Transcript of Interview with Helen Berman Small Town Jewish History Project Call Number: 2015.0253

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Pre-interview Notes:

<u>Transcribers Notes</u>:

Gail Murray enters the interview on page 14.

Words not understood will be marked: [unclear].

Incomplete sentences marked ...

Transcription:

Eric Lidji: Today is September 10, 2015. I'm Eric Lidji. This is the Small Towns Jewish History Project. I'm going to be speaking with Helen Berman about Glassport and about Coraopolis and I guess Ambridge as well. And we are in Beth Samuel Jewish Center. So would you mind spelling your name for me?

Helen Berman: B-E-R-M-A-N. EL: Okay. HB: Helen. EL: H-E-HB: H-E-L-E-N. EL: Okay. And when were you born? HB: When? EL: Yes. HB: 1925. EL: Okay, and where? Oh, you were going to give me the date. HB: September 4th. EL: Okay. HB: 1925. EL: And where? HB: I was born in McKeesport.

HB: Well, they were both immigrants, of course. My dad came first from Czechoslovakia. And then my mother came about eight years later.

EL: What was your father's name?

EL: Okay. How did your family get to McKeesport?

HB: Benjamin.

EL: Benjamin what?

HB: Lebowitz.

EL: And your mother?

HB: Rose Lebowitz. Rose Ehrenreich

EL: How did they meet each other?

HB: My father's first wife died, and I'm sure it was an arranged marriage. He had two sons that she left behind.

EL: Wow.

HB: And my mother married my dad.

EL: How did they end up in McKeesport?

HB: They ended up in Glassport.

EL: Okay. So they started in Glassport.

HB: Yes, my dad started in Glassport. He had a brother and a sister who settled in Glassport.

EL: Before he got here. Before he immigrated.

HB: Maybe about the same time, I don't know. But the one brother had a retail men's store, Uncle Dave. And his sister was married to a man who had a furniture store, and my dad had a tailor shop. Tailoring and took in dry cleaning.

EL: In Glassport.

HB: Glassport.

EL: Okay. Was your family religious?

HB: Yes. My mother's sister was very religious. We used to go to McKeesport to spend holidays with them. My aunt and her family were extremely religious. My mother was too because of her sister. I don't think she would have been that Orthodox, but she was, so I grew up with, you know, all the rituals. Keeping kosher and just typical small town, there weren't too many Jews in Glassport of course.

EL: Was there a congregation in Glassport?

HB: Yes, they had a little shul up the hill. I can still picture it. And they had quite a, I don't know what the number was, but they had a women's auxiliary and they had services. So I would say it was, for a small town community, it was pretty flourishing.

EL: Was it lay-lead? Was there a rabbi?

HB: Part-time.

EL: Part-time rabbi.

HB: Mhm.

EL: But you still went into McKeesport for the holidays.

HB: To my aunt's house, yes. Oh, not always, no. We spent a lot of holidays in Glassport.

EL: So when you went to McKeesport it was just to be with family, it wasn't for religious reasons.

HB: No, no. It'd to be with family.

EL: Okay. McKeesport was a big deal.

HB: Yes, it was.

EL: There were four synagogues.

HB: Yes. Mhm.

EL: How far is McKeesport from Glassport?

HB: A streetcar ride then it was about half hour.

EL: So you said there was enough Jews for a congregation in Glassport, but not a lot of Jews.

HB: Right.

EL: A very small group.

HB: Enough for a congregation.

EL: Were there other Jewish business owners besides your father and your uncle?

HB: You know, there was a Jewish real estate man and we had a little fame in Glassport because we had a politician, Sammy Weiss.

EL: Judge Weiss.

HB: Judge Weiss. Yeah, his sister married my half-brother.

EL: Okay.

HB: The plot thickens.

EL: So that's impressive actually.

HB: You know about Sammy Weiss.

EL: Right, yeah, a Jewish elected official is a big deal.

HB: Oh my God, yes. He was God.

EL: In Glassport.

HB: In Glassport. He was God in Glassport, yeah.

EL: Did the Jews and the gentiles get along in Glassport?

HB: I had a lot of gentile friends. I would say they did, yeah. There was, no I didn't experience any anti-Semitism. But around the Christmas holiday, of course, you know when we had Hanukah, and I had a Christian girl friend who always included me in the, sorry, Christmas celebration. Yeah that was a treat. But we had Hanukah decorations in our home.

