

## Creative and Innovative Ways to Share Your Story Tips & Resources

### Photo books

Create your own or go to one of the many companies that will format and print and bind them for you. An easy way to format each page is to create a PowerPoint and save it as a picture (JPEG). Each page can then be one slide from your PowerPoint. (contact Cory Schneider at [cschneider@wlcj.org](mailto:cschneider@wlcj.org))

**Heirloom and Recipe Books:** (contact Toby Forim Blake at [tblake1610@gmail.com](mailto:tblake1610@gmail.com))

**Heirlooms:** I took photos of the heirlooms I wanted my children to know about. I then wrote a brief narrative about the history of the object and why it was important to our family. It is an ongoing project which I hope will allow them to value these pieces as much as I do.

**Recipe Book:** Each page has the recipe, how I learned it or how it was handed down in the family plus a picture of the person from whom I got the recipe and, when possible, a picture of the finished dish. All my grandchildren like to cook, so it will be something to pass on to my grandchildren.

**StoryWorth.com** By signing up for one year of storytelling, you or a loved one (if you give a gift subscription) will receive a weekly question meant to stir up long-buried memories or unearth perspectives previously unknown. At the end of the year, the stories are collected into one hardcover book, complete with photos and captions (that can be included with the stories).

And as a bonus, WL has become a partner with Story Worth so when you use their referral link, you get a \$10 discount and WL makes a commission as well. Just use this referral link to find out more and get the discount:

<https://buy.storyworth.com?oid=37&affid=116&promo=5KxpaZtx>

### Family Trees and timelines:

<https://www.ancestryprinting.com/examples.html>

Ancestry Graphics and Printing. Prints family trees directly from your data and the software that you used.

<https://whoareyoumadeof.com/blog/family-history-timeline-quick-and-easy-how-to-tutorial/>

Family History Timeline: Quick and Easy How to Tutorial

<https://www.thearmchairgenealogist.com/2013/09/four-steps-to-family-history-timeline.html>

Four Steps To A Family History Timeline

<https://abn.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2014/10/25-cool-ways-to-connect-through-family-history?lang=eng>

25 Cool Ways to Connect through Family History

**International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies** can direct you to local societies who can serve as a wonderful resource for your genealogical research. Many have newsletters, meetings, conferences and a resource center. For a list of member societies. <https://www.iajgs.org/membership/member-societies/>

<https://www.personalcreations.com/blog/family-tree-ideas>

17 Creative Family Tree Ideas

<https://www.thoughtco.com/great-ways-to-share-family-history-1421879>

5 Great Ways to Share Your Family History

<https://www.lonetester.com/2016/11/25-ways-you-can-present-and-share-your-family-history/>

25 Ways You Can Present and Share Your Family History

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Blog                | 14. Memoir               |
| 2. Book                | 15. Mugs                 |
| 3. Cake                | 16. Online tree          |
| 4. Calendar            | 17. Photo book           |
| 5. CD                  | 18. Photo wall           |
| 6. Chart               | 19. Pinterest and Flickr |
| 7. Copy and post       | 20. Quilting             |
| 8. Cross stitch        | 21. Reunion              |
| 9. Decorations         | 22. Scrapbook            |
| 10. Facebook           | 23. Slide night          |
| 11. Family birth board | 24. Tattoo               |
| 12. Framing            | 25. Video                |
| 13. Games              |                          |

<https://www.creativefamilyhistorian.com/design/share-your-family-history/>

11 Creative Ways to Share Your Family History

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/ways-preserve-share-family-story-today/>

Seven Ways to Preserve and Share Your Family Story Today

Good graphic

<https://lialouisecooke.com/2016/10/24/share-family-history-with-kids/>

3 Clever Ways to Share Family History with Kids

Surprising greeting cards

Shareable art for social media

Ancestor birthday bash

## **Games, projects and children:**

### [Game Ideas — INSPIRE FAMILY HISTORY](#)

#### Family History Game Ideas

#### [family-heirloom-scavenger-hunt.pdf \(americanancestors.org\)](#)

Detailed instructions for a Family Heirloom Scavenger Hunt

#### Scavenger hunt ideas:

- Find a grave in a cemetery and make a rubbing or read a story about that person
- Put together a puzzle with a family photo or ancestor face on it (you can order specialized puzzles online or make your own)
- Do something that your ancestors would have done (lasso a sawhorse, change a cloth diaper, haul buckets of water or wash clothes and hang them on a clothesline)
- Tell someone you don't know a story about one of your ancestors
- Find a house that an ancestor lived in (using only a photo and maybe a hint about where to look if it's a large area) then read a story or listen to a CD that tells a story of the people who lived there
- Dress up in old fashioned clothes and take a photo
- Sing a song or read a poem that was important to an ancestor
- If you are doing this at an extended family reunion add the following:
  - Find someone who knew a certain ancestor
  - Find someone who has lived in that town for at least 30 years
  - Meet 5 people you don't know

#### [How to Make a Family History Trivia Game \(familytreemagazine.com\)](#)

Instructions on how to make a family history trivia game

#### [3 Fun Ways to Share Family History with Kids - Genealogy Gems \(lisalouisecooke.com\)](#)

3 Clever Ways to Share Family History with Kids

#### [How to Create a Coloring Book for Family History](#)

#### [How to Create a Coloring Book for Family History - Genealogy Gems \(lisalouisecooke.com\)](#)

Create coloring books from family pictures.

