JewishGen

2011
UPDATE

JewishGen

AN AFFILIATE OF   MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE | A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST

COVER PHOTO CREDITS:

JewishGen

2011
UPDATE

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JEWISHGEN LEADERSHIP

Staff
Warren Blatt, Managing Director (Simi Valley, CA, USA)
Michael Tobias, Vice President of Programming (Glasgow, Scotland)
Avraham Groll, Director of Business Operations (New York, NY, USA)

Vice Presidents
Nolan Altman, VP, Data Acquisition (Oceanside, NY, USA)
Phyllis Kramer, VP, Education (New York, NY, USA)
Vivian Kahn, VP, SIG Affairs (Oakland, CA, USA)
Susana Leistner Bloch, VP, KehilaLinks (Winnipeg, MB, Canada)

Mailing List Moderators
The moderators of the JewishGen Discussion Group mailing list include: Dick Plotz (Rhode Island, USA), Robert Fraser (Australia), Emily Garber (Arizona, USA), Dorothy Leivers (Kent, England), and Janette Silverman (Arizona, USA).

Former moderators, who are still semi-active, include: Merav Schejtman (Israel), Rony Golan (Israel), and Varda Epstein (Israel).

Technical Volunteers
Dick Plotz, Manager of Mailing Lists (Rhode Island, USA)
Lance Ackerfeld, Manager of Yizkor Book Project (Israel)
Iris Folkson, Tech: Lyris, IMail, FTJP, Password (New York, USA)
Gary Sandler, Tech: Systems (California, USA)
Alex Sharon, JGFF Editor (Alberta, Canada)
Mike Kalt, Holocaust Database HTML (North Carolina, USA)
Max Heffler, JOWBR HTML, Yizkor Book Necrology DB (Texas, USA)
Marian Price, LostNFound (New York, USA)
Sam Eneman, ViewMate Admin, Wall of Honor (North Carolina, USA)
Barbara Ellman, KehilaLinks Technical Coordinator (New Jersey, USA)
Sam Schleman, Liaison with FHL for data acquisition (Pennsylvania, USA)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The JewishGen Operations Committee ("OpCom") is composed of the staff, vice presidents, and selected key volunteers. Current members include: Warren Blatt, Avraham Groll, Michael Tobias, Phyllis Kramer, Vivian Kahn, Susana Leistner Bloch, Dick Plotz, Nolan Altman, and Karen Franklin.

2: GREETINGS

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

Welcome to JewishGen's 2011 Update.

As you read this report, one thing will immediately become apparent – JewishGen is moving forward.

At last count, more than 20 million records are now available online, with more projects underway. The website redesign is almost entirely complete, significant enhancements have been made to the Communities Database, and important updates have been made to ViewMate, and the Family Finder — two important tools that have connected many thousands of people throughout the world.

The future is bright for JewishGen, and I hope you enjoy reading about the significant steps we have taken over the past year.

As we approach the end of the summer and the beginning of the High Holiday season, I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and healthy year.

— *Dr. David G. Marwell*

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

JewishGen is made possible by the devotion and service of so many extraordinary volunteers.

On behalf of the JewishGen Board of Governors and every user of the site, we would like to acknowledge and thank those who have dedicated their time and energies to JewishGen.

The Board of Governors is an advisory committee whose major function is to help staff and volunteers establish priorities, plan strategically, and serve as a liaison to the community.

Since the revitalization of the Board of Governors just a couple of years ago, we have formed a board comprising of individuals who bring experience in Jewish genealogy and who have a sense of how to continue moving forward. Most recently, we were delighted that Sarina Roffe and Hal Bookbinder joined our team.

As always, we welcome your ideas, your volunteer time, and your financial support. Please feel free to share your thoughts with any member of the Board of Governors at any time.

— *Karen S. Franklin & Gary Mokotoff*

GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF

With a sense of humility and pride, we invite you to examine this report and gain an appreciation for the hard work of thousands of JewishGen volunteers throughout the world.

Since 2008, when JewishGen moved its offices from Texas to the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York, almost every single aspect of our organization has been subject to review and careful analysis. The results of this process can be seen clearly on the JewishGen site. Millions of records have been added, processes have been streamlined, more efficient ways of adding data have been created — and this is just the beginning.

In addition, we developed and implemented a comprehensive fundraising and marketing plan to ensure JewishGen's present and future financial sustainability. As you know, the past few years (indeed, the past decade) have brought numerous challenges that affected non-profits. Yet JewishGen users have continued to support the valuable and important work of JewishGen in growing numbers.

We are glad to present this 2011 update and pledge our continued effort to preserve our history for future generations.

— Warren Blatt   Avraham Groll   Michael Tobias

3: **WHO WE ARE**

JewishGen, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, was founded in 1987 and provides amateur and professional genealogists the ability to research their Jewish family history and heritage.

JewishGen's website is purposely designed to provide a simple and easy interface, and is offered as a free public service. We are primarily driven by volunteers, with more than 1,000 active volunteers throughout the world who contribute to our ever growing collection of databases, resources, and search tools.

With more than 400,000 users worldwide, JewishGen has become the central online destination for Jewish Genealogical research, with more than 20 million Jewish records, hundreds of translated Yizkor (memorial) books, research tools, family finders, educational classes, historical components, and other resources.

JEWISHGEN'S MISSION

To encourage the preservation of Jewish heritage, allowing anyone with Jewish ancestry to research their roots, connect with relatives, and learn about their family history.

