

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORAL HISTORIES

1. I am Kimberly Feinberg, I am conducting an interview with Genie Aberson for the JFVS archives on July 30, 2007.

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

My mother, through ~~her mother and father~~, was first generation born in Louisville, ^{my grand parents} they came from different parts of Germany, ^{Grand} father Joseph Lang came from Frankfort and mother came from Lang lath. And came over here and met in Louisville.
My Father's family is from Germany also, but not sure which parts, ^{Grand} name was Lowenstein. Elsie Flisher ^{FLEISCHER WAS my other grandmother LOWENSTEIN}

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

Mother was Fannie Lang born in Louisville.
Father Stanley Ben Lowenstein in Hamilton oh.
they Met she went to university of Cincinnati and he went to law school there and that's how they met. ^{Conservatory School of Music}

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?

March 18, 1940. mainly English, a little German, quite a bit later when grandmother lived with us when I was about 12. first house was 2228 village drive in Louisville, near the famous village drive cir. In the highlands. When I was bout 12 we moved to 2320 ^{on} village drive. Brother, mother, father, grandmother. ^{lived with us.}

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?

A lot of Jewish people lot of fun. It was like a temple. And a lot of them knew each other and were friends with each other, and we would hang out with the Jews there. A lot of my parents' friends who were Jewish were in the neighborhood also. No, I ^{my parents friends} could have but I was driven. Went to temple and Sunday school, we were in a driving group then. Was both, the ^{made delicious} model was a Jewish drugstore and we would go over there they had sodas and we would hang out and have a good time. ^{could have walked to school}

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

It probably affected my family, but not me. I didn't really feel it.

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

A lot of car trips, some plane, that was very exciting and it was not as frequent, went to Cincinnati and Chicago, ^{from high school} look a trip to Hawaii, when I was in high school, and my brother had just graduated that was a big deal we loved that. ^{by plane}

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

Very actively, my grandfather ^{was} on my mother's side was president of the temple, ^{Brith Sholem} father pres of temple, ^{for 8 years} and mother pres of sisterhood. I had a very involved family. ^{at the temple}

9. What holidays and rituals were observed?

All of them, especially Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah, and Passover was a big deal to my family. I have wonderful memories of it.

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

^{I was} Yes, confirmed.

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

Hs, and 3 yrs to college the university of Miami and University of Kentucky and ^{transferred to} UofL a few courses but didn't graduate. Elementary education. And volunteered. ^{at}

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

I was born here and never left. There were friends and family and it was easy. ^{and I loved it.}

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

Well it's really cute. I was at University of Kentucky I had just transferred from ^{U of Miami} Miami to be with someone I had been with in high school. And his ^{FRATERNITY} little brother introduced us at a frat party. October 16, 1960. 3 children. 2 daughters and a son.

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

I was a vice president of the sisterhood, at Brith Sholem which is now combined with the temple, membership chair, active in the guild, women's auxiliary ^{of Jewish Hospital} officer in that, head of the bingo project, and patients watched bingo and patients loved it. I just like to volunteer one shot things, ^{and} and I still like to help out a little bit. Yes. ^{my husband} was very involved in ^{the Jewish Community} the Jewish Community.

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

My grandfather brought over a lot of his family about 1930's and came over himself for better ^{work} opportunity. Not really no.

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

Going to Israel. We were on a mission ^{in N.Y.} and I never imagined that something could be that touching. Even though you read about it, you can't even visualize. And the wonderful education from the guides, I feel very lucky that I got that experience. Very much did, mother loved going to temple and had a lot of sayings thank god and knock on wood. She had high spirituality and loved going to temple and the holidays were very impressed on me. And fasting and Passover and ^{observed the rituals of Judaism} the whole bit.

Also the importance of the Seder, because my family made a big deal out of that. ^{with having it in family, it was most enjoyable & memorable} ^{having the seder the first service with all of us participating,}

17. What interests do you have?

Love to read, ^{play} bridge, ^{& play} canasta, ^{played} tennis, work out, going to art museums, and art glass, and works of art, ^{bridge & tennis} plays and symphony, being social, and being with friends having them over and having cookouts.

18. What are your favorite family memories?

Christmas, because my in-laws anniversary was Christmas day, being their anniversary we always had friends and made a big deal out of the day. Holidays, birthdays and any family occasion.

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?

^{to be} Good mother, and a friend, and ^{as a grandparent} as a grandparent, and sister, family is the most important. We are very close. Closeness of family and being there for each other and make the most of being together and share the closeness. Do for each other and always enjoy and make the most of their time together. Even if they don't live in the same city make time to see each other and be there for each other. Be a wonderful parent and grandparent. And be proud of what you are, your Jewishness, and give back to your community because it's been so good to you through volunteering or monetarily. ^{religion} ^{donating}

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

My mother, Fannie Lang, was born in Louisville.

My father, Stanley Ben Lowenstein, was born in Hamilton, OH.

They met when she went to University of Cincinnati Conservatory School of Music and he went to law school in Cincinnati, and that's how they met.

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Also the importance of the Seder, because my family made a big deal out of that by having lots of family. It was most enjoyable and memorable having the short service with all of us participating.

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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.

Genie Aberson

Participant

Kimberly Feinberg

Witness

July 30-07

Date Signed

