JewishGen

2012
UPDATE

COVER PHOTO CREDITS:

TOP LEFT: Prayer books, photo courtesy JewishGen. TOP RIGHT: Group of friends on an outing in the country, 1931, Sadkowa Gora, near Mielec, Galicia, now Poland, courtesy Susana Leistner Bloch. BOTTOM LEFT: Misha Scharf Czaban and her children Faiga and Leizer, courtesy Susana Leistner Bloch. BOTTOM CENTER: The Heller - Scharf Family of Suchostaw, Galicia, now Ukraine, courtesy Susana Leistner Bloch. BOTTOM RIGHT: Members of the Hitsradut Movement Chorostków. Photo taken in Chorostków, Galicia, now Ukraine, courtesy Susana Leistner Bloch.

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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 are: 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: Rony Golan (Israel) and Varda Epstein (Israel).

Technical Volunteers
Dick Plotz – Manager: Mailing Lists.   (Rhode Island, USA)
Lance Ackerfeld – Manager: 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)
Sandy Aaronson – Support Desk. (Texas, USA)
Annette Stolberg – Support Desk. (New York, USA)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The JewishGen Operations Committee ("OpCom") is composed of the staff, vice-presidents, and selected key volunteers. Current members are: 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 second annual Update. In the past year, our record collection surpassed 21 million, and networking tools such as the Family Finder and Discussion Groups have continued to connect families.

This past spring, JewishGen facilitated the connection of half-siblings whom did not previously know of each other's existence. In addition, members of the JewishGen community were able to help an elderly Holocasut survivor locate the birth certificate of her late husband, thus permitting her to list his age on his Matzeivah (tombstone). These are just two examples of the power JewishGen's networking tools harness. Our website design has made it easy to search our vast holdings, and I hope you enjoy learning about the major improvements we have made this past 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 comprised 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 Max Polonovski and Henry Blumberg 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 Board of Governors member at any time.

— *Gary Mokotoff & Karen S. Franklin*

GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF

This past year has been marked by the addition of more than one million new records and more than 41,000 new users throughout the world. We welcome our new Special Interest Groups (Bessarabia and Sub-Carpathia) and, as always, are grateful to the thousands of JewishGen volunteers throughout the world.

The past few years have been marked by financial turmoil throughout the world; yet JewishGen's users have consistently made sure that our programs are adequately funded for present and future generations. This year, we have begun to offer various Planned Giving initiatives, such as Charitable Gift Annuities, and we hope that you will give serious consideration to this mutually beneficial opportunity.

We are proud to work for an organization that is responsible, on a daily basis, for connecting so many people with their Jewish family history and heritage. This 2012 update will outline some of the ways we are accomplishing this, along with our plans 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 21 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

The *JewishGen Communities Database* unifies and links together all of JewishGen's resources about each Jewish community throughout the world. It contains information on more than 6,000 communities, together with Jewish population figures, historical town names and jurisdictions, inset maps, and links to JewishGen resources.

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

Example of a JewishGen Communities Database Locality Page

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 total 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.

In addition to research, the Discussion Groups and its archive are a fantastic way of connecting with people. For example, this past spring, a family in Canada came across a five-year old message and was able to connect with someone who turned out to be a half-sibling.

This past year, we added new discussion groups for the Sub-Carpathia and Bessarabia SIGs, trained new moderators for these groups, and hosted the discussion group for the 2012 Paris Conference. A new set of guidelines for moderators is in process.

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 this project. As of mid-2012, the FTJP contains data on more than 50 million individuals, submitted by 4,800 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 96,000 Jewish genealogists worldwide. The JGFF is a networking tool which 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.

To help create more powerful searches, the JGFF – and all other JewishGen databases – incorporates soundex and phonetic matching technology. For example, when searching for the last name of Eisenberg, it is possible that the name might also be spelled Ayzenberg or Isenberg.

Surname	Town	Country	Last Updated	Researcher (JGID Code)
Brezak	Lomza	Poland	4 Jul 2001	Click HERE to contact Researcher #60878 Last logged in: before 2004
Praska	Lomza	Poland	3 Mar 2003	Click HERE to contact Researcher #77295 Last logged in: before 2004
Burack	Lomza	Poland	2 Apr 2004	Click HERE to contact Steven Lasky (#101402) Last logged in: August 2012
Poritzky	Lomza	Poland	22 Aug 2004	Click HERE to contact Sylvia Freeman Ali (#118234) Last logged in: March 2011
Burack	Lomza	Poland	8 Oct 2004	Click HERE to contact Larry Zuckerman (#125262) Last logged in: February 2008

Example of a JewishGen Communities Database Locality Page

In addition, the Frequently Asked Questions about the JGFF are available in English, Spanish, French, Russian and Hebrew.

Since July 2011, more than 18,000 new entries have been added. As of July 2012, the JGFF contains more than 498,000 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 nearly one million localities within 54 countries in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. This 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).

Here is an example of why the Gazetteer is so useful:

Let's say that you know that your grandfather came from a town called "Ostroleka", which you think was near Lomza. If you do a JewishGen Gazetteer search, the Gazetteer will locate six towns in Poland named "Ostroleka" — so how do you know which one your grandfather was referring to?

To anyone with any familiarity with Polish-Jewish geography, it's obvious.

By analogy, there are more than 30 towns in the USA named "Brooklyn" — but when a Jew tells you that his father lived in Brooklyn, you know which one it is. Yes, it is remotely possible that they're referring to "Brooklyn, Montana" or "Brooklyn, Kentucky" — but in all likelihood, they're referring to "Brooklyn, New York".

Likewise, it's obvious which "Ostroleka" a Polish Jew would be referring to. Experts at JewishGen have identified the Jewish communities as part of the JewishGen Communities Database project, and these communities are now marked in the JewishGen Gazetteer.

The following chart shows the differences between the JewishGen Gazetteer and the JewishGen Communities Database:

	JEWISHGEN GAZETTEER	JEWISHGEN COMMUNITIES DATABASE
NUMBER OF LOCALITIES	~1,000,000	~6,000
LOCALITIES INCLUDED	All localities	Only Jewish Communities
SYNONYMS INCLUDED	Official synonyms only	All known synonyms, including Yiddish town names
SOURCE OF THE DATA	U.S. Board on Geographic Names	Experts at JewishGen have used multiple sources
CONTENTS FOR EACH LOCALITY	Town Name, Official Synonyms, Latitude/Longitude, Distance/Direction from reference point, Links to Maps and Radius Search	Everything that JewishGen Gazetteer has… plus much more: Historical names and jurisdictions, Links to JewishGen resources (JGFF, Yizkor Books, KehilaLinks, etc.), Jewish population figures, Inset maps, List of Nearby Jewish Communities, Links to search JewishGen databases, List of applicable SIGs and resources.

