



# GILA HERITAGE

Quarterly of the  
NORTHERN GILA COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
a non-profit organization  
PAYSON, ARIZONA

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>A Genealogist's Prayer</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Society Information &amp; New Officers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Family Reunion Activities</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Thinking about a Reunion</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>And What If, God Forbid, It Rains?</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Family Reunion Planning Sub-Committees</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Wrapping Things Up</b>	<b>11</b>



This special issue of Gila Heritage is dedicated to Family Reunions. Family Reunions are wonderful places to glean additional information about your ancestors as well as updates on births, marriages, divorces, death. If you access this newsletter on line from our society web page listed on Page 2, you will be able to access the links associated with the activities. I offer this Prayer to all of us looking for this information.

### **A Genealogist's Prayer**

Lord, help me dig into the past  
And sift the sands of time  
That I might find the roots that made  
This family tree of mine.

Lord, help me trace the ancient roads  
On which my fathers trod,  
And led them through so many lands  
To find our present sod.

Lord, help me find an ancient book  
Or dusty manuscript,  
That's safely hidden now away  
In some forgotten crypt.

Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts  
My soul when I can't find,  
The missing link between some name  
That ends the same as mine.

Author Anonymous

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## Thinking About a Reunion?

by [Edith Wagner](#)

If you're thinking about organizing a family reunion or are already working on one, you're in good company. It is estimated that over 200,000 families, each averaging 50 persons hold reunions each year.

Organizing a family reunion is a gift. It is an unselfish commitment to your family to stay in touch and make an effort to be among kin. Family reunions are times for hugs and kisses, smiles and warmth. They provide a feeling of belonging not only to the larger family of man but to the family of (fill in your family reunion name here). Family reunions are great adventures of intricate detail and opportunities to savor history and legend. They are also ideal occasions to mend fences and build bridges. Traditions flourish once your reunion is established. Commitment to take responsibility is a special gift to your family.

### Family Reunions Have Many Purposes

The purpose of having reunions varies. A study by *Reunions* magazine and the Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management Department of East Stroudsburg (PA) University discovered that 57% of all reunions were organized to help keep members in touch while over 28% wanted children to learn about their family heritage. Other goals were to get everyone together before a family elder dies or to mark a special birthday, anniversary or holiday. Some people don't even remember or know how their reunion started but recall attending them as children. Amy Barlow's Mellenbruch Family Reunion started when her great-great-great grandfather, H. F. Mellenbruch, left a letter expressing a wish that his descendants would meet regularly. Mellenbruchs have granted that wish — they celebrated their 100th reunion in 1997.

Your reunion is not at all unusual if it starts as an innocent comment at a funeral that you should start meeting to celebrate life under happier circumstances. Reunions can be compared to weddings and funerals except for one important fact — those events focus on the celebration or remembrance of just one person. Reunions celebrate everyone and the whole family. If a reunion is a whole new idea for your family, some members may not be ready. If so, don't give up. Delay the idea or continue with willing members. Reluctant members may join a future reunion.

### Who's Family?

There is no definition of family for the purpose of reunion except a group of people with the desire to spend time together. However, for the purpose of sending out invitations, you must decide who is family for this occasion. Is it thousands of progeny descended from a common ancestor who arrived in the US in 18-something? Is it the descendants of brothers and sisters, their children and their children's children? Is it all the cousins of a generation and their families? Is it the immediate three generations of grandma, grandpa, their children and grandchildren? Is it everyone with the same name? Or is it something in common like the same parents whether by birth, marriage or adoption? Some genealogists may differ with these loose definitions of family, but for your reunion it is completely up to you.

### Reunion Leadership

Reunion sounds like and is a great idea! If you volunteer to be in charge, step forward with your whole heart and soul, but it's best to not do it alone. Organizing a reunion by yourself can be lonely and may not get the results you want. Asking for volunteers and involving others as early as possible means getting help ranging from moral support to taking charge of details large and

small. Early support should also include contributions to defray start-up phone, printing and postage costs. It might look formidable if you're new to reunion organizing. Who will pay? When, where and how will everyone get there — on time and happy? What will they do when they get there? Lots of questions need answers. Enough time is crucial. You must first decide when and where to hold the events, and then deal with a myriad of details.