EL: Did your father close his store on Saturday?

HB: Yes. No!

EL: No.

HB: Not Saturday.

EL: He had to work.

HB: Yes. On High Holidays, yes.

EL: Yeah. And what about your uncle?

HB: My uncle, yes, he closed his store.

EL: On Saturday?

HB: No.

EL: Or just the holidays?

HB: Mhm.

EL: Do you remember the store? Your father's store?

HB: Oh sure.

EL: Was it a tiny little shop, or...

HB: Yeah, it was a small shop. It had a pressing machine, you know, and he had his little corner where he did his tailoring. In fact, I just found his thimble. I had kept it.

EL: Was he alone? Did he have employees?

HB: Pardon me?

EL: Did he work alone or did he have employees?

HB: No, he worked alone.

EL: And he did everything? Was your mother involved?

HB: No, not in the business. No, not at all.

EL: How many kids were there?

HB: There were three of us plus the two.

EL: From the previous marriage.

HB: From the previous marriage.

EL: So there were five kids in the house.

HB: Yeah and it was not pretty.

EL: In what sense?

HB: Well, imagine losing your mother at that early age. I mean you know so much more about it today. To this day my heart aches for them. Neither one is here anymore, but my mother, I will say my mother was very kind to them. But they were, they were not, they were juvenile delinquents. I mean they were very, they got into a lot of trouble. And that was just a way of, you know, reaching out.

EL: They were grieving.

HB: Yes. In their way, yes.

EL: Were they much older?

HB: Uh, Frankie was about ten years older than I was, and Joe was, I think, twelve years older. Joseph moved to, he decided he couldn't take it anymore so he met a gal from Indianapolis and he moved to Indianapolis.

EL: And what were the other two siblings named?

HB: My brother, Milton, and my sister, Ruthie.

EL: Okay, we'll get to them in a second. What were your parents like? What was your father like?

HB: My father was a hard-working man. Not into, he really had no knowledge about raising a family, let alone with two sons who were unhappy. And my mother was the very peaceful one and she, she, she dealt with a lot. But they loved each other. My mother and dad loved each other.

EL: Mhm. And what was, you had mentioned your uncle, what was his store like? Was it a big clothing store?

HB: That was in McKeesport. Oh no, the one across the street, yes, it was a big store.

EL: Was it like a department store?

HB: No. No, no. But it was about, it was a sizable store with men's clothing. My uncle in McKeesport had a larger clothing store, men's clothing.

EL: What was that called?

HB: His name is Uncle Max, I don't know.

EL: What do you remember of the, you had described the synagogue on the hill, what else do you remember about it? Was there mixed seating? Was there separate seating?

HB: Oh yes, mixed seating. I remember getting all gussied up, walking up that hill in my new frock. And the women were very, my mother you know would...

EL: Yeah, [unclear].

HB: Very Orthodox.

EL: Beat her chest.

HB: Yes. Yes. My dad was, too. They were, they both were good Jews.

EL: Do you think Orthodox meant something different then than it does today?

HB: Yes. Yes. But I want to tell you, when I left Glassport and went to Pitt, I was lost.

EL: What do you mean?

HB: Well, what kept me on the path for a little while longer was that I lived with my Aunt Lina, who ran the mikvah on Oakland Avenue. So I stayed with her for two years, so I was exposed to Judaism at its best. No turning on lights, you know. For Shabbos, you know, yeah. Except my cousins, my cousins, here's what they would do, they would buy theater tickets before Shabbos, and then they'd go to the theater.

EL: They'd leave them at will call or they would carry them with them?

HB: On Shabbos, yeah. So it was a good, I mean it was a beautiful mikveh. She did a great job.

EL: So why were you lost then? What do you mean you were lost?

HB: Well I was beginning to question. Going to Pitt was, it just opened a new world for me. I was so happy to get out of Glassport. I made so many friends. And I just loved it, I just loved it.

EL: At Pitt did you congregate with the Jews or did you have a broader...

HB: Most of my friends were Jewish, mhm.

EL: How did you meet them?

HB: Not practicing.

EL: Right. But was this through a sorority or through a student...

HB: No, I did not, I couldn't afford the sorority, nor did I want to belong to a sorority.

EL: What did a sorority mean to you?

HB: Snobbery.

