

Dalia Handelman: [00:00:00] So just to begin, this is Dalia Handelman interviewing Faith Brown on Wednesday, August 7th, 2019 at 12:45 p.m. This is the second interview with Faith brown. The first was on Friday, June 28th, 2019. So [00:00:30] can you please state your name, date of birth and location of birth

Faith Brown: my name is Faith Brown and was born 11/11/29. And was the-

Dalia Handelman: location

Faith Brown:Wilmington Delaware, I'm in local.

Dalia Handelman: Um, can you describe the place in time you grew up in

Faith Brown: I grew up here in Wilmington. Although I've traveled to many countries over the years and I'd like to tell you a little [00:01:00] bit about growing up here. Okay, most of us were the children of immigrants and we came here from Russia and Poland and many other countries in Europe, and they look for a better life in America. So, can you remember a time dalia, when there were no computers there were no washing machines. No dryers and even know TV kind of unbelievable doesn't have if you can imagine a world without [00:01:31] cell phones without iPads not even a microwave instead we had radios and Mail was delivered not once a day but twice a day we had a morning and evening newspaper. We had the morning news and the evening I and milk was delivered every day at our doorsteps in glass bottles. No plastic. They were sterilized and the bottles were recycled for the next day's [00:02:01] delivery. We didn't have any refrigerators or freezers. We had an ice box we have what ice from the ice man he A big cube of ice which melted into a pan which was emptied every night before you went to bed. Hopefully, or else you have a flood in the kitchen and we had no phones with dials. I mean our phones did have dials and we had a shared telephone as a party line. So if you were a nosy [00:02:31] person you could pick up the phone and listen to somebody else's business and many people did that you could really listen to their our whole conversation and then had a lot of food for gossip later on and since there was nothing known as busing which you have now, we walk to school imagine that there were never any snow days. Our means of transportation were trolley cars and they cost less than 10 cents a ride [00:03:01] and we shopped for groceries never in a supermarket because there were none we went to the corner market and paid 15 cents for a dozen eggs, we pay nine cents for a loaf of bread 49 cents per pound of coffee 65 cents for 10 pounds of sugar. But Jewish families splurge on Fridays to have a special meal for the Sabbath and that was always a little more expensive than the usual. Now I don't know if you know [00:03:31] that our schools and our restaurants were segregated our movie theaters. Also white only no blacks were allowed to attend they didn't eat in restaurants, They didn't go to school without they had separate schools and public bathrooms were labeled white men and colored men you saw that in the hospitals in the restaurants, wherever you want to do a public place and these these were not unfamiliar [00:04:01] to us since we grew up with that we thought oh, well, that's the way life is supposed to be we didn't know that it was

wrong. We were considered south of the Mason-Dixon line. So we were like a Southern state Now Our Jewish world was different. Can I tell you about that?

Dalia Handelman: Yes, please

Wilmington had two or three kosher butcher shops too. Kosher bakeries and several kosher delis. Even a kosher [00:04:31] cheese store that sold only dairy products. So if you want those kinds of specials Cheese's you went to the Shop now Jewish newspapers really even available every day in town, which you will not find today. We had paper such as the forward which still exists in both Yiddish and English but through New York. You have to order it subscribe to it. We had their tug which was the daily and they have advice columns which were kind of funny [00:05:01] like Dear Abby. So you didn't go to a marriage counselor or a psychiatrist. You just read the bintel brief, which was like a little note and people sent all their little personal problems romance. And other than should I marry this guy or not and they always got a printed the answer in the newspaper. So you save a lot of money on marriage counselor, didn't need that. We had a lot of Jewish organizations in Wilmington. like pioneer [00:05:31] women for Bond Hebrew free loan, which was interesting if you needed a loan for your Or something you paid nothing for it. You just repay the loan period but no extra amount no interest which was that's what was called the Hebrew free loan, but it was a wonderful way that people in the community could borrow money without being penalized with it interested a we had synagogues. Most of them had [00:06:01] Machitzahs, of which means separate seating men and women never sat together women usually were on an upper level. Like a balcony where they sat with other women and the men set below and they used to be hollered at because and they were hung up women. Stop talking. What were they going to do? But talk about their families and we felt separated from the service. Now we had Jewish fraternities and sororities also and our singles bar. We went [00:06:31] to meet young people was the YMHA which was on 6 and French streets and in a join our synagogue the odes kodesh synagogue. That was a passageway that joined the community center the why were the sports events took place in some point with our synagogue? We have sports and swimming and weekly dances there at the community center. And they were very popular with the young crowd. If you want to meet other young people, you know to a bar [00:07:01] you went to the Y where you met other people and we had lectures there. We had musical events concerts and they all took place at the Y Interestingly the director executive director of the why was named. Mr. Isadora solid. His wife's brother was Al Jolson around Jolson. And it was one of the first in the talkies movies. the adjoining building [00:07:31] to the odes Kodesh synagogue is where we attended Hebrew school five days a week and then we had to go to services on Saturday. We studied Hebrew as well as English and that all went on after school and the classrooms were in the basement. Nothing fancy the tuition for our school or after school Hebrew was 50 cents a week and it included textbooks [00:08:01] the synagogue was like the center of our Lives, single things, cultural things, everything took place at the synagogue and at the community center. We had picnics in the summer and fall special events during the year, which was great. But that was the center of our social world. now our heroes were not Superman, but they were Chaim Weitzman and Theodore herzl. Theodore herzl was the person who wrote the book The Jewish State

