

The following four sample messages may help you compose your own statement for the Endowment Book of Life. When you write your message, let your personal thoughts and feelings be your guide. Tell your story the way you would like your family history recorded for eternity.

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When my parents came from Germany in 1921, I was too young to remember how it was for them. When I grew up, I realized that the Jewish community helped them begin life again in this new country. There will be new immigrants in every generation, and we will always need to be sure that Jews can escape persecution and resettle in our community or in Israel.

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I'm a third generation American. Some of my family have not retained their connection to our Jewish roots. I appreciate Jewish history and want that tradition to continue. I believe that Jewish continuity depends on education. It is my interest to help assure the resources to foster Jewish learning and culture for the next generation.

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Giving to charity is a Jewish tradition. It is not just a custom – it's a religious obligation. So by making a bequest to a Memphis Jewish agency, we believe we are practicing our religion according to the Talmud. We take the motto "you can't take it with you" very literally. We are comfortable, and we've provided for our children. But we believe it is just as important to make sure that what we "can't take with us" enriches the Jewish community.

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Our roots go back to Eastern Europe. We were raised on *pushkes*, and both our mothers regularly took food baskets to the needy. They taught us to follow their example, and giving to those less fortunate has always been a part of our lives. We hope that our gift to a Memphis Jewish agency will set an example for our children and grandchildren, encouraging them to leave the world a little better for their own children and generations to come.