

## Albert, His Brother And Friends



I am 19 years old in this photograph. It was taken in 1955. From the left, my older brother Sabetay Niso Özlevi, Natan Beskenazi, myself, Aron Amariyo and a friend named Albert from Kirklareli. That day the friend we called Albert had come from Kirklareli, he is distantly related to us. From my mother's side, our mothers are first cousins. We took this picture to commemorate that day. We did not do much on Sundays until I was 15. That's because we worked on Sundays too, we made paper bags. We started going out at his age, our paper bag business was finished by then. We would go to the nightingale park on Sunday mornings, and Tugay park to dance with girls on Saturday evenings. This happens in summer of course. In winters we would read newspapers, magazines or periodicals, or play poker or backgammon at the city club. In the old times there were 2 big clubs, Meriçspor and Edirnespor and other small clubs. We would go to a game every Sunday, to watch it. We supported Meriçspor because our Turkish friends played in it. There was rivalry between Meriçspor and Edirnespor just like between Fenerbahçe and Galatasaray(the two major soccer teams of Turkey). We went to a game every Sunday, other than the game there was a park named Gazi parki, we would go there. In our youth we loved to dance. We had parties at homes. This type of lifestyle happened after I turned 15. We couldn't even buy a gramophone then, or it wasn't bought for us. We would sing the songs ourselves "here is a tango for you, this is my last memory for you" and so on and we danced. Later on we bought a gramophone that was part of a huge furniture. But it was difficult to transport to houses, from here to there, the furniture was very heavy. My older brother was good at solving these type of dilemmas. Whatever he did, he separated it from its furniture and it became easy to transport it from house to house. We had great times. We had 3-4 groups of friends then. First of all, I don't remember the names now, we were 3 girls, 6 boys. The girls first moved to Istanbul, then to Israel. Others replaced them, we formed a new circle of friends.