#### <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/kids/not-so-trivial-pursuit/>

Make a Family Trivia Game

## **Molli and Me and the Family Tree**

by Margi Kramer (Author), Mark Kramer (Author, Illustrator) 2022

A whimsical girl, a nostalgic mom and a wise old Family Tree take a journey back in time. Molli and Me and the Family Tree reveals beloved ancestors who mysteriously appear to Molli as root vegetables and imaginative characters dangling on the trees'

branches. This book may inspire readers to discover and connect with their own family stories. Aimed for children three to eight. Creative worksheets to draw your own family tree and stimulating interactive activities are included to continue conversations and showcase family history. Available on Amazon.

## **Family Reunions and Gatherings:**

[Family Reunion Ideas: Top 10 Ways to Incorporate Family History](#)

[Organize a Family Reunion on Facebook? 9 Tips You Can Use - Genealogy Gems \(lisalouisecooke.com\)](#)

Organize a Family Reunion on Facebook? 9 Tips You Can Use

[Ten Ideas for More Meaningful Summer Family Gatherings0000017c-7f43-df3f-ad7d-ffef28800000](#)

[Five Easy Ways to Enrich Your Family Reunion0000017c-7f43-df3f-ad7d-ffef28b10000](#)

[Family Reunions and the Digital Age: Getting the Most Out Of Your Gathering0000017c-7f43-df3f-ad7d-ffef28e70000](#)

### **Ideas for holiday gatherings** (just a beginning):

The gathering of family around the holidays may be a perfect time to enthuse your family and share your personal history. Along with many of the suggestions presented tonight that could be adapted, here are just a few more

- At Rosh Hashanah, have a discussion about some of your ancestors and what sins they might have thrown away with their bread during tashlich. Are your sins the same?
- At Yom Kippur share a memory or story about an ancestor and how you would like to be remembered.
- There is a custom each evening of Sukkot, to invite special guests — *ushpizin* – into the *sukkah*. Every evening the patriarchs, matriarchs and their families are welcomed. Try putting up pictures of your ancestors and inviting them along with stories about who they were and how they lived.
- At Thanksgiving pass around information about ancestors with pictures (like the bookmarks or trading cards) and have someone talk about the ancestor and perhaps tell why they are thankful that they are part of who they are.
- Hanukkah: dedicate a candle each night to an ancestor and tell about them.
- At any holiday, play “Pin the name on the family tree.”
- Passover: Have adults and children choose an ancestor to bring to the Seder and talk about their lives, what things you may have both been slave to and how they might have worked toward freedom. Is it the same you would try and do? Or Are you slave to different things? In what way?

- At Shavuot we read from Deuteronomy 29:13), "I am making [the covenant] both with those here today before the Lord our God, **and also with those not here today.**" Ask, which ancestor would you like to stand next to as we received the Torah and why?
- And a universal question for any holiday... How do you think your ancestor (name) celebrated this holiday?

## Do Digital!

### **Create a Family Blog** (contact Toby Forim Blake at [tblake1610@gmail.com](mailto:tblake1610@gmail.com))

It is easy to set up a blog as it is not much more difficult than writing in any word processing program. You can start a blog for free. There are no rules, so you can decide how often and how much you write. It can be as little as a paragraph or more as you see fit. To make it interesting add photos of people or places as appropriate.

I invited my family to subscribe to the blog so they get a notice when new content is added or they can have it delivered to their email box.

I created my family blog to allow my children and grandchildren to read about the family that I researched. My family likes it because it is a quick read and it is easy to access on smart phones or tablets when they are on the go.

### **Share Family History with Kids through Shareable Art for Social Media**

If the kids are already surfing your feed, why not share with them some family history in a creative, colorful post.

Use available apps, such as [Rhonna Collage](#) or [Rhonna Designs](#) to design shareable art for posting to social media. Post pictures of ancestors and add a background and text.

### **Electronic Storage**

Google drive, DropBox.com and Box.com

Electronic storage is a wonderful way to share with extended family and keep information up-to-date. Family members can access all the info and if you set it up, can even add more. To entice kids to "dive in" to the materials, set up a scavenger hunt or quiz with prizes. Here is the table of contents of my family history dropbox. There are lots of subfolders in each of the main folders. It doesn't have to be done all at once – it can be built and enhanced over the years.

**Questions?** Want to share your progress and ideas?

Contact Cory Schneider, Archives Chair, Women's League for Conservative Judaism  
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