

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORAL HISTORIES

1. I am Ann Friedman, I am conducting an interview with Nancy K. Abrams for the JFVS archives on February 6, 2002.

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

On my mother's side, my great grandfather came from Scotland. My grandfather and grandmother lived in Covington, KY but moved to Cincinnati, OH where my mother was born. My father was born in Mississippi and his parents were also born in this country. I don't know where my great grandparents were born but they left this country and went to Israel to die. In 1967, my husband and I went to Israel and found their graves at Mr. Olive.

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

My father, Harry Klein, was born near Jackson, MI. My mother, Marjorie Levine Klein, was in Cincinnati, OH.

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 January 16, 1938. Only English was spoken at home. We lived in the Highlands, and I have one sister. When I was in my teens, my grandmother and great-grandparents all came to live 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?

There were many Jewish families living in the Highlands, and all my relatives lived within a two-mile radius. Out chauffer drove us to school and I was embarrassed so I sat next to him rather than in the back with my sister. On pretty days, I walked home with friends. When I was in high school, I would get out of the chauffeur driven car a block from school and walk. We were always driven to Sunday school, as we had carpools and everybody in our neighborhood had a chauffeur. When I went to temple, it was always with my parents. We had a drug store at Bardstown Road where we hung out. I also went to Cherokee Ice Cream every day for a chocolate ice cream cone, even in the winter.

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

The flood didn't really affect my family as we lived in an apartment at that time. My parents had people over for meals during the flood, people who couldn't get to their homes.

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

We drove and took the train to Cincinnati many times. We went to Florida when I was one for six months because I was sick. Years later we drove often to Florida. I took a train to Camp Wenonah in Maine every summer.

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

We belonged to the temple, but were never really involved. My father was always involved with selling bonds.

9. What holidays and rituals were observed?

Passover was the big holiday with all of the family together. We also celebrated all the other major Jewish holidays.

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

I went to Sunday school and I was confirmed.

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

I had one year of college in Illinois. My career was motherhood and volunteering. I worked for the temple sisterhood, but mainly for NCJW and the UJC.

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

I was born in Louisville.

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

My brother-in-law introduced us in Louisville in 1955, and we were married there in 1957. We have four children, Karen, Kenny, Kathy, and Keith, all with a K. We also have twelve wonderful grandchildren (one deceased).

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

I started out with the temple sisterhood, but mostly NCJW, which I started doing in my early 20's, and I was president when I was 35. Then I started the candy business, which I had for 18 years. Our children were very involved with B'nai Brith clubs and volunteer work. Our son Kenny started a few volunteer programs that raised money for heart disease (in high school).

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

My family was not affected at all.

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

There really were not a lot, we always had out extended family for the Jewish Heritage, and we always felt very Jewish. I feel like our parents tried to assimilate. Today there is a lot more with my children.

17. What interests do you have?

My interests were golf, tennis, reading, walking, bridge, and especially volunteer work. Now I play tennis, read, walk, play bridge, and do limited volunteer work.

18. What are your favorite family memories?

Taking our four children, their spouses, and their children on family vacations early in the summer. Raising my children was the most wonderful time of my life. Once I was eighteen, I went to Florida every year with my parents and my sister, and we went to school there. A bus would pick me up at the hotel. This continued through my second year of high school. My parents took my husband and me on several trips to Europe. My grandmother went on one. I have great memories of my aunt and those trips. That is why my husband and I now take our children and grandchildren, so that we may always be close to family.

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 would like my children to be good, caring parents, which they are. They have more religion in their life, which pleases me greatly. They are very caring, loving, and thoughtful people. They do lots of volunteer work and we see, in their own way, they are trying to make our world a better place.

I feel like I have passed these values on to them. I really did something right. That is how I would like to be remembered, a good parent, grandparent, and friend.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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.

Harry K. Abrams
Participant

Ann P. Friedman
Witness

2/06/07
Date Signed