

Oto Konstein's Friends From Youth



This photo was taken in 1930s, and it shows my two friends, Eva Schwartz and Nikola Grunwald.

They were very good friends, and even though it looks on this photo as if they were a couple, they were only very good friends. They were also neighbors, they lived in the same apartment building.

Nikola was the son of the Rabbi dr. Ilija Grunwald, and Eva was the daughter of the president of the Jewish Community Cakovec, dr. Schwartz.

I was also very friendly with the two of them. I don't know where this picture was taken, probably in front of their house, or just in the street of Cakovec. He is wearing a hat, very elegant, as a real son of Rabbi. Eva is also wearing a hat, but it is a school hat.

The Jewish community in Cakovec was very large in terms of both members and space; I remember well the spacious rooms in the community.

All together, there was a complex of buildings: in one building, the rabbi lived with his family, and the president of the Jewish Community lived with his family, one apartment above the other; to the right.

There was a Community building with large rooms and a hall where various manifestations took place, such as celebrations of holidays and performances for holidays; and behind these two buildings, there was a large courtyard with the synagogue in the middle of the courtyard.

The synagogue, or the temple as we used to call it, was large and beautiful, and always full for the Jews attended the services on a regular basis. Our rabbi was dr. Ilija Grunwald.

Apart from him, there was also a cantor - therefore, two professionals working in one Jewish community. One rabbi, one cantor, one synagogue, and a large Jewish Community building.

The president of the Jewish Community was dr. Schwarz. He was the father of Eva Schwarz, who today lives in Budapest. In addition, there was a kosher butcher who slaughtered animals, but my family did not consume the meat from him.

I suppose that the rabbi, the cantor and only a few other families in Cakovec were kosher and consumed kosher meat. There was no mikveh in Cakovec.