



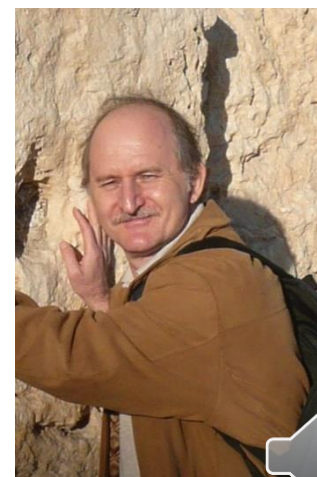
# Exploring Genealogy of Jewish Street in Kishinev, Jewish History and Culture

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# Exploring Genealogy of Jewish Street in Kishinev

- Introduction
- My street – Kagulskaya ulitsa (street)
- Brief history, geography of Kishinev, Bessarabia, and Moldova
- Jewish Genealogy
- Religion, synagogues, cemeteries
- Pogroms, Holocaust
- Jewish Culture (Literature, Music, Theater)
- Kishinev - today



# Introduction

For the past 11 years I have presented at Jewish Genealogical conferences on topics about Kishinev, Bessarabia/Moldova, Russian Empire and more.

This time I want to share with you some of my personal experience in Kishinev in 1960-1970s.

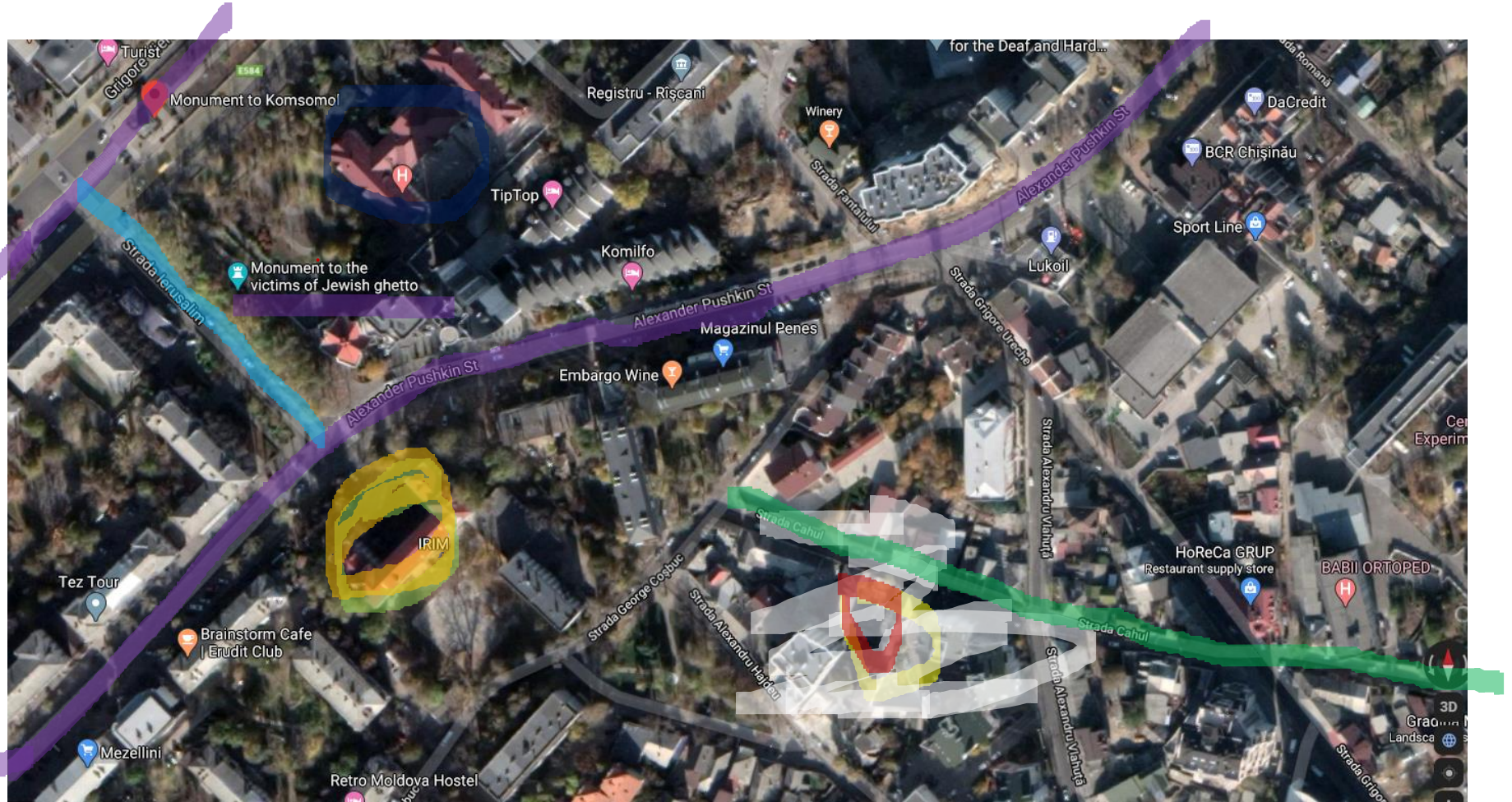
We will also touch Geography and History of the town, Jewish Genealogy, Holocaust and more.

