

Mira Tudor's Prize Certificate



This is my prize on parchment from the 6th grade. The kids broke it. My boy played with it, my grandson played with it, and they erased it. It wasn't the first prize - I think it was the second. But they had their way with it.

Me and my sister Julieta were the only Jewish girls in our high school. After my sister left, I was the only one. She got the school's first prize for eight years in a row. I only got the second or third prize in my class, never the first. I got the highest average at the admission exam, 9.66, and I graduated in the spring of 1940, with the highest average again, 8.80 - only a classmate of mine, Olguta Popescu, and I had it. [Ed. note: In the Romanian grades system, the maximum grade is 10, while the minimum grade for succeeding at an exam is 5.]

Then I went to the Jewish school in Bucharest, we all, from the family, came to Bucharest because of the Legionaries. There I studied for four years, from the age of 15 to the age of 18. I got a prize - this one that you can see, and I still have it. So I first studied for four years in Ramnicu Valcea, I graduated there, then I went to secondary school at the Jewish High School in Bucharest, between 1940 and 1944. Our graduation certificate was worthless, as the State didn't recognize it. But the high school was approved by the State, and you can imagine the kind of money contributed by the [Jewish] Community to the Legionary State for all those children. I was always a good student.

I finished high school and I passed the graduation exam [in 1944]. It was during the bombings. My results weren't too bright - my average was 7.76 or so. To be honest, I hadn't studied too hard, because I knew that certificate didn't mean much. But I thought I'd pass the exam anyway. Shortly after, the truce of 23rd August came, and Jews were once again admitted to public schools.