

Transcription for Faith and Lou Brown

Dalia Handelman: Just for the recording I'm going to start with this is Dalia Handelman interviewing Faith and Lou Brown on Friday, June 28th, 2019 at 11 a.m. So, yeah, and please feel free to stop the interview and be wanted at all. Okay, go ahead.

Faith Brown: Well, most of us were the children of immigrants [00:00:30] who came here from Russia Poland and many other countries in Europe who sought a better life in America. How many of you can remember a time when there were no computers, No washing machines or dryers even though TV Imagine a world without cell phones, iPads, not even a microwave instead we had radios mail delivery twice a day and a morning and evening newspaper [00:01:00] milk was delivered daily to our doorsteps in glass bottles, which were sterilized and rebottle for the next day's delivery. No refrigerators or freezers were in existence when we were growing them, but everyone had an ice box. Our phones had dials and often were shared with what was known as a party line where you could actually listen in to someone else's conversation since there [00:01:30] was nothing known as busing we walked to school and there were never any snow days. Our means of transportation were trolley cars and cost less than 10 cents a ride, we shopped for groceries at a corner market and we paid 15 cents for a dozen eggs, nine cents for a loaf of bread, 49 cents a pound for coffee and 65 cents for 10 pounds of sugar. [00:02:00] Jewish families splurged on Fridays to make Shabbat meals very special our schools restaurants and movie theaters, believe it or not or segregated. No blacks were allowed to attend. Public bathrooms were labeled white and colored. These were also seen in hospitals and all public places and we thought this was how the world is supposed to be. Our Jewish [00:02:30] world was different in Wilmington. We had two or three kosher butcher shops. We had to kosher bakeries several kosher delis and a kosher cheese store selling only dairy products. Jewish newspapers were available every day such as the forward and dare tug was the name of another both in Yiddish and they included advice columns [00:03:00] similar to Dear Abby and there was a column called a "bentall brief", marriage counselors were unnecessary. We had many Jewish organizations like pioneer women for Bond Hebrew free loan arbitrary Mizrahi and others. Most shuls has a michitzah you know what that is, so that is with lady sitting upstairs. No mixed seating [00:03:30] when we were growing up. We had Jewish fraternities and sororities and our singles bar was the ymh a adjoining our synagogue out of Scottish Sports swimming and weekly dances were popular with the young crowd. Lectures and musical events also took place at the Y. The adjoining building was Odesh kodesh where we attended Hebrew school five [00:04:00] days a week and services on Shabbat. We studied Hebrew as well as Yiddish in our basement classrooms. Tuition believe it or not was 50 cents a week and included textbooks. The Shul was the center of our lives. We had picnics in the summer and special events during the year all sponsored by the synagogue. [00:04:30] Our Heroes were Chaim Weitzman and Theodore Herzl, we learned about the Jewish world and we prayed for a homeland in Palestine.

Bar mitzvahs were far from lavish like they are today and there were no Bat Mitzvahs. They didn't exist despite this we felt we had a very rich Jewish life downtown Wilmington had mostly Jewish Merchants, like Bronstein's, Lipsteins [00:05:00] Finkles rosenbaum's feinberg's to name a few. Most of the stores were owned by Jews on our Main Street. The most famous store was Wilmington dry goods which was owned by the Lazarus family. They were always closed on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and they were followed by most of the other stores in the area in the area divorce was very rare for Jewish families and intermarrige was also rare [00:05:30] and like Fiddler some parents sat Shiva for their kids do you know what that means?

Dalia Handelman: like if they had mourning, you know, yeah if they intermarried?

Faith Brown: Yeah

Dalia Handelman: Wow.