This mission will be accomplished by:

1. Obtaining records, information, and tools that will be valuable for Jewish ancestral research;
2. Maintaining an online community for family researchers to connect with relatives and like minded individuals; and
3. Ensuring the JewishGen website continues to offer its resources in an easily searchable and understandable format.

4: RESOURCES AND DATABASES

COMMUNITIES DATABASE

This master database unifies and links together all of JewishGen's resources about each Jewish community thoughout the world. It contains information on more than 6,000 of those communities, together with Jewish population figures, historical town names, jurisdictions, inset maps, and links to JewishGen resources.

For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp

DISCUSSION GROUPS

The JewishGen Discussion Groups provide thousands of researchers throughout the world with the opportunity to connect, ask questions, exchange information, and learn from others. There is no charge to participate in these groups.

There are currently 35 active discussion groups, organized by topic and geographical interest, with more than 10,000 subscribers. Perhaps most importantly, an archive of **all 100,000+ previous message postings** to the JewishGen Discussion Group (including SIGs) since 1993 may be searched on the Web.

The Discussion Groups are led by Dick Plotz.
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/DiscussionGroup.htm

FAMILY TREE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

The *Family Tree of the Jewish People* (FTJP) is designed to centralize the collection of Jewish family trees, while providing a powerful resource to connect individuals researching the same Jewish family branches.

In 2010, JewishGen partnered with MyHeritage to significantly expand the reach of the project. Currently, we have data on more than 5 million individual names submitted by 4,200 genealogists.

For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom

FAMILY FINDER

The JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) is a compilation of surnames and towns currently being researched by over 92,000 Jewish genealogists worldwide. The JGFF is a networking tool that allows people to connect with others who are researching similar names or towns. For example, users can view the town and family names that other people are researching and contact them if there are similar interests.

Since July 2010, more than 18,000 new entries have been added. As of July 2011, the JGFF contains more than 480,000 entries and is searched more than one million times per year.

For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/

GAZETTEER (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SHTETLSEEKER)

The JewishGen Gazetteer is a database containing the names of all one million localities within the 53 countries of Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. The data is based on the U.S. Board on Geographic Names databases.

For each locality, the search results will display:
- The place's name(s), with the native name in bold
- The coordinates — latitude and longitude
- Links to maps
- Country — the country in which the locality is located today
- Distance/Direction from reference point
- 10 mile radius — a link to display all places within a 10 mile radius

The U.S. Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) provides geographic names information from the Geographic Names Database (GNDB), which is then used to prepare country gazetteers of feature-names approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN).

For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp

HOLOCAUST DATABASE

JewishGen's Holocaust Database is a collection of databases containing information about Holocaust victims and survivors. It contains more than two million entries, from more than 150 component datasets.

The Holocaust Database is led by Nolan Altman.
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/

JEWISHGEN ONLINE WORLDWIDE BURIAL REGISTRY (JOWBR)

Functioning as a virtual cemetery, the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) aims to catalog data about Jewish cemeteries and burial records worldwide, from the earliest records to the present. JOWBR is a searchable database of names and associated information, including photographs of gravestones.

Since August 2010, JOWBR has added approximately 300,000 new records to its online database. Overall, JOWBR contains more than 1.7 million burial records from approximately 3,200 cemeteries in 51 countries.

The JOWBR project is led by Nolan Altman.
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/

KEHILALINKS PROJECT (FORMERLY KNOWN AS SHTETLINKS)

KehilaLinks aims to create virtual Yizkor Books for any place that Jews once lived. These web-pages contain pictures, databases, and general information about a particular place. Any town which had or has a Jewish presence is within the scope of the project. For example, websites have been created by descendants of Jews from Eastern Europe (Ashkenazim), Spain and Portugal (Sephardim) and throughout the Middle East, North Africa and the Caucuses (Mizrachim).

As of June 2011, KehilaLinks has contributed more than 435 town websites and 22 Region/District websites. Since last year, 36 new sites have been added, with 49 still in progress.

The KehilaLinks project is led by Susana Leistner Bloch.
For more information, please visit: http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org

ONLINE LEARNING CENTER

To help researchers organize information and trace their ancestral roots, JewishGen offers video instruction to help people research their families. In addition, online interactive courses are offered at minimal charge. Courses generally last for eight sessions and include personal research assistance from the instructor.

Courses are offered at all research levels (beginner to advanced). In total, more than 1,400 students have taken JewishGen courses since 2005.

Some of the courses offered include:
*   Using JewishGen
*   Basic U.S. Genealogy
*   Intermediate U.S. Genealogy ("Breaking through Brick Walls")
*   Creating KehilaLinks Pages
*   Advanced – Independent Study

The Online Learning Center is led by Phyllis Kramer.
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Education/

VIEWMATE

An incredibly useful tool, the ViewMate Project allows users to post photographs and documents online, and request help in translating or identifying information.

For example, imagine you find a letter from a great-great grandfather, but it is in Polish — a language you cannot read or understand. ViewMate will allow you to upload a scanned copy of the document onto JewishGen and request translation help from thousands of other JewishGen users throughout the world.

As of June 2011, ViewMate has facilitated 15,000 submissions which led to 9,518 responses.

