



# *Looking Forward, Looking Back*

Bridging Generations through Life Stories

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*When an old person dies, it's like a library burning down.* - African Proverb.

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Everyone has important stories to tell. The Eppes-Jefferson Foundation, Inc. has created this workshop to inspire you to capture life stories before another “library” burns down.

Generations may be bridged from either direction: Seniors may initiate or younger family members may spark action to preserve memories that otherwise will evaporate.

Thoughtful stories produce vivid impressions while conveying life lessons. And anyone can tell a two-minute, three-paragraph story.





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Here is a message and a story from David Ward, Co-Executive Director:



*I was named after my grandfather, David Ward, who died in 1967 at age 57. He was “Dave” and I was “Davey.” I’ve got a lot of questions I’d like to ask him, but I’m decades too late. And it’s too late to ask my grandmother, my father, and my aunt and uncle.*

*I was only 12 when he died, with no means or foresight to have created a better record of his life. His image is preserved in a few precious photographs, but we have no recordings capturing his mannerisms or the sound of his voice. I wish I had paid closer attention to the stories he told over and over at family gatherings.*

*Two generations later, I’m proud to have my own grandson, David Ward. Now I’m “Dave” and he’s “Davey.” I’m determined to preserve our family stories for Davey and all of my descendants. In the process I contribute to a richer understanding of our family heritage, I model behavior for younger generations to emulate over time, and I satisfy my personal curiosity and sense of family duty.*

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Your active participation in our workshop will assure that you leave with newly created life story content in your hands. Choose your format: a legacy letter, a brief story, or a spoken word recording. Bring your pen and your smartphone or other audio/video recording device to the workshop and we’ll show you how! Anything you create during the workshop, basic or brilliant, will someday be treasured by someone.

Sign up for Looking Forward, Looking Back by contacting the organization that gave you this brochure.

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