So, let's go to Kishinev, to my childhood place -- Kagulskaya ulitsa.





# My street – Kagulskaya ulitsa



From Google Map, 2020



## My street – Kagulskaya ulitsa

- My #35... it was not a house, it was a courtyard with 6-7 separate apartments,
  - with no water in apartments – water facet was in the middle of the courtyard;
  - no toilet in apartments – there was one for two people on the corner of the yard on the hill
  - no pavement on the street



# My street – Kagulskaya ulitsa



Kagulskaya ulitsa #27 -

<http://www.monument.sit.md/cahul/27/>





# My street – Kagulskaya ulitsa



Kagulskaya ulitsa #20 -

<http://www.monument.sit.md/cahul/20/>

Use website [www.monument.sit.md](http://www.monument.sit.md) to find a building your ancestors used to live



## My street – Kagulskaya ulitsa

Kagulskaya ulitsa had a name “Jewish”, “Zhidovskaya”  
in 19 century

from the book “Chisinau Crossroads” by Ivan Halippe, 1899

*“... the robbers turned right, along the long and narrow Zhidovskaya street leading to the lower part of the city, wounding a Jew with a scimitar, trying to stop the horse of Ursula himself ...”*





## Brief history, geography of Bessarabia, Moldova and Kishinev

- History of Kishinev goes back to 15 century, and Jews were likely to live in Kishinev in 17 century. Significant number of Jews more than 500 were reported in 1774, representing 7% of the town's population. 1812 Kishinev came under the Russian rule and in 1818 became the capital of the Bessarabia district. 50,000 Jews used to live in Kishinev at the beginning of 20 century.



# Brief history, geography of Bessarabia, Moldova and Kishinev

**Largest "Jewish" cities in Central Europe, ca. 1900** (Yiddish or Ladino names follow the slash)

	Jews	Percentage of total population		Jews	Percentage of total population
1. Warsaw/Varshe	219,000	32.5	35. Prague/Prag, Prog	19,000	9.4
2. Budapest	166,000	23.6	36. Bila Tserkva/Sadeh Lavan	19,000	52.9
3. Vienna/Vin	147,000	8.7	37. Uman'	18,000	59.0
4. Odessa/Odes	139,000	34.4	38. Kolomyia/Kolomea, Kolomey	17,000	49.3
5. Łódź/Lodzh	99,000	31.8	39. Kamianets'-Podil's'kyi/ Kumenets-Podolsk	16,000	40.0
6. Berlin	92,000	4.6	40. Edirne/Adrianopol	15,000	18.5
7. Vilnius/Vilne	64,000	41.0	41. Łomża/Lomzhe	14,000	53.8
8. Salonika/Saloniki	60,000	57.1	42. Rivne/Rovne	14,000	56.0
9. Chişinău/Keshenev	50,000	46.0	43. Ivano-Frankivs'k/ Stanislav, Stanisle	14,000	46.1
10. Istanbul/Kushta	48,000	4.4	44. Balta/Balte	13,000	57.0
11. Minsk	48,000	52.3	45. Przemyśl/Premishle	13,000	28.1
12. Iaşi/Yas	45,000	57.7	46. Ternopil/Tarnopol	13,000	44.2
13. Lviv/Lvuv, Lemberik	44,000	27.7	47. Tarnów/Tarnuv, Torne	12,000	41.2
14. Białystok	42,000	63.4	48. Brody/Brod	12,000	72.1
15. Berdychiv/Barditshev	42,000	78.0	49. Polatsk/Polotsk	12,000	61.0
16. Bucharest	40,000	14.1	50. Mohyliv-Podil's'kyi/ Molev-Podolsk	12,000	55.3
17. Vitebsk/Vitebsk	34,000	52.4	51. Oradea/Groysvardayn, Nagy Varad	12,000	25.8
18. Daugavpils/Dvinsk	32,000	46.0	52. Częstochowa/Tshenstokhov	12,000	26.7
19. Kiev	32,000	12.8	53. Galaţi/Galats	12,000	19.2
20. Brest/Brisk	31,000	65.8	54. Vinnytsia/Vinitse	12,000	38.3
21. Zhytomyr/Zhitomir	31,000	46.6	55. Stonim	11,000	78.0
22. Poznań/Pozna, Pozen, Poyzn	30,000	22.2	56. Khmelnyts'kyi/Proskurov	11,000	49.9
23. Kaunas/Kovne	28,000	37.1	57. Radom/Rodem, Rudem	11,000	37.7
24. Cracow/Kroke, Kruke	26,000	28.1	58. Siedlce/Shedlets	11,000	31.8
25. İzmir/Smirna	25,000	12.4			
26. Lublin	24,000	47.0			
27. Hrodna/Grodne, Horodna	23,000	49.0			
28. Pinsk	22,000	77.3			
29. Chernivtsi/Tshernovits	22,000	31.9			
30. Mahilioŭ/Molev	22,000	50.0			
31. Babruisk/Bobroysk, Bobruysk	21,000	60.0			
32. Homel/Homel, Homlye	20,000	56.4			
33. Mykolaïv/Nikolayev-Nayshtetl	20,000	21.9			
34. Wrocław/Bresloy, Bresle	20,000	5.0			