Important updates since last year include:

- Improved image upload capabilities.
- The submission "question" text box can now accept accented characters in different languages.
- Ability to review and rotate images and edit information before submission.
- New features for managing submissions, such as:
  - Preview responses/translations, and mark/unmark them for inclusion in both the Image Gallery and the Archive.
  - Change an item's category (for example, if a user thought a document was in Hebrew, but is notified that it is actually written in Yiddish, the user can now individually change the category).
  - Close submissions to additional responses.
  - Send personal "thank you" messages to each person who responds to submissions.
  - Request extensions for current images and reposts for old images.
  - FAQs
- New features for the Image Gallery, such as:
  - New ways to filter and organize images.
  - Number of responses displayed.
  - Ability to rotate a full-size image while translating.
  - Share and bookmark images using Social Media tools.

The ViewMate project is led by Sam Eneman and Gary Sandler.
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/ViewMate/

YIZKOR BOOK PROJECT

Yizkor Books (Yiddish for *Memorial Books*) were traditionally written to memorialize the names of departed family members during holiday services in the synagogue (a practice that still exists in many communities today). Over the centuries, as a result of countless persecutions and horrific atrocities committed against the Jews, Yizkor Books (*Sefer Zikaron* in Hebrew) were expanded to include more historical information, such as biographical sketches of famous personalities and descriptions of daily town life.

Following the Holocaust, the idea of remembrance and learning took on an urgent and crucial importance. Survivors of the Holocaust sought out other surviving members of their former towns to memorialize and document the names and way of life of those who were murdered by the Nazis.

These remembrances were documented in Yizkor Books, hundreds of which were published in the first decades after the Holocaust. Most of these books were published privately, or through the *landsmanshaftn* (social organizations comprised of members originating from the same European town or region) that still existed, and were often distributed free of charge.

Sadly, the languages used to document these crucial histories and links to our past, Yiddish and Hebrew, are no longer commonly understood by a significant percentage of Jews today. It is our hope that the transla-tion of these books into English (and other languages) will assist the countless Jewish family researchers who are so desperately seeking to forge a connection with the heritage.

In addition to the translation of these books, JewishGen is also indexing the names of all persons mentioned within the translated portions, along with the names from the necrologies — the lists of Holocaust martyrs — published in the Yizkor Books.

Since August 2010:
- 114 new books were added
- 340 existing books were updated
- 57,000 records added to the Master Names database
- 24,000 family records were added to the necrology database, which now includes names from 265 different Yizkor books and presently include some 240,000 entries
- 9 new Translation Project Funds were created

The Yizkor Book project is led by Lance Ackerfeld.
For more information, please visit: http://www.JewishGen.org/Yizkor

5: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

More than 20 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are part of JewishGen. These groups allow people with specific interests to combine resources and energy in an effort to organize, obtain and increase records and information relevant to a specific region.

Highlights from some of our SIGs appear below.

AUSTRIA-CZECH SIG

The Austria-Czech SIG serves as a forum for the exchange of genealogical and historical information relating to the Jewish communities that once existed in Austria and the Czech Republic (Bohemia and Moravia).

The Austria-Czech SIG continues to be an active forum for discussion of the latest discoveries in the field. In the past year, we have seen significant advances in the availability of records from Austria and the Czech Republic. In addition, many members had the opportunity to meet and share research at the 2010 IAJGS conference in Los Angeles.

Leadership: E. Randol Schoenberg
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 1,200
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech

BELARUS SIG

The Belrus SIG seeks to aid Jewish genealogy researchers with an interest in the *gubernii* (provinces) of Grodno, Minsk, Mogilev, and Vitebsk, as well as in the Lida and Vileika *uyezds* (districts) of the Vilna gubernia, now in Belarus.

More than 22,000 names have been added to JewishGen's Belarus Database in a data set named "Grodno and Volkovysk Uyezd Revision Lists." Primarily, the records are from:

- 1858 Revision Lists (census) for Grodno Uyezd (district) towns (Indura (Amdur), Kaminka, Krynki, Lunna, Mosty, Ozery, Skidel, Volpa (Wolp), Vola (Wola) and Berestovitsa, with more than 8,700 records from the city of Grodno itself).

- 1853 alphabetical conscription lists of males from Volkovysk Uyezd towns (Izabelin, Jalowka (Yalovka) Poland, Lopenitsky, Lyskovo, Mstibava, Novy Dvor, Peski, Porozovo, Ros, Svislach, Volkovysk and Zelva), which are based on 1850 revision lists.

Other significant data included in these lists are:

- 1850 revision lists of the Galilee and Israel farming colonies
- Additional revision list from the City of Grodno with 400 entries
- 1,400 entries from the 1858 revision list for the town of Volkovysk

After Grodno City, the largest collections are for Krynki (1,900 entries) and Amdur (Indura) (1,400 entries). In addition we are actively in the process of adding more than 42,000 records from a variety of places throughout Belarus.

Leadership: Sharon Fingold, David Feldman, Ruth Silver and Paul Zoglin
Discussion Group Subscriber count: 3,000
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/

FRENCH SIG

The French SIG provides a forum for questions, exchange of information and discussion of matters involved in doing Jewish genealogical research in France, other French-speaking areas such as Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland, and in former French colonies such as Tunisia and Algeria.

We are currently working on a list of 30,000 Jews, from many different countries who were deported from France and never heard from again. In addition, we are in contact with the Cercle de Genealogie Juive in Paris, in regard to the many French cemeteries that they have documented, with the hope of obtaining copies to be entered into JOWBR on JewishGen.

Leadership: Rosanne Leeson, Pierre Hahn
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 650
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/French/

HUNGARIAN SIG

The Hungarian SIG covers the area known as "Greater Hungary" or pre-Trianon Hungary and all areas that were once predominantly Hungarian-speaking. This includes all of present-day Hungary and Slovakia and territory now within Romania, the Ukraine, Austria (including present-day Burgenland), Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia.

