

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:00:04] So just to start, um, I'm gonna say this is Dalia Handelman interviewing Frances Stein on Wednesday, July 31st, 2019 at 10 a.m. And also, feel free to stop the interview if you would like to at any point. So just to start, can you please state your name, date of birth, and location of birth?

**Frances Stein** [00:00:28] My name is Frances Stein. My date of birth is September 14, 1929. Wilmington, Delaware. St. Francis Hospital.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:00:40] So what do you remember about the place you were born, where you grew up?

**Frances Stein** [00:00:46] I was born at the hospital as I mentioned. My parents owned a little grocery store at... uh... on King Street between 2nd and 3rd. And when we came back when I came back from the hospital, that's where they took me to their little store and they had live in a little apartment behind the store.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:01:08] Do you have any siblings?

**Frances Stein** [00:01:10] I had. I had one sister who, unfortunately, has passed away.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:01:15] Was she older or younger?

**Frances Stein** [00:01:17] Younger. She was younger. Right.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:01:19] So they took you back to the other little store when you were born. In terms of did you live in that in that area for your entire childhood?

**Frances Stein** [00:01:31] No. We lived there until I was about three or four years old. And then we moved to another larger store and on East Fourth Street fourth and proper I think it was and there was another store that my father sold magazines and newspapers and things like that. Unfortunately, it was during the Depression and very little business. so he didn't have too much on the shelves to sell. So it was a little bit difficult at the time, but we made it through and we'll stay there. I guess for about five years and then moved a block away to another store, which is where I spent most of my childhood, that was in Fourth and Lombard 501 and one half East Fourth Street.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:02:22] Can you describe to me the area and how it was growing up in that time?

**Frances Stein** [00:02:28] I was, as I mentioned, it was on East Fourth Street and we were another little store that he sold newspapers and magazines and cigarettes and things like that. We had it was a, a three-story house. Behind the store and mother and daddy rented out some of the rooms on the third floor and on the second floor. Because things, there again, it was right after the Depression—just kind of rough. So they rented out rooms and things go fairly well there and I went to

Bancroft School from kindergarten through the ninth grade. And that was a wonderful, wonderful school-like. I was a singer at the time and hopefully not anymore because of problems with my throat. But that's where the first time that I was able to sing. The music teacher, whose name was Mrs. Flaherty. I'll never forget. And, uh, she had Yellowbirds, which were the good singers and red birds, which were not such good singers. I was a yellow bird and that's when I started to sing and I've been singing for all my life.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:03:35] Wow, that's amazing. Um, so you just spoke a bit about your parents. Do you have a good relationship with your parents?

**Frances Stein** [00:03:43] I had a wonderful relationship. They both came from Europe. Daddy was born in Poland mother was born in Russia and uh daddy came to this country a lot. They were not. They were both single at the time. Mother came after she had. She was one of five sisters. And he came to Philadelphia to live with her oldest sister. All the other sisters were here and they kind of made a shitach between Mother. Turned out to be my father. Daddy was living in New York. And so he came to Philadelphia to meet Mother. And they really hit it off. And they had a wonderful, wonderful marriage.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:04:25] That's amazing. And then what about your relationship with your sister?

**Frances Stein** [00:04:30] Oh, my sister. Well, when we were little we fought. You always fight with your little sister. But as we got older, we had a wonderful relationship.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:04:38] That's great. So you mentioned you you went to, um, the the school. Did you have. That was a public school?

**Frances Stein** [00:04:45] Yes, yes

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:04:47] Did you go to any sort of Hebrew school or have any Jews education as a child?

**Frances Stein** [00:04:51] Yeah, my sister did. My sister went to Hebrew school. The Associated Hebrew School. And as a matter of fact, she did so well they gave her a scholarship to Gratz college in Philadelphia. And she graduated from Gratz and she was a schoolteacher at the Associated Hebrew school she taught a lot of the people here in Wilmington.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:05:17] That's amazing. So why did you not attend the Hebrew school?

**Frances Stein** [00:05:20] I was always interested and more interested in music than anything else. I took voice lessons, I took violin lessons, music was my big thing, my sister her

name was Phyllis she was more interested in learning the Hebrew language so that's how it was.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:05:38] Did you have Jewish friends growing up or was it...