proposing [00:08:31] that the Jewish people deserved a homeland of their own and Chaim Weitzman was the first president of Israel and we learned about the Jewish world and we prayed at least for a homeland in Palestine, was called Palestine then and bar mitzvahs were far from lavish today if you're invited to a bar mitzvah, it's beyond a wedding. unbelievable people have them one is fancier than the next but despite this [00:09:01] we felt we had a rich Jewish life. There were no Bat mitzvahs as for girls girls and women as they always are we're sort of secondary, not as important, but downtown Wilmington was interesting because most of the stores and the Jewish Merchants. They were all Jewish we had Weinstiens, Arthers, Rosenbaums toy store, Libsteins. There were they were almost all owned by Jewish [00:09:31] families because when the immigrants came over they had no particular profession, so they went into peddling clothes and we've had all the Peddlers, you know in New York and then they went from that to come a store and then a bigger store a bigger sets as they became more successful. And today we have Gable brothers and other big stores that we all know about and Most famous in town was on Fifth and Market called the Wilmington dry goods [00:10:01] and their you came in and you pick things off tables. No dressing rooms. You change your clothes in between the tables and your friends stood and guarded you so you wouldn't be embarrassed and they had their Daber Day sales. It was a very big event interestingly because Lazarus was a Jewish Family they closed the stores on every Jewish holiday, so when it was the Jewish New Year closed, Jewish Day of atonement [00:10:31] closed, and Other Stories follow suit because they figured if the dryers weren't open it wasn't worth it of in their business that was a huge store like Walmart kind of store and the others followed suit until later when lesser less observant Merchants came in that wasn't the case. When I was growing up all them were closed on the high holidays, so [00:11:01] that was kind of interesting. They knew don't go shopping because the stores are not going to be on Rosh Hashanah. another thing that was rare was divorce, today couples are married for a couple years, maybe sometimes a couple of months. They don't get along, immediately the divorce court, but people did not get divorce. It was like A Disgrace it was a stigma if you've been divorced so people then talk about how are your kids [00:11:31] about you know, it's like they never talked about cancer. "She has the big city and then in come was like bad luck." If you mention the disease such as cancer, you know, it was not so I think Woody Allen and some of his movies which show a Jewish Family and a non Jewish Family at dinner and they would be talking about God. Did you hear she got a big sissy did You hear he's in the hospital. Did you hear and the non Jewish families would say how was your polo [00:12:01] match this week or how was your tennis game? But the subjects for we're totally different. You've seen those movies haven't you, We lived in mostly Jewish neighborhoods and there was rare intermarriage. In fact in extreme cases parents who have a child who intermarried they sat Shiva for them. They went into mourning and they had lit a candle and they couldn't mention the child's name was like the child had died [00:12:31] and that was in Fiddler on the Roof too where a whole big terrible thing in the family the daughter married a Russian and the father couldn't accept her. She's not our child. It's like you're divorced your child, like putting the done. They it was leaving the religion was was a terrible thing. Yeah and those days. We lived in mostly Jewish neighborhoods. As I said and we patronize Jewish doctors and lawyers and dentists. And even our [00:13:01] pharmacist was Jewish, people try to patronize their own people and people still probably do that. You know, if you're Vietnamese,