### **Delegate and Conquer**

Recruit all the help you can to lighten your load and strengthen "ownership" of and commitment to the reunion. Ask members what they like to do and focus on it. This doesn't mean everyone must be in total agreement — developing a new idea takes time and patience. Consider committees. One committee can find your reunion location and accommodations, others can concentrate on the program, fundraising, food, scholarships and cleanup.

The art of delegation was important for Rosa Thomson, organizer of her Thomson Family Reunion. She identified the special talents and skills of each family member. Showered with "yes" answers, Rosa completed projects on time and on budget.

### **How Long Are Reunions?**

Over 70% of respondents to the *Reunions* magazine/East Stroudsburg University study reported devoting two or more days to their reunion. Typically reunions start on Friday and last through Sunday, though some families stay longer. One whole week is not unusual. If members travel any distance, a longer stay makes the effort worthwhile with time to visit and relax before the return journey.

The Seideman Family Reunion in Newburg, Wisconsin, has grown to an annual average of 400-600 descendants of Friedrich Seideman. They require a couple of days to set up a barn filled with a fascinating collection of family and farming history as well as games, a talent show, contests and food. They celebrated their 65th consecutive reunion in July 1998.

### **And How Often Should You Meet?**

Reunion frequency is an individual decision. Reunions are not inexpensive so time to save is essential. A surprising 46% of families make the reunion an annual event while 28% choose two years between reunions. The ones who wait five years may increase frequency for special reasons like significant anniversaries or members being ill and unlikely to make the next reunion. Frequency is also a serious consideration for the reunion organizer. One year passes rapidly while two years allow for some extra breathing room.

### **When?**

If you are starting your very first reunion it is not unwise to begin a year and a half to two years in advance. Seasons matter — do you have skiers? campers? sun-seekers? school children? Plan accordingly. A majority of all family reunions occur in June, July and August. Consider three-day school holidays at other times of year for variety; skiing over Martin Luther King Day or Presidents Day weekends.

Set your first reunion date to draw as many people as possible. Give everyone plenty of time to save both vacation time and money for the trip. Your reunion date might coincide with an important family event. You can choose a date arbitrarily. Or offer choices with a commitment to abide by the consensus of the group.

Avoid a blanket request for dates. Don't ask 50 people to suggest dates because you'll get 50 dates and still no consensus. If, on the other hand, you suggest a choice of say, Thanksgiving or Fourth of July weekend, you'll know your majority right away.

### **Where?**

A convenient location is the most prominent factor to choosing where to have your reunion cited by almost 20% of the *Reunions* magazine/East Stroudsburg University study respondents. Almost as many respondents cited reasonable lodging cost, then reasonable travel cost and availability of recreational activities. Other responses included the following: the same place every year, a variety of accommodations and activities, or shopping and destinations that match a theme. All families try to find special places ranging from their own backyard to historical family homesteads or even a dream locale.

Some reunions number hundreds of members. They meet more comfortably in hotels, resorts and even on cruise ships. The possibilities are infinite — smaller groups may be more comfortable at inns, ranches, condos, villas, bed and breakfasts or campgrounds. It's not unusual for a reunion group to choose a place they've not been to. Convention and visitors or tourism bureaus are eager to convince reunions to visit their areas. They have hot local information, contacts with facilities and activities and in many cases, a plethora of planning services. Also check out the directories of hundreds of reunion-friendly places in *Reunions* magazine and *Reunions* Workbook Reunion Resources. Many of the listings are just a click away with direct Internet links ([www.reunionsmag.com](http://www.reunionsmag.com)).

