



**Winter 2022**  
**Virtual Symposium**

13 - 15 December 2022

# **How to teach family history to children and grandchildren**

Galina Dobrynina-Kogan, Yefim Kogan

December 14, 2022

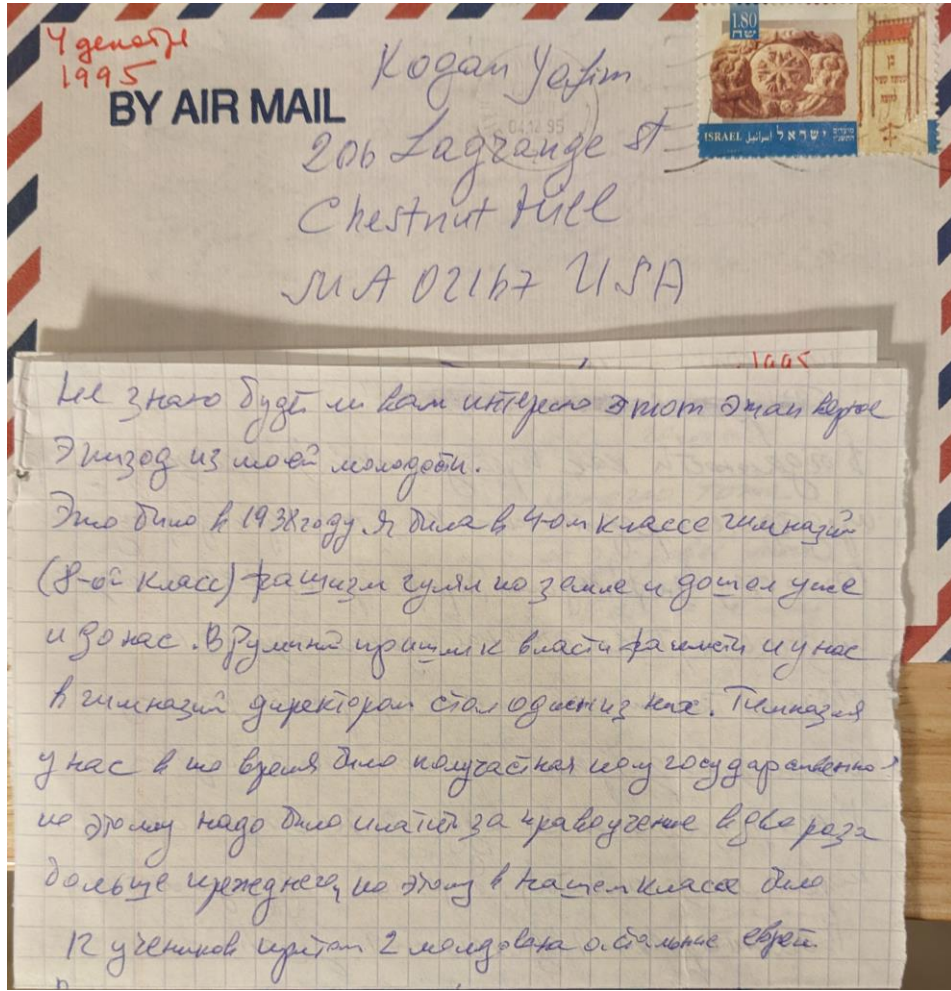
# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Great-Grandma Letters and Family Book
3. Great-Grandma Story from 1938
4. Geography Activities
5. History Activities
6. Other Activities: Jewish Holidays, Family Tree, Photo Albums, Great-Grandma's Cooking recipes, Real and Virtual Travels