you go to Vietnamese manicurist, even though most of them are. People patronize their own a lot of time. So that happened doctors actually made house calls. And they charge you guess how much \$2 a visit for a house call. Sometimes they were paid with a zucchini [00:13:31] loaf of bread or Jam that mom had made or some of their goody I didn't have the two dollars so they would pay with some delicious food that he made but the house calls we expected that many call the doctor human. He called the doctor. Okay, I'll come over and they did so that Was something very different from today, if you had a contagious disease your house was quarantined. They put up a sign that said quarantine [00:14:01] and that meant no one was allowed it because you know, they might catch that disease. So nobody could come in or out and that was very common than you don't see that much today. Sometimes buildings are quarantined of a lot of people gets sick what you don't see that with individual right and the remedy for Everything was mama's chicken soup, because that cured if everything I think doctors today have said that's a valid [00:14:31] and wonderful cure chicken soup has some kind of wonderful magical powers that makes people well, that's maybe it was invented by Jewish families. I don't know and then as I had told you before every family had a little blue box that have a map of Israel, which was then Palestine. and the box was locked with coins and was a charity box and you hoped it would go to Palestine to buy land because [00:15:01] we have no Homeland and the idea was to buy land that we could afford and declare a Homeland some and the box was usually open with a special Magic Key by a little old lady and she would pour the money out and count it and tie it up in a handkerchief or something and the Painless a.m. We see how much is in it? And we knew that the money's were safe to go to Palestine to buy and protect the land. [00:15:31] So we felt good and of course we didn't have the type of music that we have today. We had phonographs sometimes a big victrola that you wound up you put the records on and you play records most had cantorial music somehow Yiddish and Hebrew folk songs and And we all knew how to dance the Horah, which the national dance of the Jewish people. during those years was a depression. And so we saved [00:16:01] everything so we save bottle caps and we save coupons and we say baseball cards and S&H Green Stamps and I have in my home some pieces of furniture that I bought at the S&H Green Stamps store, little light tables small lamps things of that sort. So we saved How do we get special extra glassware If you're having company, sour cream made by break Stones came in these beautiful [00:16:31] decorated glasses are good for drinking juice or istic when the sour cream was gone. We wash them out and use them for drinks and for parties and everyone seemed to have the same set because breaks sold them to everybody and that looks familiar looks like my set, right? We even use the memorial glasses that when somebody dies you have a memorial glass and a candle a candle in the glass and we would wash it out after the [00:17:01] wax and melt it and we used it for drinking. We didn't throw anything away, but it was all use a dishes we used to get from the movies when you went to the theater every week. They gave a different dish one week was a cup. The next week was a saucer. They had you coming back to the same theater because of the same. Pottery set so you come for each plate and you kept coming back to me the same movie to get your set of dishes everything [00:17:31] had a value and I don't know if you can believe that a new home a modest home costs \$7,000 not a lot, right but in those days for what a mans salary was it was a lot an apartment rent was about \$20 a month right when she loved that. Yeah. Gas was twelve cents a gallon. I remember very well

that it was totally went up to 15. Oh my gosh, people said 50 now. We afford [00:18:01] that and a movie ticket was 25 cents. We went to the movies. That's what you had to pay. What you got two dishes stamp was guess how much, 2 cent's, 2 cents worth just a stamp a postcard was pre-stamped was one penny. One penny. So it was all different with the money's what men did make that much those days and I think I've told you before [00:18:31] but even though everything was so cheap we thought and not many things were expensive. My mother-in-law was confronted. People said, oh, I understand all you Jewish people are rich and she said we are rich we just don't have a lot of money for that. And I understand what that meant. Yeah, right. Yeah. So that's what my childhood was like and we felt very lucky. You don't have that kind. We didn't say we were poor. Nobody ever said they were poor [00:19:01] they felt they were very rich to get friends. We had a community. We had everything we needed. Yeah plenty of food.

Dalia Handelman: So you mentioned talked about the black and white segregation growing up, was there any religious segregation, i know you kind of mentioned like culturally you were friends with Jews and stuff like that for Jews like not allowed in any places or something like that?

Faith Brown: Oh plenty of sororities and fraternities, even through college did [00:19:31] not allow Jewish people to be members. So they formed their own sororities and fraternities and the black world was all to itself it was really very sad. Yeah, but don't worry didn't think it was anything wrong with it. Although if you saw the movie The Help you saw behind the scenes. black women were raising these children. Yeah the chefs and people cooking in the kitchens of the restaurants were cooking the food. [00:20:01] but they weren't allowed to sit at tables. It was it was a very fat and water fountains water fountains in the Parks were more colored and white. It was just a time of unbelievable but people thought there was nothing wrong with it because they didn't know any different, So different time

Dalia Handelman: So you had talked about the like the little blue box about and how your Heroes were Your Heroes [00:20:31] were people like Theodore herzl and stuff. Can you describe a little bit about your connection to Israel growing up like really what it was in your family?

