

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORAL HISTORIES

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

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

My father's side, the Winers, were from Poland then went to London and finally Louisville in 1907. My father's parents were Samuel and Esther Winer. My father was ten when he came to this country. My grandfather came over first then and my grandmother and the children later. The boat that they sailed on caught on fire. They were in the sturage area. They were all afraid of fire and water from that point on. They didn't have to abandon the ship. My grandfather owned a dry good store on the corner of 18th and Walnut Streets.

My mother's side of the family came from Austria. Her parents were Harry and Sarah Foreman. Grandmother died before I was born. They came to Louisville and grandfather was a tailor by trade. He retired and spent the remainder of his life playing cards. He died at the age of 99.

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

My father, Sol Winer, was born in London in 1897. My mother, Marian Foreman Winer, was born in Louisville in 1900.

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 July 19, 1927. I was born in Louisville. English was spoken in my home. We lived at 2nd and Gaulbert Streets. It was a three or four building complex named the Dakota. My mother and father, my sister, Gerry and myself were the only ones living 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 in an upper middle class neighborhood. There were a lot of Jews living in the neighborhood. We lived there until I was seven years old, then we moved to the Highlands. We lived on Murray Avenue near Bonnycastle off Bardstown Road. This was an average neighborhood. As you got closer to the park the neighborhood got wealthier. I walked to Longfellow Grade School about one and a half blocks. I later attended Highland Junior High and I rode my bike. I went to Male High School and I rode the bus. I went to Sunday school at Adath Jeshurun. There were a lot of stores in this neighborhood, a Piggly Wiggly and a hardware store.

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

I remember that during the flood there were no newspapers delivered. They put up comic strips at the Piggly Wiggly.

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

My family had a car and we drove to Florida and Chicago. I never went anywhere without my parents until I was sixteen years old. Then I went to a State Basketball Championship game and to camp at Tall Trees.

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

My father was president at Adath Jeshurun and we attended all services. My mother died young.

9. What holidays and rituals were observed?

All High Holidays and Passover, and Shabbat.

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

I attended Adath Jeshurun religious and Hebrew School. I was confirmed and Bar Mitzvah. I remember my teacher well. We had a Bar Mitzvah party at my house, mostly for my parent's friends. It was a casual affair, very simple with cake and wine.

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

I graduated from Indiana University in 1949. I majored in business. I was in the service in 1945. Navy boot camp and the Japanese surrendered. I was in till August of the next year. Then I started in general insurance sales. Ailene's dad was in garage building and I tried that for a while. I went back into the insurance field in the 1960's.

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?

I rented a professors house at Indiana University and had a party and invited people. Ailene came to the party with someone and that's how we met. This was during her junior year in 1948. I called her to go out and we have been together ever since. We

went together until 1950 and then we were married. We married in Chicago on March 26, 1950 at the Wyndham Hotel on South Side. Rabbi Gittleman could not come so we had to use a Rabbi that we didn't know. We had 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?

I was Vice President of Bnai Brith. I was active at Adath Jeshurun men's club. I was also president of the Synagogue in 1975. My children were very active in Jewish activities. My dad was president of Adath Jeshurun in the 1940's. He spoke well so he was the toastmaster for every affair. He would tell jokes in Yiddish. He was also was the president of Bnai Brith and a Kosair Shriner.

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

My father was in the Navy during World War I. I was in the Navy during World War II. My brother in law was in the Army. I had a student Rabbi from Israel right at the time the war started, that was very interesting.

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

Having my grandchildren Bat Mitzvah, my grandsons Bar Mitzvah. I worry about the assimilated Jew and whether we will survive. Religion, family and holidays. This gave order to my life. Religion was the base of my life.

17. What interests did you have?

Indiana University and their sports programs. Sports and athletics in general. Chicago Cubs and all the Chicago teams.

18. What are your favorite family memories?

I always enjoyed my grandfather visiting and Passover. We always got together and made home made food! Morris Foreman was my uncle and he was the head of Metro Treatment Plant, which is now named after him. I will always have wonderful memories of my children's weddings and my grandchildren. I always say, "Never have children only grandchildren".

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?

My legacy is if Paw Paw wouldn't do it – don't do it! I hope to be remembered as a good Jewish American citizen. I always tried to do the right thing.

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Participant

Witness

7/31/01

Date Signed

JFVS/aj 5/14/01
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Sidney Alan Winer passed away on August 3, 2018. Sidney was 91 years old and was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ailene Frankfort Winer, his sister Gerry Samuels, and his parents Sol and Marian Winer.

Sidney was a loving father and “Paw Paw” who is survived by his three daughters, five grandchildren and a great-granddaughter; Audrey Bartlow (Peter); grandsons Ryan Bartlow (Davitta) and Jake Bartlow (Jenn); Diane Chesher; grandson Ian Chesher (Paige) and great-granddaughter, Tegan; and Meredith Friedman (Dick); granddaughters, Carly Friedman and Josie Friedman. He will be greatly missed by all.

Sid was born and raised in Louisville and attended Male High School. He graduated from Indiana University where he was a proud member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and remained a life-long fan of both. Those who knew Sidney knew that his two sporting passions in life were IU and the Chicago Cubs.

Sidney served in the Navy during WW II followed by a long, successful career in the Insurance industry in Louisville. Sid enjoyed and excelled at both tennis and golf and was an active member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun where he served as a past president.

Funeral services will be held at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, 2401 Woodbourne Ave, at 1:00 pm Monday, August 6th, with burial to follow in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Visitation will begin after 12 Noon Monday at the synagogue. Expressions of sympathy can be made to Congregation Adath Jeshurun, your house of worship, or your favorite charity.