

Gyorgy's Friends In Kolozsvar



The man standing on the right side is Ferike Karp. His wife, Juci is the second woman on the left. The woman sitting on the right side is my wife. The other standing man on the photo is Imre Jozsa, a very good friend of ours. The first woman sitting on the left side is his wife. The photo was taken in Rozsa's flat, it still looks like this today: the sofa is still there, and the bookcase too. Ferike Karp was a lawyer and a leading figure in Zionism. Ferike and his wife read twenty-four hours a day, and were extremely educated people. I met them before the war but it was only after the war that we got very friendly . Both of them were in the so-called Switzerland group. A lawyer from Kolozsvar -- a very clever man, but a bit arrogant got acquainted with Eichmann, I do not know how, and he bribed him with a huge amount of jewels and gold to let some three hundred Jews go. Of these, one hundred and eighty from Kolozsvar were to be allowed to pass to Switzerland. The rest of the Jews were picked up in Pest. There was a big scandal about this. The one who organised it and dealt with Eichmann was playing with his life every moment. He was a Zionist leader and Ferike was a Zionist too at the Baricia, thus he and his wife got into this group. After the war they returned from Switzerland. He was a legal adviser at a company and his wife was a clerk in the Art Museum. Ten years ago they moved to Germany, to Frankfurt. Ferike is dead now but his wife is still alive. Imre Rozsa is secretary at the Jewish religious community in Kolozsvar at the moment. Originally he is from Nagyarad [in Romanian: Oradea], and he was the director of Plafar (the company dealing with the gathering of medical plants) in Transylvania. He became secretary just a few years ago. His wife is a Catholic, she worked somewhere at the Agricultural Academy and it was from there that she later retired. After the war seven Jewish families, we and six other couples, became very friendly. Every Saturday afternoon, without exception we got together. We gathered around 5 o'clock or half past 5 at the house of one of the seven couples in turn. We were together till 9-10 in the evening. We had conversations about current political affairs, world events, we did not play any society games. There was no such a thing as an aim in our meetings. Out of the seven couples only the wife of Rozsa was not a Jew. Over the years our group shrank, and at the moment there are just three of us left from the seven couples: Rozsa Imre, his wife and myself. Two families went to Israel.