother. That will conclude, and
25 then you can edit it any way you want.

1 **MS. DUBIN:** We have a photograph. Go ahead.

2 **MR. ORLEY:** I appreciate very much the fact that you
3 have asked me to come here because of my involvement in the
4 Jewish community, but I must tell you that involvement has
5 involved more than just me alone. It has involved my brother
6 Joe, who has been my partner from day one, and will continue
7 until we both pass away. I have to say the involvement in
8 charities that have been done have been done by both of us and
9 both of us have the same belief, both have the same feeling
10 and both have the same desires, not only for what we have
11 done, for what we hope our children and grandchildren do.

12 Joe and I have talked ever so many times about the
13 future, the future of our children. One of the interesting
14 things we did is we didn't bring them into our businesses
15 other than letting them know what we do, but we wanted them to
16 become their own people, and fortunately because of that
17 decision, my children have done and become their own people,
18 financially sound. Joe's children the same, have become their
19 own people and financially sound. And today, each family has
20 appointed one person to represent their family in our
21 businesses. From Joe's family Robert Orley has been anointed
22 as the intermediary, Randy Orley has been appointed the
23 intermediary for my family, and the two boys are working
24 together to become more involved and more acquainted with what
25 Joe and I have done over the years, so it can continue for the

1 benefit of the families.

2 How's that?

3 **MS. DUBIN:** Thank you very much.

4 **MR. ORLEY:** Did that answer your question?

5 **MS. DUBIN:** Yes, beautifully. Now, we have a
6 photograph of you.

7 **MR. ORLEY:** My brother Joe is right here, and as you
8 know, I am to his left. This picture was taken outdoors of a
9 600,000 square foot complex which we built in the city of
10 Troy, Michigan, which Joe and I are partners in, and it was at
11 the dedication of the second building, which was a very happy
12 event for both him and me. If you drive down Big Beaver, just
13 past the Somerset Mall, opposite the Troy Marriott and the
14 Troy City Hall, you will see these two 14-story office
15 buildings of which we are very major partners in, and I am
16 very happy to be a partner with my brother.