



## Winter 2022 Virtual Symposium

13 - 15 December 2022

**Here are comments, suggestions and feedback for Bessarabia Winter Symposium.** (Personal notes were removed).

I would like to thank everyone for provided feedback and encourage more comments and suggestions.

Yefim Kogan, 1/30/2023

The symposium was excellent. I think that the remote format for numerous presentations by our SIG is far more informative than a presentation or two at the IAJGS annual meeting.

Thanks, and congratulations!

Jeff Wexler

I did watch the section on Rascov. I want to thank you for organizing it. It was interesting, perhaps I was hoping for help with genealogy more than a travel account. I'm surprised they went to Rascov which is under Russian control.

I enjoyed many aspects of the sessions. Again, thank you for all you do.

Lili Letzen Borensztein

I also think the most important suggestion we can make is to have a knowledgeable tech person oversee what we are planning and perhaps set guidelines or a structure for certain aspects of presentations. They could be available prior to our presentations for guidance Q and A's etc. It might also help that before a session starts, Yefim, or other moderators mention again that questions can be posted in the chat or asked at the end of the presentation.

Yefim, thank you again for making this symposium happen. It was great. I am sorry I could not listen to anything after my presentation - had to leave for a month in France (where I am now), but am viewing the recordings.

Alan Levitt

Tonight I just watched the Dunais talking about their experience. It was very moving and I may try to show it to others. I think some school groups should listen so kids don't have fantasies about war.

I just wanted to congratulate you for the wonderful program you put together and for making it possible for me to hear directly from them.

Barbara Hershey

First, the overall webinar was beautifully organized, and with sessions that were comfortable in length. Thank you!! As for the speakers, this being one of my first Jewish Gen experiences, I was blown away. The caliber of most of the speakers was remarkable, and I am so grateful. The speakers whose presentations stood out for me were: 1) Yale Strom, 2) Christian Herrmann, 3) your co-presentation with Galina about family, 4) your panel with Ala Gamulka and Alan Levine, and 5) Yuriy Daylis.

Mr. Herrmann's photographs were so moving and eloquent, as was his narrative - thoughtful, beautiful. I'm a music aficionado, so Mr. Daylis' presentation was so enjoyable for me. The concept of a "musical father" and "Musical grandfather" are concepts with which I grew up...and the recordings he shared were so beautiful, so rare. The presentation about teaching family history to children/grandchildren that you and Galina gave was extraordinary! I had never heard of a "family book" before, and your family is indeed fortunate to be able to benefit from all your work, and all Galina's pedagogical expertise.

As for the penultimate presentation, that by Alex and Natalia Dunai, I was so moved. Alex looks like he could be a cousin...and since my family hails from southwest Ukraine (the shtetl of Felshtin), he may indeed be related. Distressed as I was to hear that HIAS and other formal organizations whose missions are to help those in war-torn countries and other crises currently neglecting many sufferers, I was grateful for your providing contact information so we could send help directly to Alex. I have done this and am persuading some of my friends to do as well.

You recruited and organized a webinar that was so meaningful...and for this, I cannot thank you adequately.

Susan Landau Golden

I think the symposium was excellent because it covered a wide range of topics and should have met everyone's needs/interests. Personally, my husband and I enjoyed Barely Enough Bread because my husband plays the cimbalom. Topics such as teaching family history or researching in archives had no appeal since I have no grandchildren and don't plan to visit Moldova. However, those topics were of interest to other attendees.

Other than the Translating Records from Russian, which was a preventable disaster, the other issues were forgivable given the location of the presenter and were well handled. I think you should be pleased with the symposium, and it probably reached more people than would have attended a convention.

Roberta Jaffer

I attended all of the sessions. I thought it was excellent!!! I loved you and your wife's presentation. Thank you for taking the time to organize the symposium.

Lori Barnett

I so enjoyed the symposium and I look forward to watching the few presentations that I missed. Thank you for all your hard work and leadership.

Dina Pollock

I want to express my gratitude for organizing and presenting at the symposium. It's very informative and enjoyable. Meeting the presenters face-to-face from the comfort of your own home is priceless.