Faith Brown: Well, my family was rare the time we'd were labor Zion labor Zionist school that meant we were not for a religious home land in Israel but pioneering force in Israel to come work the land, build the land. So the ideals in my family and many of my friends [00:21:01] with their family was to go to Palestine and work the land and live there and build the land as Builders as Pioneers. Yeah, and eventually we did that. Yeah family did and in 1949 my whole family. I just married my husband and we have the same ideology. Went to Palestine on a Turkish steamer. it was not a pest passenger ship you went for 21 days where there is sea sick the whole [00:21:31] time and we finally stopped and Greece from one stop and then we stopped in Haifa and my husband and I went to a collective called a Kibutz community and we work there and we live there and my parents and my brother. Into the City and my father had

always had a little store little dry goods story. He thought he could open another one but a lot of red tape a lot of things [00:22:01] went wrong. It was difficult a new language a new culture and he wasn't able to make it. So my parents went back. And Lou and I remained and then eventually because my family was back in doubler. It was hard to be separated. So we came back and rejoined them.

Dalia Handelman: Can you Describe a little bit about what Israel was like when you went and you said 1949 a year after its establishment? Can you Describe a little bit about about like [00:22:31] what it was like just like Israel life

Faith Brown: well, it was a very new country. much of it was Desert. but had not yet been developed even the city of Tel Aviv, which is the biggest city in Israel and most modern probably it was nothing but piles of sand. And here and there will be a house and hearing there would be a store that hardly anything. It was a really new community and gradually [00:23:01] got bigger and Lou and I would walk on the beach and instead of getting hot dogs or ice cream. There was a guy with a big kettle of hot water hollering Trias, Trias it was corn on the cob. They sold hot corn they started to you for like a dime in the husk little salt on it and that The Refreshments of the beach but you didn't have beach chairs and umbrellas. None of it people just ran into the beach they swam they went back home. Yeah, [00:23:31] and it was very very it was just a brand new country cities were very sparse. There were no malls like they have today and but a lot of Gardens and Parks, nature and nature communities. So it was a working-class people. Oil and religious the very religious came for relief for their own purposes, you know to pray in the Homeland. That [00:24:01] was the big thing to live and pray in their own Homeland. Yeah, they didn't do much building but a lot of praying

Dalia Handelman: So when you were going to Israel 1949 with your family what did people you said your family was pretty rare about how they felt about Israel what did your friends from home. Did they have any opinion on it?

Faith Brown: they thought we were rather crazy. Yeah, because they knew this was a new country undeveloped and what we're going to do there. [00:24:31] We mean leaving our family our friends our society or said they couldn't understand why we would do that. If you're going to some wonderful luxurious country going to Paris or something that was different but this is a brand-new country. Yeah, and if we were really a little bit cuckoo

Dalia Handelman: did you think twice about going Israel?

Faith Brown: No never because I grew up in a organization called Habonim which meant the builders was a youth group [00:25:01] for kids who felt their idea was to build the land pioneers and in every culture you have a group of people want to do the tough work and build a plan and we felt it was very idealistic. Yeah, even think of it as card and grimy and all that. We're going to be the gutters. It is brand-new. we were thrilled and excited never thought it was a chore or anything like So idealistic. Yeah, [00:25:31] whatever. It's too hot there. They said you're going

to swelter. It's a desert country. So we'll go to the beach we thought never thought of it being a hardship

Dalia Handelman: So you in our first interview we talked about when you volunteered for the Army was that a different When you met in 1949 with your family you were living on the kibbutz. So that was a different time when you came back for so when do you come back to volunteer for [00:26:01] the army?

Faith Brown: Well, that was a 96 when we went to know times. I've gone a number of times you were volunteers. I'm always in the Army once in a ride in the desert failed in helping schools and every time it's different right, but we were mostly we were not tourist. We're always doing something. Yeah signed up for something. The time in the army was wonderful. We lived in the Border Community up in the Golan Heights and we flew there we didn't know [00:26:31] where they would take us and a little Israeli soldier woman soldier said come you're going to the goalan and my family I had family members who have been in Israel their lives and they said what we live in Tel Aviv, that's not near the golan. They thought they'd be close to us. There were Five women we live in sort of a room my husband lived in kind of a big tent with another four or five men [00:27:01] and we ate together with the soldiers and we were not supposed to tell them that they're doing something wrong. Like why are you opening those loaves of bread ripping it open from the middle and get the biggest slices and then I would throw away the Speaker 2: rest we couldn't stand the waste. Yeah, so we would sort of do the opposite. They watched us and they were kind of copy us. Yeah, we cleared the tables after we ate they were just walk away from the table. That's so weird. They work hard, you know, [00:27:31] they army base. And one of the big generals came to the base is said don't ever tell these boys are not doing things right just show by example. you clear the table, they'll get the message to clear the table. And so it was very rustic to say the least. We had no luxuries along our closets were a few nails. My husband found a few Nails on the ground was so excited about two more places to hang our clothes [00:28:01] and we worked from morning till night. And our Madricha, the person in charge was a woman she would give us the news of the day every morning and then we would go to work. The men on this space where cleaning rust off of vehicles jeeps and trucks and so forth and we women we were assigned to the dining room, but not at first I had a woman who came from New York. [00:28:31] They call that our names as I said you two will assemble uzi machine guns. I was born for this uzi machine guns. So we went once to look. And they said never mind. They said we send the men six months to train to put together uzi machine guns will put you in the dining room. The women always end up. So we were cleaning but we were showing them without saying it. Yeah that the same mop that you used [00:29:01] to mop the floor. You don't afterwards mop the table that you ate it with if that's what they want. So, you know, these are young boys. They're 18 also in the service in Israel. They wanted to get back to their job. They ate theyre done. So when after we got a clean mop, we're gonna windex or something with to clean they got the message, but we never never told them what to do.