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.

This past year, more than 84,000 records were added, including a list of 29,105 known Jewish victims from the Bergen-Belsen camp, as recorded in the Bergen-Belsen Book of Remembrance. This information was donated to JewishGen by the Lower Saxony Memorials Foundation in Germany.

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 of 2011, JOWBR has added approximately 300,000 new records to its online database, including more than 37,000 photos. Notable new additions include records from cemeteries in the United States, Switzerland, Poland, Canada, Ukraine, Venezuela, and the Czech Republic.

Overall, JOWBR contains more than 1.86 million burial records from approximately 3,600 cemeteries in 80 countries throughout the world.

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

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

The *JewishGen Memorial Plaques Database* is a database of names and other identifying information from Jewish synagogue and memorial records worldwide. As of July 2012, more than 9,000 Memorial records are contained in the database.

Example of typical Memorial Plaque found in many Synagogues

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

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 July 2012, KehilaLinks contains more than 423 towns. Since last year, 88 new sites have been added, with 81 still in progress.

The KehilaLinks project is led by Susana Leistner Bloch.
For more information, please visit: http://www.kehilalinks.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, from beginner to advanced. In total, more than 1,700 students have taken JewishGen courses since 2005.

We offered 9 courses in 2011 and 8 more the first half of 2012. We have four outstanding teachers who volunteer their experience and capabilities.

The courseware included: Basic US Genealogy, Intermediate US Genealogy (Breaking Brick Walls in the U.S.), Creating KahilaLinks Web Pages, Advanced JewishGen, Independent Studies, and three new courses: Canada and the Great Lakes States, Creating Family History Imaged Pages and JewishGen: An Essential Resource.

We had 240 JewishGenners take a course in 2011 and another 237 the first half of 2012.

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

VIEWMATE

An incredibly useful tool, JewishGen ViewMate 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.

This past July, the ViewMate project won the "Outstanding Program or Project Award" the IAJGS conference in Paris. As of June 2012, ViewMate has facilitated the submission of more than 23,000 images.

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 and martyrs during holiday services in the synagogue (a practice that still exists in many synagogues 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 residents of their former towns to memorialize and document the names and way of life of those who were ruthlessly 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 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 translation 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 their 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.

This past year, we added 63 books and 444 new entries and updated 294 books. An additional 29,000 family names were added to our Necrology database, whose entries are extracted from 295 different Yizkor books and presently include some 270,000 entries.

An additional 40,000 entries were added to the JewishGen Yizkor Book Master Name Index (YBMNI) from 66 different Yizkor books.

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 twenty "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 SIG sponsored speakers Michael Miller (author of Rabbis and Revolution: The Jews of Moravia) and Frank Gilbert (grandson of Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis) at the IAJGS conference in Washington DC. Both speakers were very well received.

The SIG continued to work to make vital records available. In cooperation with Lenka Matušíková and the Czech State Archives in Prague, the SIG helped fund the digitization and publication on the Internet of Czech-Jewish vital records. The records started becoming available from badatelna.cz at the end of May 2012, a watershed event for everyone interested in Czech-Jewish genealogy.

At the same time, the SIG pressed for release of vital records filmed from the IKG in Vienna, Austria. The re-cords also became available on the Internet for the first time, thanks to familysearch.org, at the end of May 2012.

The Austria-Czech SIG is led by: E Randol Schoenberg.
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 1,350
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech

BELARUS SIG

The Belarus 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 guber-nia, now in Belarus.

In 2011/2012 we uploaded about 32,000 new records to the JewishGen Belarus Database. The newly added records include:

13,365 birth records:
•   Karolin (1288 records)
•   Lida (3426 records)
•   Minsk (8069 records)
•   Pinsk (393 records)
•   Stolin (189 records)

1,166 marriage and divorce records:
• Lida (925 records)
• Minsk (239 records)
• Zembin (2 records)

4,773 death records:
• Koidanov (43 records)
• Lida (1846 records)
• Minsk (2819 records)
• Ostroshitsky Gorodok (60 records)
• Zaslav (5 records)

12,807 revision list records:
• Derechin (800 records)
• Dolginovo (17 records)
• Gorodische (1853 records)
• Iliya (1112 records)
• Nezvizh (6813 records)
• Radoshkovichi (1930 records)
• Svir (585 records)
• Vilejka (327 records)

The Belarus SIG is led by: 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/

BESSARABIA SIG

The newly-formed Bessarabia SIG focuses on this former Russian gubernia, which is today mostly in Moldova, with some parts now in Ukraine.

19,000 new records were added to the Bessarabia Revision Lists project – for the cities of Brichany, Khotyn, and Lipkany – and there are now more than 56,000 records online. The Bessarabia SIG's Revision List team is continuing to work on these towns and others. If you can transliterate handwritten Russian into English, please help volunteer for this project.

The Bessarabia SIG is led by: Yefim Kogan
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/

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 worked extensively with our French cousins at the Cercle de Genealogie Juive in Paris, in connection with this year's IAJGS Conference, which took place in July. We hope to be able to speak with them further in regard to the sharing of their cemetery documentations, and French laws, so that we can add to the JOWBR listings for France. We are also delighted that so many of the French archives have begun to place their vital records online.

The French SIG is led by: Rosanne Leeson, Pierre Hahn.
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 700
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/French/

GERMAN JEWISH SIG

71 GerSiggers met at the IAJGS conference in Washington DC in 2011, one of our largest ever gatherings. GerSig continues to co-sponsor the Obermayer German Jewish History Awards. Our website has been expanded and now contains links to more resources than previously. We are particularly proud of our listing of German-Jewish histories.

The Naldex project was launched on the JewishGen website in summer 2011, it is a database of surname adoption lists from Germany. We are working to expand it and also to add the Harburg Project database to our searchable online resources. The Aufbau database is still growing too.

We are seeking to launch the Stammbaum2 Journal as soon as is practicable, written contributions are welcomed.

