

Frida Zimanene During The First Post-Soviet Celebration Of Pesach In Independent Lithuania



This is the first post-Soviet celebration of Pesach in independent Lithuania in the organization which I belonged to. I am in a light dress, second to the left with the goblet in my hand, the employee of the community, Valya, is to the right in a colored dress. I can't remember her second name. She has passed away. The seder was organized by Rabbi Glinkiy in 1991 in Vilnius.

We never celebrated national holidays in our family, as there was no need in that. However, my children identify themselves as Lithuanians, being loyal to their motherland. It took me a long time to get over my husband's death. In 1987 I began working for the Lithuanian Culture Fund. It was the time when the movement for independence of Lithuania emerged, and the Culture Fund released the draft on development of the culture of minorities in Lithuania. I, being the only Jew in our organization, was given the task of dealing with Jewish culture. I witnessed the foundation of the Jewish community. I was responsible for the organization of the first Pesach celebration after so many years of the Soviet regime. It took place in the 1990s. I think of the Jewish community of Lithuania as my creation. I've worked part-time as an administrator for the publisher of the Jewish paper for quite a few years. I have a good pension. I go to work with the feeling of being needed. I get along with Paya and visit her in Israel.

I'm completely acclimatized to modern life. I often think, if God exists, he took my husband in time. It would have been hard for him to get over the breakup of the Soviet Union [1991], the collapse of the Communist ideology and his ideals. I think it is positive for Lithuania to be an independent country now. Now I can openly go to see my sister. I'm happy that my children and grandchildren have an opportunity to study overseas, travel and feel free.