Dalia Handelman: How old were you when you were on the base [00:29:31] ?

Faith Brown: Oh by then I was married and had children. So what 96? Yeah, I had children. But they could be left

Dalia Handelman: So what did the Israelis think of you as you know, American volunteer?

Faith Brown: what did they think of us on the base I told you they use that phrase "Atem Bamet Mashugaim" you guys are crazy. Yeah, you spend your money on a flight here [00:30:01] to live on this godforsaken base where there is no luxuries and to get out off the base. We were off on the Sabbath so off Friday and saturday. Today we can go so we have these epaulets on our uniform and they said only Hotel manager or restaurants see that that we get a discount for sure volunteers on an army base. So that was exciting but we have [00:30:31] to get there the closest town to us was Tiberius and Tiberius had this one hotel and they gave us a nice room and all that, but we had to get there so we didn't have any Vehicles we have to stand on the road hitchhike. If a Jeep came by and picked you up because they do pick up Hitchhikers in Israel. Cause everybody has an Uzi machine gun so you know, you're not going to be afraid of that. So we would go to the hotel and then [00:31:01] coming back was the same thing. We had to stand on the road one Sunday just so we were back at the base. Whoever pickeds up. It was no there was no car traffic, you know, yeah just no cars luxury cars. So it was all army vehicles and we would hear the gunfire from across the border of Lebanon and but we weren't scared. It was funny. We weren't scared. you just knew that some part of it of the deal and what we [00:31:31] love doing it. Yeah felt like you were really doing something that helped a sense of purpose, you know, you can always make a contribution to something but if you become physically and do it, it's a lot different if you're digging a ditch. That's different than giving \$10 right

Dalia Handelman: definitely so Switching gears a little bit. Can you talk about the dance group that you and your husband founded?

Faith Brown: Yes. Well, it's been about 71 [00:32:01] years. Now we came back rom Israel. Wanted to bring a little of Israel back with us. So we had heard a lot of Israeli songs while we were there idealistic songs, spirited songs, and I went to to summer camp with my zionist group youth group that I belong to we don't the dances and you know, we wanted to continue that and my husband loves dancing is very good was a very good dancer. So we started in our synagogue little bit but let's [00:32:31] do a few dances. Yeah, and we started with a small group and made our own little costumes out with Muslim material and 71 years ago We had our first little show and we called it the Israel music festival and then three years later that was 1955 in 57 we started the dance group first was a choral group of about half a dozen people. We sang songs with Harmony and so [00:33:01] forth and we would sing for the synagogue and

then we're gonna say this looks like fun sounds good. So they join eventually we had about 20 singers men and women and then the dancers grew and grew and grew you saw the latest group are still in existence. Not at all the same people of course, but we began and then we were the only Isralei singing and dancing group. Not that we were Israeli but the museum [00:33:31] so we sang for schools. We cited the hotel Du Pont. We've danced downtown Wilmington for different events Community Days and we were the only ones representing Israel when there was a you know Community Dance Festival Greek dances. They were Russian dances, but we had the only Israeli dance group and we had Costumes we can lady and hardened Delaware made us constantly. So we performed a lot of places [00:34:01] not just a woman with go to Philly. We've got to Chester. We went to surrounding areas and that we enjoy doing it. Yeah, so we're going to move we spend it continues to this day. We call it today Cafe Tamar and it's been called that for about 65 year. We used to call it the music Jewish music festival and then we call it cafe tamar which is a palm tree

Dalia Handelman: So why do you call it? Why do they change it

Faith Brown: people thought instead [00:34:31] of just saying Music Festival. They wanted I don't want to I mean, we made it like a coming to a cafe Tamar right at tables and chairs. Ythen later we made it Auditorium style introduced with food some years. We had a whole isralei meal like Falafel. Yeah and So we expanded our musical repertoire and sometimes we had be Bell from mardan [00:35:01] teach us dances or choreographed and make them feel better. And we had some music teachers like mrs. Frankel who taught music in the public schools. She came and directed some of our gave us a few more ambitious four-part Harmony to make a sound really good, but everyone just loves you see the recent pictures of you see the joy in her face. Since I definitely am bringing that music to other places is always been very special.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah, that's really bringing a little part of Israel [00:35:31] back

Faith Brown: well we feel that's part of our Legacy will be remembered, you know, singing and dancing.

