

Herzel Karmel



This is a picture of my brother-in-law Herzel Karmel, who married my sister Jina. He was a wonderful person. He died in the 1980s. And this photo was taken in the 1980s in Israel.

I have been to Israel seven times. The first time was in 1982 when I went alone. My second visit took place in 1986. From 1989 on, I have traveled to Israel once every three years. I'm impressed that it becomes more and more beautiful there. I like the people, too. My brother-in-law is a Sabra. A wonderful person. Every morning he smiled at me, saying, 'Miluka kerez kadiyko? Uno Kadiyko?' [From Ladino: Milka, would you like a cup of coffee? A coffee?] And he prepared for me a special coffee from selected sorts. His name was Herzel Karmel. He was my sister Jina's husband. I married

before her, even though according to the tradition it was her turn to get married since she was elder than me. He was head of the municipality's transport department. He was our cousin; his and our fathers were brothers. However, as we know, marriages between Jewish cousins are allowed. As a matter of fact, his surname was Mashiakh. But the people in Israel made fun of this so much that he decided to officially change his surname to Karmel. ['Mashiach' means 'Messiah' in Hebrew.]