# Introduction and how we started

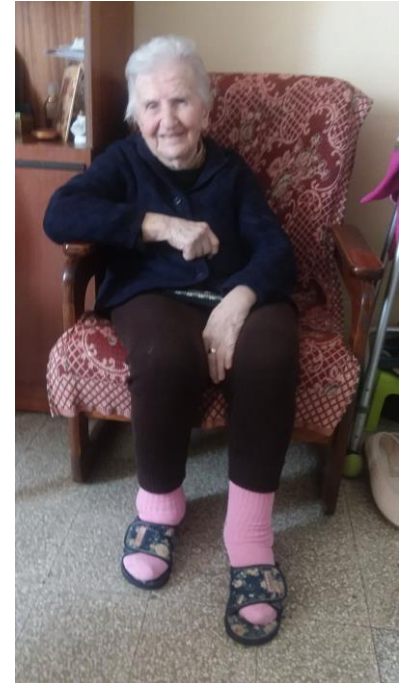
- Reasons and Goals
  - Share our passion of history and genealogy
  - Educate grands about their ancestors, and the world
  - Share work we done to create our family book
  - Help grands to understand our emigration
- Regular ZOOM classes from Fall 2020 with 8- and 12-year-old grands
  - Experiences before regular classes
  - Why ZOOM

# Great-Grandma Letters



From 1994 Khinka Kogan (grandmother, mother, mother-in-law) wrote us many letters with **memoirs, stories, episodes** about her childhood and her youth in Romania, and her adult life in the Soviet Union and Israel.

We read these letters at our Shabbat dinners to our children and later to grands.



# Family Book



Dedicated to the blessed  
memory of parents  
**Abram Kogan and  
Hinka Kogan**

*All life they lived in  
Love and Harmony  
and bequeathed it to  
children,  
grandchildren and  
great-grandchildren*



Those memoirs in letters were a  
foundation for our Family Book.

## Family Album

Volume 1

*Kogan, Spivak, Tismenetsky, Khaimovich, Sulevich,  
Roizhtajn, Levit, Teper, Bronshteyn, Reitich, Rakover,  
Voldman, Deruznik, Shafr, Veltzer, Bruter, Ochakovsky,  
Bril, Zemeiman, Roses and many others*

End of 18th century – Beginning of 21st century

**БАТІСЛОВІ**

lived in Kaushany and other towns in Bessarabia from the end of 18th century or earlier;  
evacuated to Central Asia, Siberia during World War II;  
returned to Kishinev, Moldova after the war;  
emigrated from Russia to Israel, USA, France, and Australia  
at the beginning and ending of the 20th century

Tsur-Shalom, Boston, Karmiel, Seattle, New York, Paris, Toronto, Montreal

Eighth Edition, May 2021

Here is a title page of our Family book  
after **25** years of research and editing. It  
is from latest **8<sup>th</sup> edition** of the Family  
Book. First edition had almost 50 pages,  
and last one about 500.