SOURCES: Alfred Nossig, ed., *Jüdische Statistik* (Berlin, 1903); *Jüdisches Lexikon*, vol. 4/2 (Berlin, 1930), pp. 630–701; *Encyclopedia Judaica*, 16 vols. (Jerusalem, 1972); Adam Wandruszka and Peter Urbanitsch, eds., *Die Habsburgermonarchie, 1848–1918*, vol. 3: *Die Völker des Reiches*, pt. 2 (Vienna, 1980).

*Jews and Armenians in Central Europe, ca. 1900* 109

from Magocsi, P. R. and Matthews, G. J. (1993) Historical atlas of East Central Europe, University of Washington Press, Seattle.



# Brief history, geography of Kishinev, Bessarabia, and Moldova

Several sources on history and geography of Kishinev, Bessarabia, and Moldova:

- Kishinev – my native town: History of Jews and Genealogy, by Yefim Kogan  
<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/conferences/2013/Kishinev.pdf>
- History of Jews in Bessarabia in the 15th to 19th Centuries Geography, History, Social Status, by Yefim Kogan  
<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/HistoryOfJewsInBessarabia15-19c.pdf>
- The Jews of Kishinev, translation of Yehudei Kishinev, Yizkor book, 1950, available at JewishGen.org or at Amazon.com  
<https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Kishinev/Kishinev.html>
- Weiner, M. (1999) Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova. Pages from the past and archival inventories. YIVO Institute for Jewish Studies, Secaucus, New Jersey  
<https://www.rtrfoundation.org/webart/UK-arch-Ch10Kopansky.pdf>
- Kishinev KehilaLinks website, created by Ariel Parkansky:  
<https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/chisinau/default.asp>



# Bessarabia on a map of Europe





# Jewish Genealogy

From my 2013 presentation at the JewishGen conference:

## **Archival holdings on Kishinev Jews**

- Records available at the Moldovan State Archive
- Materials in St.Petersburg's archives
- Information collected at JewishGen.org

## **Other information on Kishinev Jews**

- Cemetery records
- Education records
- Material from Bessarabia Annual Books-Calendars

# Jewish Genealogy

## **Records available at the Moldovan State Archive:**

1. Birth, death, marriage records.
2. Revision Lists, Jews residents of Kishinev, merchants, middle class.
3. Alphabetical books and lists of petty-bourgeois or Middle Class, (1910).
4. Educational records
5. Records related to 1918-1944 period, Bessarabia was part of Kingdom of Romania. Among them lists Jewish residents who became Romanian citizens as well as the lists of those who were refused in the citizenship.
6. Records of nationalized properties owned by Jews, compiled by Romanian authorities in 1941-1944, further compiled by the Soviet Union in 1945

# Jewish Genealogy

## Records available at the Moldovan State Archive:

7. Pogrom-related information can be found in the Bessarabian numerous newspapers - Bessarabskie Oblastnye i Gubernskie Vedomosti, Bessarabija, Bessarabskaja pochta, Bessarabskoe Slovo, Drug, published mainly by prominent Jewish people.
8. Materials of Archive commission “History of anti-Jewish pogroms in Russia”(1919), which include documents on Kishinev and Dubossary pogroms of 1903. Edited by S.M. Dubnov and G. Ya. Kranshiy-Admoni. (p.21)
9. Podolia census of 1875, where some Jewish residents were assigned to various towns, including Kishinev.
10. Personal files and documents of various kinds from previously classified records of the Bessarabian Police, including records from all of the local police departments.