I found Anna Royzner's presentation and list of ZAGS sites as the most useful. It was a real eye opener for me. Yours and Galina's presentation was very inspiring, a source of ideas for my own family. Talk on Bessarabia business directory was very interesting, but I'd like it to be more hands-on. I don't know where to find Vsy Rossia, and how to access it.

In summary, I would like to see 1) more case studies on what people are finding and how. 2) DNA case studies. I personally found 2nd and 3rd cousins, based on DNA data. It's a fascinating field.

Etí Ganin

I thought the best parts of the symposium were the discussion of Bessarabian resources on Jewish Gen and the overview of the activities of the volunteer group.

I would like to hear more about an overview of what places in general are interesting to see in all Bessarabia, how to travel in Bessarabia, who can be employed as guides for those traveling to Bessarabia / Moldova. and who is available to employ to do research in Bessarabia

Howard Kaufman

It's really meaningful for me what you do in Bessarabia SIG, my grandmother's family came from there.

Iván Wolkovicz

I loved her (Anna Royzner) presentation. I just would have liked a handout with the steps. She is super knowledgeable, and she gave loads of information. I couldn't have imagined anyone doing better.

Sue Levine

I was only able to attend the following presentations due to timing (and I rushed home to get to them); **Even a single old photograph can be useful in telling a story** and **Laws for Jews in Russian Empire**. The first of the two was fascinating because of the concept of connecting people through a photograph. I'd like to know more about that process. If I remember correctly, Cassio had already known the surname and location to search, but it would be an interesting presentation to find other researchers who found family via websites, etc.

The second of the two was your presentation. I learned quite a bit about the laws for Jews in the Russian Empire and would like to learn more about that book.

The symposium timing is awkward for those of us who work full time, but I am grateful to have access to the slides and recordings after the symposium.

Tammy Weingarten

You (everyone who was involved in this project and you in particular) did a great job. I have not finished reviewing all materials yet, but what I read and watched so far impressed me very much.

What was really interesting for me was your joint presentation with Galina about your family book. My late father wrote our family blood as well and it has been in my plan to translate it into English so our grandkids would be able to read. For years I was working on it in and out, but mostly out. After reviewing your presentation you convinced me to go back to this project and finish it. I will see how much patience I will have this time. We will talk more in the Shul. We will miss the next two Shabbos due to our grandkids' visit.

Leonard Spector

I have been watching the Bessarabia Conference the past two days. The speakers have been excellent, and I have learned a lot of new information that will help me with my genealogy projects.

Nancy Hutner Mueller

Thank you! Thank you! I participated in almost every single session of the SIG virtual symposium these past 3 days. It was an enlightening and uplifting experience. My genealogical research has been mostly a solitary activity -- except for those delightful encounters with new-found relatives. But now I have a special connection to the amazing presenters, volunteers and attendees of the SIG sessions and I have found "family" in a new way.

Judy Pritchett

Я по несколько раз посмотрела с большим интересом вступление, окончание, сессию про законы для евреев и как учить внуков семейной истории. Это огромная работа! Я так благодарна вам за возможность это увидеть и присоединиться! Очень интересно было узнать про книгу законов, я даже не знала о самом факте существования этой книги.

I watched several times with great interest the introduction, the ending, the session on laws for Jews and how to teach family history to grandchildren. This is a huge job! I am so grateful to you for the opportunity to see this and join! It was very interesting to learn about the book of laws, I did not even know about the very fact of the existence of this book.

Julia Parusnikova

תודה רבה על הסימפוזיון, זה היה מוצלח באופן יוצא מן הכלל.  
שמחתי לראות כמה מההרצאות  
היה מאוד מעניין  
בכל הרצאה היה משהו חדש בשבילי  
לצערי לא היה לי זמן לראות את כל מה שרציתי לראות, אבל טוב שיש את ההקלטות

אלכסנדר קוגן

Thank you very much for the symposium, it was exceptionally successful. I was happy to see some of the lectures. It was very interesting. Every lecture had something new for me. Unfortunately, I didn't have time to see everything I wanted to see, but it's good to have the recordings.

Alexander Kogan

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