# Great-Grandma Story

1938

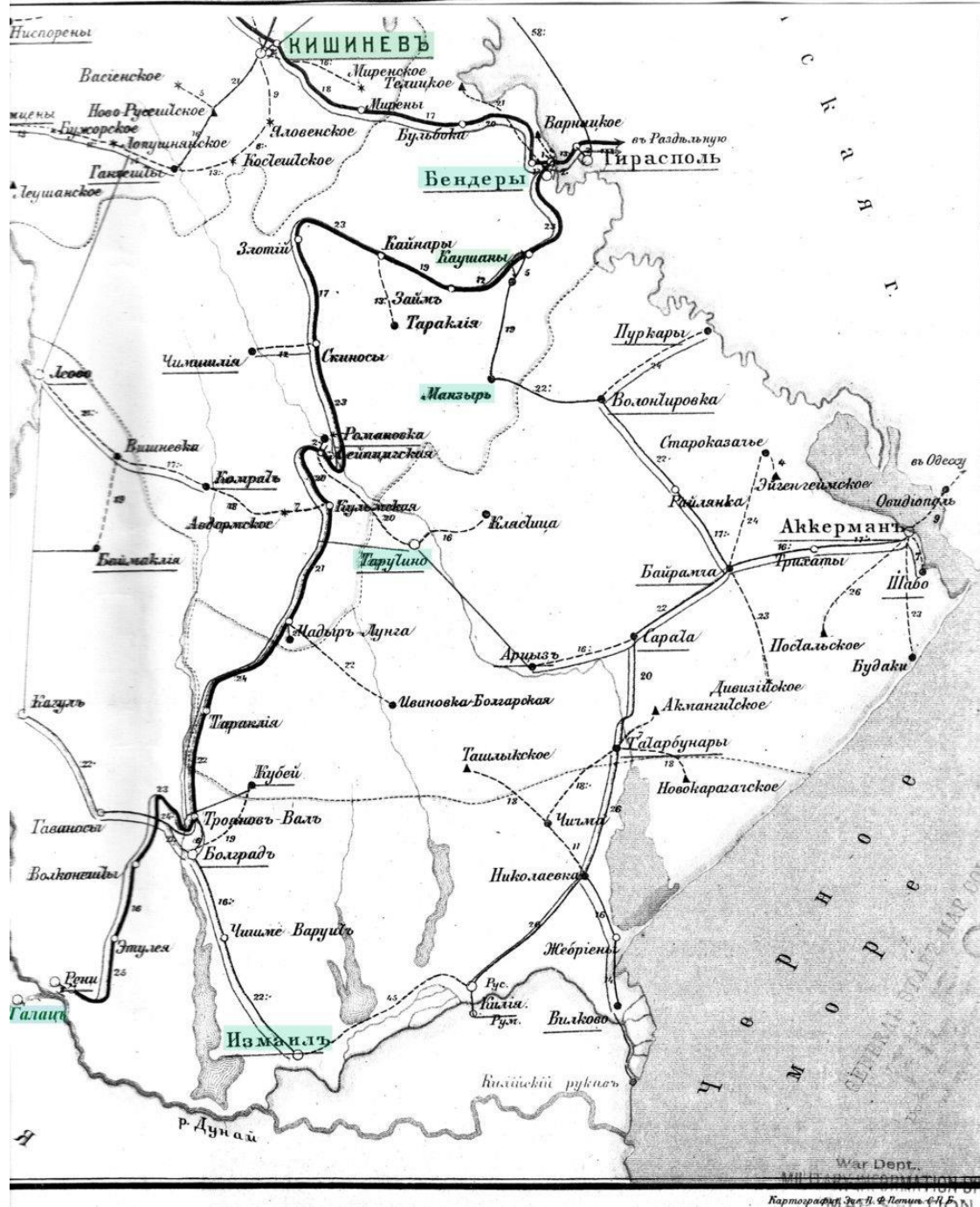
This happened in 1938. I was in 4th class of the gymnasium (8th grade). Fascism had already been in many countries in Europe and had come to us. Fascists came to power in Romania, and the director of our school became one of them. The gymnasium back then was part government, part private, so you had to pay twice as much as before. In our class, only 12 students remained - two Moldavians and the rest were Jews. Once, one boy did something wrong, and they had him stay after for two hours. Out of solidarity, we stayed with him. When the director came by and saw us, he asked "why are you here?" We answered that we just stayed with him. So, the director turned that act into a political one. He yelled "Ah, so you're communists! You'll be expelled." We got really scared, and changed our answers, saying that the boy asked us to stay because he had a headache.

# Great-Grandma Story

The director still expelled us for a week, first questioning all of us separately, like criminals. The chairman of Parents' Committee, doctor Feldman stood up for us. After that, we were taken back, but soon the school was closed due to financial troubles, and we were left overboard. Everyone went their separate ways, and some stopped studying altogether. I moved to another township - Volontirovka, near Kaushany. Right around Purim, fascism was overthrown - the Soviet Union put forth an ultimatum that if Romania didn't get rid of the fascist party, the Soviet Union would move into Bessarabia. Thus, it continued until June 29, 1940, at which point we were "freed." That's the sort of uneasy youth we had, and it was great.

# Great-Grandma Stories

Here is a map of South Bessarabia where Yefim's parents lived and studied. Many places from that 1938 story are on this map. We showed this map to children and grandchildren many times, and it is part of our Family Book.