Faith Brown: We live mostly in Jewish neighborhoods and patronized Jewish doctors lawyers dentists even pharmacies. Doctors actually made house calls in those days and they charged two dollars for a house [00:06:00] call. things have changed. Yeah, if you had a contagious disease your house was quarantined with a sign the remedy for everything was mama's chicken soup. Every home had a blue box for the Jewish National Fund. The box was locked and was opened by a little old lady from Mizrahi who possess that magic key. It was fascinating to watch her empty the coins from the box [00:06:30] and present us with a receipt. We knew the money's were used to buy and protect land and Palestine before we had a Jewish state. Most homes had a phonograph on which we played Jewish and cantorial music and we all had a repertoire of Yiddish and Hebrew folk songs, and we all knew how to dance the Hora. during those years of the depression because these were in the 1920s and 30s. We saved everything. [00:07:00] We saved bottle caps, coupons, baseball cards, and S&H Green Stamps that we later redoing redeem for Pieces of furniture odds and ends. Glassware came from used jars of break stone. Sour cream after we ate the sour cream the very attractive glass was used for water. Whatever. We even saved yahrzeit glasses, you know, after the candle burned down we wash them out [00:07:30] and use them as juice glasses dishes were accumulated one at a time at local movie theaters every Time you went to the theater and you got a dish a cup of saucer people continue to Lake had a complete set. Everything had a value, a new home cost \$7,000 approximately. Apartment rent was about twenty dollars a month. And gasoline was 12 cents [00:08:00] a gallon. A ticket to the movies with 25 cents and a postage stamp was only two cents. And Lou's yiddish-speaking mother was once asked is it true that all Jews are rich and she responded. You're right. We Jews are very rich. We just don't have much money.

Dalia Handelman: That's amazing. Thank you so much. That was incredible. I have so [00:08:30] many questions. You said your parents were immigrants from Russia from Russia. Both of your parents came from Russia?

Lou Brown: My mother came from Russia. My father was born-

Faith Brown: In America

Lou Brown: In the United States

Faith Brown: which was unusual for those Jewish families.

Dalia Handelman: And why did your parents come to Russia? I mean come from-

Faith Brown: My father came first he was [00:09:00] escaping the programs which was very difficult times and he was the eldest and his family of five and he came to work and save money to bring the rest of the family to safety here

Dalia Handelman: Can you so you describe a lot about the place you guys grew up in so you grew up together,

Faith Brown: Well no but we went to the same [00:09:30] Hebrew School our families knew each other. We were we know each other since childhood.

Lou Brown: you have to understand, I'm much older than she is

Faith Brown: Yeah after he returned from world war 2 from Guam serving in the Navy my parents his parents had bought a home next door to mine. They were attached homes. And so I was the girl next door.

Dalia Handelman: That's incredible that

Lou Brown: she was still young.

Faith Brown: [00:10:00] What did your mother always say, you should date me?

Lou Brown: Yes, but I good cheer, I'm not, she always said don't marry the girl next door I'll always have trouble with her mother.

Faith Brown: She never said that

Lou Brown: no, I have a I grew up differently. I was born on the west side of Wilmington [00:10:30] and that was like the tough side. And you want to know how we grew up?

Dalia Handelman: Yeah

Lou Brown: I would next my parents. Failure, my parents had a grocery store and we lived right next to a huge park called kirkwood park It's also had [00:11:00] a bath house. I don't know if you know what a bath house is But these are wooden structures, men and women went in different sides However, she said [00:11:51] the main thing is owned within the jewish thing, jewish clubs, especially the my mother like her mother and so I found myself doing a lot of things that were she was doing but that was one of the great things I grew up on the east side it was very difficult, but I didn't know I was [00:12:22] surrounded by polish people and it was wodnerufl I learned to tap dance, I was like a pariot, My father was a musician, a very good musician [00:12:54]

Faith Brown: He played the violin

Lou Brown: the Violin, for the non jiewsh clubs like the elks and the moose, my father was also very friendly with italians he played in an italian band and i got an inside look of what that was, i never had trouble with non jews even though i was purley jewish meaning my mom [00:13:53] was the stem in our house She was she decided what I was going to do my father just insisted that I went to school and where else would i go i don't want to go to the jail house or anything like that but I I was lucky enough. My father took me to the Mary St.- [00:14:23] say I well first i went to Bancrof Elementary School and it was fascinating the last thing that was also in deep east side, but there are a lot of Jewish places there in that area though because of certain things. Once in a while. I'd get in a little trouble and I had two good things I could do [00:14:53] I could run fast. And I could return slugs, defended myself. because everybody did but I love that part they had one caretaker and he ruled that park but as a child I saw things that I don't think I should have seen some [00:15:23] people coming out of the river for an out, drowned

Faith Brown: Hold on do you want to know about his Jewish background growing up?

