

Zalman Shevalovich



This is my father, Zalman Shevalovich. The picture was taken in Kaunas in the early 1930s.

My father was born in Kaunas in 1896. There was a tradition in the family of Grandfather Chaim to give children a Jewish education. My father went to cheder, then he finished a couple of grades of a Jewish school. Since his childhood he had been an apprentice of a tailor. I assume that Grandfather Chaim was also a tailor. My father was not just a tailor. He became a true designer. He was the best at making children's clothes. My parents got married in 1920. They didn't have a pre-arranged marriage, like most Jews at the time. They met in some company of friends and fell in love with each other. My parents were wed in accordance with all the Jewish traditions- under a chuppah. Their marriage certificate was issued by a rabbi. I was born on 23rd February 1924. I, the first-born, was named Frida. Two years later my mother gave birth to a girl, Paya. In 1932, when my sister and I had grown up a little bit, my mother was expecting another child. She and my father wanted a boy, but wonderful and beautiful twin-girls were born - Chaya and Iyegudis.

My father was a very tall and handsome man. He had a good sense of humor. Sometimes, he went for a walk downtown and people who knew me took him for my boyfriend, that's how young he looked.