

Thirty Questions your children want to know the answers

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

Love warm hugs, family, parents that work hard who loved and wanted the best for me. My mom's wish was that I will have an easier life than what she had. Visiting Omama, spending a day with her. Omama sewing all my dresses that I *loved*.

Being a member of Maccabi where all my social engagement with friends took place. That was the best time.

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

Spending time with friends and especially participating in Maccabi activities, meetings, trips through Maccabi I've seen all of Israel. Learn the history of the country and the importance of having our own country. We grew up in a unique time. We were the first generation to grow up in Israel. We grew up in the time that the new Sabra was created. The aim was that the Sabra will be the opposite of what was the image of the diaspora. Jew strong proud and athletic patriotism was in our blood. That's how deep in me is the love of Israel, the country.

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

High school itself wasn't my favorite place. That was the time I started going out with a guy named Amnon and my attention to school disappeared.

4. What do remember most about your teenage years?

Lots of fun, friends, boys, freedom.

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

My mom was a beautiful warm loving hard-working extrovert. You knew when she was happy and when she was mad, mom was expressive in her feelings.

My dad was the opposite of mom. He showed his love by doing not by saying. After he had a stroke, it didn't stop him from climbing five flights of stairs to come and visit. When Eyal was born he was his pride and joy. He will take him out for walks and spend time with him. Unfortunately, when Alon was born dad was ill he died three months after Sharon was born.

6. What was most important to each of them?

Both mom and dad were family centered. My family kept in touch with the extended family visiting frequently.

Dad asked for respect and received it from everyone. His younger sister, aunt Bella, in respect to my father she will never smoke in front of him even when she was a middle-aged woman. What I remember of mom is working hard all her life and making sure that everyone is doing O.K.

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

My grandma Omama was the most loving and giving person I know. She had a hard life and never heard her complain or mad. Omama likes my mom because of their experiences of having a hard life. Omama probably will say love and enjoy your family. It is the most important thing that counts.

8. How did you meet dad and know he was the one?

I was 16 and what do you know about the future?

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

Unfortunately, I did not have the chance to choose a career. This is my main regret.

10. What made you successful at work?

My work is my family. I started young and probably made mistakes on the way. I hope that my values and love prevailed.

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

It is not believing in me. Every time I need to make a hard decision I always think of my mom and know how she would have done it. I say to myself if mom can do it or go through it so can I.

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 two times that tested me. The first one was when my parents and Omama died within a year. It was devastating for me. I lost all my external support. I do not think I dealt with this loss to this very day. We left for Canada. The second time was our first year in Canada. I felt lost and lonely. One of the things that helped me was learning to drive it helped me find my freedom and independence again.

13. Which 3 events most shaped your life?

Hands down losing my parents and Omama was the most traumatic event in my life. It changed my worldview. I live for today. I do not push things for later. I look at a half full glass not the half empty. Second, coming to Canada for me it was the second time to be an immigrant. It is not easy learning a language and finding new friends missing your home. Third, an empty nest probably gave me the courage and freedom to do things I want. We started travelling a lot. I signed up for different courses.

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

Eyal the Bechor. I looked at him as a miracle in my eyes he was the most beautiful baby. He was the first born and the first grandchild to my parents. So, you can imagine how special he was. Alon he probably knew that he is the second he was a very easy baby not like his brother that would not let us sleep at night. Alon was born a year and a half after Eyal I was only twenty-four with two babies. Thanks to my parents that helped me I was able to juggle motherhood. Sharon was born three months after my father and Omama died, again mom came to the rescue. She took Eyal to kindergarten and returned him at lunch. That gave me time to be with Alon who was two and Sharon the baby. Unfortunately, my mom died during Sharon's first year and unfortunately, we have no pictures of Safta Ketty and Sharon.

15. Were you ever scared to be a parent?

I was too young to understand the enormity of what it takes to be a parent

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

Love, Independence and Nurturing. Love says it all - no need to explain. Independence - I grew up in Israel, and I had lots of freedom, and I believed that trusting kids to be independent will make them responsible. It didn't always work. Nurturing instills in them values of family and caring and knowing that we always have their backs.

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

Now that you are all grown up with your families, I am so proud of you and what each of you accomplished in your own way.

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

I'll tell you what my mom told me. She told me: "you are only two - take care of each other" and I tell you, " You are only three - please take care of each other". The other thing that I live by is that I always look at the world as a glass half full never half empty.

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

Your dad is the most loving and romantic husband that a wife can ask for. He is the most loving and caring father that you can always come to for his advice. I am lucky to have spent 62 years and many more years together.

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

Please be aware and pay attention to your surrounding and read the room

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

Honest, nurturing and worldly. I would like to be remembered as someone that was not religious but one who deeply believed in the Jewish tradition. Someone who loves Israel and feels comfortable to criticize it , and that family is always above all.

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

I would love to know and believe that what they are doing they love and are passionate about it.

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

Generally, through my travels I found that most people are good people and that is what I would like to believe unless proven differently.

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

Sane people. Leaders that are honest, have empathy and are looking after the interests of their people rather than themselves

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

Love, Financial security and safety

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

Going to Cordon Bleu, renovating our home and marrying your dad.

27. What are you most proud of in life?

My family. The fact that we kept our family together and that we care and love each other.

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

My wedding, serving in the Israeli Army, the birth of my children, the birth of my grandchildren which for all I was present and coming to Canada to make it our second home.

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

Keep together, love and care for each other after we are gone.

30. What are you most thankful for?

I am thankful that I live in Canada. I am thankful that my husband, my kids and grandkids are all healthy. I am thankful for the love that I received from my children and my grandchildren, and I am thankful that God gave us time to enjoy each other.