# Jewish Genealogy

**Material collected at the JewishGen and at Bessarabia website:**

[www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia](http://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia)\_\_see Introductions to these sets at

[www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania)

1. Vital Records from 1829 – 1910 (not all years are present)
2. Revision Lists (Family Census) from 1835 – 1910
3. Duma Voter's list, 1906, 1907
4. Business directory of 1924, other Business directories
5. Yizkor Books, Religious personnel
6. Bessarabia Annual Books
7. Miriam Weiner's Archival Collection
8. Maps and schemas of Kishinev and surrounding area, including a map with photos of survived buildings
9. Bessarabian Landsmanshaften: First Kishinever Progressive Society of New York; Kishinev Sick Benevolent Society
10. Kishinev historical museum, article
11. Family Trees, Memoirs, Stories, Travel, Theater, Photo Gallery



# Religion, synagogues, cemeteries

The first **Big Synagogue** was built tentatively in 1812 in the lower part of Kishinev not far from the river Byk. Near the synagogue, there was the **Jewish Cemetery**. It was called Old in the documents of the 18 century.



## Religion, synagogues, cemeteries

At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were 77 synagogues and prayer houses in Kishinev . Below are photos of Choral synagogue, erected in 1913, and what is now in its place.



From collection of Aaron Shneer

# Religion, synagogues, cemeteries

**Talmud-Torah** was an older building (1872) whose construction was financed by Jewish welfare societies and from 1872 to 1922, the Talmud Torah was funded by the Jewish Charity Society of Kishinev. Beginning in the 1920s, part of the building was used by the Jewish Makkabi sport club. The school was closed after the Second World War, when the building was taken over by the state. It has since been used as offices by various state organizations. I am not sure what is there now.



Address: Vlaicu Pырcelab  
Street 69, (formerly  
Sinodino and 28th of June  
street)

From collection of Aaron  
Shneer

## Religion, synagogues, cemeteries

The chief rabbi of Bessarabia in the beginning of 20 century was **Leyb Moiseevich Tsirelson**, who wrote many halakhic works. Since 1908 Leyb Tsirelson was the spiritual and the official rabbi of Chisinau (Bessarabia). In 1910 he was elected chairman of the All-Russian rabbinical committee (Vaad harabonim) and held this position until 1917, when the commission was disbanded. As the authorized representative of the leadership of Jewish Religious Communities in Russia, he appealed to the authorities on various matters relating to the Jewish population of the country.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yehuda\\_Leib\\_Tsirelson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yehuda_Leib_Tsirelson)



# Religion, synagogues, cemeteries

Leyb Moiseevich Tsirelson was a hereditary Honorary citizen of the Russian Empire



Monument to Tsirelson at the Jewish cemetery in Kishinev.

The remains of Yeshiva



## Religion, synagogues, cemeteries

There were 5-6 cemeteries in Kishinev. Some of them were destroyed, some exist now.

Here is an article about 3 Jewish cemeteries which were destroyed (one only partial).

<https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/files/cemetery/KishinevDestroyedCemeteries.pdf>

## Religion, synagogues, cemeteries

There are three existing cemeteries where Jews are buried in Kishinev:

- Jewish Cemetery

<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/cemetery/kishinev/KishinevJewishCemeteryReport.pdf>

- Doyna Cemetery with Jewish sectors

<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/cemetery/Kishinev/KishinevDoynaReport.pdf>

- Central Town(Armyanskoe) cemetery where famous people were buried for many years



# Religion, synagogues, cemeteries

Aerial film and a photo at the Jewish cemetery, by Sergei Daniliuk, photographer and friend of Bessarabia group

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QeW3wi6gHc>





## Religion, synagogues, cemeteries

Cemetery Projects at JewishGen Bessarabia group:

[https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/RES\\_ProjectList.asp?doctype=14#](https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/RES_ProjectList.asp?doctype=14#)

JEWISH HERITAGE SITES AND MONUMENTS IN  
MOLDOVA, United States Commission for the  
Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, 2010

<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/JewishHistory/JDCHeritageSitesInMoldova.pdf>

# Pogroms, Holocaust



Aziatskaya #13 – one of the houses where pogrom took place

Russian writer Korolenko wrote "**The House No.13**" – historic description of Kishinev pogrom



# Pogroms, Holocaust

1940. After transfer of Bessarabia under the authority of the Soviet Union (1940), the majority of Jewish institutions were closed in Kishinev and Zionist activity was prohibited. There were thousands of Kishinev Jews who were arrested and deported at that time.

