

My name is Faina Sore. My family and I came from Russia 8 1/2 years ago. My family consists of 2 daughters and a husband. My husband, Samuel is an Engineer, he works as a painter. My older daughter, Tatyana, is 26 years old. She is finishing College of Pharmacy at the U of A. My youngest daughter, Liza, is 12 years old. She is in the seventh grade at THA. She is also having her Batmitvah in June. Liza will be the first in our family ^{who have} ^{take confir} ^{mation.} I've worked at the JCC for 8 years as a teacher with infants.

~~For~~ In the beginning it was very difficult because I only knew a couple of English words, but the people at JCC helped me with everything. In Russia a Jew is not a religion, but a nationality. When a child was born, a birth certificate indicated his/her parents nationality. When a

child went to the first grade, the teachers had a book with the kids nationalities. It was very easy to find out who was a Jew right away. It was difficult for Jews to get into good colleges, and get good jobs.

It was difficult to observe Jewish holidays because there were no synagogues. Jews had gettogethers at peoples houses for prayers and holidays. (They were secret).

I remember when I was little my family celebrated the holidays at their friend's house because they could read Hebrew. We usually celebrated Hannukah and Passover by having a big dinner with a lot of Jewish food. We always had Latkas for Hannukah, and we had Matzah for Passover. Kids were not allowed outside with Matzah.

When I offered a piece of Matzah to my niebor she refused to take it

because she said that we used children's blood to make it.

My and my husband's parents knew all of the Jewish holidays because they lived in a small Jewish community, and studied at the Jewish Schools before WWII.

We were deprived of this opportunity. We were forbidden to practice Judaism. We were forced to forget that we were Jews. On the other hand we were always reminded of this.

When the economic situation got worse, Jews were to blame for that. (Eg.)

In 1952, there was fabricated a case against Jewish doctors who were accused of damaging the health of our leaders.

Now that I'm in America, I have an opportunity to practice Judaism, to know my Jewish roots. I'm happy to do this.

I wanted my children to be free to feel themselves Jewish, to live in

democracy. I want them to be able to make their own choices.

I came here almost 9 years ago. It's difficult for me to judge what's going on now. Many things have changed. In spite of that the Jewish question still exists.

Especially now, when the country is experiencing an economic and political crises, attacks against Jews have become more vicious. (bunker)

(moscow synagogue, cemeteries vandalism, nazi groups)

(KFB)

If my family and I would have stayed in Russia, ~~my~~ my older daughter, Tanya, wouldn't have gone to Pharmacy school, and my younger daughter Liza wouldn't have her Bat Mitzva or go to T.H.A. My family and I would have had no future.