

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORAL HISTORIES

1. *I am Sue LaSalle. I am conducting an interview with **Betty Frankel Younger** for the JFVS archives*

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

My Maternal Grandfather was born in this country. His name was Nathan Wile. My Maternal Grandmother, Bettie Strauss, was born in Germany; she came to this country at age sixteen and was brought to Louisville by relatives who lived here. She was the first President of Brith Shalom Sisterhood.

My Paternal Grandfather, Gustaf Frankel, came from Meinheim, Germany, which was near the Alsace-Lorraine border. All Jews in Meinheim took the name Frankel. My Paternal Grandmother, Lillian Kaufman, was born in Louisville. As an infant, during the Civil War, she, her sister and parents went by covered wagon to Indiana in order to escape Morgan's Raiders. They settled in New Castle. Her parents later had six more children, all boys. My paternal grandparents were charter members of Adath Israel.

3. *What were your parent's names and where were they born?*

My mother, Carolyn Wile, was born in Louisville, KY in 1898. She had two brothers. She died in 1974.

My father, Raymond Francis Frankel was born in Louisville, KY in 1893. He had five brothers and 2 sisters. He served in World War I; he died in 1980.

4. *What is your birthdate? What language(s) were spoken in your home? Where did you live then? Who lived in the same house with you - Grandparents? - Uncles? Aunts? Sisters?*

I was born March 2, 1924, on Southern Parkway and Woodlawn. I have an older brother, Raymond Francis Frankel, Jr., who was born in 1921. Raymond lives in Los Angeles, CA, with his wife. My mother's mother lived with us for several years before she died. English was the only language spoken in our home.

5. *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?*

We lived where I was born, above Dad's drugstore on Southern Parkway, until I was 14. Mom worked in the drugstore along with my father. We walked everywhere and had many friends, none Jewish. We would spend every Saturday night with my grandmother, so that we could walk to Sunday School on Sunday. It was on these Saturday nights at my Grandmother's house that I learned to knit and crochet, which I have continued to do for most of my life.

It was here, at our house on Southern Parkway, with its long backyard that my father developed one of the first shopping centers in Louisville.

In 1938, when I was fourteen years old, my Mother decided we should move to Village Drive where there were more Jewish families. We went to Atherton and had lots of Jewish friends. We walked to school and Sunday School; the popular meeting place was Ermins.

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

Our first big trip was in 1934. Mother took Raymond and I to the Chicago World's fair by train.

I went to a YMCA camp, Camp Shalon - there were no other Jewish campers there.

Any other trips were combined with business.

7. Was your family involved in synagogue/temple?

Dad was on the Adath Israel board. Their biggest interest was in the Beechmont area, where they worked and had property. They were instrumental in developing the area.

8. What holidays and rituals were observed?

We recognized the Jewish Holidays, but we were not observant. We also celebrated Christmas.

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

We attended Sunday School at Adath Israel. Dr. Rau was the Rabbi. We were confirmed, but neither Raymond nor I were Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

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

I attended Girls High School until we moved from Southern Parkway and then I went to Atherton until I graduated. I had planned on going to Marjorie Webster College in Washington, DC, but, the Navy took it over when the war broke out, so I ended up going to the University of Louisville. There, I received an Associate of Arts degree.

During high school, I worked after school as a “Girl Friday” in Dr. Morris Weiss, Sr’s, office. I married before I completed my degree. After my children were born , I got my Real Estate License and sold houses.

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

I was born, raised and Married in Louisville.

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

Alvin and I met in 1939., before I graduated from High school. We had known each other from parties; when a mutual friend arranged a date , we started going together regularly.

Alvin and I were married October, 13, 1943, at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky We adopted two children: Robert Alan, March 20, 1950, and Peggy Sue, August 12, 1951; and I gave birth to two children: Sally Kay, February 9, 1953 and Jon Paul, June 6, 1955. Bobby died September 2, 1993. He had 3 children, the oldest of whom, Marci, has given birth to twin sons. Peggy has 2 daughters and a grandson. Sally has one son and one stepson. Jon has 2 sons.

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

I was involved in scouting; did some substitute teaching; served on the Sisterhood Board at Adath Jeshurun; worked for National Council of Jewish Women and took cards for the Federation

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

My Father was in World War I while he was engaged to my Mother. Alvin served in World War II - he was in the service when we got married - our plan was for me to travel with him, but he was shipped to the Pacific Theater six days after our wedding. He was there for 27 months. He was discharged January, 1946. He developed malaria and had 8 attacks in one year. Because of these attacks, we did not think we’d be able to have children, so we decided to adopt.

15. What was your favorite Spiritual memories? How did religion affect your life?

My trip to Israel was very moving to the point of being spiritual. I believe very much in the power of prayer

16. What interest did you have?

When my eyes were better, I did all kinds of crafts - knitting, painting - I like to play cards, to read, and to travel. My greatest interest is my family - I'm very involved with family.

17. What are your favorite family memories?

Memories of all the family gatherings are my fondest. We did a lot of fun things together - I had a runabout when the children were small and we went to all the state parks - those are great memories.

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 to be remembered as a loving, honest person - by both family and friends. The values most important to me are those in the Ten Commandments - to do unto others as you would have them do unto you

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I do hereby give my permission to record my life history through the Jewish Family and Vocational Service, 3587 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40205. My story will be kept in the JFVS Library and can be accessed by interested people. It will be preserved archivally for future generations.

Betty F. Younger

 Participant

John W. Decker

 Witness

11/15/01

 Date Signed

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