July 16, 1941 German-Romanian troops occupied Kishinev. Part of the Jewish population was able to evacuate. On July 17, 1941, eynzatsgruppen unit "D" and the Romanian Gendarmerie killed about fourteen thousand Jewish men. On August 1, 1941, 450 young men and women were sent to “work”, and in a few days 411 of them were killed.

# Pogroms, Holocaust

On July 25, 1941, Romanian commander of Kishinev ordered the creation of ghettos. From August 5, the Jews of Kishinev were required to wear a distinctive sign - a star of David. According to the Romanian documents, on August 11, 10,578 people lived in the ghetto. By the middle of September 1941 the number of prisoners of the ghetto increased. The Jews from the surrounding villages were sent into the ghetto .

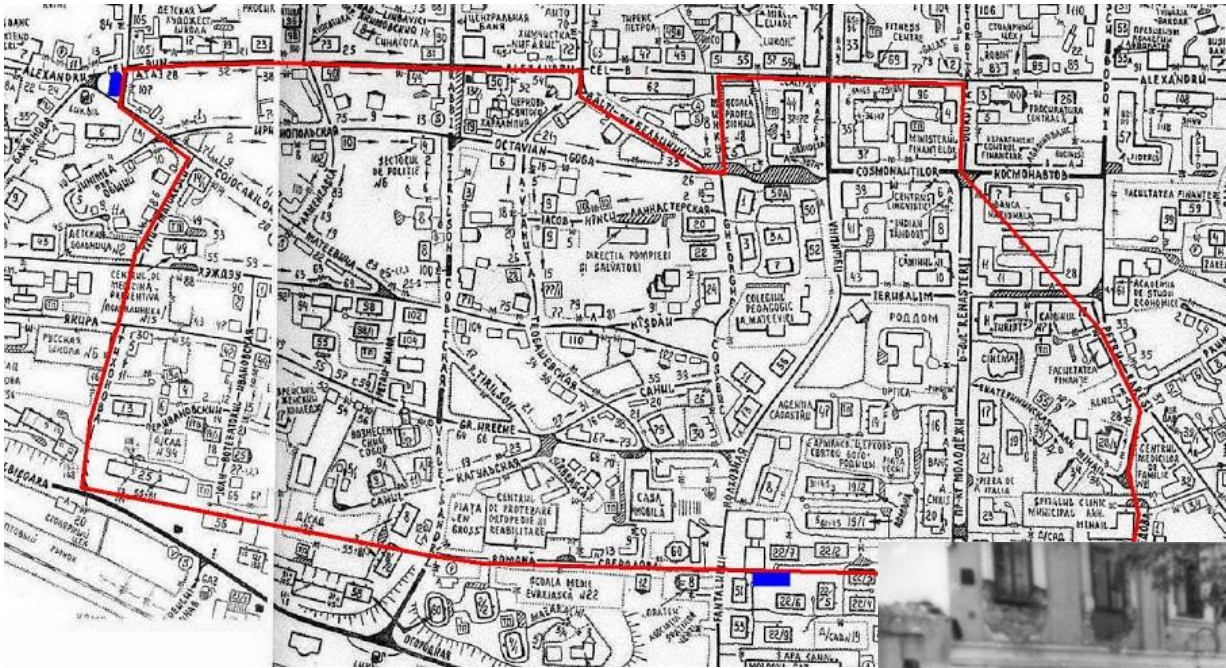


My street – Kagulskaya  
is one of the main  
street in the ghetto



# Pogroms, Holocaust

Ghetto on the recent Google map



Gates to the ghetto





## Pogroms, Holocaust

- In October of 1941, the remaining Jews from the Ghetto were deported to Transnistria, and in May of 1942 last 200 Jews who were hiding in the city deported to Transnistria. Few Jews from Kishinev survived the ghetto and camps.

See information and photos from the Ghetto at Kehila Link Kishinev website:

[https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/chisinau/LIF\\_Shoah\\_Ghetto.asp](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/chisinau/LIF_Shoah_Ghetto.asp)

## Jewish Culture (Literature, Music, Theater)

Toward the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>, a line of poets and authors emerged on the cultural scene in Bessarabia, many of whom were to play an important role in Yiddish and Hebrew literature, including Eliezer Steinbarg, Judah Steinberg, Simkha Ben-Zion, Jacob Fichman, Samuel Leib Blank, and Hayyim Greenberg.

