Bessarabia SIG Meeting

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7
9:45 AM - 11:00 AM

The meeting is open to anyone with roots or interest in the region historically known as Bessarabia, an area now comprising the Republic of Moldova and parts of Ukraine. The Bessarabia SIG was organized at the end of 2011 to help people in their Bessarabian genealogical research. The goal of the meeting is to present all new information on the projects our group was working, and to update the researchers on the new research for the bessarabian community.

The following project leaders will offer the progress reports on their projects:

- The Bessarabia SIG Geographical Dictionary:
Sources, analysis & puzzles   (#3)

How we compiled the list of nearly 800 places in Bessarabia where Jews lived worked and traded in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Harvey Kabaker, Silver Spring, MD, traces some of his maternal ancestors to 19th century Edineţ (Yedinitz) and Briceni (Brichany), now in Moldova. In addition to his work on the Geographical Dictionary, he coordinated the 1924 Bessarabia Business Directory project.

- Landsmanshaften groups records for towns and districts in Bessarabia (#17)

What is collected from Landsmanshaften groups done and what can be done more.

Brooke Schreier Ganz, Los Angeles, California**,** is the VP of Gesher Galicia, the SIG for the former Austro-Hungarian province, now Poland and Ukraine.

- Bessarabia Vital Records translation (#1)

What is done since last conference, and what remains to be translated?

Bob Wascou, Sacramento, California, Project Coordinator for Bessarabia Vital records project for many years, active member of Romania SIG.

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- Translate sections of Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities in Romania (#16).
- Make efforts from the group to translate Bessarabia towns Yizkor books (#15).

Books and chapters already translated. Why it is important to translate all possible Yizkor books. How to do more?

Ala Gamulka, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Translated many chapters from different Yizkor Books and a large number of sections from Encyclopedia. Ala participated in translation from Russian and Hebrew on other projects.

- Bessarabia Revision Lists (#2)

Records translated and what is in the work.

- Bendery Cemetery projects (#23 and #24)

It has been a very fast project of this sort. In only less than 6 months, more than 5000 records was translated and about the same number of the photographs done. There is a way to see more than 800 UNKNOWN monuments at the Bessarabia SIG website.

Can we do similar work on other cemeteries?

Yefim Kogan, Newton, MA, Bessarabia SIG Coordinator

- Other projects update:

6. Four town translation/transliteration of Cemetery lists

Beltsy, 1992-1995. Completed by Terry Lasky (788 records)

Lipkany, 1940-1992. Completed by Michael Glazer (118 records)

Brichany, 1940-1990. Completed by Claire Stuart (286 records)

Kishinev, 1979-1988. In progress by Terry Lasky. It will be about 3000-4000 records.

7. Beltsy cemetery project - photographing and indexing graves, Phase 2

Phase 2 was not started!

8. Unknown Photos (need a person in charge of the project).

9. Create more KehilaLink Website for Bessarabian towns and shteitlakh.

10. Bring sites for the towns and shteitlakh outside of JewishGen to JewishGen

11. Moldovan National Archive. Write a guide on how to contact and use the archive.

Provide Update of most recent information received from Kishinev. The project should include information of what is available at Moldavian Archive in Kishinev. That task is already started. Many thanks to Alla Chastina, a genealogist from Kishinev.

12. Obtain from USC Shoah Foundation institute VIDEO TESTIMONIES OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS FROM Bessarabia.

In cannot be done inside of JewishGen, because of not enough power of the computers.

18. American Archives, Libraries. Need a project leader.

22. Bessarabia and Moldova: A Survey of research materials in libraries and archives in Israel. Project Manager - Harriet Kasow.

26. Russian Jewish Fallen Soldiers of WW1. Need a person in charge.

30. Bessarabia Annual books, 1862-1914. Project leader, Yuriy Daylis, Minnesota

Show the results.

New projects (not yet added to Bessarabia SIG website):

31. Acquire other type of records from Moldovan Archive as well Saint Petersburg and Moscow Archives: student records, synagogue records, court records, etc.

32. Improve our Bessarabia SIG website:

http://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/index3.html

Ukraine SIG Webmaster Ariel Parkansky offered us software he developed and now implemented at Ukraine SIG website. After initial setting it will allow easier maintenance and support of the website.

33. Translate from Russian following articles:
- Jewish Theologians from Bessarabia/Moldova
- Jewish Writers from Bessarabia/Moldova
- Jewish Musicians, Composers from Bessarabia

34. Bessarabia Jews in Belgium, France, other Europian countries before the war, during the war

40. "**Description of day to day life** around turn of the century (Did they have Starbucks?) Were there taxis, markets, etc. More descriptions of day to day routine activities on how people lived".

41. **Index of Jewish Cemeteries.** Part of it already exists.

43. More info on **"influential"** Jewish families of Bessarabia. That is a great idea, but need a project leader.

44. More information on various towns (several people asked about their small towns).

45. **Historic maps** of about 20 towns cover various timespans.

46. Have a **Webinar/conference** calls on various topics on Bessarabia.

The nature of our group is as such that by helping the group you are helping yourself!

Without your help we cannot do anything!

Bessarabia SIG needs your help:

- **We are looking for a Bessarabia SIG Webmaster!**

- **There are many projects without a coordinator, please come forward for the coordination work.**

- **We need translators from Russian, Hebrew, possible Romanian for many set of documents, including Vital Records, Revision Lists, Cemetery lists, Yizkor Books.**

- **We need your donations for particular projects and for the Bessarabia SIG General fund.** That will allows us to find for you more records of different kind, and be able to bring them to you.

- **We would like your ideas on new projects. Please write them to me if you are not coming to the conference, or just present them at this SIG meeting.**

- **How we can collect effectively donations to pay for work?**

- **Use our Bessarabia Discussion Group for questions, new ideas, respond to other questions if you can.**

- **We need your active support!**