

Irina Golbreich With Her Husband Aron Golbreich And Son Alexandr



This is my family: me, my husband and our son Alexandr. We were photographed at home in Riga in 1992.

During perestroika the Jewish life in Latvia began to revive. In 1988 the Jewish cultural society was officially registered. In recent years it has significantly grown and strengthened. Jews finally felt themselves Jewish. My husband Aron returned to Jewish life. He read many books about the history of the Jewish people and their religion. Aron knew Hebrew in his childhood. He restored his knowledge to read the Torah and prayers. Aron went to the synagogue on Sabbath, and on Jewish holidays he and I went to the synagogue together. We observed Jewish traditions at home. On Friday evening I lit candles and prayed over them. On Saturday my husband went to the synagogue. I stayed at home, but I didn't work. I left whatever chores I had for Sunday. On Saturday my husband and I read aloud and visited our friends or went for a walk. We celebrated Pesach, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Chanukkah and Sukkoth, the biggest Jewish holidays, at home. We just couldn't follow all traditions strictly, but we did our best.

My husband died in 2004. His funeral was a traditional Jewish one. This was my husband's wish, and I followed it.