Dalia Handelman: yes, absolutely and everything is perfect. But yeah, definitely the you're Jewish background as well as everything

Lou Brown: You just want my jewish background

Dalia Handelman: Honestly I want all of it

Speaker 2: [00:15:53] in the 30s the depressing months my mother made him a rule that I had to go to Hebrew school, I was probably about 9 or 10 we were Very kosher my house, Mmm. and I was never embarrassed about my [00:16:24] Kashrut I was more accepted by the non-jews and by the not religious jews. So I got along well with him and I I went to school just as she said every day five days, but we did have that one more wonderful place that was [00:16:54] the YMHA with a presence between JCC and our buildings and our Shul buildings are connected with the YMHA there were dances and I was a 5-4.

Faith Brown: That was [00:17:24] our social life

Lou Brown: Parents sent us there to meet Jewish people, we did, I learned to dance there, I was pressed to dance because I was going to the prom, so who do you think I called? I called my buddy, so he called a girl to teach me how to dance and they came over and so she dances with me but all of our learners i simply standed out in hebrew and yiddish [00:18:02] I really like the Yiddish we had some tough kids in that class and I think but they love Yiddish and to this day and [00:18:32] as soon as I found out she spoke Yiddish I married her

Faith Brown: maybe it's best if she asks us questions

Lou Brown: I would like that what do you specifically want to hear, my education?

Dalia Handelman: like Yes, honestly, like that's why it's kind of weird like you guys talking is perfect because and I definitely can ask you questions, but it's really like a general overview on

Faith Brown: but there's so many areas, you know. Like the war years [00:19:02] we had. You know,

Dalia Handelman: yeah. I know I can ask them. Um based off of like the things you guys have mentioned already you talked about growing up with you saw the racial segregation. Did you guys expect you mentioned this a bit, did you experience any like segregation religiously like religious segregation?

Faith Brown: You mean like anti-semitism.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah, and yeah.

Faith Brown: I really never had that problem because the schools were also integrated [00:19:32] most of the people there. It came from families or immigrant like the Polish and the Greek and all and the Italians most of their parents came from Europe to and the time that we were there was not too much but was always the occasional in a dirty Jew kind of a comment. Yeah, you know blaming you for something I personally didn't didn't encounter anything.

Lou Brown: She's too pretty to i wasn't too pretty for anything

Faith Brown: [00:20:02] So it was war time to you know, he went off to war

Lou Brown: that was part of my growing. It was a very big part and I as I said, I had to learn I did learn to dance and I brought that up because I wanted to tell you about I told you I was president of the class of of the senior class But I did not thank goodness. I was voted one of the three best dancers.

Dalia Handelman: [00:20:32] Oh my God.

Faith Brown: I'm president of the graduating class.

Dalia Handelman: Wow.

Lou Brown: We were all the general feeling the war was going on we knew that something was going to happen. Yeah. It was all the same. I graduate From Wilmington high school, senior school.

Faith Brown: I can't hear you.

Lou Brown: I graduated from Wilmington High School [00:21:02] and to University of Delaware. before I graduated from Wilmington High School, so it's that went down in my 11th year to the University of Delaware. a wonderful thing because the first thing I could do is two hours of physics lab now, that's a thrill. It's all about the war. Hmm. Anyhow, this this [00:21:33] the Jewish part of it is good . I was kosherI always had a problem about what to eat And I'm actually school is easy and Elementary School. We bought lettuce and it made us

Faith Brown: tomato sandwiches

Lou Brown: Lettuce and tomato sandwiches for 3 cents, it was half, i didn't have a problem with that i liked that

Faith Brown: I want to interject something [00:22:03] about you. Can you imagine this? He's an only child. He's 18 years old now, you're not much older than that, but here's this only Child of 18 that gets a letter from Uncle Sam

Lou Brown: greetings!

Faith Brown: greetings you're going to serve in the and he chose the Navy here. Here he is 18 years old an only child. His mother has to say goodbye to him to a place. You never heard of called Guam in the South Pacific. [00:22:33]

Lou Brown: I don't know. I mean, I'm at 19.

Faith Brown: He was still in the service learning about guns and shooting killing I mean, it's such a thing you can't conceive of today the 18 year olds, you see them on the campus their kids. Yeah, they're babies.

Lou Brown: I was in ROTC for you know what that is ROTC training.

Dalia Handelman: Ya, ya

Lou Brown: I had a lot of nice things there,

Faith Brown: but you were the only kid was my point, the only child. Okay. your mother sending [00:23:03] her only child at 18 off across the world to fight and kill, you know, the Japan was, you know an enemy in the south Pacific so that's really a very growing up experience. Definitely your he was thrust into that made him grow up right now, but I think

Lou Brown: ya but i tell you Kirkwood street park had something to do with growing up was
Speaker 3: yeah, but that that was it, but i lived in the Jewish world[00:23:34] and I was also in the non-jewish world. A lot of times school was not Jewish but five times a week into it was called living in Two Worlds.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah. Yeah.