### **About the Author**

Edith Wagner is the editor of *Reunions* magazine, author of *Reunions Workbook and Catalog* and *The Family Reunion Sourcebook* (Lowell House, Los Angeles) in bookstores now. She collects material for this column and *Reunions* magazine from family reunions and invites you to share your reunion ideas, concerns or questions. You can e-mail Wagner at [reunions@execpc.com](mailto:reunions@execpc.com) or visit the [Reunions magazine Web site](http://www.reunionsmag.com).

### **Family Reunion Planning Sub-Committees** <http://www.family-reunion.com/subcomm.htm>

Unless you and the committee want to do all the work yourself (which, Mister Spiffy notes, is very, very uncommon this time of year), you will want to assign volunteers to a number of areas of responsibility. Basically, this section is advice on how to 'pass the buck' in various ways. Now, the best way to appease reluctant volunteers is to give them an official name: "You're now a part of the Finance Subcommittee, isn't that swell?" "Oh, yes!"

Each subcommittee can be managed by a single upstanding family member, or a whole family. Try to match up family members' talents to the different jobs, when possible. Mister Spiffy's bad example: "All right, Joe, seeing as you've been a champion in the Iron Man competition for the last five years, you'll be in charge of finances — and your accountant brother can be in charge of sports. Okay"? Assign one person of each subcommittee as the chairperson for that particular subcommittee and make them responsible for reporting to the Family Reunion Committee. In English, now — put someone in charge of each one and make them tell you if they're getting their work done.

These are just Mister Spiffy's simple suggestions for subcommittees, and you may not need all of them (or any of them, or you may want to create one that isn't listed here — Mister Spiffy can't think of everything, he's not a genius, despite the rumors going around). You may even want to combine the responsibilities of several of these subcommittees into a single one, if the job isn't too hard. To make things easier to understand, the main family reunion committee (the one assigning the subcommittees) will be referred to as 'the Big Important Committee' throughout this section.

### Finance Subcommittee

The finance subcommittee handles the money and bookkeeping. This committee puts together the budget (with the assistance, of course, of the other subcommittees and the Big Important Committee), and keeps track of how much money and whose money has been / will be spent. It also keeps track of which families have paid the admission (or whatever scheme you're using to raise money to pay for this shindig). The finance committee should set up a checking account to deposit the income from tickets, auctions, et cetera. This checking account should be kept open throughout the years and used for every family reunion, especially if you anticipate any income or expenses between the reunions.

The treasurer is a member of the finance subcommittee and reports back to the Big Important Committee just what goes on behind the closed doors. He or she is the one in charge of the checkbook. Their signature is required (Mister Spiffy repeats, *required*) for the release of any small slips of paper exiting a checkbook, a wallet, or one of those little envelopes that money comes in from the bank. It would be preferable if the treasurer is good with numbers and honest above reproach. It is not an uncommon story in Mister Spiffy's past cases for the money-handler to "borrow" money from the reunion account *without paying it back*. I know it's appalling, but it happens out here in the real world. If you want a safety feature, you can get a checking account that requires two signatures on checks (although this can be inconvenient at times, as Mister Spiffy would be the first to tell you – he doesn't even like to remember how it was when his cousin Mister Snazzy was touring the European continent). Once you have a good treasurer, it is often best for that person to remain the treasurer from year to year, instead of changing constantly.

### Food Subcommittee

The Food subcommittee makes the decisions in those all-important food-related debates. This includes, but is definitely not limited to, how to feed the guests, whether everyone brings their own food, have a potluck, eat at a restaurant, or all of the above – although how that last one works, Mister Spiffy isn't really sure. If you're having a potluck, they are in charge of organizing it so that a good variety of food is provided, without the Big Important Committee having to worry about it. If a restaurant meal is being planned, they are in charge of finding the restaurant and making the reservations.

The food subcommittee is also responsible for making sure there are enough plates, silverware, napkins, and drinking straws, even if it is the simple task of informing the family members to bring their own.

