

## Maria Koblik-Zeltser With Her Family



From left to right sitting: my mother Soibel Kozhushnyan, my father Yankel Kozhushnyan and mother-in-law Esther Koblik-Zeltser. Standing from left to right: I, my husband Froim Koblik-Zeltser and his brothers Zeilik, Gersh and Yankel. This picture was taken in Kishinev in 1948.

In December 1944 our family returned to Bessarabia from evacuation. In the summer of 1949 I was at home on vacation. The lad who was with us, when Mama and I were going to Rezina from Orhei for lyceum holidays, was called Froike in his adolescence. Now he was a handsome young man. Froim liked me very much and called on us rather often. His father, Meyer Berko, had died before the war. His mother Esther and his younger brothers were evacuated. Froim went to the lines in 1941. He met his brother Gersh in the vicinity of Stalingrad. They were even in one squad. Froim went through the entire war. He was in Prague, Budapest and Bucharest. He was in Romania, when the victory was declared.

When the war was over, Froim remained in the army for another year and was demobilized in 1946. His brother decided to stay in the army. Froim entered the communications institute in Odessa. He had studied for a year or two and got in a car crash. He was afflicted with severe headaches, caused by brain concussion. It was hard for Froim to continue with his studies and he decided to come back to Moldova. He was dying to come back to Moldova when we were seeing each other. I had other pals and admirers, but Froim didn't leave me in peace. He was constantly calling, sending me post-cards. He used to come to see me during weekends. Finally he was transferred to the Physics and Mathematics department of the Kishinev Teachers' Training Institute. In 1949 Froim proposed to me. My parents lived in Kishinev at that time. Father bought a small apartment in the semi-basement premises. We had a festive dinner on the day of our wedding in my parents' apartment and on the second day we continued celebrations in the house of my mother-in-law. My husband's brothers, including Gersh, attended our wedding party.