## Jewish Culture (Literature, Music, Theater)

- 16 Jewish schools with more than 2000 people were opened in Kishinev in 1898
- At the end of the 19th century, a Jewish print company published Jewish books, newspapers and journals in Kishinev

# Jewish Culture (Literature, Music, Theater)

In 1960s, 1970s many Jewish writers, composers, painters lived in Kishinev. Among them:

Yekhiel Shraybman Yiddish writer:

[https://yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Shraybman\\_Yekhiel](https://yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Shraybman_Yekhiel)

Shiko Aranov - brilliant musician, composer, founder of a Moldovan pop orchestra:

<https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%90%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2,%D0%A8%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%91%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%87>

You can see more about writers, musicians, painters in Bessarabia and Kishinev:

[https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/TPL\\_Base.asp?id=10](https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/TPL_Base.asp?id=10)



# Jewish Culture (Literature, Music, Theater)



Program from Yiddish theater in Kishinev, 1969.

Yiddish play “Hershele Ostropoler”  
by Gershenzon

# Kishinev - today

The only synagogue which was working during the Soviet era.

Right now in 2020 there was 4<sup>th</sup> synagogue opened in Kishinev



## Kishinev - today

- 15 thousand Jews lived in Kishinev  
(from Natalia Alhazov. **Where Kishinev Pogrom of 1903 Was: Past and Present of Jewish Moldova.** Presented at the International Jewish Genealogical conference in Chicago in 2008)
- 10 thousand Jews lived in Kishinev in 2014 from  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Jews\\_in\\_Moldova](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Moldova)
- It seems that the number of Jews living in Kishinev now is even less, and I would estimate it not more than 8 thousand.

# Kishinev - today





## Kishinev - today

- **Museum of History of Moldovan Jews** with its collection started in 1991. It is located in the *mikva* part of the Jewish Campus and includes authentic materials, exhibits and documents reflecting Jewish life in Moldova with special emphasis on the pogrom of 1903 and the Holocaust of 1941-44.
- **I. Manger Jewish Library**
- <http://ebraika-bmangher.blogspot.com/>
- **Jewish Heritage of Moldova**  
<https://www.facebook.com/jewish.heritage.md/>



Photo by Jay Sage, 2012

Monument to the victims of Jewish Ghetto

Synagogue,

Jewish center, tablet in memory of Ikhil  
Shraybman, Jewish writer

# Internet resources on Kishinev, Bessarabia

- JewishGen Bessarabia regional website: [www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia](http://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia)
- My town Kishinev: <http://oldchisinau.com/> (Russian)
- Forum – My town Kishinev <http://oldchisinau.com/forum/index.php> (Russian)
- Centrul Istoric al Chisinaului: <http://www.monument.sit.md/> (Romanian)
- Jewish Memory: <http://www.jewishmemory.md/en/> (English, Russian)
- All about Bessarabia: <http://www.bessarabia.ru/> (English, Russian)
- Jewish Encyclopedia: <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3185-bessarabia>
- Historical Maps of Moldova:  
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Maps\\_of\\_the\\_history\\_of\\_Moldova](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Maps_of_the_history_of_Moldova)
- The YIVO Encyclopedia, Kishinev: <https://yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Kishinev>

