

Hana Muchnik And Her Family



This is our family photograph, taken in Bendery in 1960 on the occasion of my sister's and her husband's arrival. I, Hana Muchnik, am on the right, my husband, Isaac Fishman, is behind me, my sister Elka Vinograd, nee Muchnik, is beside me, her husband, Mendel Vinograd, is behind her, my daughter Goldina is in front.

In early 1953, I moved to work in Bendery. I was already 30 years old. I knew I had to somehow take care of my personal life. Somebody introduced me to a single Jewish man in Bendery. His name was Isaac Fishman, he was five years younger than me. He was born in Bendery in 1928. I didn't feel any love toward Isaac, but I was much attracted by his having a big family. I was missing a big Jewish home and the way of life I was used to since my childhood. I gave my consent to marry him. So it happened that I never knew love for a man in my whole life. In 1955 Isaac and I registered our marriage, and there was a small wedding dinner.

In 1957 my dearest little daughter was born. I named her Goldina after my mother. She was a sweet and lovely girl. She studied well at school and had the dream to study in a college. We led a modest life. Financial employees had low salaries. However, we had everything we needed. I could even afford to take my daughter to the seashore every summer. Perhaps, this wasn't good for her. Goldina suddenly fell seriously ill at the age of 17: she happened to have lupus, a rare disease of the immune system. The doctors didn't know the cause of the disease, but they said it might have been radiation at the sea. My dear little daughter died in 1974, and my life lost any sense whatsoever. I didn't live my life: I existed. Isaac was also much affected by our daughter's death. Being a man, he couldn't show his tears and suffering, but it was very hard on him.

My sister and her husband Mendel lived in Kishinev. Mendel was very ill. He couldn't work after he returned from jail. He received a miserable pension. They received a small two-bedroom apartment. They were very close. They went for walks and talked a lot as if to compensate for the years they had spent apart.