

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORAL HISTORIES

1. I am Madeline Bernstein, I am conducting an interview with Matha Yoffee for the JFVS archives on 8/19/01.

2. **Can you tell me how and why your family originally came to this country and when?**
"My family came to Ellis Island by boat from Russia/Poland before the First World War. My mother and dad married in 1921, here in Louisville.

3. **What were your parents' names and where were they born?**
Anna Khreitman and Morris Rozel were my parents. My mother was born in Russia, my father in Poland.

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 date of birth is 8/16/23 and we spoke Yiddish and English in our home. I was an only child.

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 the West End, grocery stores on every corner, one of which was my family's. My dad took me to school until I was in 7th grade, then I walked.

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

7. **If you wished to travel what kind of transportation did you use? Did you travel when you were young? If so, where?**
My dad had a car and we traveled to Detroit to see my great aunt when I was 5 years old.

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

9. **What holidays and rituals were observed?**
We observed all holidays and rituals, and went to private tutors to learn Hebrew. I went to Louisville Girl's High School, and was involved at the YMHA

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

I did not go to Sunday school but I went to Keneseth Israel.

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

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

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

Did you have children?

I met my husband at Churchill Downs at the races one afternoon. We were married in 1946 at the Kentucky Hotel.

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

My grandmother on my dad's side was still living. We kept Kosher all the time and still do.

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

My father was in WWI, a lot of my cousins were involved in WWII.

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

17. What interests do you have?

My interests were reading and helping my husband until I had my first child, 1947, then had second child, 1952, third child 1956.

18. What are your favorite family memories?

When I was younger, we would go to our fraternal grandparent's house for holidays.

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 want to thank every body for their kindness all these years, since I've been ill and my children for all they have done for me. I'd like my children and grandchildren to be true and good, and never forget where they came from."

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