

Leya Yatsovskaya



This is me. This picture was taken at my home in Vilnius in 2004.

My husband worked in the Presidium of the Supreme Council for about 20 years. Then he went to work for the Supreme Court of Lithuania. At that period he took a keen interest in Lithuanian and Jewish history. He defended his dissertation on history. He wrote five books on the history of Lithuania. When our republic gained independence, and the opportunity of revival of new Jewish culture, my husband was one of the first who took the initiative to start the Jewish community. He

was there when the United Jewish Community of Lithuania was founded. Unfortunately, he didn't have the chance to work for a long time. In 1994 Evsey died.

Since that time I have lived in the house with my daughter Alexandra and her children. My sons Adomas and Jakuba have their own apartments. My daughter and I are real friends. Neither of us interferes in somebody else's life. We have our own interests and respect each other. In spite of my elderly age, I feel myself as totally independent. It's my main trait. I have worked for the Jewish community as an accountant for quite a few years. I'm among the people who have the same values. I'm happy. There is an opportunity of national revival in the independent Lithuania, and I deem it to be the most important achievement. Now I mark Jewish holidays with pleasure and my children with their families come over to my place on Pesach, Chanukkah, and Rosh Hashanah. I fast on Yom Kippur, often cook Jewish dishes like my mother did, and teach my daughter and granddaughter how to cook. As Alexandra says, 'Better late, than never!'