Georgios

After the 4-year civil war in Greece, your parents were forced to leave their homeland and, after a long wandering, their and your fate was bound up with Poland and the Tricity became your second home.

For you and the Greek community of the Tricity, the address at 39 Abrahama Street in Gdynia is a place of many memories, as the Greek Club where you used to meet was located here.

Stand facing the building. Take a look. The NEON Asian restaurant is located on the ground floor today. Turn your head slightly to the right. You will see the cafe KOFEINA, the Cafe Club DESDEMONA on the left and the exit of the Biedronka market.

In the 1970s until the end of the 1990s, there was a restaurant called DIETETYCZNA on the right and a bookshop on the left and the exit from the WARSZAWA cinema behind it.

The Greek Club fulfilled a variety of functions. By midday, it was a café where grown men met to discuss matters important to them over a cup of Greek coffee brewed in a traditional pot, cookies baked by their wives, "baklava" and "kurabiedes". Do you still remember their aroma? They sweetened your longing for your homeland.

At 39 Abrahama Street, you played chess with Polish friends. You also played tavli (a Greek game using dice and pawns). In the afternoons, the Greek language was taught in the room next door and in the evenings young people met with their Polish peers to learn Greek dance and Greek cultural traditions. This resulted in many Greek-Polish marriages.

On national holidays, you celebrated there, the younger children dressed in traditional folk costumes recited poems about the beautiful Hellas and its heroes, and the adults enjoyed wine and snacks previously prepared at home.

These moments allowed you to be transported for a moment into the Greek context, to forget the longing for your homeland and the separation from your loved ones. It helped the young people to remember the habits, customs and history of a homeland that you had not yet had the opportunity to visit.

The place still stirs up great emotions and memories for you today, just as it did for the young people back then. They are now already adults. You have decided to stay in Poland and to associate with it. And with the Tricity. And with those who come to visit their Polish friends.

39 Abrahama Street is the subject of many memories of those who were friends with you at that time - the Greeks in Gdynia.