

Laszlo Spiegler And Friends



This is me and my future wife, Erzsebet Spiegler (nee Reich) with friends at a Purim party. I am third from left and my wife is standing on my right. I cannot remember who the others were, no names, nothing. The photo was taken in the cultural house in Ujpest where the Jewish youth used to gather to celebrate holidays. To be honest I cannot remember anything about this particular Purim celebration. When I was demobilized in 1938, I learned to dance and we used to go dancing. At that time there was a café right here at the corner, it was called Pannonia café, and there I met my wife. In my family we observed every Jewish holiday very strictly, the fasting, too. There used to be a synagogue in Bocskai Street - it was ruined during the war - and we used to go and pray there. And I also went to the Orthodox synagogue. I don't know how to pray very well, but my friends, the Lichtensteins, were Orthodox too, they lived here in the neighboring house. We had such a seder that it's hard to describe. My father lit the chanukkiyah. We had a huge one, which we put in the window. At that time we used to live a proper Jewish life. I used to light it for a while as well, but now I don't do so anymore. We celebrated Purim as well. As for the sukkah, we didn't have one; the Neologs usually didn't observe Sukkot.