# Internet resources on Kishinev

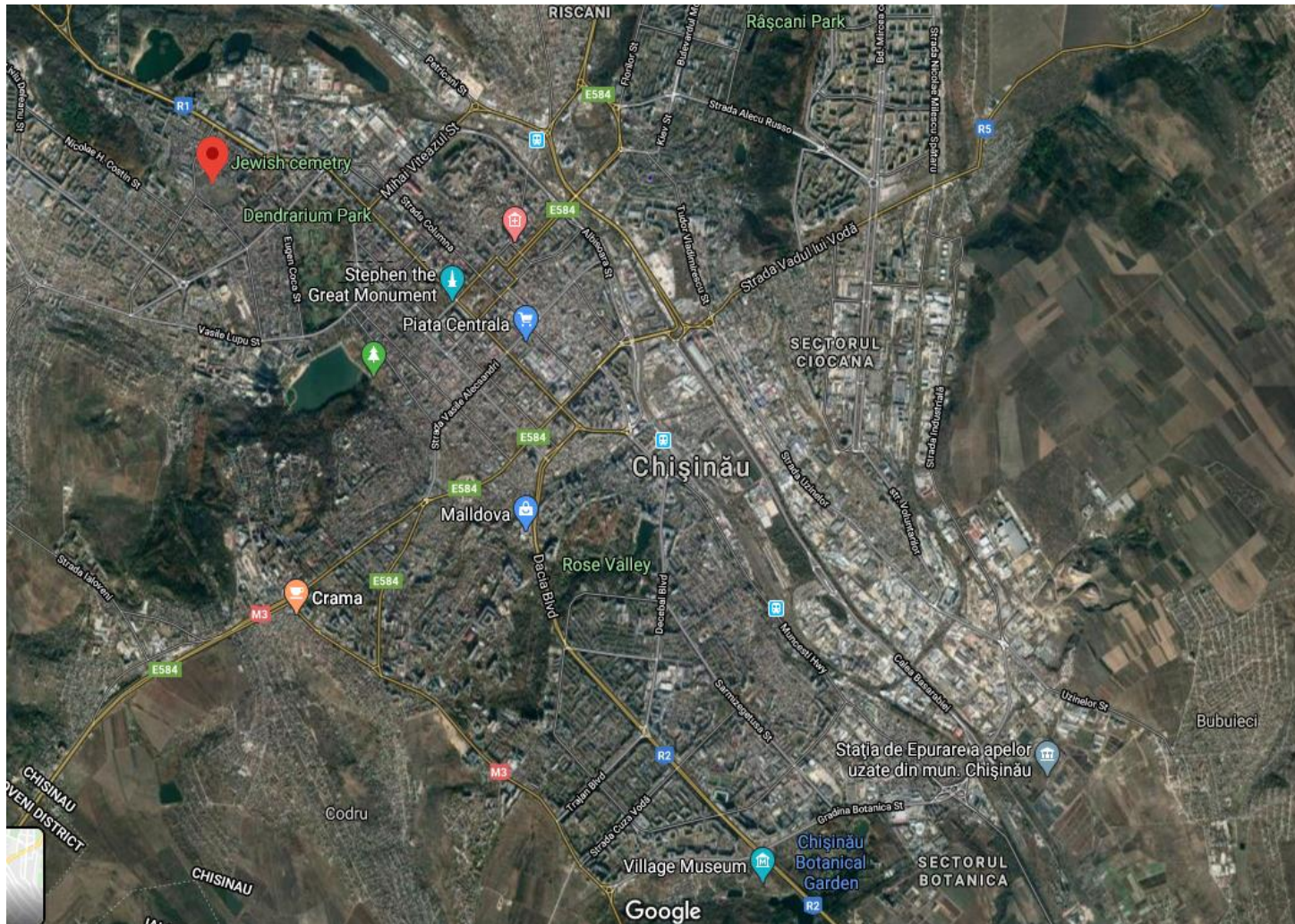
- Jewish theologians of Moldova: <http://www.lechaim.ru/ARHIV/162/VZR/k05.htm> (Russian)
- Bessarabian Jews: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Bessarabian\\_Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Bessarabian_Jews)
- Bessarabia by CHARLES UPSON CLARK:  
[http://depts.washington.edu/cartah/text\\_archive/clark/mobile.html](http://depts.washington.edu/cartah/text_archive/clark/mobile.html)
- Preserving Jewish memory Centropa: <http://www.centropa.org/>
- Jewish Genealogical portal:  
<http://forum.j-roots.info/index.php?sid=4f479bc2a4d784c2e65bbe30e695a8d8> (Russian)
- Memorial: <http://www.obd-memorial.ru/html/index.html> (Russian)
- Memory Book: <http://www.nekropol.com/Holokost.htm> (Russian)
- Stalin's killing lists: <http://stalin.memo.ru/> (Russian)
- Anatomy of a Pogrom, by Steven J. Zipperstein, 2018  
<https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/anatomy-of-a-pogrom>



# JewishGen resources on Kishinev

- The Jews of Kishinev, Yizkor Book, Tel Aviv, 1950  
<https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Kishinev/Kishinev.html>
- Seven Songs about 100 Years (Film), created by Arnold Brodichansky, 2003  
[https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/PTM\\_Article.asp?id=13](https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/PTM_Article.asp?id=13)
- The Jewish Kishinev Guide, from library of Yitskhak Manger, Kishinev, 1995  
<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/JewishHistory/TheJewishKishinevGuide.pdf>
- A Loud Echo. 115 Years Since the Pogrom of Chisinau, by Greta Ionkis , 2018  
<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/JewishHistory/ALoudEcho-Kishinev1903.pdf>
- History of Jews in Bessarabia in the 15th to 19th Centuries Geography, History, Social Status, by Yefim Kogan, 2008 <https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/HistoryOfJewsInBessarabia15-19c.pdf>
- JEWISH HERITAGE SITES AND MONUMENTS IN MOLDOVA, by United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, 2010  
<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/JewishHistory/JDCHeritageSitesInMoldova.pdf>
- We Will Survive. Jewish History of Moldova in Images, Maps and Pictures, by Irina Shikhova, Kishinev, 2015 <https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/JewishHistory/WWWS%20en.pdf>