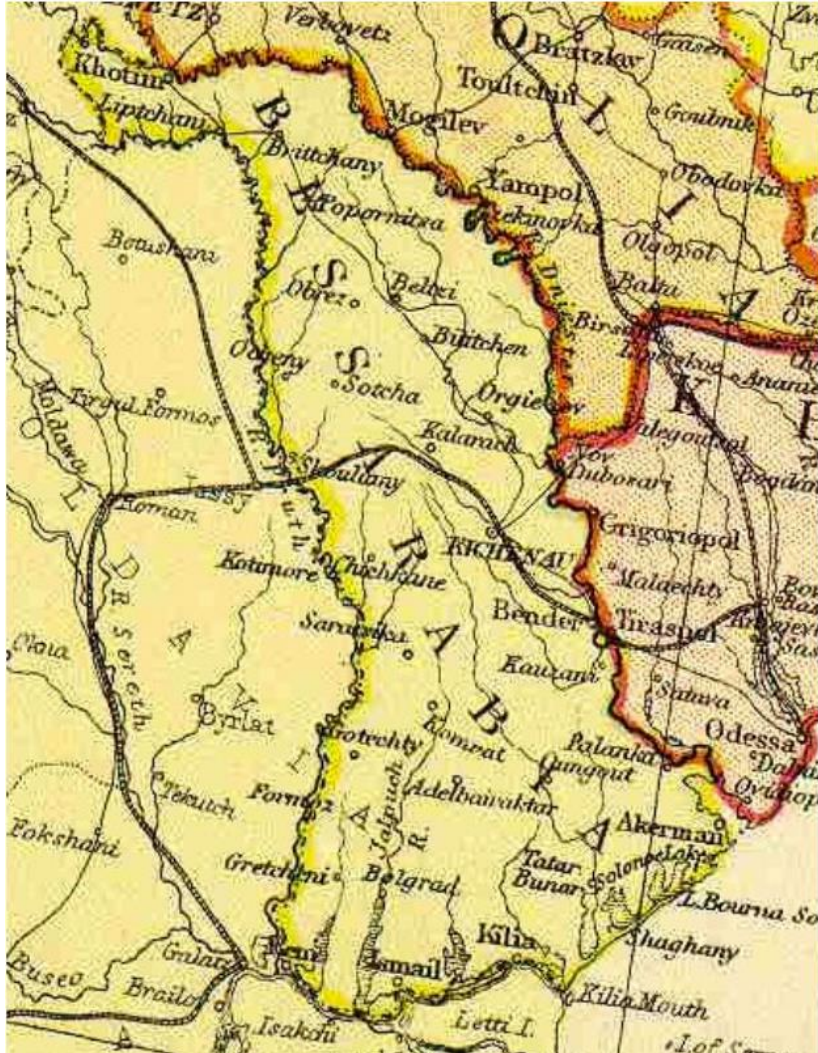
# **Geography and History Classes**

**Better understand places** their ancestors lived.

Knowledge about the **world's geography, history,** most critical events of 20th century: wars, revolutions, crises.