**Frances Stein** [00:05:41] That's all. Only Jewish

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:05:41] Only Jewish friends?

**Frances Stein** [00:05:43] Right. Right.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:05:44] And so like when you were in the public school, you were hanging out with other Jewish kids. Not. Right. Was it a highly populated Jewish area?

**Frances Stein** [00:05:52] No, it was not populated by Jews at all. It was on Fourth Street. It was mostly white people. Right off of Fourth Street. They were mostly black people. You just associated with the people that you were comfortable with, which are Jewish people.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:06:10] Right. Did you. I mean, you know, what was going on in the world at the time that you were growing up did you face any anti-Semitism?

**Frances Stein** [00:06:19] All the time.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:06:22] Can you describe that at all?

**Frances Stein** [00:06:23] I remember when I was in elementary school, kids used to call me Christ killer. I didn't even know what they were talking about. I had no idea who Christ was at that point in my life. Later on, when, when I realized what I've been. I had a bridge group that I was very active in they were all non-Jews, as a matter of fact, they would talk about Jewing down. They weren't being malicious, but they knew that they had heard people that were trying to get a price down. It was difficult for me not to say something but I did not want to get involved with anything like that so I didn't say anything.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:07:18] Right. wow. How were Jewish holidays celebrated in your family, if they were?

**Frances Stein** [00:07:29] Well having my father in the store, daddy was open three hundred sixty-five days, not quite 365. From 6 to 11 at night he did close for Rosh Hashana. Adas Kodesch, which was not conservative, orthodox. It was orthodox.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:08:09] So you were raised Orthodox?

**Frances Stein** [00:08:11] That's right.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:08:14] Were you very involved in the synagogue?

**Frances Stein** [00:08:17] My mother was involved with the woman's league in the synagogue. We used to go to services all the time for the holidays. I can't remember having one on Shabbat or anything like that. And my parents weren't really Jewishly oriented. As far as observing shabbat, we never lit candles although we did keep a kosher home.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:08:45] So you have to kosher home, right? So was a lot of it was through the synagogue would you say.

**Frances Stein** [00:08:50] I don't know, like maybe it was the way that my parents were raised. But we always everything in the house was kosher.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:08:56] Right. Did you or your sister have a bat mitzvah?

**Frances Stein** [00:09:06] No. They didn't do women, girls those days.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:09:14] Oh okay, were they doing men?

**Frances Stein** [00:09:14] Yes, but we didn't have any in the family.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:09:14] Right. So did you, if you had any, like what was your connection to Israel growing up?

**Frances Stein** [00:09:20] Not much of anything.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:09:23] Do you remember how like where you were on 1948? When Israel was established?

**Frances Stein** [00:09:30] I don't remember exactly. At that point, I was older, of course. I was probably in high school at the point. No, I had graduated in 1947.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:09:46] Was it like a memorable day? Or like, you know, time for you?

**Frances Stein** [00:09:50] Not really.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:09:52] And when the war was going on, you were saying you were like in high school, elementary school type thing. Were there any like spikes in Anti-Semitism? Like, how much were you guys hearing about all this?

**Frances Stein** [00:10:08] I was subjected to anti-Semitism all my life. As I said, I sang all my life and I was in a show in high school and uh somebody came up to me and said, hey, we'd like you to join the Brandywiners, which is a musical group that puts on shows here in Wilmington. And so I said, yes, I would love that. And I found out later I was the only Jew that was there and they don't normally ask Jews. They would not have asked me if they knew I was Jewish. And there was also a sign in Alapocas, this was before my time, that said no Jews or dogs allowed.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:10:39] Wow, there was the sign at a store?

**Frances Stein** [00:10:40] Right.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:10:40] and you had never saw that but you knew it had been there before?

**Frances Stein** [00:11:00] I didn't know it. My husband's uncle was a dentist in town. He wanted to buy what was then I can't remember the name of it, an apartment building on Delaware Ave. and they said you can buy the building but you can't live here.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:11:23] Wow. Wow. So you performed a lot as a singer in a Brandywine group? What kind of organization was that?

