

Shorashim Project

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- 1) What is the point of origin of our family? On which continent was this city (town, shtetl) located? Are there still Jews living in that place today?
- 2) What was happening in the world at that time? (America, Europe, Israel)
- 3) What do you remember about your childhood?
- 4) Was there such a thing then as a totally Jewish neighborhood? Describe your neighborhood, your friends, your youth groups?
- 5) What kind of school did you attend?
- 6) Do you know where some of your classmates live today? Are they so spread out over the world that a game of Jewish geography would be enlightening?
- 7) If your family came to America, in which year did they come? In which city did they settle? Did they arrive in the United States before World War I, after, between both World Wars, after the *Shoah*/Holocaust?
- 8) Was your family involved in the *Shoah*/Holocaust in any way? How did they survive? How were they rescued? Are you in touch with the people who rescued them? Their children? Afterwards, where did your family go?
- 9) Was your family involved in any of the *aliyot* to *Eretz Yisrael* in the late 1800's or early 1900's?
- 10) What do you remember about *Eretz Yisrael* before the State of Israel was declared? What legacy do you want me to know regarding how you lived and built the land? From which country in Europe did you make *aliyah*?
- 11) How has Jewish life changed in America, Canada, South America, Europe, Australia, and *Eretz Yisrael*?
- 12) How many generations back can you trace your family's history?
- 13) Since much of Jewish history is the story of action (the world) and reaction (the Jewish people), which world leaders were alive during the lives of your grandparents, and great grandparents? What was their attitude to the Jewish people? To the establishment of a Jewish state?
- 14) Will you help me make a family tree? Once the tree trunk, the roots, the branches, and the leaves are in place on paper (or on video, or transcribed), I will be assured of my precious legacy.
- 15) Based upon this interview, I would like to write an ethical will. What would you like me to include as your ethical will to me and my future generations?