EL: Yeah. So where did you meet people?

HB: Pardon me?

EL: Where did you meet your friends, how did you meet them?

HB: In class. I don't know, I had the ability, I guess I was so hungry for, I had friends in Glassport, but I was so hungry for Jewish friends that I, I tell you to this day I have friends who are still living who went to Pitt with me.

EL: Wow. What sort of Jewish socializing was there in Glassport? Was there a BBG?

HB: Oh, yes. I went to McKeesport for that.

EL: And that was, what, once a month?

HB: Yes.

EL: And what did you do?

HB: They had meetings. They had a banquet, mother-daughter banquet, and dances.

EL: Huh. So you get to Pitt and your world opens up a lot. What did you study?

HB: Commercial education.

EL: Was that something you were interested in? Wait, hold on, commercial education, what is that?

HB: I was going to be a commercial ed. teacher, typing shorthand.

EL: Oh, okay. Were there a lot of options for women in college at the time? Did it, was that something you were interested in? Was it something you were...

HB: Well you see, not knowing whether I would have the money to go to Pitt, I took the commercial course in school. But I took added, I took Latin and French, I took other courses. So I was sort of, it was almost inevitable that I would do something with typing shorthand teaching.

EL: Because that's what you're...

HB: I was most comfortable with.

EL: Okay.

HB: And when I did my practice teaching in Schenley High School I knew I did not want to be a teacher.

EL: What was it about the experience?

HB: I just didn't feel comfortable in a classroom.

EL: So what were you going to do?

HB: Well, I got married when I graduated. My husband and I were babies, we were twenty, he was twenty-two, I was twenty-one.

EL: How did you meet him?

HB: I met him at a Jewish function at the YMHA.

EL: On Bellefield.

HB: And every time we pass that building, we comment, you know. It was a youth group thing and I remember he was teaching me how to play pool, whatever. But yeah, he went into the service.

EL: What's his name?

HB: Donald.

EL: Donald Berman.

HB: Donald Berman. He's a very nice man, but he's not very religious. He, we belong here because I want to. But he could skip it.

EL: Mhm. So he went into the service.

HB: He went into the service.

EL: What year, about what year is this?

HB: Well that was, we were married in 1947.

EL: So after the war.

HB: Yeah. He was an ASTP, Army specialized training. He had basic training but he never saw any...

EL: Combat.

HB: Combat. They sent him to school.

EL: Okay. So after he gets back where do you end up? Where do the two of you end up?

HB: Well we got married when I graduated, and he still had school, a couple years. And I got a job. At that time, in order for me to be a teacher, I thought of pursuing it, but in order for me to

teach, I would have had to teach on the outskirts of Pittsburgh. And, of course, I didn't know how to drive, I had no car, so I opted to go into the commercial. And I got a job at a furniture store downtown. A young man hired me who thought I was Polish, and my boss was, he was the personnel director, and when he heard I was Jewish, I don't think he was too happy because the owners of this furniture store downtown were both Jewish. I think he would have preferred to have a secretary or whatever he wanted to call me, with whom he could...

EL: Commiserate.

HB: So anyhow, I was walking through the old Kaufmann's department store and I bumped into an old friend, my friend's older sister, and she asked me what I was doing, and I told her I wasn't happy with my job and she said, well, you know, she was working for the United Steel Workers part-time. She said, you know, they're looking for a research department secretary. So I had my interview, and I think the fact that I was a college graduate added to my appeal. And I got the job and I became a steel worker much to the dismay to a lot of my friends. It was the communist, remember 1948, a lot of communist talk and unions, and they told me I was making a terrible mistake.

EL: By joining the union.

HB: But it was the best thing, other than my marriage, that I could have done.

EL: How come?

HB: I just loved working for the union. I felt, it's corny I know, but I felt I was contributing in some way to the laboring guy. And yeah, immediately they had negotiations in 1949 at, in New York City at the Hampshire House. Our friend, our president David McDonald, was very Trumplike, he liked, you know...

EL: A sense of grandeur.

HB: Yes. So yes, I went to New York. And my boss's wife went also and yes, I saw *South Pacific* with Enzio Pinza. Now this is a little Glassport girl, okay? I mean I was just overwhelmed. *Kiss Me Kate*, it was a wonderful experience for me.

EL: What was the nature of the research you were doing? Or is...