### Activities Subcommittee

The Activities subcommittee decides what everyone else is supposed to do at the reunion. This includes activities (Mister Spiffy says 'duh'), games, a program (where the kids stand up and make a valiant attempt to sing), or a church service. They are in charge of planning the activities, making sure all the equipment is there and in a functioning and unbroken state, and printing up the certificates and awards for the various winners of various awards. They are also in charge of finding volunteers (or forcing volunteers) to run the games and activities if they can't (or don't want to) do it themselves. This subcommittee is one of the most time-consuming jobs of a family reunion, so make sure you have enough family members to do the job, and do it right. If you want a job done right (but you're too lazy to do it yourself), you'll just have to settle for imperfections. Nobody's perfect.

### Communications Subcommittee

This subcommittee is responsible for managing the address list and mailing all the various invitations and follow-up reminders. Now, Mister Spiffy had to take a class in Communications to get his Family Reunion Doctoring Diploma, so he knows this quite well. If you decide to send a survey out to find out what kind of reunion the family is interested in, he suggests that you have the communications group take care of it, and just report the results to the Big Important Committee.

### Fundraising Subcommittee

The Fundraising subcommittee is in charge of planning and carrying out the varying fundraising activities for the reunion. These can include auctions, raffles, cakewalks, or other more bizarre ideas you could come up with that Mister Spiffy hasn't suggested. They are also in charge of obtaining any items needed for any of the fundraising activities, or for contacting family members if items liked baked goods or homemade crafts are needed. They will work very closely with the financial committee.

### Family History Subcommittee

The Family History subcommittee is responsible for collecting family memorabilia for display at the reunion. This committee can create a large wall chart with family members' names to hang on the wall for guests to see how they are related to each other (Mister Spiffy suggests decorating it with bright colors, so as to hold the interest of our younger guests). If changes or additions need to be made to the wall chart, the family history subcommittee will be in charge of updating the chart for the next reunion ("Someday... *someday*, we're going to get this thing *right*"). If any research side trips are planned, it is this committee which takes care of the details.

### Photography Subcommittee

Mister Spiffy loves photography. Did I mention that he took a class on it a few summers ago? Well, he did, and now he considers himself the guru of advice on the subject. I never go near him with a camera anymore, because I know I'll never get away in less than two hours. But, I digress. The Photography subcommittee is responsible for making sure the reunion is fully documented photographically. They should make sure there is a photographer attending, whether it is a family member who is semi-talented with a camera or a professional who actually knows what he's doing. (Hint – Mister Spiffy is *not* a professional). Once the photos are developed, the committee is responsible for noting which family members are in each picture.

If a video is to be made of the reunion, this committee also has the responsibility for lining up a camcorder or hiring someone to create the video tape. If they neglect to do so, they may have to answer to the Big Important Committee – and that's never pretty.

After the reunion, the photography subcommittee should make copies of the photos or video available to family members, and decide on a price that will cover the cost (or, perhaps, Mister Spiffy says with a knowing smile, make a little profit for the next year's reunion).

### Accommodations Subcommittee

The Accommodations subcommittee is responsible for finding accommodations for visiting guests, such as hotels, motels, nearby Dumpsters, et cetera. Okay, never mind the Dumpsters. Anyway, they can negotiate for blocks of rooms or discounts to pass on to the family members (yeah, that's right – you want some sneaky people on this one). If camping, this subcommittee should make the reservations for the campsites, or tell the family members how to make their own reservations.

### Welcoming Subcommittee

The Welcoming subcommittee is responsible for welcoming the guests to the reunion (is it just me, or is Mister Spiffy getting less creative with his committee naming?). They are the ones who print all those nametags nobody will wear, and who meet the guests at the front door. They should perform any of the planned welcoming traditions (such as a lei at a Hawaiian-themed reunion, a noisemaker at a birthday party-themed reunion, a prick in the bottom with a cactus at a Western-themed reunion, et cetera).