The German Jewish SIG is led by: Nancy Adelson, John Paul Lowens, Roger Lustig, Arthur Obermayer and Jeanette Rosnberg
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 1,860
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/GerSIG/

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.

Since last year, the first batch of about 10,000 birth, marriage, and death records from Maramures County, Romania, primarily from the area that was Maramaros megye, Hungary, have been uploaded to the JewishGen Hungary Database.

We have also acquired images of 113 pre-1896 Jewish vital record books representing all of the books known to exist in the Baia Mare, Romanina, archives. Of this group:

• 42 books, containing 12,217 records, have already been completely transcribed by volunteers. This is about 23% of the total number of records available.
• 49 books, containing an estimated 30,100 records, are currently in the process of being transcribed by project volunteers. This is about 57% of the total number of records available.

Upon its completion, we expect the total number of records to surpass 52,000, yielding more than 200,000 names!

We have also acquired and transcribed the following records from other archives in present day Romania (but of interest to Hungarian researchers):

•   Bolesso (2,500 records)
•   Ileanda (700 records)
•   Brasso (500 records)
•   Nagyvarad (5,000 records)
•   Obuda (5,400 records)
•   Szecseny
                o Approximately 1,800 birth records
                o A census with more than 1,000 records
                o Notes kept by the Mohel of Szecseny

In addition, we are in the midst of negotiation to acquire a batch of Szatmar records, and anticipate receiving Kolozsvar (Cluj) records from ROM-SIG, which will be transcribed in coordination with ROM-SIG.

Other H-SIG project updates include:

•   Family Search Indexing: In 2011, H-SIG launched JewishGen's first partnership project with Family Search Indexing, continuing work on vital records films by the Family History Library. 20 volunteers have transcribed close to 61,000 birth, marriage, and death records. Once the transcribed records have been checked for accuracy, they will be uploaded to the FSI website as well as to the JewishGen Hungary database.   The records cover Jewish births, marriages, and deaths primarily for the years 1850-1895 from Bekescsaba, Szkesfehervar, Balassagyarmat, Ujpest, Balkany, Buda, Obuda, Boldogasszony, Kopcseny, Gata Nitra.

•   Miskolc Cemetery Project: In addition, we have launched a project to photograph and transcribe photograph 18th and 19th Century headstones and 20th century cemetery books headstone inscriptions from Miskolc, the third largest city in Hungary, which had a a Jewish population of about 14,000 before WWII. There are approximately 16,000 headstones in the cemetery, which dates from about 1792. We have already acquired images of 600 pages from burial books created during the 20th century.

The Hungarian SIG is led by: Vivian Kahn
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 1,400
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/

JCR-UK SIG

The Jewish Communities and Records - UK SIG has grown and changed during the last year. Many additional records have been added, including a unique set of records for Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory. Special thanks is due to Louise Messik for his role in making these records available.

Many other general UK databases were also added, including burial records. A single search interface has been created to assist searching the records. Additional information about many UK Communities were added as well. The UK SIG held a meeting at the IAJGS Washington DC Conference in August 2011 and at the conference in Paris in July 2012. The JCR-UK discussion list continued to serve the needs of individuals

by facilitating the answering of various queries about families and individuals in the UK.

The JCR-UK SIG is led by: Mark Nicholls, Louise Messik and David Shulman
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 900
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/JCR-UK/

LATVIA SIG

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

This year, work was completed on the 1897 All Russian Census Records for Dvinsk – more than 18,000 records are now accessible on the JewishGen Latvia Database, and linked to images of the original records on the Raduraksti website at the Latvia State Historical Archives.

The Latvia SIG is led by: Michael Eliastam
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 860
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Latvia/

LODZ AREA RESEARCH GROUP

1. Supported creation of additional KehilaLinks and Yizkor book translations for LARG towns.
2. Supported indexing for JRI-Poland of vital records from LDS microfilms for LARG towns.
3. Supported extractions of Vital Record documentation for patronymic era data.
4. Conducted meeting at IAJGS conference in Washington DC.

We are currently working on indexing the Lodz Ghetto "Last letters" written in Polish to the Judenrat requesting transport exemptions. We are also working on indexing a second set of Lodz Ghetto worker Identification Cards that were found in the microfilms of the US Holocaust Museum.

The Lodz Area Research Group: Roni Seibel Leibowitz, and Debra Kay Blatt
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 900
For more information, please visit: http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Lodz/LARG.htm

ROMANIA-MOLDOVA SIG

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

We are in the process of acquiring thousands of records from various archives in Romania.   We have set up special funds for this purpose. We are also working on a major project to document the three major cemeteries in Bucharest. We are continuing to work on the Bessarabia vital records that were in our possession, and will be adding many of them to the database shortly. We have added another 50,000 records to our database, and will shortly be sending in many thousand more.

On a personal note, we were saddened by the untimely passing of Stephanie Weiner, our long-time co-coordinator. She was a good friend and a tireless advocate of obtaining information which would help people discover their Jewish family history. She will be dearly missed.

Stephanie Wiener, z'l

The Romania-Moldova SIG is led by: Rosanne Leeson, Jeni Armandez & Bob Wascou
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 1,900
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 two new databases for Aleppo have been added: Marriages and Eulogies.

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

The Sephardic SIG is led by: Jeffrey Malka
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 700
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Sephardic/

SUB-CARPATHIA SIG

As JewishGen's newest SIG, 2011-2012 was a very busy year. We have a Sub-Carpathia SIG web site with a plethora of information of interest to all Sub-Carpathia researchers. To date, visitors to our web site have been from 50 states and 55 countries, the top five countries being USA, Israel, Ukraine, Canada and Hungary. Sub-Carpathia is very well represented in JewishGen's KehilaLinks Project, with forty-seven web sites, three in-progress and seventy more in draft form.

In 2011, we visited forty-eight villages and towns of Sub-Carpathia and photographed 28 cemeteries, culminated with a trip report sent to the JewishGen mail lists. An inaugural meeting of researchers with an ancestral connection to Sub-Carpathia was held at the 2011 IAJGS conference in Washington, D.C., and a second meeting was held at the IAJGS conference in Paris, France, July 2012.

