

Rachel Randvee With Her Husband And Children



This photograph was taken in 1979 when we celebrated my husband Tarmo Randvee's 70th birthday. He was seriously ill by that time but he did not want to make us feel sad and tried to look brisk and cheerful. My husband was not religious so we never celebrated Christian holidays at home. My children always knew that their mother, grandfather, and aunt were Jews. They knew our holidays and our food because my sister Riva and I often cooked it. But their father was Estonian, their first language was Estonian, they went to Estonian school, and lived in the Estonian environment. That's why they never had second thoughts when they recorded their Estonian

nationality in their Soviet passports. This was the choice suggested to them by life. They do not feel Jewish. My daughter, Ene, graduated from the economics department of the Polytechnic Institute, then worked as a chief accountant for a large company for many years, and is now working as a manager at the same place. She is not married. My son, Riho, graduated from a construction college, worked for construction companies, and then set up a company of his own. He is married and has two daughters - his first wife's daughter, Merilin, and his second wife's daughter, Jaanika.