

# **A Patch From Pavel Sendrei's Makabiada Uniform**



My patch from the uniform which I wore at the Makabiada in Zilina in 1938. As a young boy I was a member of the Makabi where we practiced gymnastics and athletics and which was part of the Zionist society Makabi Hazair. The members of this organization went on picnics, and camping trips where we were taught dances, songs, Hebrew language and history. In 1937 I participated in the Makabiada in Zilina and every year I went to the Makabi Hazair camp. After 1940 this was interrupted because of the German occupation of Slovakia. I socialized exclusively with Jewish children. In my class in school there were about 40 children, 11 of which were Jews. I was lucky that there were no arguments in my class between the Jewish pupils and the others. We spent seven years together and were good friends all that time. My best friend, Kornil Verthajn, and I sat on the same bench. We went together to the Makabi Hazair. Kornil was deported together with his parents and returned, but his parents did not survive the Holocaust. After the war I helped him make aliyah from Czechoslovakia through Yugoslavia.