

ELUL 17

My Family Tree

By Jan Fineman

Many options come to mind when I think of what I want to leave for my children. The obvious mundane option of a formal will is written and in place . However, the one you can't put a price tag on and the one closest to my heart is MY FAMILY TREE. I will leave for my children their personal history, and the many stories I remember about my family members on that "tree".



My maternal Great Grandmother, Fannie, Landsman, came here in 1909 from Russia to escape religious persecution. Her 6 siblings preceded her. I never thought to ask her about her parents or grandparents or even if she spoke Russian. All that I heard was Yiddish. She died when I was 13 and I was certainly old enough to ask and understand, but never had the thought.

I now have a recorded, maternal family tree going back to the late 1800s. (My Dad's FAMILY TREE is not as detailed as my Mom's but I am still working on it.) Leaving these documents to my children, who have heard stories about my family is one thing. However, to make sure my 2 year old Grandson, Samuel Chase, has custody of the stories that accompany those documents, is another! Quite a task and one I have started to work on.

I believe the greatest gift I could leave my family is not a material gift but one that reflects on a history of many Jewish family names that have come before them. I hope these documents along with the historical stories I have, will let them know where they come from, who they are and guide them thru their future.

Jan joined TBT in 1992. She became a choir member soon after and then Sammy's Dad was a Bar Mitzvah in 1996. Work and distance forced her to take a leave from TBT. When she retired 3 years ago, she returned to TBT. It was like coming home. She hopes to bring Sammy to hear the Choir someday soon and meet her TBT family. Email: nibb711@hotmail.com