The Sub-Carpathia SIG is led by: Marshall Katz and Amos Israel Zezmer
Discussion Group Subscriber count: 187
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Sub-Carpathia/

UKRAINE SIG

The past year has been devoted to revitalizing Ukraine SIG, redesigning the website, and acquiring new records. In addition, we have appointed an entirely new Board of Directors, improved communication, and shifted our orientation from guberniyas (provinces) to towns and districts.

We now have Town Leaders for 139 towns and increased the number of KehilaLinks websites for Ukraine towns from 47 to 121. Our Discussion List saw an 8.4% subscriber increase from last year, and we now have more than 50 volunteers actively working, including 25 translators to help with Russian, Polish, Hebrew, and Yiddish documents.

The Ukraine SIG also published 22 Info-Sheets & "How-to" documents, and published an online Language and Skills Survey that has served as a model for other SIGs.

Specific record updates include:
- Translation of names from 4 Russian books and several other sources, including 4 Prenumeranten. Two Prenumeranten lists with more than 1,800 names are done. Two others are in-progress. A 1919 Pogrom list for Trostyanets and a 1748 Census for Vishnevets have been completed. Five other name lists are in-progress.

- 1,300 catalog cards from the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People.
- 4,500 gravestones from the Trostyanets Jewish cemetery and Zhitomir Jewish Cemeteries.
- More than 3,000 records from the 1795 Ostrog Census.
- 14,000 names for three towns have been translated and are ready for posting. Vital records translations for 3 other towns with more than 3,200 names are in-progress.
- 7,500 names from 4 Yizkor Books.
- We arranged for a guest luncheon speaker at the 2012 IAJGS Paris Conference, Iryna Serheyeva, head of the Department of Jewish Studies at the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. She also gave a presentation about resources at the Kyiv Archives.

The Ukraine SIG is led by: Ronald Doctor
Discussion Group Subscriber Count: 2,860
For more information, please visit: http://www.jewishgen.org/Ukraine/

OTHER SIGS

Other JewishGen SIGs focus on Early American History, Bialystok, Courland, Danzig/Gdansk, Galicia, Southern Africa, 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 important 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 Litvak SIG seeks to preserve heritage from the Jewish communities of Lithuania before the Holocaust. They also focus on the Kovno and Vilna guberniyas of the Russian Empire, which include much of present-day Lithuania.

ELLIS ISLAND FOUNDATION DATABASE

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

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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

7: SUPPORT

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

Economic uncertainty has severely impacted 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 three years. We accomplished this by ensuring that we spend less than we earn and that funds donated to us are 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 enhanced features and search capabilities on the JewishGen site).

Some highlights appear below:

SPRING AND FALL CAMPAIGNS

Each year, we run two main appeals, one in the spring and one in the fall. In 2012, our Spring campaign surpassed our goals by 24%, raising funds from more than 900 donors throughout the world.

SPRING APPEAL
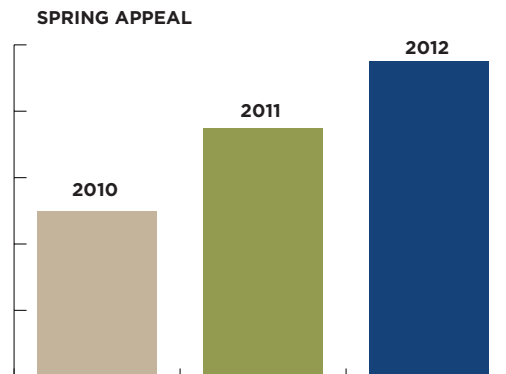
We are also grateful that the number of JewishGen users who contribute, no matter the amount, has continued to increase each year. Last year, we received more than 3,500 donations in the final quarter alone, for a total of more than 7,700 donations in total for the year. Overall, last year's fall campaign surpassed our 2010 total by 25%.
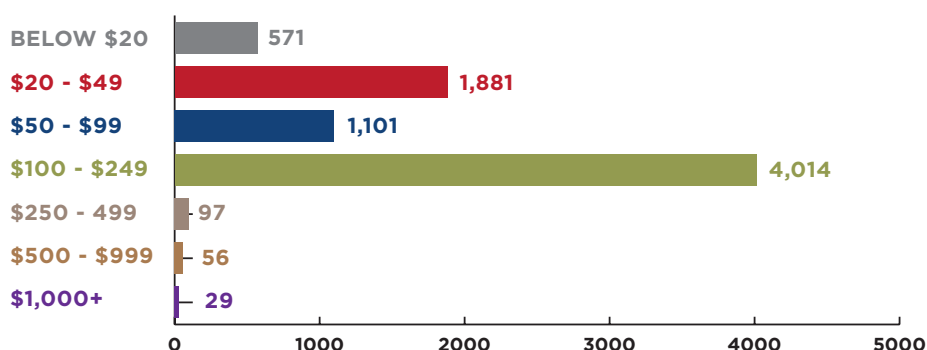

FALL APPEAL
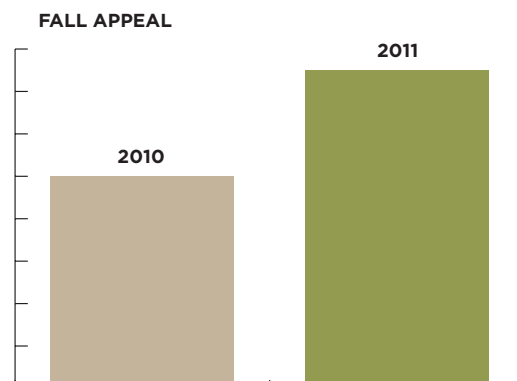
GIFT LEVELS

It was extremely gratifying to witness the high level of participation we received from our users in 2011. While we received a range of donations in excess of $1000 or as little as $5, each gift was significant and helped support the important work of JewishGen.

The chart below gives a summary of how people are helping support JewishGen.