**Reasons for our immigration** from the Soviet Union.

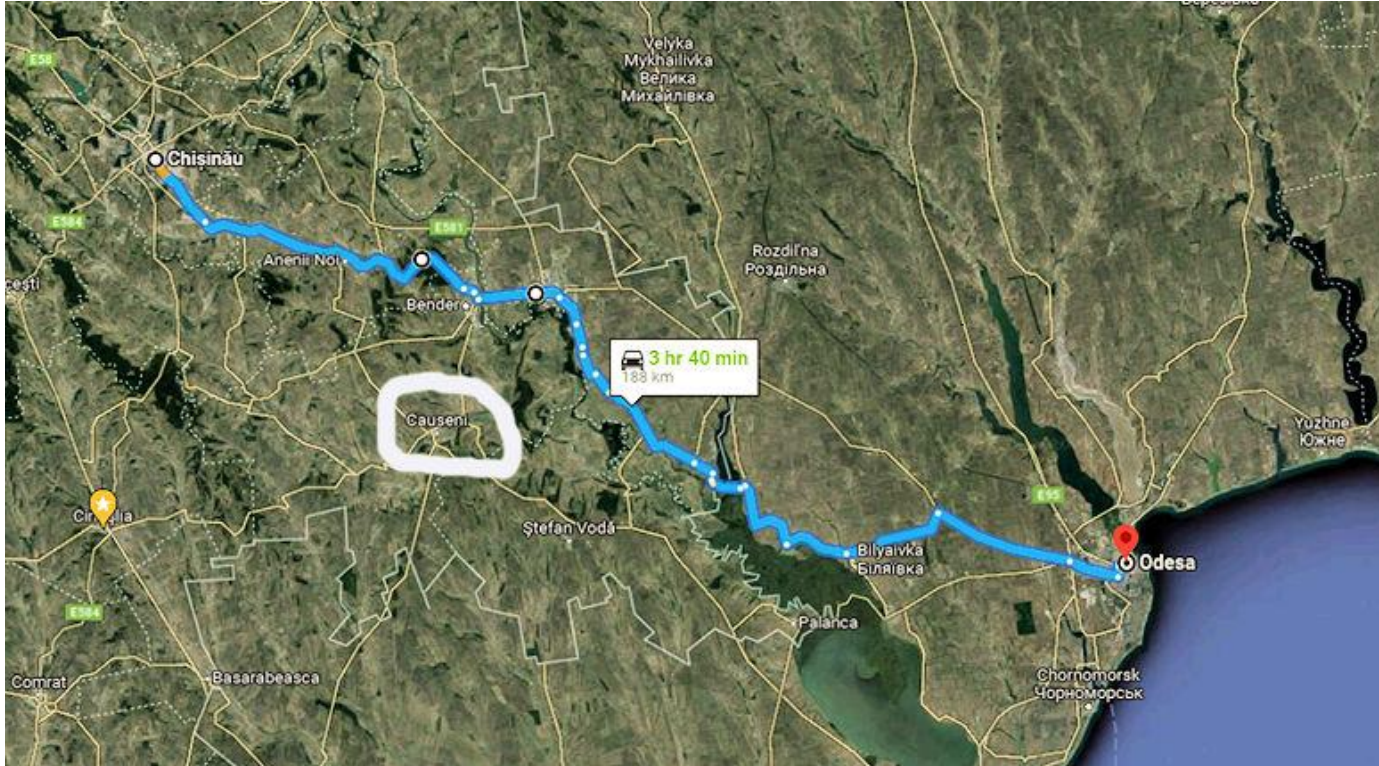
# Geography Activity



Use a map of what is **Bessarabia** that even adults sometimes do not know.

Look into Google map or Google Earth to see where it is now.

# Geography Activity



Describe how to travel from point A to point B, from Kishinev to Odessa by car.

What towns are you going to pass?

Is the town Kaushany, where your grandparents lived on that road?

# Geography Activity



Is there a fortress on a way from Kishinev to Odessa?

*Yes, Bendery. 16<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman fortress.*

