

# Winter 2022 Virtual Symposium

13 - 15 December 2022

## Opening session

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# **Bessarabia Winter Symposium Opening Session**

**Welcome to our first Bessarabia Winter Symposium!**

## **Agenda of the opening session:**

- **About the Symposium**
- **Brief geography and history of the region**
- **Bessarabia Special Interest Group (SIG) – history and projects**

# About the Symposium

We have **16 sessions** on **History, Genealogy** and **Culture** of Jews in Bessarabia and in other places where Jews used to live.

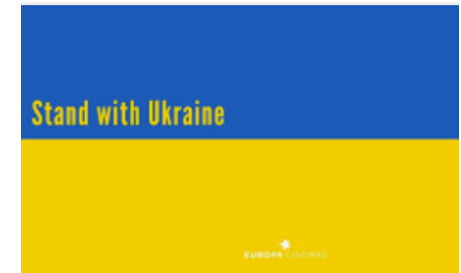
Sessions include the Opening and Closing sessions, one Panel Discussion and **13** lectures.

Every day sessions will start at 10am, and presenters will use 30-35 minutes on their topic and about 10-15 minutes for Q & A. We will have about 10 minutes breaks between sessions. If a presenter does not have time to answer all your questions, please submit them to me, and I will re-direct them to the presenter.

# About the Symposium

We have presenters from many countries, including **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine**.

In case, a presenter cannot come online for his/her lecture, we will substitute it with another one on topics of mutual interest.



# About the Symposium

Tomorrow, on December 14 at 1pm, we are going to have a Panel Discussion:

*Where Can I Find Information About My Bessarabian Roots?*

After several minutes of an introduction by a moderator Ala Gamulka and panelists Alan Levine and Yefim Kogan, you will be able to ask questions and make comments. You can also send questions today to moderator Ala Gamulka, at [gamulk@rogers.com](mailto:gamulk@rogers.com) and we will try to answer them tomorrow at the Panel.

# **Brief geography and history of the region**

What is Bessarabia?

And where is it?



# Bessarabia on a map of Europe





# Brief geography and history of the region

1812 – Russian Empire occupied this land after Russia-Turkey war and Bucharest agreement.

For more than 100 years it was part of the Russian Empire, and in December of 1917 the area established a national assembly which proclaimed the **Moldavian Democratic Republic**, but in April of 1918 legislative body voted for unification with Romania. It was under Romanian rule until 1940, when it was occupied by the Soviet Union, see Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of 1939.

1941 Romanian and German army invaded the region, until Soviets took it back in 1944. After that Bessarabia was under Soviet Union control, and South and North parts were added to Ukraine Soviet Republic and the rest to Moldova Soviet Republic.



# Brief geography and history of the region

## Brief history of Jews in Bessarabia

**1812** – only 5,000 families or 20,000 Jews lived in Bessarabia. In less than 100 years, in **1897** Jewish population had grown to 225,000, 11.7% of total population.

**1903** – pogrom in Kishinev. 47 Jews killed, 424-wounded. In 1903 and 1904 there were **20 pogroms** in Bessarabia towns.

More about Jewish history you may hear in sessions at the symposium or at many articles from the resource guide. Here is one of them:

<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/HistoryOfJewsInBessarabia15-19c.pdf>

## **Bessarabia Special Interest Group (SIG) – history and projects**

Bessarabia SIG was organized in 2011, at the IAJGS conference in Washington. Before 2011, Bessarabia was part of RomSIG.

About 15 years Bob Wascou (z"l) started and administered a large Bessarabia Vital Records project. We continue to work on this project.

We are receiving Vital records directly from Kishinev, and last batch we received in August of this year: Birth and Marriage records for 1920 and 1921 for Kishinev and Beltsy.

We started many other projects since 2011.

# Bessarabia Special Interest Group (SIG) – history and projects



Bessarabia SIG explores historical region of Bessarabia and part of Moldova Republic which is on the left bank of Dniester River – Transnistria unrecognized territory.