The recent addition of about 150,000 vital records to the JewishGen Hungary Database brings the total number of vital records (births, marriages, and deaths) to more than 500,000. The whole database, which also includes census and other records, now totals more than 1.1 million records.

The current update includes remaining records for:

- Szeged – 23,000
- Pest death records – 57,000
- Bihar (now Romania) – 32,000
- Bratislava, Slovakia (formerly Poszony, Hungary) – 21,000
- Michalovce, Slovakia (formerly Nagy-Mihaly, Hungary) – 5,000

This monumental achievement is due to the efforts of a large group of H-SIG volunteers under the leadership of project coordinator Sam Schleman. Volunteers are also transcribing vital records for Maramaros from State Archives in Baia Mare, Romania. Other records added to the database include names from 1770-1850 censuses and more than 3,000 burials in Sighetu Marmatiei, Romania (formerly Maramarossziget).

Leadership: Vivian Kahn
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 1,400
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/

LATVIA SIG

The Latvia SIG focuses on the former Russian Empire *gubernias* of Courland, southern Livonia (Livland), and western Vitebsk.

Over the past year, work was done on the 1897 All Russian Census Records for Dvinsk, which we hope to complete and make accessible on JewishGen by the end of 2011. In addition, birth, marriage, and death records from Raduraksti are continually being transliterated by Christine Usdin and we hope to make significant progress on this database in 2011 as well.

The Latvia SIG will be well represented at the 2011 IAJGS Conference where Mitchell Lieber will present material about the documentary film, *Rumbula's Echo*. He will be making presentations at the Latvia SIG luncheon as well as in the general session.

In early July, SIG members attended ceremonies in Latvia to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the arrival of Jews in Latvia and the 70th anniversary of the 1941 massacre, which marked the beginning of the end of Jewish life in Latvia. Commentary concerning the ceremonies will be included in an upcoming issue of the SIG newsletter. (All newsletters since 1996 are available for download.)

Leadership: Barry Shay
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 860
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Latvia/

LITVAK SIG

In partnership with JewishGen, the LitvakSIG (an independent organization hosted by JewishGen) has continued to make significant updates to the Vital Records Project and Internal Passport (1919-1940) Project.

The Vital Records project aims to translate vital records for the Vilna and Kovno *gubernia* in Lithuania. To date, more than 300,000 records are online. This project is led by Aaron Rotenberg and Joel Ratner.

The Internal Passport (1919-1940) Project has now placed 79,131 records online (as of July 2011). The main cities remaining to be translated are Klaipeda and Vilnius. The Vilnius files are large, and the project is in need of funding for its completion. This project is led by Howard Margol.

Below is an update of work in progress:
- Klaipeda – 28 records
- Panevezys – 9,621 records
- Siauliai Uyezd – 5,594 records
- Vilnius – 305 records

Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 2,000
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Litvak/

ROMANIA-MOLDOVA SIG

The countries known today as Romania and Moldova, as well as the southwestern portion of Ukraine and Southern Hungary are the areas of interest to this SIG. Included in these countries are the areas formerly known as Bukovina, Moldavia, Bessarabia, Transylvania, Wallachia, and The Banat.

The Bessarabia Revision Lists project has more than 36,936 records online (as of spring 2011). We are currently waiting for more records to be received.

Work also continues on transcribing vital records from Bessarabia. An update of almost 8,400 records was made this past year, with most of the records coming from Balti (now in Moldova). In total, there are now more than 144,700 records in the Bessarabia Vital Records Database.

Both Bessarabian projects are coordinated by Bob Wascou. Volunteers are needed who can translate/transliterate Russian or Hebrew. Please email robertw252@aol.com for more information.

Leadership: Rosanne Leeson, Stephanie Weiner
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 1,800
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/romsig

SEPHARDIC SIG

The Sephardic SIG collects information helpful for people researching Sephardic genealogy and history. Since last year, the Aleppo *Brit Milah* database, containing information about 7,549 *britot* and 7,554 individuals between 1868-1945, was added.

In addition, JewishGen is in the process of partnering with other organizations to increase the records and resources relevant for those with Sephardic ancestry.

Leadership: Jeffrey Malka
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 777
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Sephardic/

OTHER SIGS

Other JewishGen SIGs focus on Bialystok, Courland, Danzig/Gdansk, Early American Jews, Galicia, Germany, Lodz, Scandinavia, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Warsaw. In addition, topical SIGs focus on Rabbinic genealogy, DNA, and Yiddish theater.

For more information, please visit http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/sigs.htm

6: HOSTED PROJECTS

In addition to our SIGs, JewishGen also hosts a number of independent organizations, which include:

JEWISH RECORDS INDEXING - POLAND (JRI-PL)

JRI-PL is a project to index all of the Jewish vital records in Poland. They currently have more than 4 million records from more than 500 Polish towns online, with many other projects in progress.

LITVAKSIG

The LitvakSIG seeks to preserve heritage from the Jewish communities of Lithuania before the Holocaust. They also focus on Kovno and Vilna *guberniyas* of the Russian Empire, which include much of present-day Lithuania.

SUWALK-LOMZA SIG

The Suwalk-Lomza Special Interest Group focuses on the former Russian-Polish *gubernias* (provinces) of Suwalki and Lomza (today in southwestern Lithuania and northeastern Poland) as constituted in 1866-1914. They publish a quarterly journal called *Landsmen*, which offers original research and data extractions, chiefly from material pertaining to the 19th century.

