

## Heda Ambrova In Her Friends' Yard



This photo was taken in Piestany in our friends' yard, probably in 1924. Upper row from left: Pavel Ringwald, Ladislav and Michal (Miki). Standing in the bottom row am I (Heda Ambrova), my cousin Karol Kürti and my sister Magda Erdelyiova.

Jewish social life in the town took place only via the Maccabi. We didn't have a gym, so my mother and her friends signed an agreement with the workers' gymnastics club. They had a hall that also had a stage for theater performances. The club let us use the hall, and Maccabi purchased equipment – parallel bars, uneven bars, a mat, a pommel horse and a sawhorse. We then exercised there twice a week. Our instructors were qualified. I know that one of them had come all the way from Ostrava. His name was Müller. He found a job here, and then began instructing. He even taught preschoolers. He also taught two young women, very talented ones, from Trnava. Towards the end, a student from the Faculty of Philosophy who was taking physical fitness, English and German also exercised there. Each year a so-called Academy was held, where a gymnastics program was put on, and later also musical numbers. It was very popular amongst the non-Jewish population as well. The gymnastics numbers were so good that Sokol came to see my mother to see whether she wouldn't take on some group of Sokol children.