### Setup and Cleanup Subcommittee

The Setup and Cleanup subcommittee is in charge of setting up chairs, tables, and other items for the reunion. If items like barbecue grills, picnic tables, grand pianos, large water fountains or giant plastic palm trees are needed, they are responsible for obtaining them as well, no matter what the cost. They also get to (note that they don't *have* to, they *get* to) hang up any decorations or banners.

At the end of the reunion, this committee is responsible for taking down the chairs and tables that they so painstakingly set up for the Big Important Committee. They also pick up the general area. The committee doesn't have to do all the work themselves, they can ask family members to help out as well. Sorry to disappoint you.

## **Family Reunion Activities** <http://www.family-reunion.com>

When deciding on the activities for the family reunion, remember that the main reason for a reunion is to spend time with as many family members as is humanly possible, both mentally and physically. Plan activities that achieve this goal by having family members do things together, but make sure you don't plan so many activities that nobody gets a chance to just sit around on their duffs and visit for a while. And finally, try to select activities where a large number of people can participate at the same time so that you can avoid splintering out into small groups of close-knit friends. You want activities where people will need to talk to each other. Here are just a few activity ideas.

### **Get Acquainted Activities (Icebreakers)**

There are a number of activities which are specifically designed to help people get acquainted with each other. [Here are just a few of Mister Spiffy's favorite icebreakers.](#)

### **Games**

The most common family reunion activities are, of course, Mister Spiffy's favorite – [the games](#). There is a huge variety of games, from sports (like softball and volleyball), to "kids" games (which are especially fun if the adults join in), to board games. [Here are ideas for some games you can use.](#)

### **Storytelling**

Sit around in a group and tell stories (preferably embarrassing) about each other. The best story wins! Try to aim for funny and embarrassing (therefore funny) areas. Kids always love to hear grandpa and grandma tell stories about their parents (you know why kids and grandparents get along so well... they have a common enemy). And don't forget to ask the kids to tell stories – they're the best way to get the good stories about their parents. Mister Spiffy warns that you may need to act quick to stop them from telling *some* stories.

### **Keeping the Kiddies Busy**

Kiddie pools, coloring books, and sidewalk chalk are good ways to keep those kids busy when the "grewed-ups" want to sit around and talk. Keep plenty of crayons handy to prevent squabbling, and make sure it's a hot day so kids won't protest the cold hose water in the pool. And make sure they only use the sidewalk chalk in places the rain can reach (if they color on the floor of the garage, it's *never* going to go away).

### **Craft Table**

Provide the supplies and let the kids creativity keep them busy. Set up a table outside and cover it with butcher paper. Then set out construction paper, scissors (round tip), glue, water soluble paint and paint brushes, markers, and other arts and crafts supplies. You can even put out some newspapers and paper mache (remember that water and flour paste)? Mister Spiffy says you can either assign specific activities, or just let the kids do whatever they want with what's available. [Here's a place to purchase inexpensive craft supplies of all kinds and themes.](#)

### **Family Memorabilia**

Create an attractive display of old photographs and family paraphernalia. Ask everyone to bring something to display. Set aside a table for "missing persons" – pictures of ancestors whom you can't identify. Maybe someone else will recognize them. Mister Spiffy recalls a reunion where just that happened. You might get lucky.

### **Group Photos**

A family reunion is the perfect place to use that camera that Mister Spiffy is always toting around, just out of sight. Where else could you possibly get a photograph of four or five generations of a family all together at one time? Other groups that Mister Spiffy likes to photograph include: grandma and grandpa with their grown-up children, all the young cousins or all the older cousins. Make sure that after you get the pictures developed, you write down who each person in the photo is, so that twenty years from now



people aren't asking, "Who was that"? Mister Spiffy made that very mistake earlier, when he wasn't a family reunion expert. If you aren't a photography wizard, here's some [photo tips](#) to help you become one.