Faith Brown: Well they felt at home at hebrew school

Lou Brown: [00:24:13] and most parents spoke yiddish too And we had special places to go. We will go like supposed to want to go get a good meal or Yiddish meal we go to 2nd Street. They had two Bakers. It's a to bigger street

Faith Brown: I think I mentioned here

Lou Brown: two I think delicatessens. It smells so good for a Jewish nose. Wish I was so was pleasant go down. We saw them shaft kitchens. You know, what? [00:24:43] That is hmm. And that was a weird experience. That's after that. I didn't know if I would ever eat another chicken.

Faith Brown: We used to buy live chickens and apartment, you know, Grandpa would kill them and and have my grandma would burn off the feathers would smell terrible even have them already clean that you go to a market. So everything and the fish came from a fishmonger. He brought a net in, remember to my grandparents he picked out which carp look the best and despite that even if you pick the [00:25:13] the fattest because people were watching their pennies they were thrown into the bathtub to fatten up before Shabbat another week of feeding the fish in your bathtub.

Lou Brown: So if you take a bath before the fish did

Faith Brown:I was always scared as a child what did want to go to bath because he's flopping fish were in there because there's a childhood book you may have read called the carp in the bathtub by a woman named Barbara Cohen, she wrote it and it's actually true of so many Jewish families, they would buy a carp and then they couldn't afford the biggest one so they fattened it. [00:25:43] Up on their own. The same with chickens. My grandparents had a chicken coop in the yard and they would like a live chicken or to fatten it up for a couple of weeks and then they killed the chicken and got rid of the feathers and used it. But everyone's had to save a penny whatever they could. Yeah, so everything was from scratch gafiltafish you know, everything was done. I must leave. [00:26:13] But everything was done from the live fish to the live chicken Yeah by ready-made. Yeah, but it was a learning experience, it was totally different

Lou Brown: the whole thing was so different from my regular school experience was totally different from my Jewish World Experience. She [00:26:45] and she told you she had no anti semitism

Faith Brown: Had what

Lou Brown: No anti semitism

Faith Brown: Very little

Lou Brown: She was who selected you the teach or the class

Faith Brown: The only time a family got mad at me is when I told their child there is no Santa Claus

Lou Brown: She was always like that

Faith Brown: They came to my parents and said you Jews are telling my child spoiling her Christmas said there's no Santa Claus as all that so I was scolded for that I didn't hang stockings up [00:27:16] something totally foreign to me. But I was a spoiler for her child because she believed in Santa

Dalia Handelman: right

Lou Brown: Where I lived it was less of-

Faith Brown: More integrated where you were

Lou Brown: Yes A lot of it was italians, my mother spoke 5 languages[00:27:55]

Faith Brown: Coming from Europe

Lou Brown: She spoke Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, Yiddish-

Faith Brown: My parents too but ya but you know, we were always exposed to Jewish music and that's probably why for 70 years. We started 70 years ago a coral and dance group and that still exist today just had our Big Show at The JCC and I was a leader of the choral group for all those years. He was one of the top dancers in the Israeli dance group.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah. [00:28:25]

Faith Brown: And he was very good dancer and we started that and became really an annual event to have people sing. And dance. We did Yiddish and Hebrew sometimes a little Spanish but you know, mostly Yiddish and Hebrew music Israeli and we would have it close to Israel Independence Day because when we were growing up, there was no Israel. That was Palestine Palestine and summer camp was very did you go to [00:28:56] Jewish summer camp? Where did you?

Dalia Handelman: Capital camps, in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania? Have you heard of it before?

Fatih Brown: I don't think so. spell it.

Dalia Handelman: C-a-p-i-t-a-l camps. Where did you guys go to camps?

Faith Brown: Well I went to habon'im camps which is a labor Zionist organization.

Dalia Handelman: Okay.

Faith Brown: and they have a youth group youth component. And so they have camps all over the country. So I went to a place called. Mosheava [00:29:26] in Annapolis, Maryland. for many years and they are still there and theres many of them camp Galil, always went to Jewish summer camp and that of course led me to music and dance because we did that all the time, you know

Dalia Handelman: Yeah. Yeah.