MISSING IDENTITY

This organization seeks to help Holocaust survivors who were children at the time, are still trying to locate information regarding their past.

THE FORGOTTEN CAMPS

This site provides history and information about Nazi Concentration Camps, Work Camps, Police Camps, and Transit Camps.

ELLIS ISLAND FOUNDATION DATABASE

This website offers One-Step Search Tools — enhanced search capabilities for easier access to data on www.ellisisland.org.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

JewishGen hosts websites for 16 Jewish Genealogical Societies (JGSs).

For more information, please visit http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/hosted.htm

7: SUPPORT

JewishGen is a grassroots organization. It always has been and it always will be. Our strength is in our volunteers and in our users who recognize the importance of supporting our mission financially.

Economic uncertainty has severely affected organizations throughout the world, and JewishGen is no different. However, we are proud that we have been able to operate within our budget for the previous two years. We accomplished this by ensuring that we spent less than we earned and that funds donated to us were used properly and in a way that will preserve our Jewish history and heritage for future generations.

JewishGen receives the bulk of its support from Spring and Fall fundraising campaigns, along with its Value Added Services incentive (which offers more enhanced features and search capabilities on the JewishGen site).
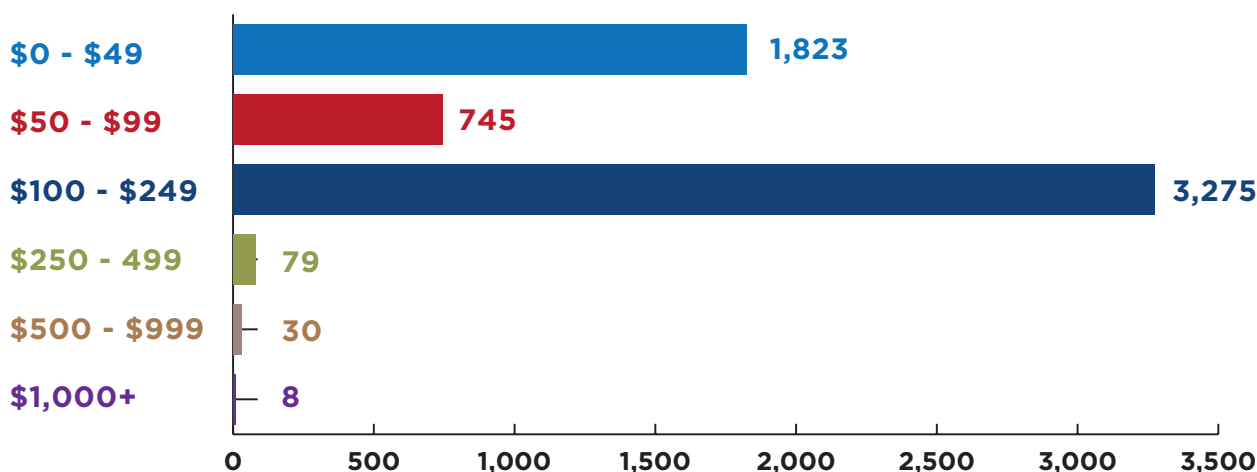
Some highlights appear below.

PARTICIPATION

We were gratified by the high level of participation we received from our users in 2010. While we received some donations in excess of $1,000 or as little as $5, each gift was significant and helped support the important work of JewishGen.
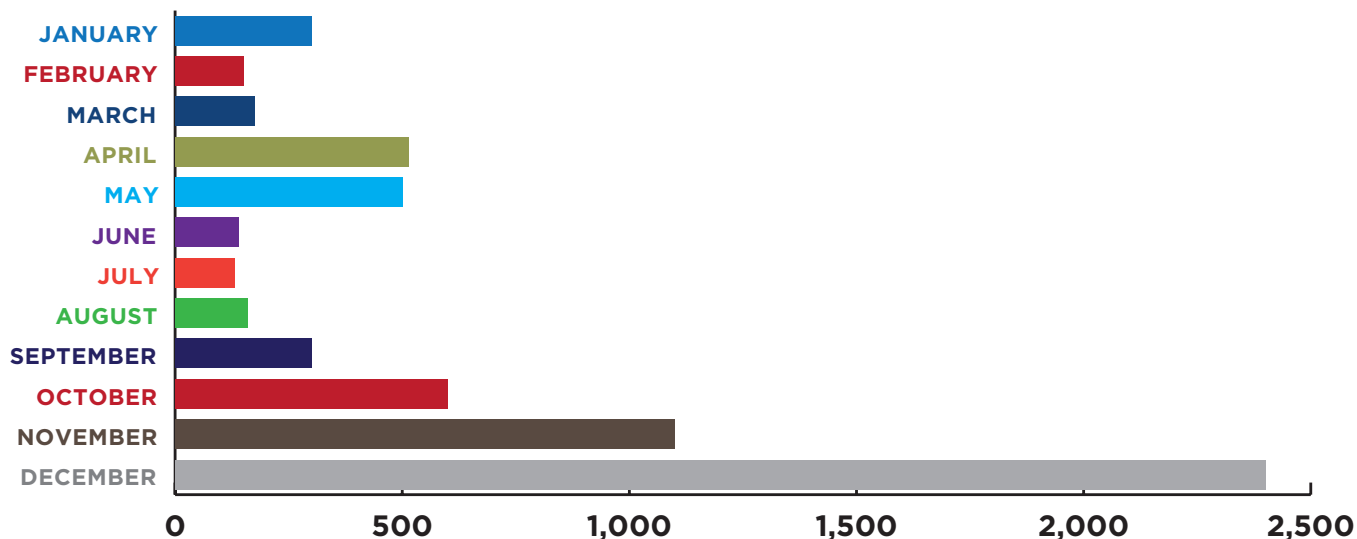
The charts below offer a brief summary of how and when people are helping support JewishGen.

