

The Reunion Workbook

The film, *Someone You Should Meet*, takes us inside a once-in-a-lifetime family reunion that begins to unfold when two filmmakers learn that their grandfathers had been brothers. I created the family gathering with my cousin, Debra Chasnoff, over 18 months; and that piece of the experience was life-changing for us both.

The Reunion Workbook brings together the many documents we developed to undergird the event, intended for viewers who want to create their own reunion, filled with storytelling and community building activities. By watching the film, you'll see clips of the workbook in action. Together, the film and the workbook constitute a turn-key guide for a multi-generational event. Modules include: tools for planning your event; interview questions for unpacking family history; games and icebreakers; meetings by generation, health issues, profession, special interests; and where do we go from here?

How this film and workbook, used together, can serve as a roadmap to a reunion for your unique family:

- Create a more meaningful gathering that can strengthen relationships.
- Get cover-to-cover logistical guidance.
- See ways to approach family conflict.
- Learn about activities that will draw out stories for young family members and future generations.
- Grow a sense of identity as a family, grounded in your specific history.
- Gain insight into how you carry your family history as an individual, and how your family history expresses itself through you.

It is my hope, in sharing the *Someone You Should Meet* Workbook, that others are encouraged to follow through on that urge to discover new family – or to rediscover the one you already have. However your journey unfolds, let this workbook help inspire you along the way.