

## Berta And Haim Pando



My husband, Haim Pando, and I a year after our wedding. The photo was taken in a studio in Plovdiv in 1955. There is neither a stamp of a photo studio, nor any other inscription on the back of the photo.

A relative who was married in Plovdiv had come to Yambol. She saw me in the bathroom and liked the way I look very much. She told tanti Roza: 'I like this girl, she has to live in Plovdiv.' And after that he [her future husband Haim] visited tanti Roza, I was invited and that's how we met. And our boy swallowed the bait at once. It was quite a courtship. We were walking in the garden and he, in order to impress me, used to throw his raincoat on the trees. We were dating for about a month. We didn't get engaged before the wedding, only a sort of agreement, and we got married in 1954 in Yambol. We signed the register but the synagogue was already closed. Afterwards we came to Plovdiv. He used to live with his father in rented rooms. His mother had died a few months before the wedding. They had sold all their belongings. We were living on 7 'Nikolaev' Street. There were three rooms and a kitchenette. In one of the rooms there lived another woman – a widow. We used the other two rooms – my father-in-law in one room, we – in the other one. My father-in-law died three years after we got married.

When I came to Plovdiv in 1955 the Shalom was functioning until 1960. We were meeting there often and had great time. Bitoush Behar's father – Dzhoudi – was the funniest person in the Bet Am. We were dancing a lot – gallop, polka. And usually Dzhoudi was leading the dance and showed us the steps and the figures we had to do. He was such a great guy! When we knew that Dzhoudi was going to be there we realized the party would be great...

I started work in 'Peter Chengelov' Shoe Factory in 1958 and I worked there till my retirement. I became a member of the Bulgarian Communist Party in 1961. We didn't have children for nine years.