**Frances Stein** [00:11:33] They put on the show every year at Longwood Gardens. Very, very well known. They've been around for years and years and years. I only was in it one year.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:11:48] Right. So singing and the music was you'd say like your main passion?

**Frances Stein** [00:11:56] I took voice lessons and, as I said, violin lessons. So music was really my life. I was asked to join a band I guess I was about sixty years old at the time. As a singer, and I would have to be away for the summer. my mother said, "Nice Jewish girls didn't do that." But I didn't go.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:12:26] Right. Yeah. Well, that's amazing. So did you keep up with singing throughout your entire life?

**Frances Stein** [00:12:31] Yes, I did. Up until last year. When I got this problem of my throat. Cancer of the vocal cords. I can't sing anymore.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:12:45] Right. So growing up, how would you define your Jewish identity?

**Frances Stein** [00:12:51] All my friends were Jewish, as I mentioned, and we used to go to the. Oh, well, it wasn't the JCC. We used to call the Y at 6 and French. We spent a lot of time here. Every every Wednesday they had a dance for young teenagers and we would go to that. And they would have a meeting with different fraternities and sororities. Saturday they had the dance at the Y and everyone would go and that's how we met everyone.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:13:23] Wow. So there, as you mentioned, there were fraternities and sororities within like the division. Were those just for Jews?

**Frances Stein** [00:13:30] Yes.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:13:35] Were you in one of those?

**Frances Stein** [00:13:39] No, I was not in any of the sororities.

[00:13:40] Is that how you met your husband?

**Frances Stein** [00:13:43] No, I met my husband when I was 13 years old. A friend of mine had been working at what was then Navy shoe store on the weekends. They needed another person. And so she said, would you like to help in the stores. I would love to. So starting at 13, I worked weekends at Navy shoe store. I worked there all through junior high and all through high school. I was working on it. I guess it was during the Christmas season, and um my mother-in-law, who turned out to be my mother-in-law, walks in and in walks her son, who was a soldier. He had been stationed in Germany. She threw the shoes up in the air and started screaming. And that was the first time I saw him and he became my husband.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:14:45] So he was like a bit older than you.

**Frances Stein** [00:14:48] Three years old. Three. Oh, right. No, not much older.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:14:51] Right. So this was when you were 13?

**Frances Stein** [00:14:54] No, a few years older I was 16.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:14:58] Oh. because I was gonna say that's pretty young to be a soldier.

**Frances Stein** [00:15:04] He had graduated earlier from high school because he had doubled up to graduate a half of the semester earlier. I have a semester earlier. because he wanted to join the service. So he joined the Air Force, even knowing he would never fly.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:15:19] Did you guys date for a while before getting married?

**Frances Stein** [00:15:26] We dated. It was going back to court. He was going to start college because he had never gone to college and he was going under the G.I. Bill. And so we dated for five years while he was going to college. He got his bachelor's degree and his master's degree. And then we got married.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:15:44] Did so. I'm sorry. Where does he go to school?

**Frances Stein** [00:15:47] Delaware.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:15:48] Oh, that. And then. Did you attend college as well?

**Frances Stein** [00:15:51] I went to visit a school in Pennsylvania. In Philadelphia.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:15:55] What was that like? Was it always expected that you were going to go to college from.

**Frances Stein** [00:15:59] We couldn't afford to go to college, OK? I always wanted to go to Baltimore, to the Peabody School of Music.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:16:06] So but you ended up going to the a business school?

**Frances Stein** [00:16:09] Right.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:16:11] Um, and in terms of, I guess from financially, like being both a woman and Jewish. Was it ever do. Were those ever obstacles in terms of like getting your education?

**Frances Stein** [00:16:23] No. My education was just because I couldn't, we couldn't, afford anything more. That's why I did what we did. What I could do.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:16:32] Right. Right. Did your sister go to college?

**Frances Stein** [00:16:35] She went to Gratz Hebrew school.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:16:36] Oh, right. Right. with a scholarship. Right. So can you describe to me your first work experience?

