

The Temple L'dor V'dor Project Personal History Questionnaire

Your Name: _____

Date: _____

Total Pages: _____

YOUR FAMILY

From what countries did your family emigrate?

When was this and where did they live?

What do you know about your grandparents' years growing up? Where did they live?

What do you remember about your grandparents? What have you been told about them?

What character traits did you value most about your parents?

What kind of work did your parents (grandparents) do in the "old country?"

What work did they do in the United States?

Were other languages besides English spoken in your home?

What was your parents' method of transportation?

Your grandparents'?

How were you raised differently than your parents?

Are there any illnesses or medical conditions that seem to run in your family?

If your family emigrated from another country, why did they leave?

Why did they choose the U.S. rather than Palestine?

What was the situation surrounding leaving for the U.S.?

- Alone or with others?
- Did they stay in New York?
- How long between the decision to leave and leaving?

- Red tape of leaving?
- From where did they leave?
- Where in the U.S. did they live before arriving in their final destination?

When growing up, were you ever concerned about your family having enough money?

Did your family live through the Depression? Tell about it.

What brought you or your ancestors to the South?

Did any of your ancestors participate in any wars?

WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD **Up to 13 years**

Where did you live?

What do you remember about your house?

What do you remember about your neighborhood?

Did you look like any other family members?

Did you have any pets? Tell about them.

What did you do for fun?

Did you have any nicknames? What were they? How did you get that name?

What did you want to be when you grew up?

What did your parents want you to be?

Tell about your grade school.

How did you get there?

Who did you most look up to when you were little?

YOUR TEENAGE YEARS **13-20 years**

Did you get an allowance? How much? What did you have to do to earn it? How did you spend it?

Where did you go to school?

What degree did you receive?

Were you involved in athletics?

Did you participate in any school activities? Discuss them.

Did you receive any awards or prizes?

Who had the most influence on the way you thought during your teenage years? Why?

As a teenager what was your relationship with your parents?

When did you leave home? Where did you go and why?

What songs and dances were popular?

What type of clothing was popular?

Were you a Bar or Bat Mitzvah? Do you remember your Torah portion?

What were your dreams for the future and were they realized?

FAMILY TRADITIONS

Did you celebrate any special holidays at your house? Describe them.

What gift did you receive when you were young that you most remember?

What was the best gift you ever gave?

Share some family recipes that have been handed down.

What family traditions have been the most meaningful to you?

Did your family have any “special codes or phrases” that were meaningful only to them? Tell about them.

Where did your family vacation? What place did you enjoy the most?

What types of activities did your family do together? What was your favorite?

YOUR MARRIED LIFE

How did you meet your spouse?

How old were you when you met?

What was the attraction?

Describe your courtship?

When did you decide to get married? Describe the marriage proposal.

Where were you married and when?

Tell about your wedding day?

Where did you spend your honeymoon?

EVENTS, HOBBIES, TALENTS, COMMUNITY

What was your proudest time in your life?

What was the most painful time?

What places have you lived as an adult? Why did you decide to live there?

Did you ever serve in the military or fight in a war? Where? When?

What historical event did you live through that affected you the most?

Where were you when it happened? Tell about it.

What kind of work have you done that you were paid for?

What type of volunteer work have you done?

What are your favorite hobbies or pastimes?

Do you have any collections?

Do you have special talents?

Do you play a musical instrument?

What scientific or medical discovery in your lifetime has impressed you the most?

YOUR OUTLOOK ON LIFE

What are your favorite books?

What is special or unique about your family?

What are your feelings about the world today? What concerns you the most?

What are your political views?

If you could relive a period of your life, which one would it be?

What was the best advice that you ever received? Who gave it?

Do you have any favorite smells?

Sounds?

Colors?

JUDAISM IN YOUR LIFE

Did you attend religious school?

What were your feelings toward it then?

How do you feel about it now?

What has been the impact of Temple on your life?

What has been the impact of the JCC on your life?

Have you ever experienced anti-Semitism? Tell about it.

How does your practice of Judaism differ from your parents?

Did your family observe Shabbat?

What religious holidays were celebrated in your home? Describe the family traditions associated with each, special foods served, favorite music and readings, etc.

Did you have both Jewish and non-Jewish friends growing up?

Were your parents Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

Were you?

Were your children?

Are there interfaith marriages in your family?

What were your feelings about it?

What are they now?

In what religion were/are the children being raised?

What Jewish organizations were you active in?

ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN

Please provide the following information about your children in order of birth, add as many as you need.

Name:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Spouse's Name:

Date of Marriage:

Place of Marriage:

Date of Death:

Place of Burial:

Name:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Spouse's Name:

Date of Marriage:

Place of Marriage:

Date of Death:

Place of Burial:

Name:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

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Place of Burial:

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Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Spouse's Name:

Date of Marriage:

Place of Marriage:

Date of Death:

Place of Burial:

Name:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Spouse's Name:

Date of Marriage:

Place of Marriage:

Date of Death:

Place of Burial:

How did you choose the names of your children? Were they named after anyone?

In what ways did you raise your children like your parents raised you?

In what ways did you raise them differently?

What parts of parenting have been the most difficult?

What do your grandchildren call you?

Do your children have any traits in them that you recognize coming from other family members?
What are they? Who do they resemble?

