

MARINA REZNIKOV
RG-50.405.0043. (REC. 1991 Chicago)

Marina was born in Moscow in 1966. She lived in an apartment with her mother, a music teacher, her father, an engineer, and her younger brother. She discusses her extended family in detail. She had a close family and her grandmother spoke Yiddish.

After perestroika, Marina became interested in Jewish cultures. She says that the Moscow Jewish Culture Educational Society and the Moscow Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Israel opened her eyes to freedom. The former met in the home of Yuri Sokol. The apartment had many books and had about 1500 members by 1990. Both organizations arranged trips to Vyaliki near Moscow for the Jewish holidays.

Because Marina knew there were certain departments in Institutes that didn't accept Jews so she didn't even try. She graduated in 1988 and became a construction engineer. She was sent to work at a small company after graduation and recalls groups of workers being sent to work on collective farms during the summer. Marina at first went to America without her parents, but now her parents is trying to emigrate. She describes the process of leaving Russia which was lengthy. She had met her husband Sergey at a synagogue in Moscow and they were married in an Oak Park synagogue a few months after she arrived in Chicago. Sergey had already emigrated with his family.

Marina describes life in Chicago. She also discusses Chernobyl and her reaction to the news. Right now, she is taking a clerical course.