

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORAL HISTORIES

1. I am Ann Friedman, I am conducting an interview with Ailene F. Winer for the JFVS archives.

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

My maternal grandfather, Asher Goldstein came over by ship from England in 1911 and went to New York. My grandmother was also from England. My paternal grandmother was from Hungary. My paternal grandfather came to this country and they lived in Chicago. He met my grandmother in the United States.

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

My father is William Frankfort. My mother is Ruth Goldstein Frankfort. Both were born on the South side of Chicago. Mother had one of the first cars in Chicago. She was the next to the youngest in her family. She drove down Michigan Avenue and she hit someone. He was very upset. It was also his first car. She never drove again.

4. 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?

My birth date is February 25, 1929. English was spoken at home. It was just my parents and my sister, Josie and I. We lived in Chicago until I was seven years old. My parents divorced. My grandparents sent my mother, sister and myself to Los Angeles California.

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 in Chicago until I was seven and my parents divorced. My grandparents sent for my mother, sister and my self to Los Angeles, California. We lived in California for four years. When I was ten years old I told my mother I was going shopping and I took the trolley and went into town. This was downtown Los Angeles. I brought two Nancy Drew books. Later we moved back to Chicago for a year. My family had two hotels, Carlton and Manard. We lived in the Manard on the West side. My parents remarried in 1940. We then moved to South Bend, Indiana. We lived in a middle class neighborhood. My father was a builder. In Chicago there were a lot of Jews in our neighborhood and they would close the schools on Jewish Holidays. In South Bend, I had two Jewish girl friends. I attended Sunday school and we went to Temple on High Holidays. There was a neighborhood drug and grocery store.

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

N/A

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

In Chicago we rode the “L”, bus or walked. In South Bend we had a car. We traveled to Michigan and we always went, if we wanted to or not. My parents would go to Florida and I would stay home.

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

My grandparents were involved in Chicago –orthodox. My parents were not involved.

9. What holidays and rituals were observed?

All of the High Holidays were observed. Purim, Seder.

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

Yes, I did attend religious school until my confirmation. I went to a Reform Temple.

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

I am a few hours short of being a college graduate. I taught Montisari School for ten years. I worked in a gallery for five or six years. While I was in high school and college I worked in sales of some kind. I also worked as a cashier.

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

I met my husband at Indiana University and when we were married we moved here.

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

I met my husband while I was at Indiana University. I was with someone else the night we met but I just knew he would call. We were married on March 26, 1950. I remember my mother asking Sid “Aren’t you ever going to give her a ring?” We have three children. Audrey Leigh Winer born in 1952, Diane Winer born in 1955 and Meredith born in 1960.

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

When I was younger I helped at Adath Jeshurun. I met all of Sid’s friends who are now my friends. Sid was very involved. The children were in clubs. I went to the University of Louisville.

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

I have relatives in Europe. My family had no involvement in the Wars in Israel.

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

I visited Frank Lloyd Wright's home and it was a spiritual experience. The sun was coming through the windows like a religious experience. Like beams from heaven. The Louvre Museum was also fantastic. I am not observant, but when times are tough I call on God.

17. What interests did you have?

My grandchildren, reading and art. I love to go to galleries or museums.

18. What are your favorite family memories?

Coming back with a friend from seeing the Louisville Orchestra and I saw a little girl in pink overalls with pink cheeks waiting for me.

19. 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 hope my children talk about me to their children to help keep the memories alive. I would like to be remembered as a fun person. Family!

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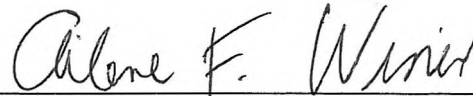
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I do hereby give my permission to record my life history through the Jewish Family and Vocational Service, 3587 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40205. My story will be kept in the JFVS library unless I choose to keep it myself.



Participant

Witness

7/31/01

Date Signed

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Winer Ailene, passed away on Saturday, July 18, at the age of 86. She left behind her beloved husband of 65 years Sidney A. Winer, her daughters, Audrey Bartlow (Peter) of Chicago, Illinois, Diane Chesher of Louisville, and Meredith Friedman (Richard) of Northbrook, Illinois; sister Josephine Brower, grandchildren, Ryan Bartlow, Jake Bartlow, Ian Chesher, Carly Friedman and Josie Friedman.

Ailene attended Indiana University and later, University of Louisville while raising her family. She taught at the St. Francis Montessori School. In the early 1960's she was active in the Civil Rights movement and volunteered for Head Start. She appreciated and supported the arts and held subscriptions to the Louisville Orchestra and collected fine art. She was a former member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, where her husband, Sidney was a past president.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at Herman Meyer & Son, 1338 Ellison Avenue with burial to follow in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Visitation will begin after 10:00 a.m. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the donor's favorite charity.