

Thirty Questions your children want to know the answers

1. What comes to mind when you think about growing up in your hometown?

Simplicity of everyday life. Very early sense of independence and an intense love of country.

2. What did you love to do as a kid, before high school?

Playing simple games with friends, without any accessories, some that we made up on the go. Walking nature trails to pick up wildflowers and of course playing soccer

3. What did you love to do in high school?

Watch movies, listen to radio broadcasts of soccer matches and attending and playing major league soccer matches mainly of my hometown team. My social life revolved around my membership in the Maccabi youth organization that shaped my values and priorities for years to come.

4. What do remember most about your teenage years?

My passion for Soccer and Girls. By age 15 1/2, I discovered my true love to whom I have been married now for almost 63 years. Between that time and our marriage when we were barely 20 years old all I can remember is being with her 24/7 if not in person than in thought.

5. What do you remember most about your mom and dad?

Simple hard-working people who fostered, likely by necessity, my independence and trusting me to exercise good judgement in so doing

6. What was most important to each of them?

To be good providers and seeing their children get a good education and be successful at what they chose to do.

7. If grandma and grandpa had a message to you and their grandchildren, what do you think it is?

My grandparents on my mother's side perished during the Holocaust and on my father's side they were old and frail. So, I had limited contact and influence, although I liked my grandmother for her tender love she demonstrated whenever we met. By contrast mom's grandmother Omama was my

inspirational heroin. Mom. inherited many of her wonderful attributes: Curiosity, Courage, Compassion but less so the twinkle in her eyes and her sense of humor.

8. How did you meet mom and know she was the one?

I met your mom when she was 6 years old. We went to school together and we were neighbours. My interest in your mom began when I was 15 years old. We both were members of the Maccabi youth organization. One evening I was walking your mom home from a group meeting at the Maccabi. By that time my best (male) friend had an eye for her. I remember asking her if she had feelings for him and while I don't remember her answer I clearly saw an opening and the rest is (a wonderful) history. Your mom was the most beautiful girl in my hometown. She always reminded me of Sofia Lauren, my childhood (and adulthood) female idol.

9. How did you choose your career and what was your favorite part about it?

By age 18 Israeli men are drafted to the army. By that time, I was eying a career as a soccer player. I was then a regular starter in my hometown's team Maccabi Rehovot. I was looking forward to joining a combat unit of the IDF, but two things prevented me from doing so. First, I was born with a "lazy eye" and the army would not assign me to a combat unit for fear that I may lose my "good" eye in training or combat. Also, my soccer career was in shambles because of a torn groin ligament owing to a soccer injury, so I was destined to serve in an administrative capacity. My older sister at that time served in the army in a human resource capacity and through her influence I was assigned to the Military Academy for Computer Science and later served as the Director of Operations for the Ministry of Defense. I became a member of the first generation of the Israeli High-Tech industry. After my mandatory 2 1/2-year service I remained in that position as a public sector employee for two more years before I joined Control Data, a US multinational computer company with whom I remained in various management and executive capacities for 21 years. First in Israel and later in Canada. My favorite part of my career, especially with Control Data, was my ability to hone my leadership and entrepreneurial skills which served me well both as a corporate executive and a founder of a hi-tech startup.

10. What made you successful at work?

My team building and leadership skills and my innovative, entrepreneurial skills and adaptability to (technological) changes.

11. What did you believe about yourself that helped you become successful and deal with hard times?

I believed that my skills and values of perseverance, entrepreneurship, results orientation, problem solving, team building and hard work are the formula for success

12. What times in your life truly "tested you," and what did you learn about yourself by dealing (or not dealing) with them?

