

Ivan Barbul



Ivan Barbul was born in 1929 in Rezina, a Jewish town, by the name of Isaac Rybakov. Having four sisters and three brothers, Mr. Barbul recalls vividly the rich family life and Jewish traditions in his childhood. When the Great Patriotic War began in 1941, Mr. Barbul, along with his parents and three siblings evacuated and moved to Odessa, a city that was later in October occupied by the Romanian troops. Mr. Barbul is trembling while he recalls how he and his family was forced to walk to the Bogdanovka camp, where they suffered from the cold and hunger, and where “every day wagons hauled out hundreds of dead bodies.” Mr. Barbul was only twelve years old when he lost his parents and three siblings, but he managed to escape from death. He was adopted by a childless couple who gave him the name Ivan Barbul, and brought him up. At the time of the interview, Mr. Barbul lived in Kishinev, worked as a mathematician, had a wife and two sons, and considered moving to Israel where the rest of the family resides.