

Mimi-Matilda Petkova's Family



This photo was taken in 1966 in the yard of the apartment block next to Arda Cinema in Vidin, where my parents lived at the place of my elder sister Liza Peneva, nee Pizanti. The occasion: at that time my father's sister came to visit us from Israel. Sitting from right to left are: Liza, my mother Sarah Pizanti, nee Lidgi, my father's sister - tanti [aunt] Sarah Bartish, my father Buko Pizanti and his son-in-law, Haim Alhalel, the husband of my sister Veneta. Standing from right to left are: Fredi, the elder son of my sister Liza, Sonya, the daughter of Veneta, Liza's son Valentin (I don't know who the girl next to him is), Veneta, I, my son Georgi and my husband Tsvetan Petkov. My sister Veneta was born on 6th August 1925. Veneta finished junior high school. She was a seamstress. She married Haim Alhalel. Veneta always had a very sick heart. I remember that I waited for a whole night and half a day for her daughter Sonya to be born. Then I took her from the maternity home and brought her home as if she were a child of mine. Veneta died in Sofia from cardiovascular insufficiency on 24th February 1993. Liza, my other sister, was born on 22nd January 1922. She finished her secondary education in Vidin high school. She had a college education and was a pharmacist. She married Tsvetan Penev. Liza has two sons, one of them is Fredi - named after my mother, and the other - Valentin. Liza died in 1995 after she had fallen down and broken her leg. Both my sisters spoke Ladino. Liza knew Italian. They also lived in Vidin. When Liza married, she went to live in Byala Slatina and then I also went there to study in the technical college. I lived at her place for a while. But when I married too, everyone came to Sofia: my parents, Liza, Tsvetan, Veneta and Haim.