Dalia Handelman: So in the last interview, we spoke about how much you and your husband value traveling. Can you elaborate a little bit on that? Like maybe talk about favorite trip? . I know you guys been to Israel 10 time

Faith Brown: 10 times each time was different

Dalia Handelman: Yeah

Faith Brown: we're volunteers many of the times. we went to many countries in Europe and [00:36:01] while raising our three children whenever we had an extra dollar we didn't buy a piece of furniture or a new dress for me or new suit for him clothes were not required. We went

on a trip and we went oh my gosh, just Switzerland and turkey and one off to do my most of the countries of Europe and we went on many elder hostel chips, which is now called Road Scholar where you learned and traveled they achieved to have places actually one thing in Costa Rica. We learned about coffee and bananas and bats and have real professors. You know, that taught us. Yeah. So we like to go on trips where you learn something not just touring. Yeah because you're learning all the time so I can't say which is a favorite because they're all different, you know over special, but we always did try to visit some Jewish institution synagogue or a museum or something of Jewish interest [00:37:01] when we were abroad so we always try to bring that back.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah, and how was that experience, you know, like being in a Jewish institution or something like that in a random countries.

Faith Brown: You felt at home. Yeah the culture, customs, you know when they talked about a Mazozah or Torah or whatever, you know, there's This work. Yeah turkey. I didn't know things were yeah, and in poland I didn't know that language. Yeah, so [00:37:31] the Rings I can enjoy the museums and the art but you know, it wasn't something I personally identified with

Dalia Handelman: So it was like finding a little piece of home in each Country you went to

Faith Brown: something with Jewish interests, wherever we went. think most people do that, you know, if Your french you look for something interesting for french people like I grew up with that.

Dalia Handelman: Where do you think you've learned the game the value of traveling the [00:38:01]

Faith Brown: simply by traveling

Dalia Handelman: Yeah. So once you started it,

Faith Brown: it's contagious. Yeah, you can't stop.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah

Faith Brown: once you start traveling want to see the next country in the next. Yeah, that's one of the best education's a person been on if they don't go to college. They should see other countries. Yeah, because we remember so big here unique in Europe you go across a border. Her and you're in the new country. Here you have to travel Miles and Miles. Yeah, you're in another country. It was a totally different [00:38:31] level. That's the value of travel. You can see so many places in a shorter time than your American go to the West Coast, you know, that's a whole big thing by itself. Yeah, but you're different you can we always were like three come we would go Scotland, Ireland and Wales as as a trip three together. Right, right. Yeah country

learn so much and you learn how little we know in this country that [00:39:01] and their old those countries are old Palaces in places that are thousands of years old. Yeah at least hundreds and here, you know, everything is new only in America definitely. So when I know about the what the world was like, yes ago definitely travel

Dalia Handelman: again kind of Switching gears a little bit. Can you describe the the Life Enrichment series that you and your husband started to talk about in a little [00:39:31] bit?

Faith Brown: Oh here. Well, we just had her first session. I think I mentioned that we have hope what's going to be interesting. So this is called Our Life Enrichment series here at launch Lane will have it every other Wednesday going to be a 12 week series and the topics are like self-esteem given by a social worker and humor laughter is the best medicine. [00:40:01] How hatred undermine Society. A Holocaust Survivor will speak on that. There's a Kennedy Honor on. Actually Kennedy Center honoree. Our retired family court judge who wrote a book called. My name is Idia. she will talk about growing up in Cuba how she was sent away from her parents to escape the Nazis and Europe and we will have [00:40:31] the chaplain of the could send talk about coping with crisis coping with death with grief and something that everybody has to encounter in their life's and sometimes so plus other things and we hope each Topic in each speaker will be of interest. We had a full room in our Chapel downstairs for the first one people were very engaged. This week was very good. So we're hoping the rest will be done something beside as I said playing bingo or [00:41:01] trivia games which you can always do. So we're excited about