**Frances Stein** [00:16:48] When I was 13, when I graduated from high school I went to work for TWA in Maryland. Marilyn. Oh, they had a big place at a new gas watch, which was now New Castle Airport. They had a big area and New Castle Airport. A lot of different people working there. over 1,000 people, I worked there for about two years but then they wanted me to go to Kansas City and I was already involved with Maurice, who turned out to be my husband, so I didn't want to move. Although I wanted to go to become a stewardess. But they couldn't take me because I was too tall. I was 5'8 and you couldn't be taller than 5'6" to be a stewardess.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:17:40] Really? Why is that?

**Frances Stein** [00:17:41] At TWA that was their rules you couldn't be taller than 5'6"

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:17:48] Oh my gosh. So when you were working there, you weren't a stewardess. What were you doing?

**Frances Stein** [00:17:56] I was working at the Passenger Service Department.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:18:00] And did you always want to do that growing up or was it kind of do something that showed up.

**Frances Stein** [00:18:04] I always wanted to do something with my music. I was never able to do it because we couldn't afford to do any more. Then mother and Daddy did get enough money together, scraped together, to give me voice lessons. I took

voice lessons from Frances Sherron. I'll never forget her name and I remember being up there at a recital and it was a recital just for me and my music teacher and the audience in front of me and a mouse ran in front of me and couldn't do anything. I was scared to death. But I finally made it. And was able to sing.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:18:47] So your your first work aside from the shoe store. There was no, like, Jewish connection, right?

**Frances Stein** [00:18:57] No, no. I went to work for TWA because they were the people that were hiring at the time. Right. Matter of fact, I made an application to the government was a government thing. Atomic energy. They had to investigate. They talked to all my neighbors and everything like that. But at that point, I had already made an application I was accepted finally at the atomic energy thing. Well, that took so long for them to approve me because they had a chip. The neighbors and anybody else that I knew that I wasn't gonna be any problem for the Atomic Energy Commission.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:19:37] Gotcha. So after you've looked, after the company moves Kansas City, what was your next work experience.

**Frances Stein** [00:20:01] after that, I went to work for what was then the KNPP nose and I was a secretary there and I worked there for two years and I'm trying to remember what I did after that.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:20:01] What was that organization? What did they do?

**Frances Stein** [00:20:03] At least they did. Containers or something like.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:20:24] So when did you have children?

**Frances Stein** [00:20:34] After five years. After we were married, everything seemed to be in five. Maurice was he had a degree in economics and they weren't hiring Jews, in those years, so then he went back to school, to Penn, and got a degree in accounting.

**Frances Stein** [00:20:54] We went to work for Delaware Park and Brandywine Raceway. Made our money where he made his money. He did that because he couldn't get a job in economics.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:21:18] So did he end up eventually getting a job in economics?

**Frances Stein** [00:21:23] Eventually, he became a CPA and got a job in accounting and became a partner at the firm and eventually started his own firm.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:21:46] So he never even he went to school for economics originally as economics and then landed a job which is never even a job in that field



**Frances Stein** [00:21:56] The only people we met in those days that were hiring was for places like duPont but they weren't hiring Jews

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:22:06] So when you mentioned he was working and he went to Penn. OK. So, was he like going to classes at night?

**Frances Stein** [00:22:13] He was.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:22:13] Did you have children at that point?

**Frances Stein** [00:22:22] It was five years after we were married. And he was as he was at the point where he was going to school at Penn and was working out of that. I got pregnant with our daughter and she was born 1956 and then two years later 1958 my son was born.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:22:53] So, as an adult, can you describe your affiliation with the judge to indeed in your area?

**Frances Stein** [00:23:03] Well, Maurice's family was very active at Beth Shalom. We were married at Adas Kodesch. by both Rabbi Kraft and Rabbi Gewirtz. Rabbi Kraft was rabbi at Beth Shalom. As I said, Maurice's family was very active at Beth Shalom. As a matter of fact, his aunt Bertha and aunt Regina were original starters at Beth Shalom, along with the Finger family.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:23:22] Wow.