### Family Reunion Video

Creating a video of your family reunion can preserve memories that last a lifetime (unless TVs go obsolete sometime soon). There are many options, from recording family members in activities (everyone loves watching dad fall into the mud in slow motion) to interviewing family members and hearing stories all about their past. If you plan to do a video interview, make sure the family member is comfortable with that. Ask questions that trigger memories, and let the family member do most of the talking (reminiscing). If a question appears to cause anguish or distress to the family member, just change the subject to something else. This is supposed to be a fun activity. Here are a few [video tips](#).

### Family Map

A fun way to help the reunion guests see where they live in relation to everyone else is to create a family residence map. Honest, Mister Spiffy claims it's more fun than it sounds. Simply buy a large map of the United States (or whatever countries you and your family reside in). Make sure the map is fairly detailed, so that family members can easily find where they live on the map. Mount the map on cardboard, so that family members can write their names on small pieces of paper and pin them where they live. This doesn't work real well though, if everyone lives in the same town. Here's a place to get a [large US map](#).

### Family Talent Show

You would probably be surprised at the talents of your various family members. Put on a talent show at your reunion. Make sure you tell everyone about this in the invitation or information packet, in case they need to bring something with them (like their violin, juggling balls, or blowtorch). Print up certificates or awards for the various categories.

### Family Skits

Every family has some major league hams in it, just dying to show off their acting skills. Have various branches of the family put on short skits for the whole group. Have each group come up with their own skit, or assign a skit for them to perform.

### Family History Research

A family reunion is a good time to get the old family history updated. Ask family members to bring what information they have, so that it can be shared with each other. Create a large wall chart of the family and hang it on a wall. Ask the family to write on this chart with any information that might be missing, including missing people, as well as missing dates and places for each person. That way, everyone walks away a little bit more knowledgeable.

### Time Capsule

This is an activity which also needs to be announced prior to the reunion. Ask each family to contribute something which represents themselves or their family to be placed in a time capsule. Choose a date when the capsule should be opened and store it someplace with the instructions as to when it can be cracked open (ten, twenty, fifty years). Mister Spiffy wants to point out that even though it would be fun to open a 50 year old time capsule, those who add to the capsule often aren't around 50 years later.

### Family Reunion Quilt

When you mail out your invitations, include a request for each family to bring a quilt block that depicts something about their family, and shows their names and the date. Outline the measurements that the square needs to conform to, but don't be too prohibitive. Encourage everyone to use their imagination and be creative (Mister Spiffy is always creative). Turn over the block to the volunteer quilting people for the assembling. The finished quilt can be given to a special person in your family (like dear old Grandma Gertrude), displayed at future reunions, or raffled off to earn money for the next reunion.

Since people may forget their square, a nice variation is to have a pile of pre-cut cloth squares at the reunion, and have each family member decorate one at the reunion with their name and a picture using

puff paint. Then have someone connect them with strips of fabric (this can be done after the reunion). Finish the quilt with a back and batting and use ribbon to tie the quilt.

### **Puppet Shows**

These take some work if you want a specific show, but if you have some creative teenagers with nothing to do, they can improvise a puppet show for the little kiddies. And when the show isn't going, [hand puppets](#) are amazing tools for keeping those young-uns busy.

### **Pie-Eating Contest**

These are the best. Mister Spiffy mentions that he has mentioned pie-eating contests at every single planning meeting he has ever been to. They rarely use that suggestion, but it has been scientifically affirmed that pie-eating contests are extremely fun. There are two methods – the person who can eat the most pie in an allotted amount of time (usually five minutes or so), or the person who can eat the most period. The second is funnier to watch, because many get sick. Of course, for the best results, no hands or utensils are allowed.

### **White Elephant Exchange**

Have everyone bring a wrapped gift (a white elephant). Don't ask Mister Spiffy why they are called that. Make sure you set a price limit on the gift (under \$3 for example). Then during the reunion have someone blow a whistle which means everyone has to find someone to trade gifts with. Do this several times during the day, until everyone has a white elephant of totally unknown origins. Then they get to take it home. How fun, eh? If you want, you can limit this to the kids.