*Why is Turkish fortress in Moldova?*

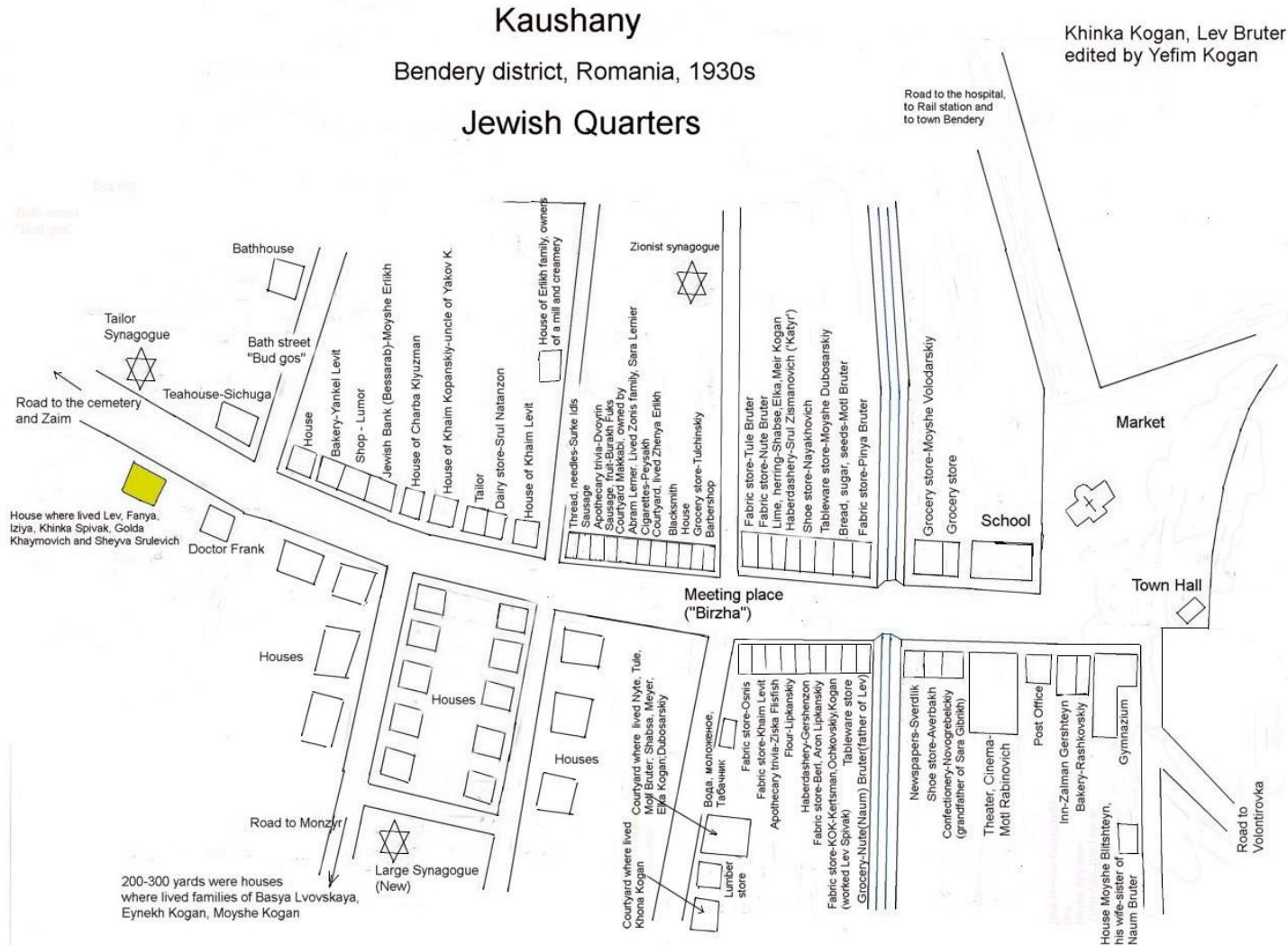
*Moldova was under Turkish rule for about 400 years.*

# Geography Activity



- Choose a city or a country, find info about its history and prepare to present to our class. *Ukraine, Israel, Moldova, etc.*
- Given a country, name cities/towns/continent.
- Given a city, name a country, continent, and towns near it.
- Use contour maps find what that country is? See two maps at the left.
- Show maps upside down

# Geography/History Activity



Explore town where our ancestors lived- Kaushany, Bendery uezd, Bessarabia

This map was created by my mother Khinka Kogan z'l from her memory.

Our grandchildren had to find out what is on this map, where their great-grand parents lived.

# History Activity

We studied WWI and WWII very slowly with grandchildren. Also, we focused on 1920-1940s in the Soviet Union and the Holocaust.

Every time we had a new topic to discuss in our class, we would read memoirs, stories from our Family Book from same period.

Galya's grandfather Boleslav was repressed by Stalin regime in 1937. He was convicted as a spy for three countries, Poland, USA and Japan and disappeared in GULAG forever. His children were labeled as "Enemy of the state".



## History/Geography Activity: WWII, Holocaust.

We started every WWII class with my mom's memoirs from "During the war (June 22, 1941- May, 1945). We read "Evacuation" stories and showed the map of how their family moved out of Bessarabia to Odessa, then to town Stalino (now Donetsk), after that to Stalingrad, and finally to Uzbekistan. Stories of how people lived and died during the evacuation.

Holocaust has a special meaning to our family and it is a huge part in our Family Book. There are 54 Pages of Testimony of relatives and friends perished in Holocaust!

The Holocaust [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjh0L2Km\\_cs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjh0L2Km_cs)  
(video explaining time leading to Holocaust)



## History Activity: WWII, Holocaust.

Babi Yar – ravine in Kiev, where Germans with collaborators murdered more than 33,000 Jews in two days.

We read Evtushenko poem Babi Yar:  
<https://rosenbloom.info/babyar1/babyar1.html>

and listened to how Evtushenko read it:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlWWhLVDd80>



# History Activity: WWII, Holocaust.



Anna Frank life, museum -

<https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/>

Reading Diary of Anna Frank and other books from the war period

# History

In March-April of 2022 grandchildren started to ask questions about the war in Ukraine!

