

Polina Leibovich And Her Husband Boris Leibovich



This is me with my husband Boris Leibovich. This photo was taken in Kishinev in 1947. We were photographed after the wedding.

After completing my first year at university I went to study in a Moldovan evening school. I also went to work. I got a job as an assistant accountant at the buttry. There I met my future husband, Boris Leibovich. He was chief of the raw material department at the buttry. Boris was nine years older than me. He was a nice looking man with somewhat old-fashioned manners that were unusual for me.

When Boris proposed to me, I talked to Bertha Yakovlevna, the aunt of my friend, Zina Veisman. Zina lived with her aunt. Bertha Yakovlevna treated me like her own daughter and even loved me more than Zina. I always asked for her advice. I liked visiting them. They were poor, but Bertha managed to make their home very cozy. She always put starched embroidered place napkins on the table and managed to set the table with such chic that even miserable food looked appetizing and it reminded me of my home and my mother. So, I went to ask for her opinion. Boris was nine years older than me, and I wasn't sure if I loved him. On the other hand, I was alone, had no home, and he was a decent man and he loved me. Bertha told me at once, 'Polina, he will make a wonderful husband; he is so tender with you. You are sure to love him.' She told me a lot and I sort of received a motherly blessing from her.

We got married in 1947. We invited 40 guests to the wedding. We were poor and couldn't afford a big dinner. Therefore, we only served desserts. My husband's cousin sisters made a 'napoleon' cake, strudels with apples and cookies. I didn't even have a white gown. Boris' younger sister, Mara, gave me her white dress for the wedding. My mother-in-law made me a short veil from old laces. We had a Jewish wedding. Boris and I fasted on this day according to the rule. The ceremony was conducted by Epelbaum, a former assistant of Rabbi Cirelson, a well-known and respected man in Kishinev. Cirelson perished on the first days of the war, when a bomb hit his residence.

There was a chuppah in Boris parents' apartment. I remember us walking inside the chuppah. Then we sipped from a wine glass and broke it. Epelbaum issued a ketubbah, marriage contract, and two witnesses signed it. I kept it for a long time, but now I can't remember where I put it. Then we were invited to dinner. My husband and I had strong chicken broth. The rest of the guests had wine and desserts. There wasn't much joy. The guests were my husband's age and older, most of them being his colleagues, they didn't feel like entertaining. They danced a little. My husband's relatives did their best, but I cried a lot thinking about my parents and Shymy, as there were no guests from my side at the wedding. This was a sad day for me. I don't think I danced.