### **Guess Who?**

Ask everyone to bring a baby picture with their name on the back. Have everyone walk around a display table and try to guess who each picture is. "Why look, that's Grandma Gertrude! She hasn't changed a bit, has she? A bit more wrinkled, perhaps..."

### **Church Service**

If the majority of your family is of the same faith, attending a church or memorial service together can strengthen your family bonds. This can be especially memorable if you attend the same church you attended as a child.

### **Dinner and Dance**

A dinner and dance can be a fun activity, especially at reunions with mostly adults. Most adults would appreciate anything that would give them an excuse to get away from their kids and stay out late – it helps even more when that's fun.

## **And What If, God Forbid, It Rains?**

The Brolras are the masters of making rain into rainbows. Many had never met when they had their first reunion of six cousins who had grown to a family of 29 members. For that first reunion they were trapped by a three-day storm. Their plans for fair weather had included boating and golf but instead group activities were moved to a large suite.

Karen Robertson, Wildomar, California, took charge and improvised the first Indoor Brolra Olympics. Everyone old enough to walk was included. There were individual points and team points and to keep score large butcher paper sheets were hung on the wall.

Robertson's contests included humming, apple peeling, peanut pushing, weight guessing, egg carrying, bubble gum blowing, musical chairs and measuring team members in a contest of "how long are we?" They also made toilet paper mummies of some members, played board games, had a sing-along, talent show and, of course, an elaborate awards ceremony. Robertson also divided the room into activity areas so in one corner card games were going on, in another a TV, in a third chairs were arranged in conversation grouping and the fourth corner was for snacks.

Very philosophically, Robertson suggests that you not let the weather spoil your reunion. "Being trapped inside allows people to get better acquainted and can be great fun." And finally, she suggests getting a "meeting room situated over a carport (like ours was) or we probably would have been evicted!"

**Wrapping Things Up**  
<http://www.family-reunion.com>

Well, your reunion is winding to a close. Wave the last guest out the door, then flop down on your bed and fall fast asleep. That's it...keep sleeping. Once you wake up, here's some things you can do to make your next reunion even better. While you can do any of these things after the reunion is over, some of them would work a little better if you do them near the end of the reunion (shortly before your family members head for home).

### Evaluation Form

Ask each family (or even each family member) to fill out an evaluation form to let the reunion committee know what they liked and didn't like about the reunion. Use this information to plan next year's reunion (or whenever the next one is going to be). Perhaps there were too few or too many activities. Maybe people wanted more time to sit on their duffs and visit. Whatever the results, this is Mister Spiffy's patented BEST WAY to make sure next year's reunion is a success. Don't know what to ask? [Here is a sample evaluation form](#) below.

### Family Reunion Evaluation Form

**Entering your name is optional if required to express your true feelings**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country \_\_\_\_\_ New address? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Website \_\_\_\_\_

### General feelings about this years reunion

Did you enjoy the reunion this year? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No \_\_\_Mixed feelings  
 Would you attend another reunion next year? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No \_\_\_Depends

### What did you like or dislike about this years reunion?

Did you like where the reunion was held? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No  
 Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How was the reunion length? \_\_\_Too long \_\_\_Too short \_\_\_Just right  
 How was the number of activities? \_\_\_Too many \_\_\_Too few \_\_\_Just the right amount  
 What was your favorite activity? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What was your **least** favorite activity? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did you like the food? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No \_\_\_Some of it \_\_\_Most of it  
 Which food would you **not** have again? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What one thing should we definitely do again next year? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

If you could change one thing about the reunion, what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have any suggestions for future reunions?**

How long should the reunion be? \_\_\_ 1 afternoon \_\_\_ weekend \_\_\_ long weekend

Location ideas \_\_\_\_\_

Best time of year \_\_\_\_\_

Food ideas \_\_\_\_\_

Activity ideas \_\_\_\_\_

Any additional ideas \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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