JEWISHGEN INDIVIDUAL GIFTS BY LEVEL - 2011

Level	Count
BELOW $20	571
$20 - $49	1,881
$50 - $99	1,101
$100 - $249	4,014
$250 - 499	97
$500 - $999	56
$1,000+	29

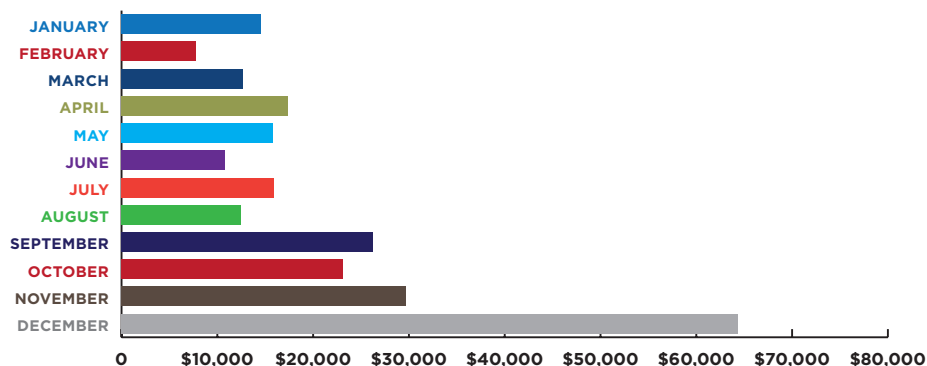*DOES NOT INCLUDE UNRESTRICTED GIFTS AND WEBSITE REVENUE*

RECURRING AUTOMATIC DONATIONS

Did you know you can sign up to donate to JewishGen automatically?
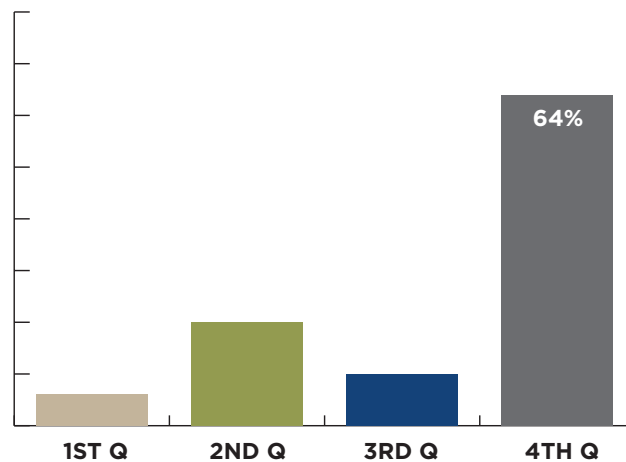
Jay Sage, a director of both the IAJGS and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, is one of many who support JewishGen on a monthly basis. According to Jay, "*JewishGen has been responsible for my most important and exciting genealogical discoveries and I encourage everyone engaged in Jewish genealogy to help sustain it. Last year, in recognition of JewishGen's outstanding work, my wife and I decided to make a sub-stantial increase in our monthly contribution, and we urge all who are financially able to do so to sign up for monthly contributions to JewishGen.*"

Gifts can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Please call 646-437-4326 and we will help you reg-ister, in less than three minutes, for this incredibly valuable program for JewishGen.

JEWISHGEN DONATIONS PER MONTH - 2011

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

QUARTERLY BREAKDOWN

			64%

Chart: 1ST Q, 2ND Q, 3RD Q, 4TH Q (64%)

VALUE ADDED SERVICES

Did you know that JewishGen offers Value Added Services? These enhanced features are offered as a special "Thank You" to all who contribute a minimum of $100 annually to our General Fund. These Value-Added Services currently include:

1. THE JGFFALERT SYSTEM: an "immediate advisory system", which constantly monitors all entries and changes made to the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF), and alerts participants immediately if a new entry into the JGFF is a potential match with one of their own entries. As a participant in the Value-Added Services, whenever any JGFF entry is made which matches any of your current JGFF entries, the JGFFAlert System will notify you immediately via e-mail, alerting you about the matching entry. The JGFFAlert System relieves you of the need to check periodically for new entries… JewishGen does it for you!

2. ADDITIONAL EMAIL ADDRESSES: JewishGen recognizes the fact that some people prefer to use different email addresses for different aspects of JewishGen, so we have developed a system to accommodate this. JewishGen's systems have been programmed to allow participants in the Value-Added Services program to have up to five email addresses in their JewishGenID record — a primary email address (for the JGFF) and up to four alternate email addresses (for mailing list subscriptions).

3. ADVANCED DATABASE SEARCH FEATURES: In JewishGen's "All Country Databases", participants in the Value-Added Services program will have the ability to use our Advanced Database Search Features, which let you combine multiple search criteria, using Boolean AND/OR searches. This allows more focused, targeted searches. For example, you can search for all persons whose surname sounds like "Katz" and whose first name starts with "Abr". Or you can search for family groups containing a particular set of given names, within a particular town. You can also filter searches for data updated since a specific date. So if you've already searched a database, you can now search only for data recently added/updated, since a certain date, without re-viewing data that you've previously searched.

4. BASIC GENEALOGY COURSE: The Basic Genealogy Course is geared to beginners, and

consists of eight weekly downloadable lessons. Topics include how to use genealogy forms, assembling family trees, organizing and utilizing information gathered from United States vital records, census and passenger manifests. It also demonstrates how to use the JewishGen website and databases. In an online discussion environment, we share tips on how to best use your computer and the Internet, as well as provide individualized assistance.

JewishGen Value-Added Services are available to all who contribute a minimum of $100 annually to the JewishGen General Fund. Because of its value, we have not raised the cost of Value Added Services for more than four years. **Last year, more than 4,000 people participated in our Value Added Services program.**

To contribute, or to learn more, please visit www.JewishGen.org/JewishGen-erosity

RESTRICTED VS. UNRESTRICTED

More than 88% of gifts received in 2011 were dedicated toward the JewishGen General Fund—our general operating support fund. At the same time, we also raise funds for specific projects. For example, if you are interested in obtaining records from Hungary, any funds donated to that project would be used only for those purposes. Last year, 12% of all giving was designated for restricted projects.

**RESTRICTED**
UNRESTRICTED

12%

88%
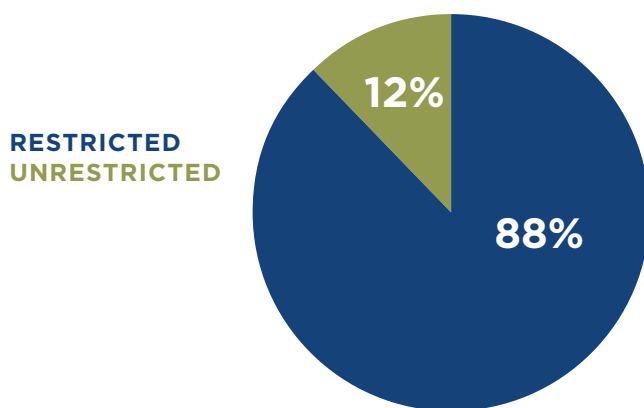
GLOBAL SUPPORT

While the JewishGen business office is based in New York, it is an organization comprised of people from all over the world. While traditionally our source of financial support was predominantly found within the USA, the power of the internet has made it easier for JewishGen users to support our important work from whichever country they happen to reside.