JEWISHGEN INDIVIDUAL GIFTS BY LEVEL - 2010

Level	Number
$0 - $49	1,823
$50 - $99	745
$100 - $249	3,275
$250 - 499	79
$500 - $999	30
$1,000+	8

DOES NOT INCLUDE UNRESTRICTED GIFTS AND WEBSITE REVENUE

JEWISHGEN DONATIONS PER MONTH - 2010

Month	
JANUARY	
FEBRUARY	
MARCH	
APRIL	
MAY	
JUNE	
JULY	
AUGUST	
SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	

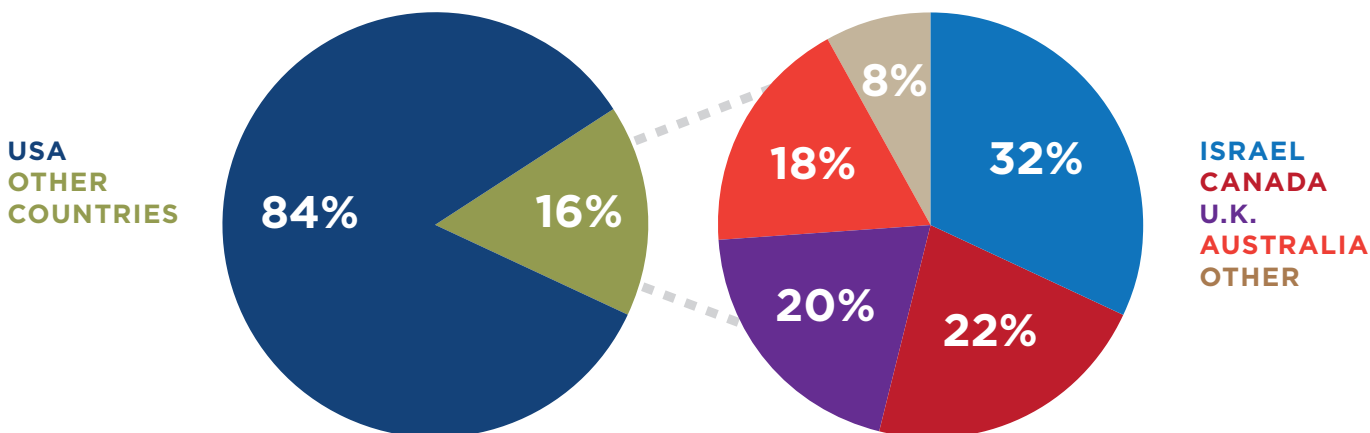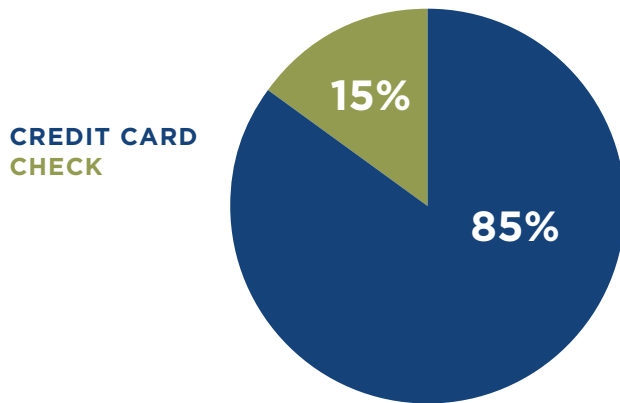0   500   1,000   1,500   2,000   2,500

GLOBAL SUPPORT

While JewishGen is based in New York, it is an organization comprising of people throughout the world. Although traditionally our sources of financial support were predominantly found within the USA, the power of the Internet has made it easier for JewishGen users to support our important work from anywhere in the world.

In 2010, donations from outside the USA comprised 16% of all donations received. This is a marked increase from just a few years ago, and we expect this trend to continue.

DONATIONS FROM USA AND OTHER COUNTRIES - 2010

USA
OTHER COUNTRIES

84%   16%

8%
18%
32%
20%
22%

ISRAEL
CANADA
U.K.
AUSTRALIA
OTHER

DONATION METHODS - 2010

CREDIT CARD
CHECK

15%

85%

Following the fundraising strategy adopted in the fall of 2008, JewishGen has successfully raised the majority of its financial support via credit card.

The advantages of receiving donations via credit card include immediate access to funds and less time spent on data entry.

Credit card donations can be submitted online, by fax, by regular mail, or by calling the JewishGen office. Visit http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/ to donate online.
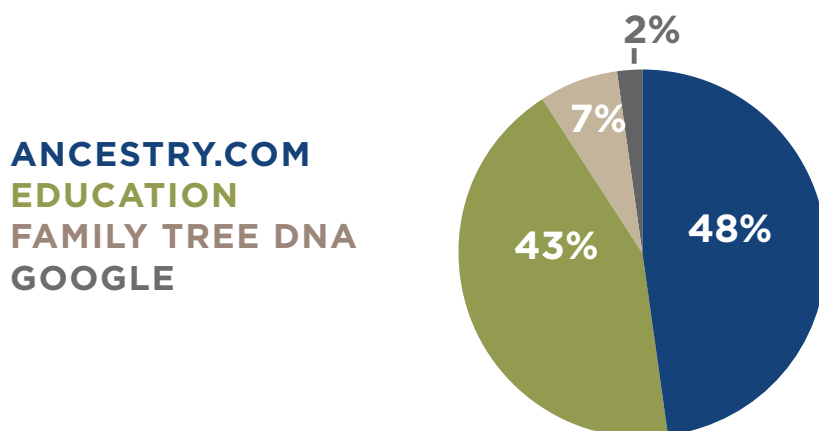
OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

JewishGen's Educational offerings raised more than $10,500 during 2010, with the average cost of an education class at $80.