HB: Well, we were delving into companies' records and what they were able to pay, you know their salaries. I felt that, I loved it.

EL: Were you working with Harold Ruttenberg at all?

HB: Harold, I know that name.

EL: Yeah.

HB: Yeah.

EL: He was the head researcher, is that right?

HB: At one time.

EL: Okay, but you didn't work closely.

HB: No, no, no.

EL: So how long did you do that for?

HB: Well, I left to have my baby, my daughter, and then I went back part-time.

EL: When did you have your daughter?

HB: 1951.

EL: What's her name?

HB: Beth.

EL: Beth.

HB: Beth. And I had her because my dad died. And you know what happens when there's a death, you start thinking about life, and so Don and I decided we would try to have a baby, and we were very lucky.

EL: What was your husband doing this whole time?

HB: My husband was a metallurgical engineer. When he graduated from Tech, Carnegie Mellon, he got a job in Coraopolis with a company called Standard Steel Spring. And then...

EL: So he had no trouble finding a job as...

HB: It was a friend, my friend in the union, Meyer Bernstein helped him get that job. Well, then an opportunity came up in Sewickley where his cousin, Phyllis Greene's husband, had a consulting firm, so he hired Don, and we moved to Leetsdale, which is part of Sewickley. Got a little house there. We had been living in Coraopolis when he was at Standard Steel Spring. And we moved to Leetsdale and then we bought a house in Sewickley.

EL: How long were you in Coraopolis?

HB: About a year.

EL: Was there a community there, a Jewish community?

HB: Yes, there was, very small.

EL: Was there a synagogue.

HB: Orthodox.

EL: Orthodox.

HB: Yeah.

EL: They had a shul and everything?

HB: Yeah.

EL: Do you remember the name?

HB: No. And I don't think, it was more of a meeting place, it was not a shul.

EL: Okay. Maybe a rented room or something?

HB: Yes, yeah.

EL: So then you go from there to Leetsdale.

HB: Leetsdale.

EL: Was there a community there?

HB: Uh, no. No. And then, well no, when we lived in Leetsdale, we became affiliated with Beth Samuel.

EL: Was Beth Samuel picking up Jewish families from a couple of different towns?

HB: Yes.

EL: Because there's a lot of towns that are a sort of clustered along the river here.

HB: Yes, right. And we joined.

EL: Okay. And this is in the early sixties?

HB: Pardon me?

EL: Is this in the late fifties or the early sixties?

HB: Late fifties, yeah.

EL: So that was before, this building, had this building been built yet?

HB: No. No, we would go to services in the old building on...

Gail Murray: Maplewood.

HB: Maplewood Avenue. It was, have you been ever? You saw what it was like.

EL: What was it like?

HB: It was more like a store room, I think they had an upstairs, I'm not sure.

EL: The photos make it look like there was an upstairs.

HB: Pardon me?

EL: The photos make it look like a few storied building.

HB: Yes, I think so. Mhm.

EL: So you said your husband wasn't particularly religious, but you were interested in having an affiliation.

HB: Oh yes, and he went along with it.

EL: Yeah.

HB: He went along with it.

EL: What was the congregation like then? Was it a big community?

HB: It was starting to be a big community. They had a lot of good workers.

EL: This was...

HB: In Ambridge.

EL: Right, so this was because Ambridge was still pretty...

HB: Oh, it was thriving.

EL: Yeah. So the American Bridge Company and...

HB: Right.

EL: What were the other big businesses?

HB: A lot of Jewish businesses. Furniture stores, sporting goods, there were a lot of Jewish merchants.

EL: Were there a lot of children?

HB: Yes. Yes.

EL: A lot of Jewish children.

HB: Yes, so, yes, there were.

EL: What sort of observance did you have at home, any?

HB: In our home? Any?

EL: Yeah.

HB: Yes. I lit the candles, and, yes, I followed rituals as best I could.

EL: Why was it important to you?

HB: I guess because of where I came from, you know. But I'll tell you, it didn't take me long to, when the opportunity came, to form a Reform congregation. We were all for it. We did not like the services here.

EL: What, when did that happen? The Reform congregation.

HB: Oh I'm so bad about that, I don't know the date.

EL: Okay.

GM: Would it help knowing with your daughter's age maybe?

HB: Well, our daughter and son went to, they were both, she was not bat mitzvahed. They didn't do it then. Our son was bar mitzvahed in Coraopolis.