In 2011, donations from outside the USA comprised 17.5% 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 - 2011

USA
OTHER
COUNTRIES

82.5% 17.5%

8%
19% 32%
17% 22%

ISRAEL
CANADA
U.K.
AUSTRALIA
FRANCE
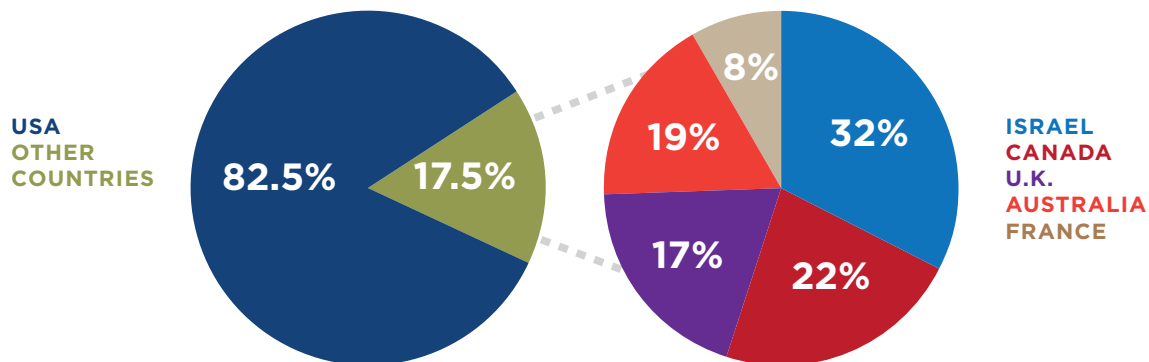
DONATION METHODS

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. To donate online, please visit: *http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity*

CREDIT CARD
CHECK

13%

87%
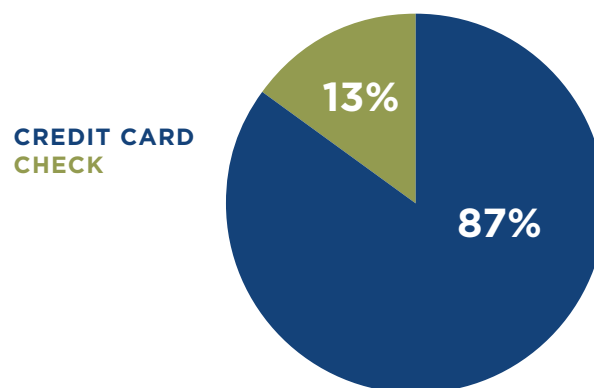
OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE

In addition to our fundraising campaigns, JewishGen received revenue from our online educational classes, which are directed by Phyllis Kramer.

We also have a number of advertising programs on our website and our blog. Currently, JewishGen has agreements with www.Ancestry.com and www.FamilyTreeDNA.com whereby we include links to their websites, 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 - 2011

EDUCATION
ANCESTRY.COM
TRIBUTE GIFTS
FAMILY TREE DNA
GOOGLE

3% 4%
48%
13%
32%
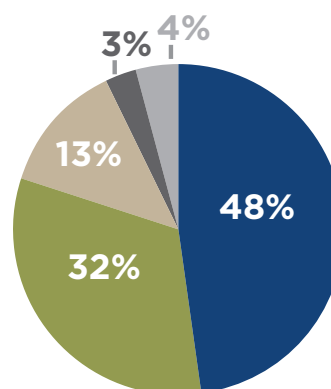
TRIBUTE GIFTS

Did you know that JewishGen offers the ability to make a donation in memory or in honor of someone? Please visit *http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/honors.asp* for more information

May 2012 Wall of Honor

"to honor, to thank, to cherish the memory"

| In Memory Of Sheeba Stricker	She was a loyal friend.	From Allan Fisher
In Honor Of Warren Blatt	For all he does and all he is. Thank you.	From Susana Bloch
In Honor Of John P. Lowens	In recognition of the outstanding work John has done over the years as Moderator of GerSIG.	From Peter Strauss
Special Thanks To Olga Zabludoff	With much appreciation for sending me a copy of your book.	From Lisa Lainer
In Honor Of Barbara & Sam Himmelrich	On their 60th Wedding Anniversary.	From Sue Himmelrich
In Memory Of Esfir Zitser		From Konstantin Millerman
Special Thanks To Vince Prichard	Webmaster extraordinaire, whose time, enormous patience, good humor and terrific skills continues to support the website of Aukstoji Panemune.	From Jeffrey Marx
In Memory Of Saul Lamm	25th Anniversary of his passing ... in loving memory from his daughter, Ellen.	From Ellen Lamm
In Memory Of Judith Elfman Belfer	In honor of Judy's research of the Elfman name and her special ability to trust everyone. And her special ability to laugh!!!!	From Anne Gilbert

NEW FOR 2012: CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

We are pleased that JewishGen now offers Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA's), which offer you the ability to earn guaranteed income for life, while supporting JewishGen at the same time.

CGA's are easy to setup, and particularly in today's economy, offer much better returns than a money market account, or investing in stocks.

Here is how it works:

- You make a contribution to JewishGen.
- You receive a tax deduction the very same year.
- You earn guaranteed income for life, with significant tax benefits
- Payments are sent to you every quarter.
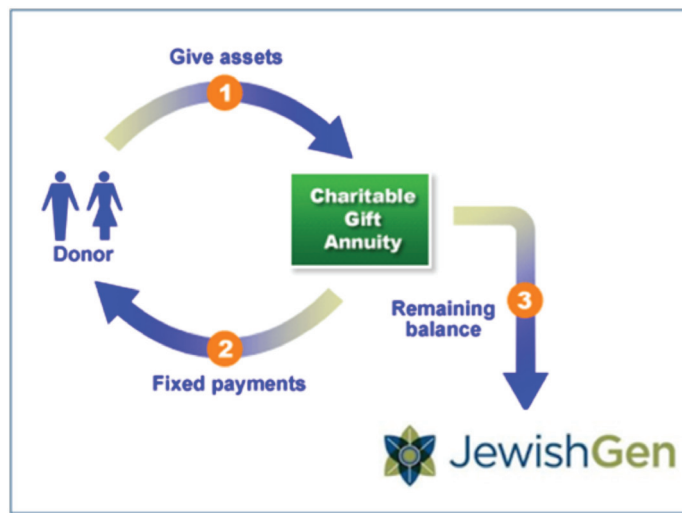
Listed below is a sample of the return rates based upon the amount of the donation and a person's age. This far outpaces most options currently available on the stock market.

