

Matilda Hrabovecka And School Mates



This is me and my school mates on a class portrait of the Neolog school in Presov. The photo was taken in the academic year of 1932/33. The Presov Neolog school was mainly attended by students from more well-to-do families, thus I experienced the meaning of social differences in my early years, which motivated me to join the Hashomer Hatzair and later the Communist Youth Organization. Hashomer Hatzair was very important to everyone in our group of youngsters. My youngest sister Alzbeta would go there with me, and the Kamenski brothers, Pali and Lori, also came. Lori was really smart and quite talented in school. He didn't survive the camps. Except for Rosenberg Imrich, who was in Theresienstadt during World War II, all the others from our Hashomer Hatzair group were killed during the Holocaust. I really loved going to school, mainly because we had wonderful teachers. The headmaster's name was Svarc; we all loved him and referred to him as 'Svarc bacsi' [Uncle Svarc]. Then there was Mr. Reich, who was teaching religion and Hebrew and then our class-teacher Mrs. Kleinova. She was the mother of Professor Fischer, who taught in the physics department. It's a sad thing to mention that from all the people I went to school with, only about eleven survived. The others were killed during the Holocaust.