**Frances Stein** [00:23:23] So They were really the beginning of Beth Shalom. But anyway, he was very involved with that. So when we got married at Adas Kodesch both of the rabbis married us. And we became members of Beth Shalom. Which was a better area where we were. We were at an apartment 18th and Washington Street which was just two blocks away. And that's where we became active. And I joined the sisterhood. I became president. Well, first I was treasurer of sisterhood and then became president. Got very involved in that, and as president of the sisterhood, I used to attend board meetings of the congregation and got very involved in that and eventually became president of the congregation. When Sheldon Weinstein became president after me, he asked me if I would become executive director at Beth Shalom, which was the first time there had been an executive director and I was the first woman president of the synagogue and the first executive director for at Beth Shalom for 17 years.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:24:34] Wow. Wow/ So your would you say your Jewish identity definitely shifted from when you were a child as well?

**Frances Stein** [00:24:40] Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:24:40] OK. So, were you, did you feel more, were you more culturally connected?

**Frances Stein** [00:24:48] Yeah, I guess. Yeah. Oh, both religiously and culturally and every every other way. A lot of our friends were a part of Beth Shalom, too, so I was very involved.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:25:06] And how was it being the first female president? Did you get any backlash?

**Frances Stein** [00:25:11] I had some people who were very upset. They were gonna run against me. But they decide not to do that. There was no problem at all after that. There were a couple of people who were not happy with the woman being president.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:25:29] And how did you deal with that, at the time?

**Frances Stein** [00:25:31] Just ignored it,.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:25:33] Similar to how you ignored anti-Semitism as a child?

**Frances Stein** [00:25:39] I always live with it. To this day, I mean, it still bothers me that I had to go through that. And people are still going through that, unfortunately. You have to go on with your life and you have to do things that you think are the right thing to do, and that's what I've been doing.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:25:59] Right. And then how was it do you get any backlash after, you know, after you were the first female president? Did you get any backlash for being executive director?

**Frances Stein** [00:26:05] Or not after the first initial thing. Only when I decided that I was going to try for that to be the president. As I say, there were a couple of people upset with the first female president but after that everybody was very, very good. As a matter of fact, I went to Philadelphia for women's league meetings and there were not many women.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:26:36] While you were president or executive director, was that your that was your full time job?

**Frances Stein** [00:26:42] That was my full time job for 17 years.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:26:48] Was the Jewish community in this area a close community?

**Frances Stein** [00:26:52] Yeah, about where it is now.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:26:56] OK. Has it—so it hasn't really changed much since you...

**Frances Stein** [00:27:03] No I don't I think so. I think it's been pretty much the same.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:27:08] Has your connection to Israel changed at all from when you were a child?

**Frances Stein** [00:27:12] Oh absolutely. I became a lot more interested, since I was active in the synagogue and found out a lot more about Israel and everything, and I became a lot more. We bought some bonds when they were selling them for Israel. I was very involved in that. Just me being Jewish and being very involved with the Jewish things and. That was part of life at that point.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:27:35] Have you visited Israel?

**Frances Stein** [00:27:37] Never have. No. No, my husband wouldn't fly so we didn't go any place.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:27:41] He wouldn't fly but you were going to become a stewardess?

**Frances Stein** [00:27:43] Well, that was before I met him.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:27:45] Right. So why wouldn't he fly?

**Frances Stein** [00:27:48] Because he was. One time he, I guess when he was already an accountant, he had a client that was down south and they got a small plane for him to fly down there. And on the way back, it was a two engine small plane, and he looked over and the pilot was asleep and that was the last time he ever flew.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:28:18] Oh, my gosh. Where did it end up like they didn't. It was like a safe landing and everything?

**Frances Stein** [00:28:22] Safe landing and everything. He was just was asleep. That was it. So he was not going to fly again.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:28:28] Did you ever want to go?

**Frances Stein** [00:28:30] I used to fly. My sister moved to Vegas. To visit with her. So when I worked for GW White, we got free airline passes. The first time that I ever flew was a group of girls from. We went. I to go, if we didn't using air flight, we would lose it. Then we decided to go to Chicago. Was going to. No problem, we were white knuckles like white knuckle flake, hold it. 'cuz we were scared to death. We had no problem with the flight, but when we got to Chicago, we got into an accident in the taxi cab. It happened to be a Jewish cab driver. And he was wonderful to us. He took us around the next day.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:29:22] So have you ever been out of the country?