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION OF $10,000 GIFT			
AGE	DONATION AMOUNT	%	ANNUAL AMOUNT
60 YEARS OLD	$10,000	4.4%	$440.00
70 YEARS OLD	$10,000	5.1%	$510.00
80 YEARS OLD	$10,000	6.8%	$680.00

That's all there is to it. It is truly a great way to earn money while also supporting JewishGen in a significant fashion.

To learn more, and to receive a personalized (no obligation) illustration of how this could work for you, please contact Avraham Groll, Director of Business Operations, at 646-437-4326 or email agroll@JewishGen.org.

JEWISHGEN LEGACY SOCIETY

If you have been inspired by JewishGen you might consider making a planned gift, or including a gift to JewishGen in your will. Every gift, large or small, will help us to protect our collections, develop our outstanding networking programs, and ensure that we can continue to enrich the lives of our visitors for the next 100 years and beyond.

All donors who take advantage of our planned giving opportunieis, or who include a provision in their Will for JewishGen, become a member of JewishGen's "Legacy Society." This prestigious club has been established to recognize and honor those who, through their thoughtfulness and generosity, have provided for JewishGen in their estate plans or who have established a planned gift.

All Legacy Society members will be honored at JewishGen's presentation at the annual International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) conference, and recognized on the JewishGen website, and in the annual update.

Ways to include JewishGen in your estate planning include:
- Participating in a life income arrangement, such as a charitable gift annuity
- Including a bequest for the benefit of JewishGen in your will or trust
- Naming JewishGen as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy

If you already have JewishGen in your will, please let us know so we may add you to this prestigious club.
For more information, contact Avraham Groll, Director of Business Operations, at 646-437-4326 or email agroll@JewishGen.org

8: COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

USER SURVEY

The most recent JewishGen user survey (conducted in 2010) permitted us to gain a great understanding of our user demographics. We have used this information to help target more appropriate databases, conduct marketing campaigns, and to improve the experience for current and future users.

Listed below are the key findings of the 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% Ashkenaz, 2% Sephardi and 16% other or unknown. Non-donors identified themselves as 67% Ashkenaz, 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 life.
- **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 with 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, this 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 life, 22% have spent $250-$499 and 16% over $500. Even among those who have never contributed to JewishGen, 59% have spent between $100-$499 and 5% have spent $500 or more on genealogy-related programming.

These findings set the tone for various projects that were conducted the past couple of years, as well as those being planned for 2012 and 2013.

Some updates appear below:

ANNUAL UPDATE

As a result of the survey, we decided to once again publish an Annual Update. We realized that we needed to do a better job of publicizing both our accomplishments, along with areas which can be improved upon. Last year's publication was published online, and was read by more than 21,000 people. This year, we are again publishing our update in an online format which is both readable and cost effective.

WEBSITE STATISTICS

Between July 1, 2011 and July 1, 2012, JewishGen received 1,066,172 unique visits from people originating in more than 200 countries/territories throughout the world. This accounts for approximately 2,921 unique visits per day. Overall, we received more than 16,501,352 page views, with the average person viewing more than 8.5 pages per visit. Also of great importance is the fact that visitors average more than 6.5 minutes on the site.

Overall, approximately 37% of our visitors are highly interested and motivated in exploring the JewishGen site, for they view, on average, at least 10 pages per visit. 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.

PERCENT OF VISITS PER COUNTRY

USA
OTHER
ISRAEL
U.K.
CANADA

5%
6%
10%
56%
23%
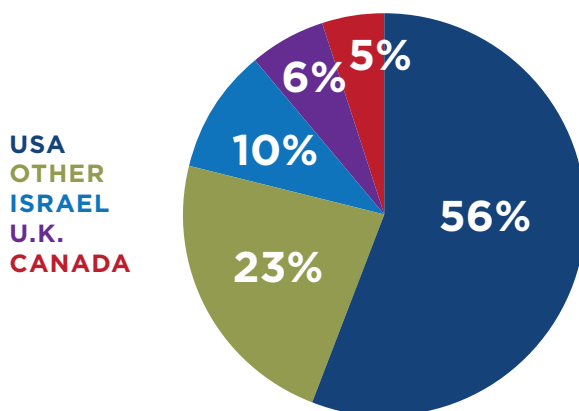
Another interesting statistic focuses on the cities throughout the world with the greatest number of Jew-ishGenners. According to our research, the top cities (by number of JewishGen visitors) were Tel Aviv, New York, London, Los Angeles, Toronto, Melbourne, Sydney, Washington, and Paris.

VISITS BY CITY		
CITY	# OF VISITS	%
Tel Aviv	122,129	6.31
New York	94,484	4.78
London	34,643	1.78
Los Angeles	24,716	1.28
Toronto	23,398	1.21
Melbourne	21,060	1.09
Sydney	18,244	0.4
Washington	17,812	0.92
Paris	16,272	0.84

SPOTLIGHT ON PARIS

Because this year's IAJGS conference was in Paris, we thought it would be interesting to analyze how Parisians use JewishGen.

Here are the statistics:

TOTAL VISITS: 16,272

PAGES VIEWED PER VISIT: 9.53

TIME PER VISIT: 7:28

Next year's city spotlight will focus on Boston, USA – the host city for the 2013 IAJGS conference.

FRENCH BROCHURE

As this year's IAJGS conference took place in Paris, France, we decided to translate our brochure into French so that non-English speaking attendees of the conference could learn more about JewishGen, and hopefully become more active on the website. Each new person who registers on JewishGen increases the possibility that a new family connection will be established.

TIME SPENT ON JEWISHGEN

Between July 1, 2011 – July 1, 2012, JewishGen users spent a collective total of 13.14 years researching their history on the JewishGen site.