Faith Brown: And celebrating the holidays so, you know growing up in that genre that was natural to me to sing and dance and Get other people [00:29:56] like interest to be involved. Yeah, so we had formed we used to sing only for the was called the bigger column The Jewish Home for the Aged. Now called the , you know going there and lifting their Spirits and most of them almost always spoke Yiddish. There were not many non-jews and nobody spoke Hebrew there for sure and then more important people join in then we decided after two years. The singing [00:30:26] to start Isreali dance was I learned that at camp and I said, well, you know, I'll teach a few days is and suddenly. A lot of people came a lot of people also new dances from different sources and we're we performed here a couple weeks ago. we didn't dance with them. But yeah, I introduced it. But anyhow, we had our Odes kodesh Israeli dancers and they performed here and our daughter sang in the Many languages [00:30:56] so our kids have continued the traditional music and dance as a sideline, but that's I would say a major part of our life has been, you know after the war with music and the Jewish music and dance

Dalia Handelman: so do do your children speak. So you guys how many languages do you guys speak?

Faith Brown: We speak Yiddish, English and Hebrew to a large extent because we've been ten times to Israel.

Dalia Handelman: Wow.

Faith Brown: Many times [00:31:26] as volunteers. We were in the Israeli Army for one of the times the last time. The Jewish Federation sent us to Arod where we work teaching in a school to

helping them learn English and then we worked at a senior citizen building that was in Arod and we help them also as volunteers and - we were up in the Golan Heights. Once they sent [00:31:56] us there where it was a very rustic. we had no closet, we had men were separate and maybe four or five guys. We had four five women

Lou Brown: We had four or five guys and the closet, we got a nail

Faith Brown: thrilled. It was a very very rusticbut we loved it. We loved it. We work side-by-side with the soldiers and Whatever they we were [00:32:26] assigned we did and met wonderful people from we were people from France from Canada South Africa. There were twelve at this one particular Kibbutz , no army base and there was no way to get in or out except with on army vehicle like a Jeep and had to hitchhike on the road. Tiberius was the closest place so we've been ten times. [00:33:04] Sarah margolin

Lou Brown: Sarah Margolin, you will clean and Assemble Uzi machine gun

Dalia Handelman: That was your job? [00:33:41]

Faith Brown: It didn't last long and we came to the airport we didn;t know where we would be stationed so when we came there was a little girl about your age holding up a sign with our name "Brown" and we go up and our relatives who live in israel when they said Ramat HaGolan that up in the Golan Heights that's on the border. So we arrived and here this 12 people from around the world and the soldiers look at us like we're some creatures from outer space and they said to us, you know any Hebrew.

Dalia Handelman: Hmm.

Faith Brown:They said Main Atem (מי איפה אתם)? What does that mean?

Dalia Handelman: Like, where are you from

Faith Brown: right I said [00:34:11] Anacnu Mi Asot Habrit (אנחנו מי אצות הברית) and they said אתם באמת משוגאים

Dalia Handelman: oh my gosh,

Faith Brown: Because we're coming paying our own money to come to this godforsaken army base, which is a very primitive and they could not believe it. So we had quite an experience there, but it was it was wonderful. We learned a lot of Hebrew worked hard. It was hot and but

they gave us uniforms to wear and epaulettes showed that we were Mitvadim which [00:34:41] is volunteers and wherever we would go and people saw that

Lou Brown: Its a little blue epilette, piece of clothe

Faith Brown: And if you went on the weekend it was shabbat and we went from Tiberas, we got from the soliders and get to the next town. However, you could only really hitchhike. We went to Tiberius because of that that's soldiers. [00:35:11] You got a discount, you know at the hotel and they made us like celebrities when we came as volunteers, you know to work and it was just wonderful. And what was the name of the big soldier who was Arak Sharons- , Nissian. He was the closest to Arak Sharaon parks are on and he came to our base ones and he says, you know, [00:35:41] he says we Jews have a secret secret that no other nation has our secret as Jews is you volunteers you know no other people have volunteers to come to their country and help them. It's a secret. You're you are our special gift.

Lou Brown: Special thingand I want we were going to go off they were now married.
Hmm. [00:36:14] Friday night Friday night.

Faith Brown: We have to be back Sunday and get our own transportation because Okay.