EL: When was he born?

HB: 1953.

EL: And his name?

HB: Paul.

EL: Paul, okay. So at some point there was a decision to start a Reform congregation.

HB: Yes.

EL: Do you know who led that effort?

HB: Leonard Kann. Kann, Leonard Kann. Marvin Boudin, and yeah it, it caused a lot of hard feelings. I know friendships were lost over it. And we wanted a different kind of service.

EL: What were you looking for?

HB: We had a visiting rabbi, and they were very young, very bright. We would house them, each one, each family took turns. And we just, we liked the services.

EL: Because it was in English?

HB: Primarily.

EL: Yeah.

HB: I'll tell you, to this day, I'm not happy with the services here.

EL: What is it about it that doesn't...

HB: Too much, too much, too much Yiddish. Too long, too long.

EL: Were there a lot of Jewish organizations at the time? Things like Hadassah or NCJW?

HB: Oh yes, oh yes.

EL: Were you involved in them?

HB: Not so much. It would be Hadassah and what else?

EL: There was, I'm guessing there was a Brotherhood and a Sisterhood?

HB: Oh yes, yes, definitely. I was involved in that.

EL: And was there a B'nai B'rith?

HB: Yes.

EL: Was there a NCJW chapter? National Council of Jewish Women?

HB: I, I don't think so. I don't think so. It was not an easy decision to make.

EL: Yeah, to start the new congregation?

HB: And then we, we couldn't handle it because we lost members, so we came back here.

EL: Where did the members go?

HB: No, we couldn't pull in new members.

EL: Oh, I see.

HB: So we couldn't afford.

EL: Did they build a synagogue?

HB: In Coraopolis?

EL: No, this Reform congregation.

HB: No, no, no it was an old church.

EL: Okay. That they bought or rented?

HB: They bought.

EL: Okay. So eventually the two congregations come back together.

HB: Yes.

EL: And how did that come about? Just by shrinking?

HB: Yeah, shrinking. And if we wanted to be affiliated, we had to belong here.

EL: Yeah. When did they town start to shrink, the Jewish community, the town, the region?

HB: This region?

EL: Yeah, I mean, you know, at some point there was enough Jews to support two congregations and then there wasn't. What caused that?

HB: Well, I'm trying to think. We lost members in Coraopolis, too, and it was dwindling, and we knew that if we wanted to be affiliated, we would have to come back here.

EL: Did, did members leave? Did their children leave?

HB: Yes.

EL: For instance, your children, they went to college I'm guessing.

HB: Yes. No, they went, Beth went to Ohio University and Paul went to University of Denver.

EL: And they didn't come back to Leetsdale?

HB: No.

EL: Was that ever on their agenda at all?

HB: No.

EL: How come?

HB: My daughter, to this day, admits that she's sorry that she didn't raise her two boys with Judaism. My son is married to a non-Jewish gal, and neither of their children is, no religion.

EL: Huh. If they had come back to Leetsdale do you think it would be different?

HB: If they had come back to Leetsdale, or Sewickley, I think they probably would have opted for a larger congregation in Pittsburgh.

EL: So at the time, there was a feeling that there were bigger opportunities outside of Leetsdale.

HB: Right.

EL: Were other families having that as well? That the children would go off to college and then stay?

HB: Oh absolutely. Absolutely.

EL: There just weren't the opportunities anymore. Was it because there were bigger things elsewhere or because the town was shrinking?

HB: Well you're talking about Leetsdale?

EL: Leetsdale and the whole...

HB: And Ambridge? Oh, because, absolutely, the whole town was shrinking. It was not what it used to be.

EL: Yeah. So then at some point the synagogue, the two congregations merge again and become this center here. And you've continued coming this whole time?

HB: Yes.

EL: Has the community changed a lot? Since the merger?

HB: Well I think it's, it's harder to get members now, and the member we do have, and I'm guilty of this too, don't come as often as they should. I don't, I mean I want to support it, but I tell you, I just, I come on a Saturday and you're advised to come at 10:30, helps you know but, it's so tedious. Call me a bad person, call me what you want.

EL: Never. What do you think the future of the congregation will be?

HB: Is now?

EL: What do you think it will be?

HB: If we don't get new members we're going to...

EL: Yeah. Why do you think it's hung on when so many others haven't?

