

Ruth Greif And Gordonia Members



This is a photo of the Zionist organization Gordonia, taken here, in Brasov, in 1946/7. I don't remember if it was a special occasion, and I don't recall the rest of the people in this picture, it was a long time ago; I am the first from right. Right after the war, I was in two Zionist organizations, Gordonia and Hanoar [Hatzioni] I think. Every day, after school, we were there, playing ping-pong, or dancing traditional Jewish dances, like lulala. It's a dance very similar to the Romanian ring dance, the hora. It was danced in a large circle; you had to take two steps to the right, one to the left, and lift your foot. In the middle of the circle there was a boy who chose a girl from the dancers and danced with her in the middle, then the girl would be there alone and choose a boy, and so on. It was nice. We made friends, fell in love? we were young girls. I also participated in some classes held by a sheliach, about Jewish history, about religion, about making aliyah to Palestine because Israel didn't exist back then. There were Purim balls organized at the house of culture in Brasov by the CDE ['Comitetul Democrat al Evreilor', 'The Jewish Democratic Committee'] or by the Zionist organizations in Brasov, like Gordonia or Hanoar. All chairs were taken out of the ballroom, and the balls were held there. I participated in a Purim ball for the first time when I was 15, in 1947. They were rather elegant and usually for grown-ups. My mother had a dress made for me at the dressmaker's, made from gray checkered taffeta, which was very hard to find in those times. It had a large cleavage on the back. I remember that was the first time I wore it.