

# My Legacy Story

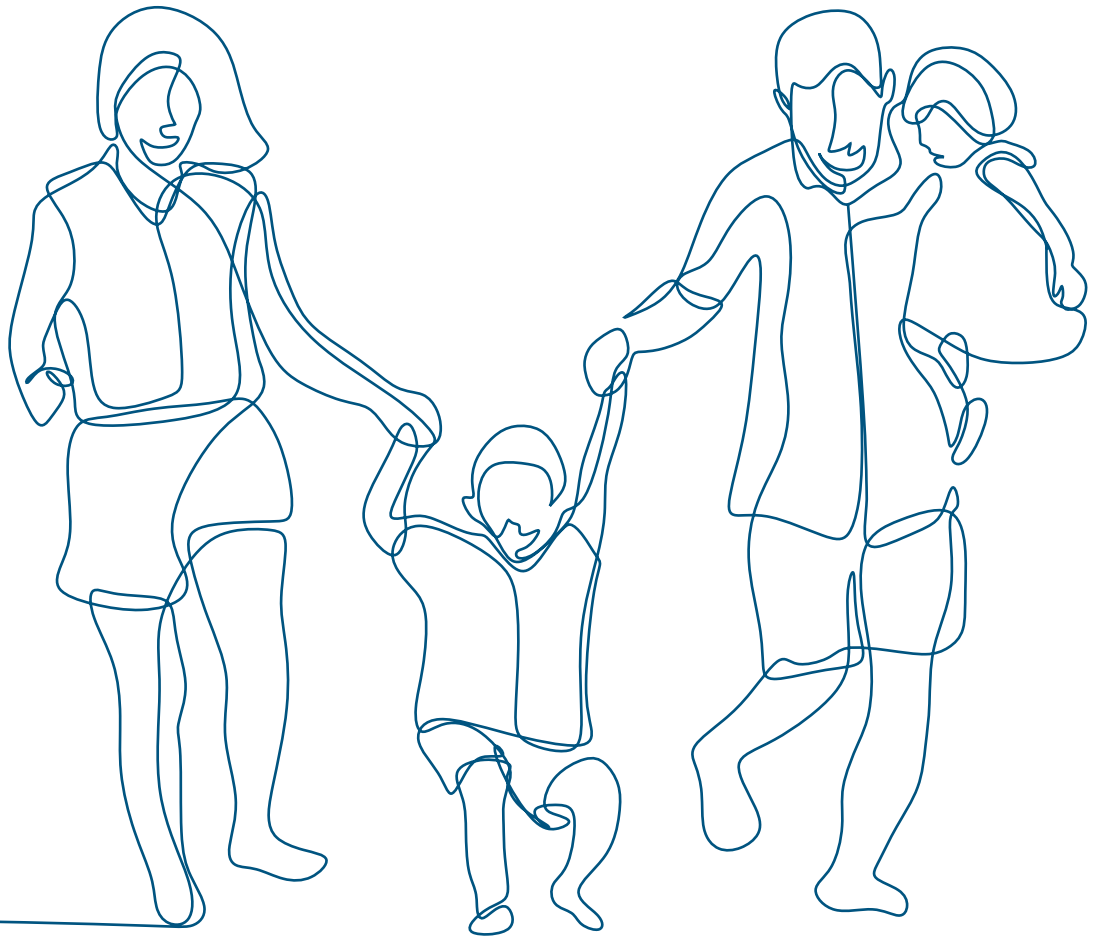


A gift from our family to yours

— The Tidewater Jewish Foundation

# My Legacy Story is dedicated to

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As my ancestors planted for me, so too I plant for  
my children and my children's children.

— Talmud

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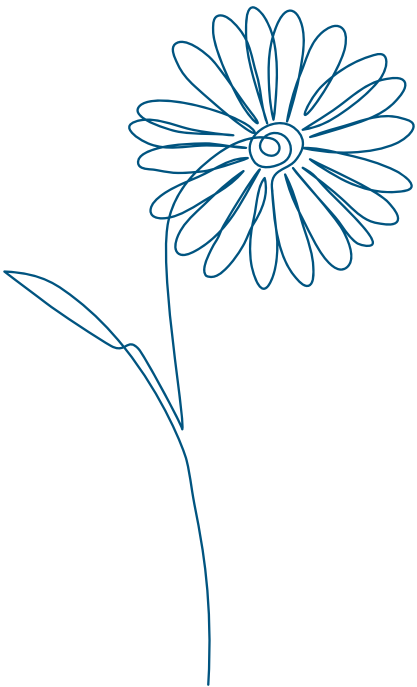
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# Our History

My history is your history.

It's important for you to know a few things about our family.

Our family first came to the United States in the year \_\_\_\_\_  
and they settled in \_\_\_\_\_

Our family originated from \_\_\_\_\_

Many stories have been passed down about my parents, grandparents, and distant ancestors. I want to share these stories with you.





Through the generations, these special items and heirlooms have been passed down

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Whether it began yesterday or many generations ago, this is what I know about my family's Jewish history and lineage

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# My Childhood

I have been blessed with a long life. Every story has a beginning...

I was born in \_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State/Country)

on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

to \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parents' Names)

I was given the Jewish name \_\_\_\_\_

I was named after \_\_\_\_\_

This is what I was told about the day I was born

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One of my earliest and most cherished memories is \_\_\_\_\_

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My classmates from school would remember me as \_\_\_\_\_

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When I was growing up, my favorite thing about being Jewish was \_\_\_\_\_

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My Bar/Bat Mitzvah was on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Synagogue, City, State/Country)

and it was a special time in my life because \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Childhood is a time to play, learn, and grow. That was many years ago, but one lesson that has always stayed with me is \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

# My Loved Ones

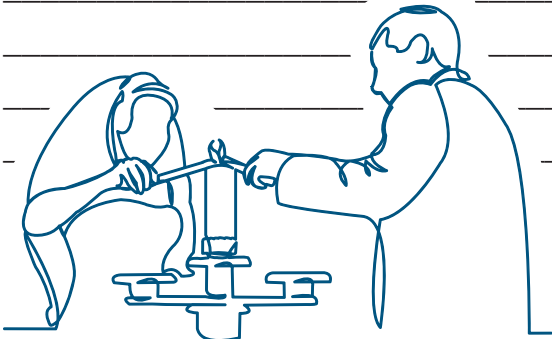
I want to tell you about my family, friends, and mentors.

My parents taught me the importance of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

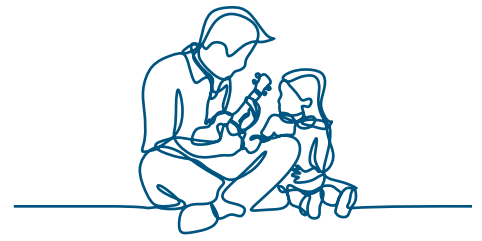
My most significant romantic relationship has been with  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We met when  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My favorite thing about this person is/was  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_







My children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews have brought great joy to my life. My hope for them is that they \_\_\_\_\_

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These are the mentors that helped shape my Jewish Identity \_\_\_\_\_

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They taught me \_\_\_\_\_

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The friend I have known the longest/has been my closest friend is \_\_\_\_\_

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Our friendship is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_

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# My Journey

I've experienced great joy, adventure, and hardship along the way.

The happiest days of my life were when \_\_\_\_\_

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Some of my most memorable travels have been to \_\_\_\_\_

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My most important/cherished Jewish experience was when \_\_\_\_\_

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My greatest adventure was when \_\_\_\_\_

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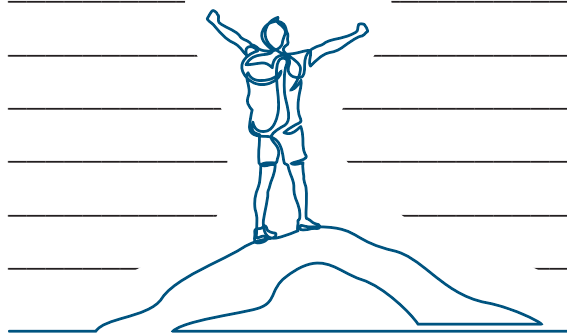
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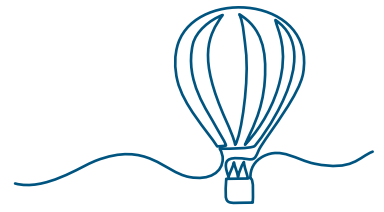
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The most difficult time in my life was when \_\_\_\_\_

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I overcame it by \_\_\_\_\_

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As I look to the future, I still have much to see and do! I plan to \_\_\_\_\_

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# Facts About Me

I want to share some details about my life with you.

If I entered a talent show, my talent would be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My favorite song is \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite Jewish holiday is \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My favorite book is \_\_\_\_\_

I want to learn how to \_\_\_\_\_

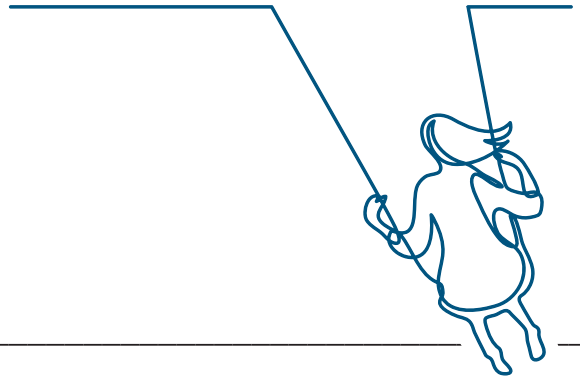
My favorite Jewish food is \_\_\_\_\_

I once won an award for \_\_\_\_\_

I am most proud of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My favorite family recipe is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





My favorite Jewish (or non-Jewish) quote is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My first car was \_\_\_\_\_

My first job was \_\_\_\_\_

My worst job was \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_

My pet peeve is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My favorite sport is \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite season is \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite sound is \_\_\_\_\_

The chore I always put off is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am most afraid of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My hero is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# A Word of Advice

I have learned many things along the way. I want to share some of that wisdom with you.

The best advice I was ever given was from \_\_\_\_\_

This person told me to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The hardest lesson I ever learned was when \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Being Jewish has taught me many things. One of the most important is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





My advice for someone who has just graduated from college is to \_\_\_\_\_

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My advice for a newly married couple is to \_\_\_\_\_

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My advice for a new parent is to \_\_\_\_\_

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Most importantly, never forget to \_\_\_\_\_

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# My Legacy

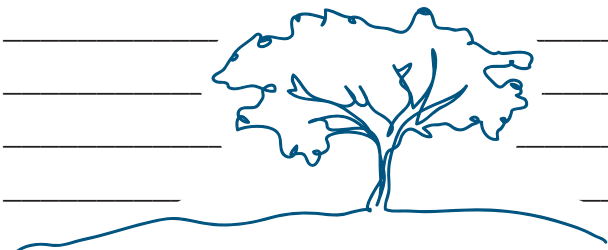
My beliefs and values have been guiding principles in my life. I hope my story inspires yours.

The principles that have guided me in my life are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Looking back, what I like most about how I've spent my time is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My greatest accomplishment(s) has/have been \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Judaism has shaped my values in the following ways \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_







Tzedakah (defined as justice or righteousness, e.g. philanthropy or volunteer-ism) is an important value to me because \_\_\_\_\_

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My favorite way to practice tikkun olam "repairing the world" is to \_\_\_\_\_

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Perhaps that is why the following causes/organizations have been so important in my life

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My hope for the future is a world in which \_\_\_\_\_

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# My Pandemic Experience

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the entire world. Here is what I have learned about myself, my family, and my community.

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of COVID Crisis \_\_\_\_\_

Age of family members at time of COVID Crisis

\_\_\_\_\_

So far, we have been affected in the following ways \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

As a family, we are doing the following activities to stay connected and healthy during quarantine \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

During this time, I am most concerned about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



The Jewish community is coming together to care for one another in the following ways

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I predict this will change the world in the following ways

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My hope for the world is that

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An update (to be filled out after the crisis has passed)

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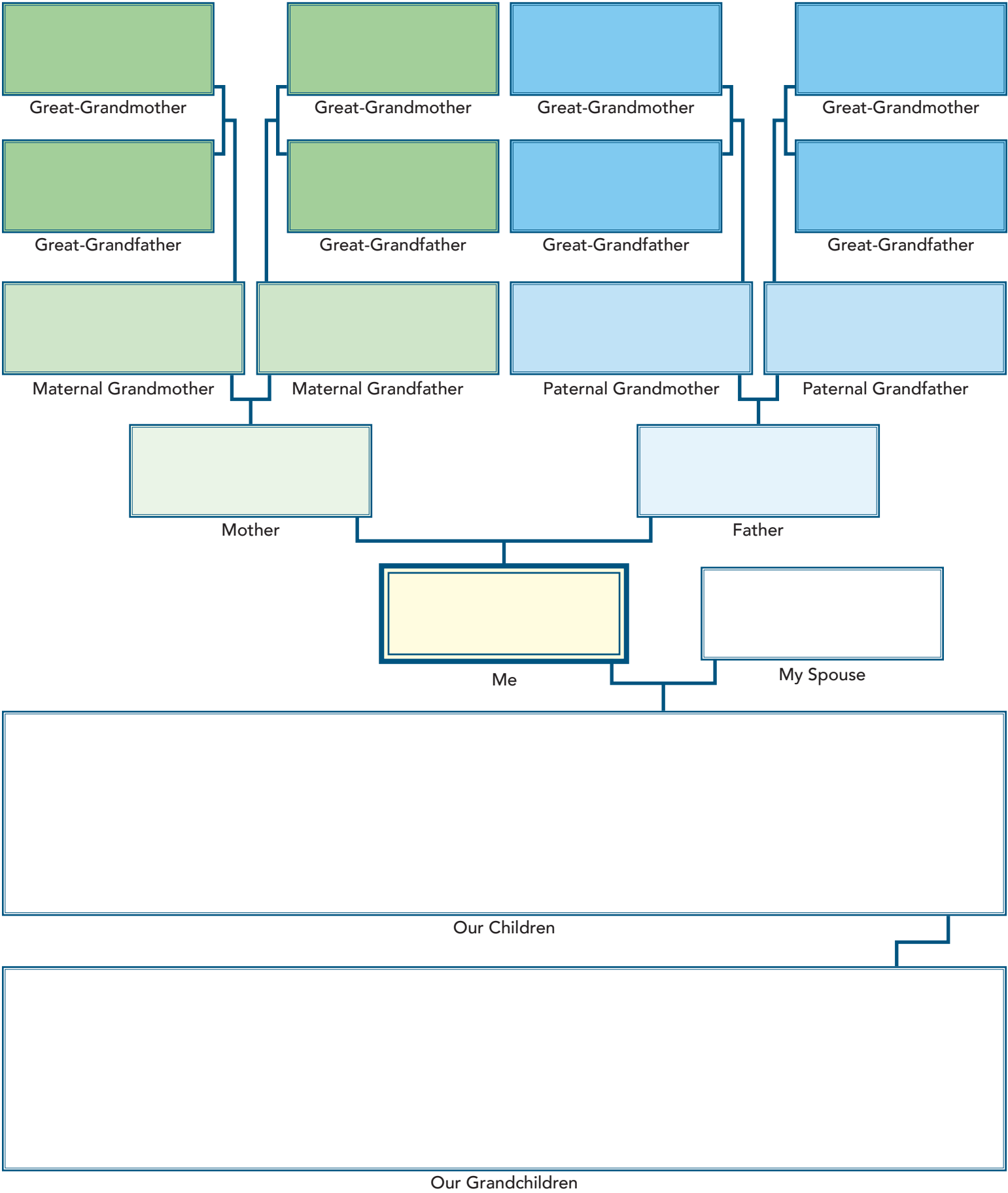
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# My Family Tree



I hope my Legacy Story inspires you to write your own. May each of your chapters be filled with love, courage, and cherished memories.



If I am not for me, who is for me; and if I am (only) for myself, what am I. And if not now, when?

— Hillel, *Ethics of the Fathers*, 1:14

Share your Legacy Story and inspire others!  
Email a full copy or your favorite entry to [koelsner@ujft.org](mailto:koelsner@ujft.org)



For additional copies or more information about the LIFE & LEGACY™ program, contact

**Tidewater Jewish Foundation**  
5000 Corporate Woods Drive, Suite 200  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
757.965.6111 • [JewishVA.org/TJF](http://JewishVA.org/TJF)