Dalia Handelman: So what made you start the enrichment series

Faith Brown: well for the last about 50 years I've doing a class at The JCC community center on Thursday mornings where we talk about what's happening in the world generally mostly with stepping in the Jewish World anti-Semitism all over Europe [00:41:31] problems of Israel. I talk about holidays that are coming up in the significance of the holidays. If there's a new Jewish book of discuss the movie that about anti-Semitism about Jewish life. Yeah even Woody Allen movies so many topics to talk about yeah, I would be with them for about an hour and a half until they had lunch and we had a very successful group people came and went it was the sign sign up series. [00:42:01] They came at 10 o'clock and then stay till lunch and then they had their lunch but we always had things to talk about and the Jewish people always very opinionated and I never valued one over the other. Yeah, and we often disagreed and even had a few Trump people there and we said how we did not agree with this philosophy, but we could still be friends and still in talk disagreeing doesn't mean hating so, you know people could add their feelings. [00:42:31] This is for the senior center. Did I say that was a senior citizen and they came every week this was every day. It was very nice to us. Yeah. It's a chat with people when they didn't always have a chance. Talk about things that bother them and they all had aches and pains. So I said, you know, if you stayed home today, you'd be concentrating on your aches and pains. But here you're distracted. You're talking about current events, a book You read, a movie of saw, We would recommend all [00:43:01] did you see that movie the label? They :

shared books movies and all that. They enjoy so it was it was a very nice experience. So I thought maybe we could do something like that here and this is a guy who lives right behind you heads on something similar here just a few people in her apartment leaving to talk about aging problems, but it was just a very select group in her room this we have a big room downstairs [00:43:32] and we thought let's give it a try. and we've worked together on this and so what she wanted to make sure that like I did at JCC mostly Jewishly oriented subjects. Yeah that we not do that here. Because there may be 10 or 12 Jewish people here. This building was built by a Jewish people writer of those losses on all the doors, but why not too many people came they opened it to the community and then they filled this place. So she [00:44:02] said there are other people here of different religions. We're not going to focus on Jewish subjects or Jewish movie or anything. So we found things of general interest. I mean those topics I think apply to everybody. And grief, we all have loss. We all have the self-esteem problems. and we want to meet people have written a book. Yeah, you know, so even though he Anne Jaffe says she's a holocaust Survivor, but that's a subject that's of Interest. I think to [00:44:32] everybody today. We talked about horrible events not like 9/11 and these are things that caused a lot to happen in the world. Yeah. So so we have few of those.

Dalia Handelman: So kind of gone off but when you're talking about the enrichment series talking about political stuff. How do you feel about the current political climate and its potential effect on Jews

Faith Brown: [00:45:02] you know, that's a sore subject.

Dalia Handelman:I know

Faith Brown: the subjects very difficult to discuss but I will say, oh I detest the current Administration. I think they're very destructive. nothing that I see that they Have done that's make America better a better place to live. I recommend they all read what's written on the Statue of Liberty About immigration and immigrants and what they've done for this country. You just better wake [00:45:32] up and become you know in Judaism called being a mensch. Yeah a good person, a real person that cares and Instead of caring about their political future or themselves. They should care about others. you care about others, you know become like some of these people in the administration today so scary.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah, definitely. Um, so like what if any effect do you think that [00:46:02] the political climate today could have on Jews for do you think that there can be a direct effect on Jews?

Faith Brown: It's like it's happening with Hispanics with blacks with migrants. It makes it okay to hate them. Right it makes people say hey the President says this thing they're rapists there are criminals and all so I guess it's okay. Yeah. So anti-Semitism is growing, you know, the president has never condemned it he doesn't condemn other things [00:46:33] So so the climate

is very important and people are affected by Our leaders believe in what our leaders say. Yeah, those people who are elected. They must know the right thing to do. Yeah, but you see that's not the case.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah, so it's kind of like like that the ideology of hate and stuff like that is what you think is going to be the potentially the biggest effect on-

Faith Brown: that's how World War II started in [00:47:03] the Holocaust and Nazism because Hitler had somebody to blame the Jewish people are like, you know, the economy's not good so Jews.it grew and grew and go see if the blame somebody else can be hurtful. Yeah, if the blame somebody Jews have always been a good subject because they were smaller or minority any minorities easy to attack and so they grew and grew and still growing hatred against blacks is growing [00:47:33] against immigrants is growing Mexicans. Let me there's so much hatred. It's very frightening. Yeah people hate. Each other when I was growing up immigrants tried to help each other they are let me help you get a start Let Me Lend you money. So you can start a business, you know, one of the we send food to people who came, we adopted families even they weren't part of our family. I knew their family in Europe lending have them come they were [00:48:03] they were tenants in our homes. Yeah, and we didn't ask for money people helped each other. But today it's how can you get rich? Rich yeah, you know who can do the best for me me me and that's a very very dangerous climate that were in now Yeah. I don't know what the end of the for my children and grandchildren.

