

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORAL HISTORIES

1. I am Sylvia Weinberg, I am conducting an interview with Lee Werschulz for the JFVS archives on November 20, 2001.

2. Can you tell me how and why your family originally came to this country and when?

In the early 1880's my maternal grandparents came to this country from Bobruisk, Russia. I don't know when my paternal grandparents came here.

3. What were your parents' names and where were they born?

New Haven, Connecticut was where both of my parents, Hyman Alexander Levin and Clara Dorothy Persky, were born.

What is your birth date? What language(s) were spoken in your home? Where did you live then? Who lived in the same house with you – Grandparents? Uncles/aunts? Brothers? Sisters?

I was born on February 12, 1925 in New Haven, Connecticut. English was spoken in my home, which was at 168 Linden Street. No one else lived with us.

4. What was your neighborhood like? Were there other Jews living in the neighborhood? Did you walk to school? Sunday School? Temple? Was there a neighborhood grocery? Drug store?

Ours was not a Jewish neighborhood; only very few Jews lived in that upper class area. In grade school, which was private, I was transported in a limousine. In both junior high and high school I had to walk three miles, joined by classmates as we walked. I was driven to Sunday school and temple. Our neighborhood had both grocery and drug stores.

5. How did the 1937 flood affect you and your family?

This question was not asked during this interview.

6. If you wished to travel what kind of transportation did you use? Did you travel when you were young? If so, where?

We traveled a great deal throughout my years by boat, train, car, and at 13 I took my first plane trip. I traveled to Europe, Asheville, N.C., Florida, Cape Cod, and summer camp in Maine.

7. Was your family involved in a synagogue / temple?

My family belonged to a Temple. We attended services only on the High Holidays. We observed no religious rituals. I did attend religious school and was confirmed.

8. What holidays and rituals were observed?

We attended services on the high holidays.

9. Did you attend religious school? Were you confirmed? Bar Mitzvah?

I did attend religious school and was confirmed.

10. What is your educational background? What was your career?

My education background is extensive. I attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York; Department of Drama at Yale University; TV Workshop of New York City; University of Louisville; and Kent School of Social Work, Louisville.

11. What brought you to Louisville and when did you come?

Louisville became my home when I came here for a job in television in 1949. I was the new girl in town. A mutual friend gave the man I was to marry my name. he called me, and, as they say, it was meant to be.

12. How did you meet your husband/wife? Where and when were you married? Did you have children?

I was the new girl in town. A mutual friend gave the man I was to marry my name. He called me, and, as they say, it was meant to be. We were married at Temple Adath Israel, in Louisville on December 28, 1949.

13. Tell about your involvement in the Jewish Community? Was your whole family involved?

My family of origin was not involved in the Jewish community. I became involved with the NCJW immediately after marriage; Benevolent Society and Temple Sisterhood.

14. How was your family affected by the World Wars? Wars in Israel?

As far as the world was were concerned, my family's only involvement was having cousins in the army overseas in WWII. We were not affected by the wars in Israel.

15. What are your favorite spiritual memories? How did religion affect your life?

I have no spiritual feelings within religion. My spiritual feelings come from all the wonders and beauty in this world.

16. What interests do you have?

I have many interests beginning with all of the arts; reading; people; some causes; computer; informing myself through education; volunteering in numerous social services; entertaining; travel.

17. What are your favorite family memories?

My favorite family memories are being with grandparents on both sides and time spent with a favorite aunt and uncle.

18. What is your legacy? How would you like to be remembered? What values would you like to pass on to those you leave behind?

I would like my legacy to be the ability to appreciate both sides of a question, and caring and involvement with people. I would like to be remembered for having a sense of humor; for being fair; for not thinking of myself as the center of the universe. The value I would most like to pass on to those I leave behind is the appreciation of other people and ideas.