Lou Brown: My overseer was a huy named Shy because we was the only other guy who could speak english. We were going to get to tavariah, across the, [00:36:50] Get off get off. He said you see that that blue.

Faith Brown: Oh you're asking for like leave together. Like time off

Lou Brown:Ya ya, he said That is one grade higher than the general

Faith Brown: Being a volunteer in Israel was considered wonderful things on tyrannous with twas. I considered a wonderful upgrade higher than being a general, that you volunteer you came on your own you spent your money to come and you can do whatever you want because well in terms you know,

Lou Brown: we finished that rep turn, shy brought out a big [00:37:20] big cake. We said Shy why a cake, he said This has been my easiest

Faith Brown: like his Avodah project like work force

Dalia Handelman you guys were good volunteers?

Faith Brown: like oh, yeah. [00:37:50] we introduced them to window to do the windows Yeah, you know we have to really show them things that Americans do that they did not do but we were not allowed to do we're going strong.

Lou Brown: We were smart enough not to tell them why don't you do it like this.

Faith Brown: don't instruct these these boys they're here to defend the country and you know, but they would take the like concrete floors in the dining room dining room was in this structure and they would take the mops and they would clean the floors from there. [00:38:20] muddy boots from the fields and then they would take the same mop and the table on which we ate the same up. so we didn't say anything but we would do our work duty the reverse

Lou Brown: We bus our own dishes and they said oh no,

Faith Brown: they would just leave the dishes on the table everything and we would go bust our dishes over to a garbage can throw away what they learn by watching. [00:38:50] us do work and here's the other one. We get a loaf of bread. If you get like a loaf of rye where are the biggest slices?

Dalia Handelman: the middle

Faith Brown: right That's right and you're one of the soldiers you take it like this you rip and they take the middle size and then they throw away the rest of the so we had said to the guy what was his name. They're wasting so much. you know, these boys are wasting that they want the biggest slices then they throw away the rest [00:39:20] he says, Never correct them because these are all soldiers who have Jewish Mothers and if they hear that they were deprived of the biggest slice of the biggest anything the mother so let em eat

Lou Brown: We weren't gonna argue with them

Faith Brown: We were interviewed before we became volunteers the program was called SAR'L. Sa r - e l and we had to go to Philadelphia and [00:39:50]and this couple interviewed us has do you like to sleep with a pillow is that yes, bring one. Do you like that have a shower? Well, there were no shower heads. We were none open enclosure open space for showers. They said are you there to be an evangelist and to convert these people no we're not doing that but the way they described it was really going to be a very difficult rustic time. [00:40:20] But that everybody who went ended up loving it and we were with volunteers. It was their 12th or 13th time to do this program. And then we went was the 13th year of that program. We went to Jerusalem and all

these volunteers from all around the country men and dancing on the stage and they had people complimenting them, generals and other military and we see on the stage a young girl from our town and we notice Erica belly. She was a teenager and then we met [00:40:50] Our base met with their base are all teens. It was a former Turkish prison, they lived , their base they delivered their base and the force of the word and I said God I said Sarah is oh my God. I said Sarah what you rather be at some other base? No, I love it. She said these kids loved it there the more rustic than the better. Yeah. It was a real experience for teenagers to be defending the country to be with other teens from around the world and [00:41:20]

Lou Brown: I had the Machsans, you know what that is?

Faith Brown: It's like a storage area,

Lou Brown: but we did mostly we took the metallic parts of the cars

Faith Brown: Like trucks mostly, Jeeps

Lou Brown: And we covered them with kind of a not-

Faith Brown: It was a protective coatings. [00:41:51] So they would finish their job very quickly

Lou Brown: because the oldest guy we let him be he has been in charge of a school or something,

Faith Brown: I can't hear you, I hope she can

Lou Brown: I remember going to Shy, what'd we do next, finish that big box, huge box of parts, and we were done

Faith Brown: He couldn't believe we finished the job so fast because they were goofing off so much

Lou Brown: Shy what'd we do now, what'd you mean we finish the box, Hugh he said? Already

Faith Brown: American Injunity

Lou Brown: That would take an Israeli citizen soldiers 3 days to figure it out, they had strict overseer

Faith Brown: We showed by example though more efficient one way [00:42:24] finish the job so fast [00:43:08] we did in America more efficiently other one that clean windows I live and they went out and we want what our own window except the Moss owner of this Marcus how did you do that. Yeah, and he said what was that? Oooh thats clean We women So we didn't put the Uzi machine guns together. I believe

Lou Brown: what they could do with

Faith Brown:they put us in the dining room. [00:43:38] And do windows and

Lou Brown: instead of

Faith Brown: but what did they graduate us too? Because we enjoyed They were so good. The offices called They are good but I have to tell you this that we grew up. Making Aliyah was a very big thing to live in Israel. That was the Zionist movement and the youth movement that belong to that was the goal [00:44:08] to go to Israel and build the land.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah.