**Frances Stein** [00:29:25] just to the Caribbean. We used to go on cruises my husband and i

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:29:32] So did you... You mentioned you bought Israel Bonds and I mean, you were incredibly involved in the congregation. Did you participate in any form of fundraising within the Jewish community in this area?

**Frances Stein** [00:29:43] Not other than with well through federation. Of course, I was always a contributor to the federation. And to the Kutz home, and to the family service. I always made contributions to anything Jewish. Right. Because I felt that it was something, something I should do, as a Jew to, to try to support these places.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:30:08] Right. Right. So how do you feel about the current political climate and its potential effect on Jews?

**Frances Stein** [00:30:21] Very unhappy with what's going on in Washington right now. All of my friends feel the same exact way.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:30:25] Really? So what do you think? Like, can you go in, like, more detail at all?

**Frances Stein** [00:30:33] Well, in fact, did we hear and read about what's going on down there? Very much against i don't even wanna call him the president. He's not my president. And what's going on in the senate; it just, just turns my stomach. To hear about what's going on down there and they're really doing nothing. And the fact that he's saying they're not good patriots I don't think that's true. They are good patriots they just aren't Trump people. He's always against women and now the black congressmen...

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:31:19] right. Do you think he's like the political climate right now in America is going to have an effect on Jews are like, I mean, Israel/Jews, in general?

**Frances Stein** [00:31:30] I hope not. I don't know. His daughter-in-law is a supposed convert to Judaism. And he seems, and of course, the son-in-law is Jew, and of course, he made the capital of Israel Jerusalem. He isn't anti-Semitic although he seems to be anti-Semitic in some ways. He runs both ways, so it is difficult to tell. I don't know whether he's for Israel or not for Israel. I would really want to vote for somebody who had good feelings for Israel.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:32:08] Did you support his or not support his move?

**Frances Stein** [00:32:13] oh no no no I didn't think it was a good idea. I just didn't think it was a good idea.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:32:26] Do you think that there's, like, are you hopeful for the future of America? Like the political climate? Do you think it's going in the wrong direction?

**Frances Stein** [00:32:35] I'm hoping that if we go in the right direction after this next election.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:32:40] So it's kind of like you're waiting here right now. I got it. All right. Are you someone who, like, would you vote for an American politician purely based on, like, their opinions on Israel? Or is it more in Israel?

**Frances Stein** [00:32:57] not purely but Israel would be a big part of a big part of it. I mean, there are a lot of things locally, I mean, the United States and I want to make sure that we have to in addition to their feelings about Israel they're a little bit all kinds of things.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:33:13] Right. What do you think the biggest threat is today for Jews around the world?

**Frances Stein** [00:33:23] I think its anti-Semitism is the biggest threat. It's the same as it was years and years ago. I was hoping that it would be a lot less. But it doesn't seem to be that way. Especially with Trump in the White House right now he seems to be harboring some of these other people who are anti-Semitic. I worry about what's gonna happen with my children and grandchildren.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:33:51] Where are your children? I know your daughter is in Delaware.

**Frances Stein** [00:33:51] My daughter is in Delaware. She has no children. I have, my son has twins. Which gave me twin grand-daughters. They're older now, they're 32. one of them is working and living in England and has a wonderful job in England. The other one works for Siemens, which is a hospital equipment supplier. She does a lot of traveling. Neither one of them are Jewishly-oriented, unfortunately.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:34:22] Oh, the grandchildren or your children.

**Frances Stein** [00:34:26] Neither of them.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:34:26] Did your children have to say....

**Frances Stein** [00:34:28] They went through Hebrew school, through confirmation. My daughter graduated from Gratz Hebrew high school. But neither of them are Jewish. I mean they are Jewish but they don't live Jewishly.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:34:43] Was that hard for you?

**Frances Stein** [00:34:44] Very much so. Yes.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:34:45] Yeah. Have you spoken to them about it before?

**Frances Stein** [00:34:49] Funny. What my son said, when his wife was pregnant, that if he had a son they would raise them Jewishly. But they had daughters. That's what he said.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:35:03] Right. And your daughter, who doesn't have any children, she doesn't practice Judaism?