# Kishinev on Google map in 2020





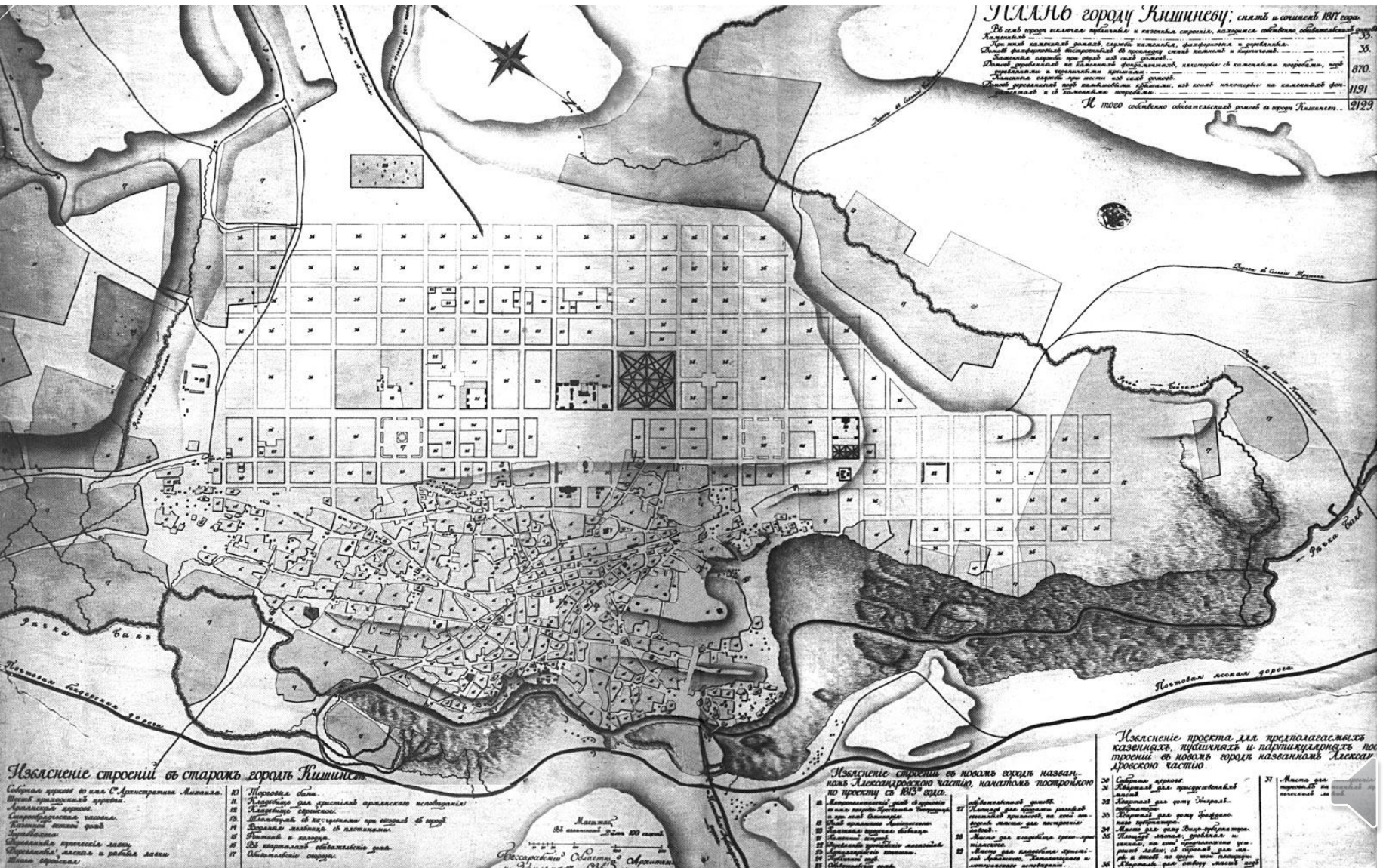


Kishinev on  
map of 1887

Planul municipiului Chișinău. Anul 1887.  
План города Кишинева. 1887 год.



# Kishinev on Map of 1817









# Winter of 2017



# Exploring Genealogy of Jewish Street in Kishinev, Jewish History and Culture

Questions please send to me at  
[yefimk@verizon.net](mailto:yefimk@verizon.net)

# Exploring Genealogy of Jewish Street in Kishinev, Jewish History and Culture



**Please remember to  
EVALUATE  
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Mobile App!!**

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[www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia](http://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia)