HB: I don't know. I think it's a small enough community, we know each other. And it still has a lot of meaning for people.

EL: Does it have meaning for you?

HB: I wouldn't want it to dissipate, no.

EL: Right.

HB: I'll continue to come as long as it's here. And my husband comes, too.

EL: Do you guys have any other questions?

GM: Well I have a couple. I would say Ambridge has changed quite a bit because of all the empty stores.

HB: Oh yes, yes.

GM: And did they used to have Jewish owners?

HB: Oh my God, yes.

GM: So what happened?

HB: It was thriving. You know, when they had the, you know they had that affair every year, I don't know if they still have it, I mean we Jewish gals would go up there and cook blintzes and it was a thriving community.

EL: Was the source of the decline industry or was there a commercial competition?

HB: No, no, I think industry started it definitely, the decline.

EL: That the factories closed.

HB: Oh yes, definitely.

EL: And then the businesses closed. Okay well if there's nothing else, do you have more?

GM: I thought you had called the place you lived in Leetsdale "the Jewish ghetto" but so I thought...

HB: No, did I say that?

GM: No?

HB: If I did I'm sorry. Maybe I did cause it wasn't.

GM: That one duplex area.

HB: Oh yes, there was a Jewish ghetto, okay.

GM: So there were a lot of Jewish people that lived in that area.

HB: Jewish ghetto, yes.

EL: This is just one part of Leetsdale?

GM: Uh huh.

HB: Yeah, these little houses everybody could afford before they moved away.

GM: They were built after World War II, and they're brink duplexes and they're still next to the high school.

HB: And they're great now, I mean, you know, I mean I could live in one now.

GM: That was your sense of humor, I don't call it that, because I thought you said there weren't a lot of Jews.

HB: Oh it was fun, I mean we had so many Jewish neighbors you know.

GM: Uh huh. People that belonged to this synagogue?

HB: Yeah.

GM: Oh, okay.

HB: A lot of stories.

GM: You want to hear some of the stories?

EL: If you've got any on the tip of your tongue.

HB: No, there was a camaraderie, you know, people would wheel their babies, it was, it was nice.

EL: Were there any Jews in Sewickley at this time?

HB: Don's cousin, the owner of the company. And there was one man, Mr. Fingeret, do you know that name?

EL: That name sounds familiar.

HB: Charlie Fingeret?

EL: Jay...

HB: Yeah, Jerry Fingeret was the policeman, his uncle. Charlie Fingeret was the first Jew to build a house in Glen Osborne, which is right outside Sewickley, and, in the midst of a lot of dissent.

EL: Okay.

GM: And in the area Helen lives now there's about four Jewish, there used to be a couple more Jewish families, like three more at least.

HB: Yes. Steinbergs and the Nadlers. Oh what about Danny Nadler, can you get him in?

GM: I'll try.

HB: You should get Danny Nadler in.

GM: And could you tell about Lou Zell, because I don't know who else and that should probably go in the records. Did you know him very well?

HB: No, but he was a dynamo. Everybody loved Lou Zell.

EL: He was a businessman?

HB: Yes. Lumber? Lumber.

GM: And he really helped start this. He got the building.

HB: And Bernie Erenstein, I wish you could, well his son is gone, and the daughter lives in Namibia, and she, nobody hears from her. She still owns her family home in Edgeworth. Takes really good care of it from afar. Nobody here, I don't know, I think she may come back. But the Erenstein, he was also very important in this history. Lou Zell, Erenstein, who else... Will Gastfriend. Well now see, they joined us because, did they join us because Aliquippa folded?

EL: Yeah.

HB: I think so.

EL: There was a merger.

HB: Yeah a merger, yeah. And Claire Mervis.

EL: We spoke to her.

HB: Yeah. So ...

GM: Was it a big deal to build this building then? It seems like it would have been.

HB: Oh yes, look what they achieved.

GM: That was in the seventies.

HB: Mhm.

GM: And it was a Reform congregation at that point?

HB: Mhm. Who else was, who else was instrumental?

GM: I could find it, but it might take a while.

HB: So you see, I'll always be a member here.

EL: Yeah.

HB: I mean I will not, and my husband, we support the synagogue.

EL: Alright, well thank you so much for your memories, it was a treat.

HB: Pardon me?

EL: I said it was a treat.

HB: Well thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW