



Jewish Children's Regional Service

OF JEWISH CHILDREN'S HOME

Established
1855

5342 ST. CHARLES AVE.

POST OFFICE BOX 15225

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70175

899-1595 Area Code 504

June 23, 1983

Mrs. Viola W. Weiss
A.C.S.W.
Executive Director

CONSULTATION

RESIDENTIAL
TREATMENT

FOSTER HOME CARE

SCHOLARSHIPS

CAMPERSHIPS

SERVING
JEWISH CHILDREN
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Tennessee

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Miss Ethel Miron
P.O. Box 1194
Fort Worth, Texas 76101

Dear Miss Miron:

Thank you for responding to our enquiry about participating in our Alumni Project, and for your willingness to be part of the Project.

Mrs. Sandra Sundel, who is with the Jewish Family Service of Fort Worth, has agreed to assist us by interviewing the alumni who live in Fort Worth. Mrs. Sundel's address is 6801 Dan Danciger Road and her telephone number is 292-3081.

Would you be willing to telephone her to set up an appointment at a time that will be convenient for you both? I know that Mrs. Sundel will be happy to talk with you. Would your brother be willing also to have Mrs. Sundel do the Alumni interview? Would you mind asking him about this and giving him the information about how to reach Mrs. Sundel if he is willing to do this?

We are very pleased to have your enthusiastic support of the Project, and I look forward to hearing further either from you or from Mrs. Sundel or from both of you.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Viola W. Weiss
Executive Director

VWW/kwg

BCC: Mrs. Sandra Sundel

ALUMNI PROJECT
JEWISH CHILDREN'S REGIONAL SERVICE
JEWISH CHILDREN'S HOME

DUN 2 3 1983

_____ I shall be glad to participate in the project to gather the recollections of alumni of the Jewish Children's Home.

☒ I am willing to be interviewed.

_____ I am willing to interview other alumni.

_____ I plan to write to you about my recollections.

☒ I have old photographs and/or memorabilia that I will lend to be copied and returned.

_____ I prefer not to have my name used in any publication of the memoirs.

_____ I do not wish to participate in the project.

COMMENT: Fantastic idea. If "Keeney" (Anna Kamin)
could be with us today, she would derive such pleasure
from this project. May her soul rest in peace. I know
"Uncle Sam" (Kamin) would also feel the same, if only
good health would warrant it. We wish him the best of health
always.

ETHEL MIRON
(Name)

P.O. BOX 1194
(Address)

FT. WORTH, TEXAS 76101
(Telephone)

P.S.
Please charge
your records accordingly.
This is my mailing
address.
Thanks!

(Currently no phone yet)

Friends # 817
496-0070
or
626-2402
2nd Friend

July 13, 1983

OCT 24 1983

Alumni Interview With Ethel Miron

- I. Ethel entered the home when she was two years old. Her mother had died and "they" took the kids away. When she went to the home she went with her two brothers who were 11 and 12 at the time they entered. She believes that the Welfare Bureau brought the kids to the home. She left in 1946 when she was 11½.
- II. Ethel loved the home. She felt that those were the happiest years of her life. She remembers the gigantic fish pond with goldfish and lillies. She remembers watching the lillies open and close. She remembers all kinds of play equipment. Ethel said that in a post card, they were the children from the Jewish Children's Home. She also remembers the baseball diamond bigger than a stadium and an area with Magnolia trees. She said it was a beautiful home. She described the home as a very clean place. She remembers rooms with different shapes and big play rooms.

Ethel said that Veenie was the nurse and Uncle Sam was her husband and that Ethel was Veenie's pet. Ethel was the youngest child in the home. Veenie used to braid her hair. She kept in touch with Veenie and Uncle Sam for a long time. She remembers that she was always a poor eater and Veenie worried about her. She was always calling the doctor. Another thing that Ethel remembers about meal time is that everyone had to eat or go to the infirmary, and she remembers sitting for a very long time after everyone had left after almost every meal, yet she hated the infirmary. She remembers that as a place where you got shots. Ethel loved Sundays, however. They had chicken and ice cream and carmel custard.

She remembers having her tonsils out at age 5 in the hospital and she remembers a doctor slipping a lollipop under her pillow at night; and that the home brought her toys.

She felt that the home was not strict at all. She doesn't remember any discipline. She doesn't remember any chores except having to make the bed, though she said the older children must have had chores.

She said that they had the best clothes and good food. She particularly remembers high top shoes. She also remembers her birthday party when she was in kindergarten and that the whole kindergarten class came to the home with their maids. She said that the older children used to be counselors to the younger children.

She doesn't remember having a bicycle but she does remember the large play rooms. She wonders about her musical ability, if she ever had any, because she never tried anything musical, never had lessons or instructions although she said that they had just about everything else.

One particularly thrilling event she remembers is when movie stars visited the home. Robert Taylor and Victor Mature came to visit. And she remembers two stately rooms that were not used very much at other times, but were opened on that occasion.

Ethel remembers that for Mardi Gras they rode in a big truck in the parade throwing cricket toys to the crowd. She really enjoyed Mardi Gras and looked forward to it every year.

She remembers her Father visiting the home twice a year. She remembers going with Carol Blumenthal one time to a restaurant and that is the only time she remembers eating outside the home. She remembers having a big sister but she doesn't remember who it was.

She mentioned the following names as being her special friends: Frances Walp, Barbara Jean Friedman, Madeline Hersh, Herbie Friedman, the Ogden twins, Beena Lackoff, Regina Goldsmith, Sylvia Stellman. Ethel remembers some details about some of these people such as where they were living, whether they got married. For example, she remembers that Madeline Hersh was a child that other children made fun of.

The staff that she remembers are Veenie and Uncle Sam, Inga, who was a German woman, and Jean Avenue, the secretary who was close to Veenie and Ethel. She remembers Harry Ginsberg the Superintendent. She said everyone loved him. Rap Laws -- his office was in the blue room. He had polio, but everyone was told that he got bitten by a snake. And she remembers Rose Sherman, from California.

Ethel remembers going to camp at Bay St. Louis. She remembers big wide cots all lined up on a screened porch, with the counselors on the ends. She also remembers that there were sandbars that they could play on at night if the tide was low. They had their own pier.

Ethel remembers that they lit Sabbath candles on Friday night and there was one glass of orange juice between the two candles and everyone tried to get that glass. They went to a synagogue to study on Saturday morning but she doesn't remember any other religious training except Sunday school. She said there were three different synagogues the children went to.

She remembers one Saturday that was VJ or VE day, she didn't remember which. But she remembered that everyone was so happy that the war was over.

- III. Ethel went to the Danfel School. She said she was put in the special school because they thought she was slow. She went to school with Philip Slebekoff and a few others. She liked school. She remembers lying on a mat in kindergarten. She also remembers going to school one day carrying her lunch. Two dogs were after her lunch and she had to run to school holding her lunch over her head. Ethel remembers being good in spelling and said she won spelling bees in Philadelphia in 6th and 7th grades.
- IV. Ethel remembers the closeness at the home; that everyone cared for one another and loved one another. She looks people up whenever she travels around the country and has kept in touch with quite a few of the people who had been in the Home with

Alumni Interview With Ethel Miron
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her. She felt that living in the home with a lot of kids from broken homes made her a compassionate person. The only thing she remembers about leaving the Home is that Inga took her by train to Philadelphia and that they slept in a berth which she enjoyed. She said she has no regrets regarding the time she spent in the Home.