Faith Brown: So we were married in 1948 and shortly after my marriage and my family not his went and my mother brother father made aliyah The same time we boarded a Turkish steamer in New York City. It was not a passenger ship. It was like a [00:44:42]

Lou Brown: Excursion ship

Faith Brown: It brought stuff to Greece and to - it was like storage stuff. I don't know. Yes, but it was just bringing stuff able to get passage to go on this ship because those days you didn't go to Israel. People just didn't go , Flights were not available ships There were no cruises to Israel. We were really pioneers and we went and group small group of Americans [00:45:12] use one too. It took us 21 days on this Turkish steamer to cross from New York to Haifa Harbor and we were seasick most of the way.

Dalia Handelman: I'm sure

Faith Brown: we looked and there was nothing but water as far as the eye could see and

Lou Brown: And I was in the navy

Faith Brown: He'd been in the Navy and he was seasick from-

Dalia Handelman: Wow.

Faith Brown: and then we go 21 days on this Turkish steamer seasick. Well, we finally arrived in Piraeus Greece [00:45:42] was the stop before that of disposing of stuff for me. But whatever people have ordered from Piraeus, so we get off the boat and they said it was a hot day in front of the Parthenon and Greece you know that big structure the Parthenon, yeah. Yeah, and they said you might want to take this change some of your money to buy maybe some kind of fish so they give us so we should

Lou Brown: They said change all your money change your money.

Faith Brown: So [00:46:12] we change \$10 bill for drachmas every drop left was this big and when I say said Coca-Cola Coca-Cola signs are we said to to coax? He said to the guy how many drachmas in this is that? Be \$20,000 was we were wiped that I was like that ten dollars worth of meals and now they have the Euro. but these were so we still like a suitcase. This is were Rich. [00:46:43] We were wiped out after to Coca-Cola's we had no more money, but that's all part of growing really I would travel out of there because in addition each time is Different

Lou Brown: We traveled out there and learned, its always different

Faith Brown: we have been to about 27 countries who always look for a Jewish Community wherever we go and we have gone to mostly Elder hostels on our trips to Italy and Spain while we look for a Jewish community over we go and it's always [00:47:13] fascinating and you always find them were everywhere

Lou Brown: and sooner or later theres the Israeli dance team

Faith Brown: Yeah, and I want to recommend to you. So you're while you're young travel as much as you can. Yeah, save your money, don't buy new clothes and stuff. Yeah, put it in a special bank account for travel. You will never regret it. Yeah, never regret it. It's such a learning wonderful experience. Not just the country, but the people you meet from all over and they experiences [00:47:43] you have you can't duplicate and then the other way. Yeah, but only the Israelis are very blase about things. We once went on an elder hostel to the Grand Canyon Grand Canyon phenomenal , one of the Seven Wonders of the World and we're 5:00 in the morning had to see Sunrise there will again your Hebrew. So i said "Maian Atem?" And they said "Mi Israel" and i said "so Ma Atam Choshvim Al Za" what do you think about this and they said "Cmo Byars" (like israel)

Dalia Handelman: Oh my Gosh

Faith Brown: Never Impressed

Dalia Handelman: never of course,

Faith Brown: but I think they really were yeah. So, you know, it's been a lifetime of many experiences. I mean it would take hours and hours and hours to talk about the many trips and the Jewish experiences.

