

Tilda Galpert With Her Family



This is a picture of me and my family. From left to right sitting are I and my husband Ari Galpert. Our sons Yuri and Pyotr Galpert are standing. The photo was taken in Uzhgorod in 1967. Our son Pyotr was born in 1951. His Jewish name is Pinchas. He was named after my husband's paternal grandfather. Our second son Yuri was born in 1955. Both our sons were circumcised. It was a tribute of respect to our parents and members of the family that perished. We raised our sons like common Soviet children. They were Young Octobrists, pioneers and Komsomol members. They studied in a Russian school. We spoke Hungarian at home, but they have very poor Hungarian. However, they can speak it when necessary. They also studied English. Our family doesn't actually use Yiddish. Not at all! Our children knew about Jewish traditions. We always remembered about Jewish holidays. We didn't celebrate them, though. We told our children about these holidays. We showed them what games we played when we were children. I also cooked traditional Jewish food. My conscience is clear: I taught my sons what they had to know about Jewish traditions. And they will live their life to their liking? I'm not saying that we inspired them to religious thoughts, but we tried to teach them traditions. Most important is that they like it all. After finishing school Pyotr went to Leningrad to enter a college. Anti-Semitism was at its height and I didn't want it to have an impact on my son. Anti-Semitism in Russia wasn't as strong as in Ukraine. Pyotr finished school with a silver medal and was a winner of school Olympiads many times. He entered the Faculty of Physics and Engineering of Optic Mechanic College in Leningrad. He was very fond of reading books by Jewish writers. We collected works by Sholem Aleichem that he enjoyed reading very much. Pyotr is very knowledgeable. Upon graduation he received a mandatory job assignment to the instrument manufacture plant in Uzhhorod. In the late 1980s the plant was closed. Our son went to work with an Internet company. Pyotr married a colleague of his. She is an electronic engineer. They have no children. My son's friend emigrated to Germany and talked my son into moving there. Of course we wish our son was somewhere near, but he must live his own life. Pyotr and his wife live in Frankfurt am Main, our son studies at Siemens. After he finishes a training course the

company will employ him. Our younger son, Yuri, finished the Electrotechnical Faculty of Lvov Polytechnic College. He worked at the instrument manufacturing plant for some time. Now he works at Hesed. Yuri is married. He has a son named Fulop after my brother, born in 1976. Our sons have non-Jewish wives, but they have happy marriages and that's what matters for a mother.