

Sonya Lazarova With Her Family On A Walk After The May Day Parade



In this photo from left to right are: my sister Zivi, pregnant with Ruth, her son Sabitay, my son Orlin, who's in the pram, and is wearing a dress, because he used to wet himself a lot and in this way it was easier for me to change his clothes, me and my husband Yoncho Lazarov. We are in front of the Alexander Nevski Cathedral. The picture was taken in Sofia in 1948-1949. I remember we were having a walk after the 1st-May parade. We lived very close to the place, on Moskovska Street. We got married in April 1948. My parents, i.e. my mother and my sisters were a little prejudiced against my marriage, because Yoncho was of Bulgarian origin and was a military man, which meant a lot of traveling. None of my or his relatives was present at our wedding, which took place in the Civic Council. We only took our passports and we went there. Some military men, colleagues of my husband, were witnesses to our wedding. After the ceremony they invited us to lunch. Afterward all of us lived in our apartment on Moskovska Street. My mother quickly 'fell in love' with her new son-in-law. They got along very well. Later she raised both my children. When we were in Sofia she used to live with us. And when we were on a trip to the countryside, as Yoncho often traveled, she stayed at my sisters' and brother's. When we lived on Moskovska Street we were given one more room, something like a living room with a sliding glass door. In 1948 our first child, Orlin, was born. We still lived on Moskovska, but we filed an application for another home. Then we were given an apartment on Vrabcha Street. Then we had to leave for Razgrad because of Yoncho's job, where our second child, Vanya, was born in 1952. After that we went to Kabiyyuka: an elite horse breeding company in Shumen. Yoncho was invited as a head doctor there. There he learned that there was a competition for a scientific degree at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. He enrolled in it and passed the test, so we came back to Sofia again. He worked there until his retirement and now he's a Professor in Physiology. After I graduated from the medical vocational school I worked as a nurse in the Fourth City Surgery. I started there and retired there. In 1954 I became a member of the Bulgarian Communist Party. There was a call at that time for the

former UYW members to become BCP members. I used to be a BCP functionary and a deputy BCP secretary at the hospital. I was also the chairwoman of the Democratic Youth Committee. I have never had any problems because of my Jewish origin at my workplace. On the contrary, I was much respected for it.