Lou Brown: One time we went through Seven times one after the other [00:48:44] first class

Faith Brown: we were bumped up but thats not what she wants to know about

Lou Brown: No but because of a mistake or ticket was wrong

Faith Brown: That was great but we didn't always go first class. But one thing we installed we have three children and we said they have to all go to summer camp and they all have to go to college and graduate and they all have to go to Israel some point and they fulfilled all and they all love Israel. [00:49:14] Yeah, and they all sing and dance and they all finished college. So we feel we feel that we did

Lou Brown: And my son did rodney scout camp too

Faith Brown: Ya but that is not a Jewish camp

Lou Brown: It wasn't kosher

Faith Brown: but our girls went to Moshe and Galili and they loved it and they went like five six years until they became counselors or just we're [00:49:44] too old and our son went as a volunteer for six weeks to his Roman on the sorrow program

Lou Brown: that pictures

Faith Brown: he was just starting after college he state dug ditches still says one of the best experiences of his life. And he sings

Lou Brown: And dances He was the second best dancer dancer in our dance group

Faith Brown: [00:50:14] And so our kids have continued and then we have grandchildren to our great grandchildren go to hebrew day school in new york and our oldest is 6 and she goes to hebrew day school. So she said to me Bubbi I can speak Hebrew. So i said really I said, can you say I'm big she says Ani Gdolah! she has the accent of [00:50:49] her isralei teacher shes six years old Ani Gdolah and she has two twin sisters who are three and they sang Hebrew songs. We're continuing Our tradition as much as we can but we've been very fortunate that our children all married Jews and raising their children and the way we would want them to be raised. and they've- oh our ally has been twice to Israel, six years old. Her parents are well her mother's a doctor, our daughter's a physician I have to brag in new York so they can afford [00:51:19] when she was a baby they went to Israel when She doesn't remember any of it, but then the second time she went we have pictures of her riding on a camel. Didn't you do that at four years of age? you know,

Dalia Handelman: that's amazing.

Faith Brown: And you know, it's like Israel is another place like the beach or who but they expose them to all these things, you know, Jewish things. music and dance that we're hoping to continue. It's not true in many families today.

Dalia Handelman: So [00:51:49] just to clarify you you went to World War II broke out, you were drafted you went to Gaum,

Faith Brown: In the South Pacific right

Dalia Handelman: And thats when you came back and that's when the two of you did this the program

Faith Brown: After he came back He saw I was the girl next door.

Dalia Handelman: That's when you guys were like,

Lou Brown: She was so young

Faith Brown: His mother said why don't you date her [00:52:22] he said shes too young for me because I am 4 years younger and then he saw his friends were dating me who were sometimes older then him so he said wait... She's old enough for them. But yeah, so rest is history. So we've been married 70 years.

Dalia Handelman: Wow.

Lou Brown: To the same guy?

Faith Brown: To the same guy that's what people always say but you know, what's important if you share basic interests with somebody that's very important. I'm giving you a tip. Yeah, we have some friends one loves to socialize the husband doesn't do we have to go to a person's house. [00:52:52] She loves to travel. He hates to travel or vice versa. So it's hard. Yeah, when couples don't agree on a lot of basic things or how to raise the children. That's another one but we've been very fortunate and very blessed that our kids have continued in the tradition that that we feel is important.

Dalia Handelman: Definitely

Faith Brown: have to know who you are and I hope it will go on. That's it. Yeah, but you want to see a picture I'll take you upstairs to show you because yeah, I think [00:53:22] we're going to have to conclude.

Dalia Handelman: Okay ya We can conclude can I conclude with this one question?

Faith Brown: sure.

Dalia Handelman: Um just because I think it's so interesting to hear what my interviewees have to say about this. It's if you can give one piece of advice to the Jews of modern day, what would that be?

Faith Brown: I would say treasure your tradition. Don't lose don't lose the values of Judaism because they are very important in life. [00:53:52] Know who you are and make study a part of your life. If you can, talk about Jewish study

Dalia Handelman: But what about what would you say?

Lou Brown: What can I say? If you have something you like go after it. If you can identify a good cause for us it was Israel it gave us a goal an opportunity to work for something

Faith Brown: Work for something positive

Lou Brown: Work for something positive, [00:54:49] they say, you know, when I was going to, I belong to a course, and I couldn't go a certain time, no I'm sorry that's wrong I work for an electrical company [00:55:20]

Faith Brown: Oh for israel he wanted to trade

Lou Brown: So i told that to the formen of my group, he looked at me and he was okay and almost all the non jews almost everyone was very there was such a weird thing going to israel you wanna get bombed you want to die, however my Electrical [00:55:50] Company was basically British.and if you know at the time the british were in Israel

Faith Brown: We have to take her up its getting very late they'll come looking for us

Lou Brown: Tried to tell me not to feel bad against the britians. I am goint there to help israel grow.

Faith Brown: I just gave a Dvar Torah last [00:56:20] week how you have to have a sense of purpose. It's very important.