In addition, JewishGen received revenue from a number of advertising programs on our website and blog. Currently, JewishGen has agreements with www.Ancestry.com and www.FamilyTreeDNA.com whereby we include links to their websites on our sites and receive a percentage of subscription fees for any user who signs up for their services as a result.

The JewishGen blog includes Google Ads whereby JewishGen receives a commission each time an ad is clicked (regardless of what the user does once they leave the blog).

As with all aspects of our organization, the continued success of these programs is contingent upon our ability to attract current and new users to the JewishGen site. Please make sure you continue to visit and support our advertisers!

OTHER REVENUE SOURCES - 2010

ANCESTRY.COM
EDUCATION
FAMILY TREE DNA
GOOGLE

2%

7%

43%

48%

8: COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

2010 OVERVIEW

Gaining an understanding of our user demographics was a priority in 2010; this information is of crucial importance when (1) deciding what types of databases to seek, (2) conducting marketing and advertising campaigns, and (3) seeking to provide better services to current users while also attracting potential new users.

An online survey was conducted to gather demographic information, while also focusing on how JewishGen users relate to Jewish genealogy. Among the key findings of this survey:
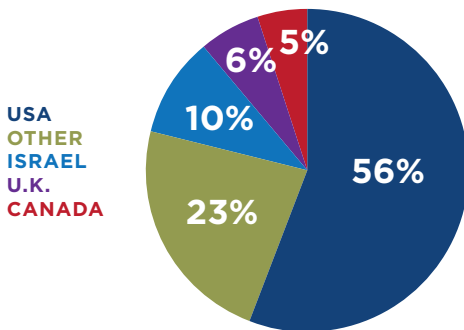
- **Gender:** 52.5% of JewishGen users are male and 47.5% are female.

- **Religious Affiliation:** 66.5% of JewishGen respondents identified themselves within one of the denominations of Judaism. 27% of our donors did not identify as Jewish.

- **Ethnic Heritage:** Donors identified themselves as 82% Ashekenazi, 2% Sephardi and 16% other or unknown. Non-donors identified themselves as 67% Ashkenazi, 3% Sephardi and 30% other or unknown.

- **Importance of Genealogy:** 56.5% of respondents indicated that genealogy plays an "important" or "very important" role in their lives.

- **Importance of JewishGen:** 69.5% of all respondents stated that JewishGen has been "important" or "very important" in their research, and 90.5% of respondents say they would recommend JewishGen to a friend.

- **Age:** 92% of our donors are age 50 or older, compared to 79% of non-donors.

- **Occupation Status:** 53% of donors are retired, while 34% are currently employed.

- **Household Income:** 65% of respondents had a household income greater than $50,000. 24% of our donors had household incomes greater than $150,000.

- **Education:** 86% of our donors earned a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) or higher, while among non-donors, the rate is 72%.

- **Spending on Genealogical Programs:** Jewish genealogists are willing to spend money on genealogical programs. Among respondents for whom Jewish genealogy plays an "important" or "very important" role in their lives, 22% spent $250-$499 and 16% over $500. Even among those who never contributed to JewishGen, 59% spent between $100-$499, and 5% spent $500, or more, on genealogy related programming.

These findings set the tone for various projects that were conducted during 2010 and that are being worked on for implementation in 2011 and 2012.

Other updates and highlights appear below:

WEBSITE STATISTICS

PERCENT OF VISITS PER COUNTRY

USA
OTHER
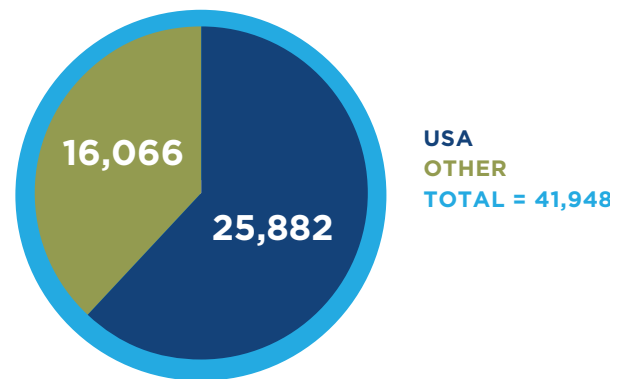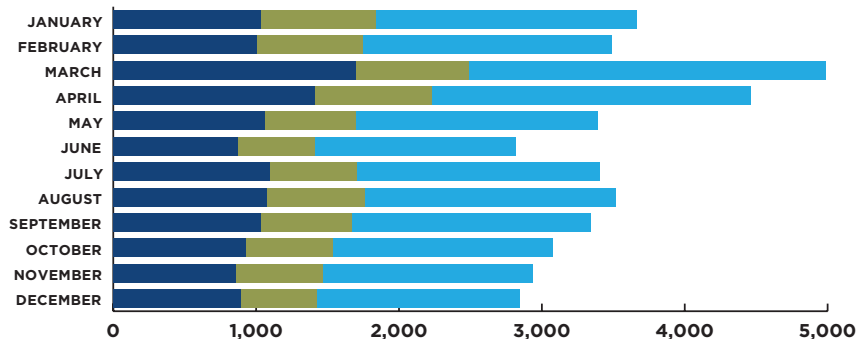ISRAEL
U.K.
CANADA

5%
6%
10%
23%
56%

Between July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011, JewishGen received more than 1.7 million unique visits from 214 countries/territories throughout the world. Overall, we received more than 15.8 million page views with 40% of our visitors viewing at least ten pages.

