

## Bonds Lottery Win Of Peter Reisz's Aunt, Ilona Breiner



This is my maternal aunt, Ilona Breiner, my grandmother, Regina Breiner, and me, in a photo taken in Budapest in the 1950s. Ilona is showing Grandma that she won a prize in the bonds lottery. She won 100,000 forints -- this was a lot of money at the time -- and I remember that she gave 15,000 forints to the children of Korea and distributed the rest among the family. We also got some of the money, and bought some furniture with it. My maternal grandfather had a sister named Julia who never married, and who lived alone in her flat. When she grew elderly and ill, my Aunt Ilona moved in with her. When Julia died, my Aunt Ilona moved back in with her mother, Grandma, and we got Julia's flat. Before the war, Ilona worked as a seamstress in the Goldberger Textile Factory, and after the war she became an administrator in the state-owned Company for River Control. She had no family because her fiancé died in WWII.