

Larisa Radomyselskaya With Her Grandson Igor Radomyselski



This is me, Larisa Radomyselskaya, during a stroll with my grandson Igor Radomyselski in the yard of our house. The photo was taken in Uzhhorod, Ukraine, in 2003.

I worked as an engineer in a construction trust 20 years. In 1974 I got an offer to go to work at the Uzhhorodpribor plant. I got a position of acting chief of the department of capital construction. After few years of work I asked them to appoint me chief of this department, but director called me to his office and said directly: 'You cannot be chief. Firstly, because you are a woman and secondly, because you are a Jew'. It was stressful for me. This was the first time I faced anti-Semitism. I had never faced any anti-Semitism before. It became difficult for me to come to work, but I understood that I wouldn't find another job. I worked there until I reached the age of retirement and then I continued to work as an engineer. I left work in 1992.

In 1988 my grandson Igor was born. Igor has become a big joy for us. He is a nice boy. He is a very talented boy. He studies well in a special school with advanced learning of English. Igor finished a music school in playing the flute. My grandson has played 3 years in the ensemble of old music in Hesed and we are very happy about it. He reads a lot and is fond of computer. He has Jewish friends for the most part. Igor is eager to go to Israel and we are very concerned about his future.

After Ukraine became independent after the breakdown of the USSR, I saw that it had an effect on the Jewish life. We became closer to it. At first, I began to work at the synagogue helping to distribute meals to old people. In 1999, when Hesed opened in Uzhhorod, my daughter and I went to work there. My grandson Igor attends a Sunday school in Hesed. They study Jewish traditions, history and religion, Ivrit and Yiddish. In summer Igor goes to Jewish summer camps. He likes it there very much. My grandson identifies himself as a Jew and he speaks proudly about it. Hesed

provides assistance to us: food packages and meals. We got to observe all Jewish holidays in Hesed and often attend lectures and concerts. Of course, our biggest pleasure is to attend the concerts of the orchestra where my grandson plays. I can socialize with friends in Hesed. Hesed has given me and my family a possibility to become Jews and return to our roots. This is very important for me now.