

Rosa Linger



This is I with my military awards. The picture was taken for the board of honor at the factory of consumer services where I was working as deputy director. The picture was made in Riga in 1989.

I worked in the system of consumer services, which was developing at that time. I started out from the clerk in the dry cleaners. I was a bona-fide employee, having good organizational skills. When the factory of consumer services spanned out its activity, the director gave me a task to organize all kinds of services: repair and remodeling of clothes, watch mending, laundry etc. I set up a lot of directions and became deputy director of the factory. I did well in anything I undertook. I had a task job. I coped with all tasks at work. My assistant and I did the work of the whole team. That is why, when I retired, my pension was very high.

In 1982 my husband died. My sons with their family left for Israel in the 1990s. I was in Israel for two times. Recently I had an infarction and now I would not be able to travel. Many people ask me why I am not going to my sons as here I do not have any kin, just the graves of the relatives. First of all, I would not be able to live there because of the climate, but it is not the most important reason. Of course, I would be able to be materially independent from children and live on a pension granted by the state. For many years I learnt here how to get by with things I have. It would be harder for me morally. I do not know Ivrit, and would not be able to learn it, as I am not young. I am not very outgoing and I do not think I would have new friends in Israel. I would pine in solitude and start calling one of my sons. I do not want to call on the wrong moment- distract that from work, or interfere with their pastime. Then I would be rebuking myself for disturbing one son or another. I do not want to be a burden or my sons. I do not want to make them take care of me. That is why I

decided to spend the rest of my days here.

There is a small park by my house and I come there for 2-3 hours. Every evening I thank God for the given day. I live by myself and sometimes I feel very sad, but I try to get over such mood, I tell myself that it is God's will and I have to take my life as it is. On Friday night I light candles. I used to go to the synagogue oftener. Now I physically can't as synagogue is pretty far away from my house, and I cannot take transport. On holidays I walk there of course. I rarely go there on Sabbath. I know all the prayers, not only the texts, but the melodies as father always rehearsed at home, when he was chazzan in the synagogue.

I took part in Latvian Society of Jewish culture as soon as it was founded. Before I got ill, I helped organize the canteen for the destitute. It is still open. I worked as a volunteer in all Jewish organizations, which were being founded at that time. I took an active part in our Jewish choir. We give concerts and the audience is not indifferent to us.

I am also a member of the union of the veterans of war. I got military awards for my front service, namely "Medal for Valor", "Medal for Military Merits" and " Medal for Victory in Great Patriotic War". I do not have the orders as I did not take part in the battles. Later on I was given Great Patriotic War Order of the 2nd Class, and other awards for memorable dates in war and jubilee dates of the Soviet army. Front-line medals are the most precious for me. I keep them. When I die, they would be taken to the dump. There is nobody I could give them.