**Frances Stein** [00:35:09] Nope. Nope. That's right. I was so involved in Judaism and I was hoping that he would rub off on the kids but it has not.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:35:18] They did. It was them. Did your son marry a Jew to marry non-Jews?

**Frances Stein** [00:35:23] Both of them married non-Jews.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:35:24] Oh, you're so your daughter's married?

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:35:27] That's right. Yes. OK. So they both married non-Jews. Was that like an issue for you or?

**Frances Stein** [00:35:35] It was an issue internally. I didn't say anything with them because I didn't want to turn them off, turn them away from me because we were always very close-knit family. Even after the girls were born they would come here for holidays for Rosh Hashana but it didn't rub off. As a matter of fact, when I was working in Beth Shalom I started them at Hebrew school. It was Sammy and Jacklyn, and they had a lot of Jewish friends but they don't seem to be leaning at all.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:36:32] are the girls married?

**Frances Stein** [00:36:32] No, neither one of them.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:36:32] So they would you're your's, your kids would if they were going to do any Jewish related stuff, it would be at your house basically, like once they were adults?

**Frances Stein** [00:36:45] That's right.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:36:49] So you were saying. Well, you thought the biggest threat to, oh, is the anti-Semitism that right. So do you think there hasn't been a shift between when you were growing up like it hasn't gone away?

**Frances Stein** [00:37:03] Not much. I think it may even be worse.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:37:05] Okay. Do you think Israel has, like the establishment of Israel, has helped or hurt anti-Semitism?

**Frances Stein** [00:37:14] I don't think it has one way or the other. Unfortunately. The people who were anti-Semitic couldn't care less about Israel and would like it to be off the map.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:37:26] So based off of your life experiences, what advice would you give to Jewish people of modern-day?

**Frances Stein** [00:37:38] To continue Being Jewish and to promote Judaism. Be part of a thing Jewishly. run a Jewish home and Jewish family. Be involved in everything Jewish and to live a good Jewish life.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:37:56] All right. So you think it's like the most the the way Judaism will continue and like the most important things, that you just simply, like, live a Jewish life, whatever that means?

**Frances Stein** [00:38:08] That's right. And I tried to instill that in my children, but it didn't work.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:38:09] Yeah. Do you think they, do you know why you think it didn't work?

**Frances Stein** [00:38:15] They became very friendly. They had some Jewish friends, not too many of them, unfortunately, very friendly. It's a matter of fact, my husband used to say the reason that my daughter was turned off, she was a Girl Scout, a Brownie's scout, and she was a little girl. And they went away to camp for the weekend and all the kids went to church on Sunday except her. And Maurice always thought that turned Leslie off to Judaism.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:38:47] Did they go to public school for high school?

**Frances Stein** [00:38:50] yes.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:38:50] Do you think that's how do you think you know why it happened with your son?

**Frances Stein** [00:38:57] Well, at that time, there wasn't Hebrew school, Einstein wasn't here at the time. So that was only place he could go was the public school.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:39:06] Right. So do you think it was the same thing with your son as to why he got turned off from Judaism?

**Frances Stein** [00:39:13] I don't know. I don't even think it was in particularly crazy about his teachers in Hebrew school or anything like that. And. I really don't know why you don't get turned on.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:39:23] Did your sister, um, have children?

**Frances Stein** [00:39:27] She had one daughter.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:39:29] And did her daughter say, like, actively Jewish?

**Frances Stein** [00:39:32] Her daughter. My sister had medical problems. She was a diabetic or epileptic. Anyway she had problems took all kinds of medication and it affected

her daughter. Her daughter has all kinds of problems. But she's, not anything no affiliation what so ever.

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:41:11] So anyway, so just to clarify, so you're like you're the thing you could say to any Jews if you had or all Jews if you had, the opportunity would be...

**Frances Stein** [00:41:22] To live Jewish, to just live a good Jewish life, to live a good Jewish and live a good life period. And to help the Jewish country. And to be a good person which is what I try to do every day

**Dalia (Interviewer):** [00:41:42] OK. Well, thank you so much. Thank you.