Lest anyone think that we Jewish genealogists spend too much time on the site, according to studies conducted last May, people who played the video game called "Warcraft" spent a collective total of 5.93 MILLION years. So we are not doing that bad!

Collective Time Spent on JewishGen

TIME SPENT ON JEWISH GEN: JUNE 1, 2011 – JUNE 1, 2012

**115,146** HOURS = **4,797** DAYS = **13.14** YEARS

NEW USER ANALYSIS

In 2011, JewishGen received 40,842 new registered users, slightly less than 2010, but still averaging approximately three and a half thousand new users per month. This is an outstanding figure for a Jewish genealogy website, and we expect this number to continue to increase.

More specifically, 24,962 users originated within the USA, while 15,880 from other countries throughout the world.

NEW USERS

USA
OTHER COUNTRIES

15,880

24,962
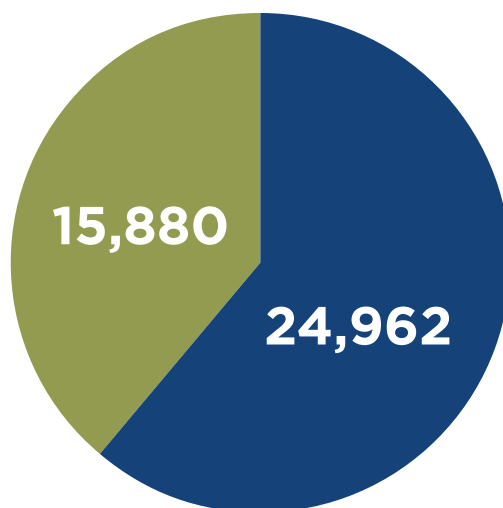
While these figures are impressive, they also permit us to focus on areas which can be improved. For example, only 6% of new users registered for the JewishGen Family Finder (www.JewishGen.org/JGFF) and only 2% registered for our Discussion Groups.

These are two resources of tremendous value, and we have already implemented some changes to help publicize these programs. In addition, we plan to make significant improvements to the registration process, as well as the main landing pages of these programs in 2012 and 2013.

The value of networking should not be undervalued. For example, this past spring, a Holocaust survivor was able to use JewishGen's networking capabilities to locate the birth certificate of her late husband. Married for more than fifty years, she and her husband had always looked for this information, but because they could not afford to travel to Ukraine, they simply never knew. When her husband died before Passover, it became urgent to finally determine his birth year, so that his true age could be included on the gravestone.

By connecting with JewishGen volunteers who had previously done research on the town, she was able to locate a copy of the original birth certificate indicating the year her husband was born. Most importantly, she was able to include the birth year on the gravestone.

Copy of the Birth Certificate

HOW PEOPLE HEAR ABOUT JEWISHGEN

For the first time, we have begun tracking how people hear about JewishGen. Not surprisingly, most of our new users come as a result of internet searches. But the role you, as a current JewishGen user, can play in bringing new people to the site should not be overlooked. Last year, 15% of our new JewishGen users came as a result of a referral from their family or friends. Please help us spread the word. The site is free, and each new person who joins JewishGen increases the likelihood of a family connection,

HOW PEOPLE HEAR ABOUT JEWISHGEN

INTERNET SEARCH
OTHER
**FAMILY/FRIENDS**
GOOGLE AD
MUSEUM VISITOR
JGS

2% 1%
6%
15%
58%
23%
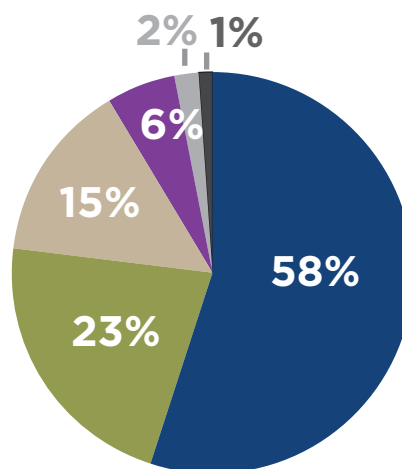
NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The "News and Announcements" section on the JewishGen homepage regularly includes project updates, announcements and project 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.
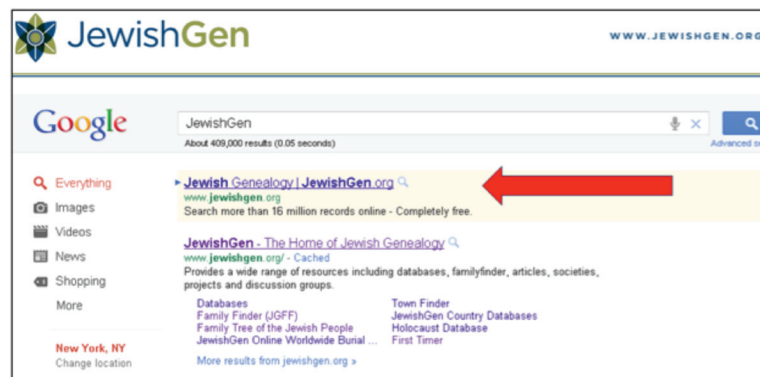
SOCIAL MEDIA

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 2300 "likes." 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 fewer. 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 free photo sharing website offers JewishGen another way of connecting with our users and generating positive publicity. Photos from previous IAJGS conferences can be viewed while pictures from the 2012 IAJGS Conference will continue to be posted as they are sent to us.

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.

JewishGen's YouTube channel 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. Our first video, "a conversation with Phyllis Kramer" is now available.

Please visit http://www.youtube.com/JewishGen613.

DONOR RECOGNITION

A list of JewishGen donors who have 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 and also at the end of this publication.

ELECTRONIC VOLUNTEER 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 process for volunteers to sign agreements and get started with JewishGen, and has reduced staff time by at least 50% for storing and recording this information and transmitting it to various project managers.

A similar effort is underway to create an online donor agreement, which we hope to implement before the end of 2012.

JewishGen

9: TIMELINE

- **1987**   JewishGen bulletin board created by Susan King
- **1993**   JewishGen mailing list on the Internet
- **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**   ViewMate is publicized
- **2002**   Holocaust Database launched
- **2003**   JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) is created

    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
- **2012**   JGFF reaches 500,000 entries

THANK YOU FOR READING.

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

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING
FROM YOU.