The majority originated from the USA, followed by Israel, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Other countries with a large number of visitors included Australia, Poland, Germany, France and Brazil.

NEW REGISTRANTS - 2010

In 2010, JewishGen received 41,948 new registered users.

NEW REGISTRANTS - 2010

16,066
25,882

USA
OTHER
TOTAL = 41,948

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The "News and Announcements" section on the JewishGen homepage is now regularly updated to include project updates, announcements, and fundraising links.

ADVERTISING VIA GOOGLE

JewishGen received a grant from Google to advertise the services of JewishGen, at no cost, on Google search pages. This grant is worth approximately $329 worth of ads per day, and has brought many new users to JewishGen.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media offers another medium for communicating with users/potential users in a more engaging manner, and continues to gain popularity among all age groups. JewishGen has a social media presence through its blog, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube pages.

JEWISHGEN BLOG

The goal of our blog is to increase the number of new users on JewishGen and to retain current JewishGen users. This is accomplished by providing continually updated stories, announcements, updates, and useful information that is relevant and interesting to a wide range of people coming from various backgrounds. Finally, the blog is used as a vehicle for advertising and other sources of generating revenue.

The JewishGen blog is located at www.JewishGen.blogspot.com

FACEBOOK

JewishGen currently maintains a fan page on facebook and has more than 1,400 "fans." In addition to posting various announcements, it is also a place where we have posted special discount codes to our online bookstore – exclusively available to our Facebook fans. We hope to expand the exclusive offerings for our Facebook fans in the year ahead.

The JewishGen Facebook fan page is located at www.facebook.com/JewishGen.org

TWITTER

Sometimes referred to as "micro-blogging," Twitter allows JewishGen to connect with current and potential users, and members of the media, by posting messages containing 140 characters or less. Similar to Facebook and the blog, people can subscribe, share, friend or follow.

The JewishGen twitter page is located at twitter.com/JewishGen

FLICKR

This photo sharing website offers JewishGen another way of connecting with our users and generating positive publicity. Photos from the 2011 IAJGS conference will be posted within a few days after the close of the conference.

The JewishGen Flickr page is located at http://www.flickr.com/photos/jewishgen/

YOUTUBE/VIDEO MARKETING

Another effective way of marketing JewishGen is to employ the use of Video Marketing by creating and "liking" videos, and organizing them on JewishGen's YouTube channel.

The JewishGen channel (currently a work in progress) will offer users a "behind the scenes" glimpse of JewishGen and how the organization works. In addition, videos will be posted by various staff and volunteers to introduce themselves and offer helpful hints that people can use in their research.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

We strive to provide proper recognition to the many volunteers who are crucial to the continued success of JewishGen. Volunteer profiles will continue in fall 2011. In addition, the "Volunteer Wall of Honor," which lists the names of our volunteers throughout the world, is continually updated.

Both can be viewed at http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/GetInvolved.html

DONOR RECOGNITION

A list of JewishGen donors who permitted us to publish their names is displayed on the JewishGen website.

The list of current donors can be viewed at http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/Contributions.pdf.

ELECTRONIC AGREEMENTS

JewishGen now uses an online agreement for new volunteers. In addition to online submission, an electronic database has been created whereby project managers can search to see if the corresponding form has been submitted, thus negating the need to contact the JewishGen business office.

This has streamlined the procedure for volunteers to sign agreements and get started with JewishGen, and has reduced staff time devoted to this endeavor by at least 50%.

A similar effort is underway to create an online donor agreement, which we hope to implement before the end of 2011.

9: TIMELINE

- **1987**   JewishGen bulletin board created by Susan King
- **1994**   JewishGen joins usenet as soc.genealogy.jewish
- **1994**   Yizkor Book project begins
- **1995**   JewishGen website launches
- **1996**   JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) goes online
- **1996**   ShtetLinks launches
- **1998**   First redesign of the original JewishGen homepage
- **1998**   Family Tree of the Jewish People begins
- **1998**   JewishGen ShtetlShleppers maiden voyage
- **1999**   JewishGen and Yad Vashem collaborate to collect names of Holocaust victims
- **1999**   First "all country" database launches
- **1999**   Website search engine added to JewishGen
- **2000**   JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) is created
- **2000**   ViewMate is publicized
- **2002**   Holocaust Database launched
- **2003**   JewishGen becomes an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust
- **2005**   Family Tree of the Jewish People reaches 3 million names
- **2006**   JGFF reaches 400,000 entries
- **2008**   JewishGen ShtetlShleppers final trip
- **2008**   JewishGen offices relocate to the Museum in New York
- **2009**   Comprehensive redesign of the JewishGen site
- **2010**   Total collection of records surpasses 18 Million
- **2011**   ShtetLinks rebranded as KehilaLinks

THANK YOU FOR READING.

PLEASE SEND
SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS
TO INFO@JEWISHGEN.ORG.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING
FROM YOU.