We spent a few classes on that, explaining the history of Ukraine-Russia relations and Russian aggression against Ukraine people.



# Other Activities

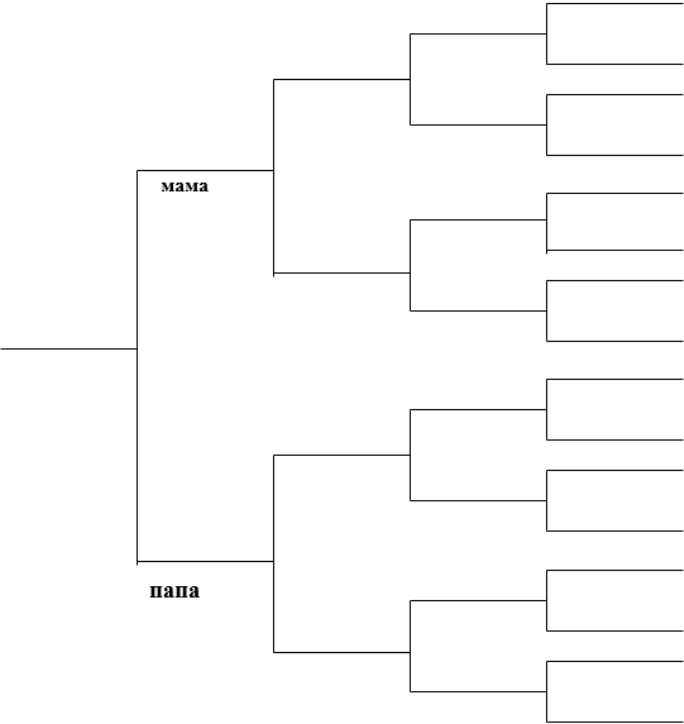
Jewish holidays were part of our children and grandchildren experiences:

**Hanukah holiday.** We showed historical maps of the places, read the Hanukah story.

**Passover story.** Showed the timeline of the events, and places.

# Other Activities

СЕМЕЙНОЕ ДЕРЕВО

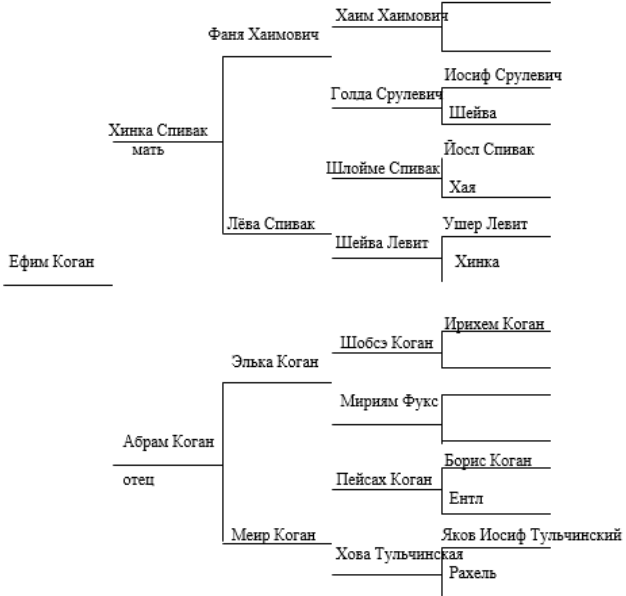


родители бабушка/дед праб/д прапраб/д

## Family Tree created with grands

How to build

СЕМЕЙНОЕ ДЕРЕВО



родители бабушка/дед праб/д прапраб/д

## Other activities



Our mother was happy and overwhelmed during our children and grandchildren visiting her in Israel.

- Look at old photo albums and guess who is who
- Real and virtual travels (children and grands visit to Israel)
- Try Great grandma recipes (also in our Family Book).



## Helpful websites

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Involve\\_Children\\_and\\_Youth\\_in\\_Family\\_History](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Involve_Children_and_Youth_in_Family_History)

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/5-cool-apps-websites-to-research-family-history-your-kids.html>





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## Q & A

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