Dalia Handelman:So I mean speaking of you mentioned like the kind [00:48:33] of contrast between the the time that you grew up in and what we're living in today. What do you think like do Do you think the direction has gone like worst better just in terms like-

Faith Brown: much worse much much worse and then people won't care about each other. If a woman had a baby everybody in the street brought dinners for her lunch at her if somebody was sick brought something else everybody. [00:49:41]

*Interruption

Dalia Handelman: And just to finish your thought you were saying it's much worse the direction it's gone in from when you were going out to now

Faith Brown:in today's world when people have a crisis and help is needed. They say what's in it for me. what's in it for me? What can I get out of my benefit people? Don't just give for the sake of giving for the pleasure of giving very thinking personally do I get anything about it all [00:50:11] the time? Politicians will only get votes out of this. They don't say things against the President because they're gonna lose votes not what the right thing to do is so today. I don't hear much about the right thing to do. It's all about what's in it for me. It's very selfish philosophy.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah, and then when you're going up the philosophy was you should give

Faith Brown: Oh help your neighbor. You helped your friends you help your family. It was never a question about you know, if you're a family or friends needed [00:50:42] You were there to help. And you didn't expect to be repaid they could okay, but if they didn't it was okay to yeah, don't you find that to be true? What's in it for me.

Dalia Handelman: Do you do you think that that value of you know, give for the sake of giving and and you

know, like helping your neighbor out just because it's your neighbor and stuff do you think that was a value of like the time period that you were growing up in or do you think you also like because is that a Jewish value in your opinion?

Faith Brown: I think in my case was a a Jewish value. [00:51:12] So let's sadaqa, right which means charity or righteousness. Yeah, you can interpret it either way giving Charities a righteous thing to do but in Judaism, you must give charity and other religions have that to rest. It's just a must if you don't have a choice about it when you get part, I think in Catholicism you give a certain percentage has to be given to the church. Is it 6% something? I don't think [00:51:42] there's a definite percentage in Judaism, but you must always give charity

Dalia Handelman: So for you it was it was about you growing up that you were taught through Judaism.

Faith Brown: You must have a turn. Yeah, weather it was a Jewish organization, O course for the homeland in Israel you didn't think twice about it. It was like a must. Everybody got a little box. and they had to fill it. Yeah.

Dalia Handelman: So more generally speaking not just the current t [00:52:12] current Administration. What do you think the biggest threat today is for Jews around the world. I mean it can be the current political climate, but just like very generally speaking

Faith Brown: I think just not caring about others hating other people just trusting other people and always been having this selfish attitude of wanting to get a personal benefit from everything or else. You're not gonna get others

Dalia Handelman: [00:52:42] Yeah, and you think that's like because it's such a mindset like today's, you know, generations and stuff you think that's gonna directly affect Judaism

Faith Brown: It doesn't have to be our leaders are the ones To give us moral leadership to show us how the world should run helping others are doing from caring about others. That's how the world is supposed to be. Yeah. Those are the values of America grew up with it, but that's kind

of getting lost. I think [00:53:12] most religions have that to caring for your fellow man caring for your family. I mean, it's just a given right and you don't even think twice about it everyone helps the nearest and dearest

Dalia Handelman: Yeah, so the like kind of like the American like everyday lifestyle like mindset you think is gonna have a direct result on the Jewish mindset

Faith Brown: the values that we had when this country was born are gone [00:53:42] now. They just don't have that caring relationship. I can't keep saying it people care about themselves more than anybody else

Dalia Handelman: Um, so kind of wrap up. Based off of all your life experiences What advice would you give to the Jewish people today

Faith Brown: to Jewish people be the same thing. I would say to anybody. cherish your heritage. be [00:54:12] proud of who you are and help other people wherever you're able to care just care. And there's so little of caring today. Care doesn't have to be for invalids. Elderly, sickly. It's for your fellow man a person. I've been you're not helping to watch a person suffering and just walk away from it. Then hundreds maybe thousands of people are suffering today. Yeah needlessly [00:54:42] that if you have the right people in charge Whether it's in a church, whether it's in a community center any place that has other people coming in you have to have carrying them as part of your policy. You don't say to people in the church. Well, I'm here to make a lot of money people for you, but that's what's happening in a lot of situation. So I just say that personal caring has gone by the wayside. It can come back. The values are still there really entrenched [00:55:12] in the dark and philosophy and The way we grew up, but you have to have the right leadership without the right leadership its gone.

Dalia Handelman: Yeah. Thank you.

Faith Brown: Thank you.