

Arditi On Vacation



This photograph was taken with my wife at a dam in the area where my daughter lives. My wife and I had two daughters together. Fortune Tuna was born in Istanbul in 1955. She studied architecture. Some of my old classmates became her university professors. But, Tuna never used this to her advantage. One of her professors even got suspicious once, when he heard the last name Arditi, and asked her "Are you in any way related to Albert Arditi?" She responded "He is actually my father." Her professor then said "Alright then. Take this project back to your father, and ask him to help you on it." He rejected her project submission. When I completed my work on the Hirfanli Dam, my wife and I were asked to relocate to the United States so that I could work on the construction of a dam there. We thought of our family and children... We did not want our children to grow up in a foreign culture, so we decided not to leave. However, later when Tuna got engaged to Viktor Filiba, she and Viktor decided to relocate to the United States, and did not even ask for our permission. They just let us know that they had made a decision. We had no choice but to go along with it. They moved to San Diego, and Tuna began working as a volunteer there for the Jewish Community. Tuna changed her name to Mazal in San Diego [Fortune and Mazal carry the same meaning. Tuna is short for Fortune in the Turkish language]. Tuna gave birth to two daughters named Teri Ester and Michelle Nora [Giving a middle name to children is a tradition among the Jewish families of America. One of these names almost always is of Judaic origin]. She still works as a volunteer at a synagogue. She gives several speeches in an effort to support child education. Among some of her interesting work, she conducted research regarding the Jewish Community of Turkey, and proposed that they were of a Spanish origin. I remember her making a huge pandispanya [a type of cake], and handing it out to children there. She also has a box collection; she makes colored boxes that symbolize each Jewish holiday (the symbol for each holiday was carved on each box), and sells these at the synagogue. These boxes are made of a variety of materials such as porcelain, cardboard and ceramic. The dam in this picture is in Colorado and is the largest one of the United States. The characteristic there was a flagpole that attracted my attention..I recognized the flagpole. This is the identical flagpole that is in Anit Kabir. This flagpole was a gift from someone who changed his citizenship from Turkish to American.