

Gherda Kagan With Her Daughter Natalia Grinblat At The Parade On October Revolution Day



This is me, Gherda Kagan (the second from the right), with my daughter Natalia Grinblat (with balloons) at the parade on October revolution Day. This photo was made in Odessa in 1968. I and my daughter joined the group of my husband's colleagues then. Our family had a good life in the 1960s - 1970s. My husband Yevgeniy Grinblat was chief engineer of a plant and earned well. I also had a high salary. I often went on business trips all over the country. I met people in planes, at railway stations and in hotels. I was sociable and liked talking with people. I was a devoted Soviet person for a long time. Although I saw mismanagement and bureaucracy in our tinned food industry, I thought they were our local drawbacks related to Odessa area. I read Soviet newspapers and believed that everything was well in the soviet country. My daughter always laughed at me calling me an idealist. My husband was critical about the soviet reality. He went crazy seeing Brezhnev on TV. I asked my husband to not criticize the soviet regime in a loud voice for the fear that our neighbors could hear him. I've never been ashamed of my nationality, but sometimes I had to keep silent about it. Since I have Slavic appearance, they often told me anti-Semitic stories in lines or elsewhere. I listened quietly and then mentioned that I was also a Jew and watched their reaction. I've always identified myself as a Jew, but we never thought about any Jewish traditions in our house, particularly religious, and never celebrated Jewish holidays.