

Tamid Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program: Family Tree Project

Taking hold of Torah: My Family Tree Project

*“In order to know where you are going,
you must first know from where you came”
–Pirke Avot*

Project overview

Each student is asked to learn about their personal history through the creation of a family tree and by recording two interviews with a family elder. This project is done in the Spring with the support of Tamid's faculty.

Part I - Family Tree

Students are invited to identify, create, and design any family tree template they would like. Students can use computer generated family trees OR create and design theirs by hand.

Students are asked to place into their family tree the following information if appropriate:

- Siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc degree. (great grandparents, great uncles, great-great grandparents, etc)
- Birth and (death) dates and
- location for as many possible people on your tree

Example: Albert Shanfield

B. Nov 6, 1912 Radam, Poland.

D. Dec 6, 1987 Portland, Maine

Part II – Recording Personal History with two family elders

Students are asked to choose one elder from each family line (parent A and parent B) and interview and record the conversation. The recording can be audio or video but it must be transcribed in written form when submitted on the due date. Examples of questions include:

- Where were you born?
- Where did you go to school?
- What was it like to grow up in your home?
- What did you do with your friends when you were 11 years old?
- Did you have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?
- What did your parents do to make a living?
- What do you remember about your parents?
- What do you remember about my parents?
- What is your biggest hope for me?
- Five more additional questions of your own