

**GETTING STARTED** - Go over our questionnaires, marking questions that spark your imagination, thoughts and memories. You can record your thoughts on an audio tape or write/type them. These first steps will be very important in creating a detailed, interesting portrayal of the events of your family life. Share this questionnaire with other family members. Get everyone involved in creating your **FAMILY LEGACY!**

- Sort & catalog your family pictures by person/s or years/generations.
- Start collecting music, videos and record family stories.
- If other relatives have of the pictures you want to use, have them go to a local print shop and scan the photos in at a high resolution (600-1200 dpi are usually a good print quality.) They can be burned on to DVD data disks for distribution. This is a valuable gift to all family members.
- Pertinent information must be written out i.e. Town and Country Names, People, Dates, etc. Print legibly. (You do not want to misspell family names.)

**OBJECTIVES** - Things that you feel are a must to convey:

What was going on historically in your families lives and how did it affect your parents, grandparents, great grandparents. What were their values? What was important to them? What are the stories that illustrate these values? What sets your family apart? How do you describe your family in a nutshell?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4
- 5.

### **THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS**

*(Answer what you will? It is up to you how in depth or honest you want to be.)*

1. Who are you sharing this with i.e. grandchildren?
2. How did you get your nick name?
3. What was the recurring theme in your family?

4. What were the historical events in your family life and how did it impact you?
5. Describe your family spirit?
6. What were the highlights of your childhood?? Adulthood? Grandhood?
7. What were the values that were important to you? Did they change over the years?
8. What influenced your life most dramatically?
9. Any great traveling adventures, family trips?
10. Where was your family from? Who are you? And how this they play into your lives?
11. What was the hardest thing you had to confront in your life?
12. Who was the most inspirational person in your life and why?
13. What was the biggest turning point in your family's life? Marriage, death, birth, job?
14. Describe your life and times growing up?
15. Describe your character and the character of those around you?
16. What significant world events occurred in your lifetime and how did it affect your family?
17. Was your saddest moment in your life and the happiest?
18. What is the most important thing you have learned about life? What message would you like to leave to your family? To the world?
19. Talk about your family pets?
20. Any famous/infamous people in your family what did they do?
21. If you could do anything different what would it be?
22. What has brought you the most satisfaction?
23. What is the legacy of your family to the world? How did you contribute to making the world a better place?
24. Was there a special way your family communicated with each other or didn't?
25. Describe the character of each family member and what are their gifts i.e. an artist, communicator, skill with people, a great cook, supportive person, integrity, trust,
26. Any sibling rivalry? Who, what, when where?
27. What do you hope the future holds for you and your family? What is your dream?
28. Family recipes, favorite meal (include)
29. What was the funniest thing that ever happened to you or another family member?
30. What were the battles waged, and were they won or lost? Are they still raging?

31. Proudest moment?
32. Dreams that made it, dreams that did not. Why?
33. Who is the eccentric in your family? Describe.
34. Who the straight person and who is the comedienne?
35. What the meanest trick someone played on you?
36. What was the funniest trick ever played on you?
37. What was your most embarrassing moment?
38. Best family vacation and/or the vacation from hell.
39. What is your religious belief?
40. What was your most monumental achievement?
41. What is your idea of God and how God enters our lives?
42. Politics - Democrats, Republicans, Green or Libertarian and why?
43. Who shirks from strong conversation or relishes in it?
44. How heated do your conversation get in the political arena? who is always right?
45. Who has the biggest ego in your family?
46. Who has the smallest ego and should not?
47. Who get the least credit and does the most work?
48. Who was the cutest baby?
49. Who was the most talented?
50. What an when was your most life changing moment?
51. Who blossomed the most in life?
52. What were you forced to eat growing up? How did you get around it? Have you gotten over it?
53. Who did the punishing and how?
54. What do you miss the most?
55. What was the most significant thing that has ever happened to you?
56. What was your best year/ decade?
57. New year's resolution you kept and New Year's resolutions you did not and did not and did not.
58. What road in life did you refuse? What was the road taken?
59. Family Secrets?
60. Hereditary traits
61. How many children are in your family?
62. Family habits, etiquette? Were there any?
63. Sports? Individual or family sports? Did you watch it or do it? Did you play fair?
64. Who was the biggest whiner?
65. Who was the best dresser, best looking ?
66. What do you love the most about your family?

67. What was the kindest thing anyone ever did for you? You did for others?
68. Was is the most interesting thing about your family?
69. What was a remarkable invention that came out in your lifetime and how did it impact your lives?
70. Fear??? What were the issues? Was it allowed, did anyone admit having them?
71. Mistakes?? Were they allowed? Did anyone admit making them?
72. How was love expressed or denied in your family?
73. Handicaps, Illnesses? Overcome or overwhelmed?
74. Tragedies? How did you survive?
75. What is the most important life ingredient to you?
76. The biggest coincidence or synchronicity, destiny path story.
77. What were your family hurdles?
78. What is your family heritage or legacy? How did your parents meet? How did you meet your loved one?
79. Who was the biggest fabricator of the truth? Who told the biggest stretchers?
80. What is the best -the one that got away- story?
81. Who had the best gossip? Who was the best one to gossip about?
82. Who married the longest the shortest, the most?
83. Who did not get married and why?
84. Who was the most giving or the most stingy?
85. Who told the best stories or jokes? What was their best joke? Who got the most courtesy laughs?
86. Who was the brightest, quickest, sharpest?
87. Were there any especially creative or artistic people in your family?
88. Who made the most money, how did they make it and what did they do with it?
89. Who had the most patience in your family or the least?
90. What is your favorite memory of your youth, of your family?
91. What movie or movie personality influenced your lives?
92. Any favorite quotes, comments, message, summary?
93. Who were the spiritual entities in your lives and what did they teach you?
94. Who inherited what traits and character from whom; describe.

## **AN INDIVIDUAL**

Complete the sentences.

1. BELIEVE MYSELF TO BE:
2. ONE OF THE MAIN THINGS I WANT TO DO IS:

3. WHEN I AM ALONE:
4. IN OUR FAMILY:
5. I AM BOTHERED BY:
6. SECURITY IS:
7. MONEY IS:
8. MY CHILDHOOD:
9. I PARTICULARLY LOOK FORWARD TO:
10. WHAT MOST DISTURBS ME WHEN I AM WORKING:
11. I WOULD BET MY BOTTOM DOLLAR THAT:
12. THE HAPPIEST TIME OF MY LIFE:
13. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN MY LIFE:
14. WHAT REALLY ANNOYS ME:
15. WHAT GIVES ME REAL PLEASURE:
16. THE MEANING OF LIFE IS:

## **COUPLES**

*(The spirit is spontaneous, fun and loving.)*

1. The first thing that came to mind when I first met \_\_\_\_\_ was:
2. Our life together has been:
3. The funniest thing that \_\_\_\_\_ has ever done is:
4. \_\_\_\_\_ as an individual is; \_\_\_\_\_ as a mother/father is:  
\_\_\_\_\_ as a husband/wife is:
5. The most important ingredient of a successful marriage is:
6. I want my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to know that love is:
7. The most important gift \_\_\_\_\_ has given to me is:
8. I hope our legacy will be:
9. We have kept our marriage alive and vital by:
10. I think many marriages fail today because:
11. The most beautiful thing about \_\_\_\_\_ is:
12. The scariest thing about \_\_\_\_\_ is: (can be humorous)
13. Our biggest challenge together has been:
14. My \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Anniversary toast to \_\_\_\_\_ is: