

## The Kohen Family



A family picture of the Kohen family. I, Margarita, my two sons Sami [Samuil] and Ouri [Solomon] and my husband Sharlo [Shemuel]. On the photo there is a stamp of Stamenov photo studio because the photo was taken there. He was the best photographer in Plovdiv at that time. The photo was taken in 1961. At that time I was a receptionist at hospital and Sami was a student at the Law Department in Sofia. There is no inscription on the back of the photo.

Until 1952 I was only a housewife. Afterwards I worked for a while as a librarian at 'Balkan' State Company and then, until 1965, as a receptionist in hospital. I have to tell you that in my last job as a receptionist I had a serious conflict with my only colleague who was a Jew. I couldn't get on with her and quit. At that time my younger son fell ill and I didn't want to work anymore. I retired with only 14 years work experience due to illness. My younger son Ouri has only primary education. He got meningitis which the doctors discovered at a late stage and it transformed into schizophrenia. We did everything possible to deal with the disease. We even sold part of the house – we were all the time spending money on doctors but it was irreversible. Now he is in the mental institution in the village of Petkovo.

We were raising our kids in a Jewish spirit although my husband was a communist and atheist. They are both circumcised. Sami was an excellent student at school. He had received excellent marks and certificates. Whenever I was at a parents' meeting the teacher didn't miss the opportunity to compliment me that I shouldn't go there at all. Outside school he was playing the piano and had a tutor in French. He even enrolled in the Musical School but he gave up and dropped out. He enrolled in an ordinary school. My husband, who was a very clever and practical man, used the holidays to teach him how to tune pianos so that he would have a vocation. My biggest desire was for him to study Medicine because that was my unfulfilled dream. (After the high school I wanted to go to Sofia to study for midwife but my mother didn't agree). But he chose his own path – he graduated from the Law Department in Sofia. As an award for his graduation I decided to sponsor his move to Israel. So in 1965 he went to his aunt in Israel and lived there for thirty years. In 1968 he got married there.