

## Rita Razumovskaya With Her Dog



This is a photo of me, Rita Razumovskaya and my dog Fenya. This picture was taken in Leningrad in the middle of the 1980s.

After 1989 the situation changed for the better. Democratization is good, it is right. I think that it won't be worse than it used to be. In Soviet times we lived in the atmosphere of lies and hypocrisy, we couldn't be sincere and honest with our pals, we were afraid of everything. I don't want those times to return and I hope it will never happen!

I continue to communicate with my sister Irina. She is retired already, but she still works for the First Medical Institute: constructs different equipment, for example she made a tool to measure the composition of blood. There are quite a few such tools, but her tool is cheaper and more exact. People buy it with pleasure, even though there is no industrial production.

We are dacha neighbors. My daughter built this dacha not far from Gatchina, in Siverskaya. She started it ten years ago. The cottage looks nice; we have two verandahs, a kitchen, and a couple of rooms. In the upper story we have a stove, which is a fireplace at the same time. I like the nature around, these are interesting historical places, and here many noble families lived. The air is very

clean, you can breathe it with pleasure, the river Orlinka is clean too and there are very many cranes in the neighborhood. We grow tomatoes, cucumbers and strawberries there. We plan to organize ecological tourist routes in this region, and I'm ready to provide excursions there, because I love those places.

Irina is very easy-going; it is easy to influence her. Her husband is an artist, and she is attached to him. They are very good hosts, they like guests, and they always have some company, even very ordinary ones, and some of their guests behave like they are homeless.