Iosif Gotlib With His Sister Haya Strikovskaya

This is me with my sister Haya Strikovskaya in the central street of Uzhhorod. My sister came on a visit from Israel. This photo was taken in Uzhhorod in 1982. She took another photo like this to Israel.

My parents and siblings emigrated to Israel in late 1945, then I was at the war. From 1946 I've tried to find my family. I sent requests to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and tried to search them through the Red Cross. They replied that they had no information about them. Later I gave up those efforts: for a citizen of the USSR it was dangerous to have relatives abroad. Besides, I was a Party member. They found me after we moved to Uzhhorod in the late 1970s. I received a letter from my younger sister Haya. She wrote that she wanted to come to the USSR to see me, but they didn't issue her an entry visa. She went to Hungary. It was easier for residents of Subcarpathia to obtain a Hungarian visa compared to the rest of the USSR and I went to Budapest to meet with my sister. Of course, we were so happy to see each other. We didn't even hope that we would meet again. My sister told me about my dear ones.

Haya married a Jewish man from the USSR in Israel. Her family name is Strikovskaya. She finished an accounting school in Israel and worked as an accountant till she retired. Haya and her husband have two daughters: Tsviya and Esta. They are married to Jewish men and live in Haifa. I don't remember their marital surnames.

In USSR was strong iron curtain, separating the USSR from the rest of the world. We couldn't even imagine traveling abroad on a visit. Later, in 1982 my sister could come to Uzhhorod and we met again.