**Bessarabia** is combination of **Yellow** and **Purple**

**Republic of Moldova** is combination of **Yellow** and **Green**

**Pridnestrovie (Transnistria)** is **Green**

## Bessarabian databases

Yefim Kogan  
as of October 2022

Bessarabia Vital Records	<a href="#">Bessarabia Birth Records</a>	Bessarabia	103,239
	<a href="#">Bessarabia Marriage and Divorce Records</a>	Bessarabia	33,259
	<a href="#">Bessarabia Death Records</a>	Bessarabia	42,087
Revision Lists	<a href="#">Bessarabia Revision Lists</a>	Bessarabia	256,348
	<a href="#">Tiraspol uezd Revision Lists</a>	Moldova	7,801
Business Directories	<a href="#">Bessarabia Business Directory 1924</a>	Bessarabia	13,144
	<a href="#">Vsya Rossiya Business Directory for Bessarabia</a>	Bessarabia	2,618
	<a href="#">1916 Kishinev Business Directory</a>	Bessarabia	651
	<a href="#">1940 Chisinau Commercial Yearbook</a>	Bessarabia	1,278
	<a href="#">1901 Klyachkin Business directory</a>	Bessarabia, Moldova	544
	<a href="#">Jews Involved In Public Life In Bessarabia</a>	Bessarabia	1,948
Holocaust	<a href="#">Surviving Jews in Bessarabia, After WWII</a>	Bessarabia	1,782
	<a href="#">Book of Memory - Moldovan Victims of Soviet Oppression 1941-1951</a>	Bessarabia, Moldova	3,847
	<a href="#">Răutel Camp Listings</a>	Bessarabia, Moldova	2,070
	<a href="#">Jews Killed in Dubossary, Moldova / Transnistria</a>	Bessarabia, Moldova	758
	<a href="#">Leova Mayoral Election List 18 May 1937</a>	Bessarabia	1,929
	<a href="#">Mass Deportation from Moldova 13-16 June 1941</a>	Bessarabia, Moldova	2,517
	<a href="#">Lists of Romanian Jews from Bucovina and Bessarabia</a>	Romania,Bessara bia, Moldova	2,420
	<a href="#">The JewishGen Yizkor Book Master Name Index - Bessarabia</a>	Bessarabia	1,512
	<a href="#">The JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology Database - Bessarabia</a>	Bessarabia	5,958
	JOWBR	<a href="#">JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry - Bessarabia</a>	Bessarabia
Other databases	<a href="#">Russian Jewish Fallen Soldiers of WWI - Bessarabia</a>	Bessarabia	1,559
	<a href="#">1921 Jewish Refugees at Romanian Border</a>	Bessarabia	445
	<a href="#">Bessarabia Duma Voters List</a>	Bessarabia	128,148
	<a href="#">Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Collection: Bessarabia Records</a>	Bessarabia	4,884

Here is a link to this list:

<https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/files/databases/BessarabiaAsOfOct2022.pdf>

Every database has a link to its  
Introductory pages.

# What we did from September 2021 to November 2022

**Vital records:** 9,599 records

**Revision Lists:** 16,220 records for 4,129 families

**Business directory:** 2,612 records were added to Vsyā Rossiya Business Directory for Bessarabia

**Cemeteries:** Zguritsa - 574 burial records with 572 images

**Kishinev**, sector 6 - 3,214 burial records with 2,685 images

**Iagorlik** - 11 burial records with 11 images

**Klishkivtsi** - 2 Jewish cemeteries - received all photos, but not yet indexed

**Kishinev**, sector 7 partly photographed

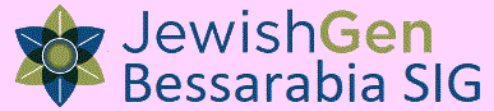
**History of Jews** section – added several articles, video



## **Plans for this year and future**

At the end of December, we are sending another load of records to JewishGen to upload to the databases.

We will discuss our plans for next years at our Closing session on December 15 at 2pm. See you there.



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# Q & A

# ?

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