There were a few during my career where I was denied promotional opportunities which I discovered were awarded to others who served longer with the company or were well connected and agile in "corporate politics". None of these were my strengths. I always believed in meritocracy and growth potential as the most important criteria for career advancement. In two of these situations, I refused to accept the decision and resigned. First with the Ministry of Defence which led to me joining Control Data and later with Control Data, Canada which ended with my superior reversing his decision that same day after I announced my resignation. Even later in my career when IBM took over the company (ISM) where I was a Regional Vice President. I offered my resignation when my superior demanded results that I deemed unattainable. The IBM corporate culture was alien to my values and motivated me to launch my successful consulting career. What I learned from these situations was the importance of understanding and believing in your "worth" and have the courage to make difficult even risky decisions. But this is about my career. In my personal life I can think of two situations that "tested me". In the first few years of our move to Canada I had a burning desire to go back to Israel. In fact, I was trying to "force" mom and my children to follow my lead which resulted in a family crisis requiring an external intervention. I recognized that I was selfish and that the right decision for our family was the only determinant factor and never since regretted it. The only other life experience that scared the devil out of me was when Mom was diagnosed with (thank goodness) stage 1 lung cancer. This was in 2009 and after a successful operation mom has been clear for the past 17 years. I never in the past prayed to God except on this day when on my flight back from San Francisco to see

mom in the hospital I wrote the Lover Prayer in Hebrew as it was all I could do. There are times when challenges are greater than your capacity to handle them and you revert to a higher power even if you don't believe it exists.

13. Which 3 events most shaped your life?

The first, when mom agreed that it was me not him (even though it may have been the biggest mistake she ever made), second our decision to come to Canada, and of course the birth of the three of you and the seven dwarfs you delivered.

14. What do you remember about when each of us was born?

Wonderment with each of you. Especially with Sharon as we were determined to have a girl no matter how many times we tried.

15. Were you ever scared to be a parent?

Never when I stood next to mom. But seriously never. There were only three times when I was scared as a parent. Once when Alon was dehydrated and rushed to Hospital when he was a baby and same when Sharon was hospitalized as a baby for a delicate backside operation and much later when Eyal was diagnosed with urinary tract cancer.

16. What 3 words represented your approach to parenting and why?

Love, Presence, and Trust. No need to explain why!

17. When you think about your kids how would you describe them?

Each in your own ways possesses and cherishes the values we believe we have instilled in you. We want each of you to feel that you are the most loved and to pass it on to your children which we are witnessing you have already done.

18. What message do you have for each of us that you want us to always keep in mind?

We watched how you brought up your children, and we feel that love of family, love of each other and being “good” citizens, remembering your roots and your family traditions will always guide you and your children

19. When you think about mom, how would you describe her/him?

Mom is the smartest, wisest and caring person you will ever know. She owns the 3 C's: Curious, Courageous and Compassionate. A real Humanist

20. What message do you have for mom that you want her/him to always keep in mind?

My love for you has only grown through the years if this is at all possible. You are my partner, my conscious my guide and my lover.

21. Which 3 words best describe who you tried to be in life and how you want to be remembered?

Here lies a man who could never look you straight in the eye, yet he always did. Honest, Romantic, Loving

22. When they think about their careers, what do you want your children to focus on?

Did you give it your best, were you happy doing it, are you passionate about what you do and did?

23. What have you learned about other people in life?

Most people are inherently good if you tap into their feelings.

24. What do you think the world needs more of right now?

Civility, empathy, and honesty in the relations with peers, superiors and subordinates

25. What do you believe people want the most in life?

Peace, stability, love and prosperity

26. What were the 3 best decisions you ever made?

To marry your mom; To come to Canada after the loss of Mom's family; To nurture a close-knit family.

27. What are you most proud of in life?

The family we created, nurtured, loved and the values we instilled in them

28. What were 5 of the most positive moments of your life?

1. When mom said "it's you" when I was only 15 1/2
2. When we had our first child and two more
3. When our first grandchild was born and six more
4. Whenever I travel with mom the world over
5. The World Cup of Soccer in Rio de Janeiro in 2014

29. What message would you like to share with your family?

Love will keep you together. Always look out for each other in good times and bad times

30. What are you most thankful for?

For having a good and healthy life surrounded by a wonderful family and believing that in whatever I did in my life I did the best I knew how.