

## **Our Homeland**

Nana Debishvili, a journalist and co-director at the "Violin Theater", the Georgian satirical musical theater in Ashdod, says: "From the moment I set my feet on the land of Israel, I became an Israeli. But the heart, you know, has two chambers, and the two chambers for me are Tbilisi and Ashdod. This is my home."

The JDOCU group embarked on a journey to the Georgian community in Israel, to listen and see the two chambers of the heart beat together. They were with the community in times of joy and sorrow, work and at home, in synagogues and at community events.

The vision that guides the JDOCU photographers is to use the camera as a tool for documenting the activities of Tikkun Olam ('repair the world') and make it part of Israeli culture. Group members sell their works, and all proceeds are donated to promote social justice projects in the documented community.

Eli Atias, a member of the group and curator of the exhibition says: "It is a great privilege to document a different community and culture, and process human substance into digital raw materials that contain our accumulated experiences. In this exhibition we show only a small part of the vibrant community life of the Georgian community in Israel, but I think that we managed to faithfully document the community which is so dear to our hearts".

Nana Debishvili concludes: "'Being an Israeli' means that the Jewish soul is yearning. We got it from our grandfathers and fathers, at home. Home is the real University of Life".