

THE “WIGDOR” PROJECT

Joseph and Anna Wigdor were my paternal grandparents and the Project is dedicated to them as a memorial. It will identify and biograph their extended family, including their brothers and sisters, and the family relationships. The scope is the descendents of their respective parents, the four of my great grandparents on my father's side of the family. Both Joseph and Anna came from large families by today's standards; Joseph had 6 siblings and Anna, I believe, 11, so there already exists a very large extended family. My particular bough of the family tree has 9 members of the 6th generation, ranging from age 16 to just a few months,

Connecting the Cousins

The primary objective is to connect the living and future cousins and provide a record of their shared heritage. Anna Wigdor was born a Rabinowitz. Many of the family members anglicized their names in North America. Grandma's birth name was Chaika but she adopted Anna. Several of her brothers and sisters changed their surnames from Rabinowitz to Robbins. My great grandmother was widowed, remarried a second husband surnamed Maza, and they had additional children. Calling it the Wigdor-Rabinowitz-Robbins-Maza project is unwieldy and has been abbreviated to The “Wigdor” Project.

In the recent explorations which have led to my formulating the Project, I've learned about a huge industry supporting genealogical research, but the invariable focus is on ancestry and going back in time. This Project has a forwards focus instead, identifying the (18?) boughs sprouted from my

great-grandparents' family trees and their descendants and families. Each leaf on a bough of the tree is a cousin of each leaf on all the other boughs. Each new child born is part of this cousin crew.

Our Shared Heritage

The Project is to create a family archive ... a database ... a repository, of its past, current and future history and accomplishments, with photographs, videos and home movies, news stories, important documents, recollections related in new a/v recordings...anything that can be stored and accessed in digital form. The traditional "family tree" will be used as an index to the archive and display the genealogy. The archive will be expanded (what to do with those old family photo albums and home movies) and kept updated for the current and for future generations for so long as there is someone willing to steward the Project. Succession has to always be top of mind if the Project is to succeed.

The archive will be open at no charge to anyone who is a member of this defined extended family; that is, anyone who is a "leaf" on the common tree. Archive information will not be used for any commercial purpose but may be shared with third parties for research, demonstration or medical purposes.

I will not enumerate the many obvious benefits and uses of the family tree and archive and hope unobvious benefits and uses will also be discovered and explored over time. My grandparents were wonderful people and part of a remarkable family. If anyone ever organizes a family gathering, please drink a toast in their honor and remembrance. The picture below is from

1953, showing Joseph and Anna, son John (Dad) and his wife Hazel (Mom), my baby sister Anna and me at not quite 6 years old.

Robin Wigdor

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