



JewishGen

# 2013 REVIEW



## Table of Contents

<b>Part 1: Greetings.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 2: Who We Are.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part 3: Resources &amp; Databases.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part 4: Special Interest Groups.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Part 5: Support.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Part 6: Communications.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Part 7: Leadership.....</b>	<b>47</b>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## Part 1: Greetings

Dear Friends,

In 2013, we added nearly one million records to our online collection, made significant website enhancements, and, most importantly, were responsible for many JewishGen success stories.

As a grassroots organization, we are extremely grateful to the more than one thousand volunteers throughout the world who have made JewishGen the leader in online Jewish genealogical research. A particular note of thanks must go to Lance Ackerfeld, who coordinates the Yizkor Book project. As our 2013 Volunteer of the Year, we had an opportunity to express our appreciation to him in public for the first time. Many people did not realize that the person behind the Yizkor book project also has a family, and a full time job! Lance is incredibly passionate about his work, and we feel grateful that he is part of our team. We plan to announce our 2014 Volunteer of the Year at the IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, and we hope you can attend.

In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude to our indefatigable SIG and Project leaders, who seem to be available whenever we need them (no matter what time of day – or night – it might be). Finally, we wish to publically thank Dr. Ronald Doctor for his incredible work revitalizing the Ukraine SIG over the past couple of years. Ron retired this past summer, but he remains involved with JewishGen and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

On a financial note....we are grateful that JewishGen's users have consistently made sure that our programs are adequately funded. We received more than 8,000 donations last year, from people throughout the world. It was awe inspiring. We would also like to thank the Museum's finance department for their continued excellence. At any one time, we have dozens of active projects, and they do a great job managing the funds, and helping in whatever way they might be asked.

As we present this "2013 Review," we are mindful that there is still so much more to do. In addition to our continued efforts to "get more data!" we need to make serious improvements to our infrastructure. We need to introduce Hebrew and Russian characters to our Discussion Groups. We need to be able to add new information to the website in a quicker fashion. We need to improve the interface on our SIG websites....and much more.

We are already planning the SIG website improvements, and have begun to fundraise for our Discussion Group upgrade - which we expect to cost as much as \$50,000. Thanks to an inaugural gift of \$10,000, we have only \$40,000 to go. Our goal is to fund this project, and then complete it as quickly as possible. If you are in a position to help, please email Avraham Groll ([agroll@JewishGen.org](mailto:agroll@JewishGen.org)) for further information.

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, and we hope that you will enjoy reading about some of our many accomplishments in 2013 - along with future plans which will permit us to "preserve our history for future generations."

Warren Blatt

Avraham Groll

Michael Tobias

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## Part 2: Who We Are

### ABOUT US

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 500,000 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.

### OUR 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:

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

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## Part 3: Resources & 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>

### Vilnius, Lithuania

Alternate names: Vilnius [Lith], Vilna [Rus], Wilno [Pol], Vilne [Yid], Wilna [Ger], Vilga [Latv], Vilnia, Vilno, Vilnyus

Region: Vilna

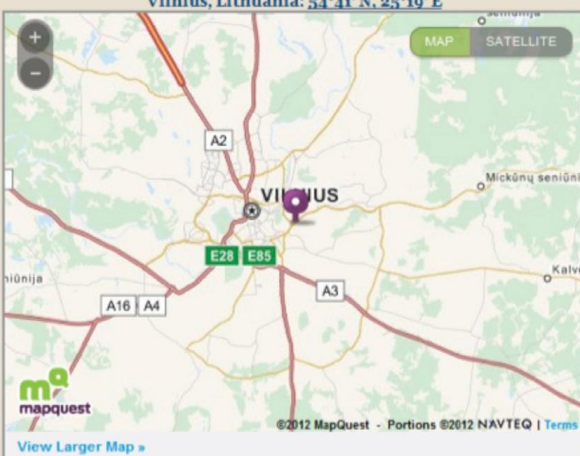
- [JGFF Town Search](#) (6458 Matches)
- [Yizkor Books](#) (18 Books):
- [KehilaLinks](#):  
<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/vilna/vilna.htm>
- [JOWBR: Saltonishkiu Cemetery](#)
- [JOWBR Landsmanshaft](#):  
[Vilno Cemetery, West Roxbury, USA](#)

Town	District	Province	Country
Before WWI (c. 1900): Vilna	<a href="#">Vilna</a>	<a href="#">Vilna</a>	Russian Empire
Between the wars (c. 1930): Wilno	<a href="#">Wilno</a>	<a href="#">Wilno</a>	Poland
After WWII (c. 1950): Vilnius			Soviet Union
Today (c. 2000): Vilnius			Lithuania

Jewish Population in 1900: 63,841

Notes: Capital of Lithuania.  
Russian: Вильна, Вильнюс. Yiddish: ווילנא.  
Was in Poland between the two world wars.

Vilnius, Lithuania: 54°41' N, 25°19' E



View Larger Map

MapQuest Google Map JewishGen Resource Map

#### Nearby Jewish Communities:

- Šnipiškės 0 miles N
- Antakalnis 1 miles N
- Naujoji Vilnia 4 miles ENE
- Rudamina 7 miles S
- Čekoniškės 10 miles WNW
- Lentvaris 11 miles WSW
- Bezdonys 12 miles NE
- Nemenčinė 13 miles NNE
- Trakai 16 miles WSW
- Maišiagala 16 miles NW
- Jaišiai 16 miles S
- Laibiskės 16 miles SSE
- Paberžė 18 miles N
- Viėvis 21 miles WNW
- Kernavė 23 miles NW
- Bystrița, Belarus 24 miles ENE
- Kamelishki, Belarus 25 miles ENE
- Panosiskės 26 miles WSW
- Musinkai 26 miles NW
- Astravyets, Belarus 26 miles E
- Šalčininkai 27 miles S
- Dubingiai 27 miles NNE
- Giedraičiai 28 miles N
- Lieponys 28 miles SW
- Vorniany, Belarus 28 miles E
- Fabradė 29 miles NE
- Širvintos 29 miles NNW
- Byenyakoni, Belarus 30 miles S

Example of a JewishGen Communities Database Locality Page

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## 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. As with the entire JewishGen site, 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 and SIG Discussion Groups 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 other users.

The Discussion Groups are managed by Dick Plotz.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/JewishGen/DiscussionGroup.htm>

## FAMILY TREE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE (FTJP)

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.

JewishGen has partnered with MyHeritage to significantly expand the reach of this project. As of December 2013, the FTJP contains data on more than 6 million individuals, submitted by 5,200 genealogists.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/gedcom>

## JEWISHGEN FAMILY FINDER (JGFF)




The *JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF)* is a compilation of surnames and towns currently being researched by over 100,000 Jewish genealogists worldwide. The JGFF is a networking tool which allows people to connect with others who are researching similar names or towns. 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.

In addition, the *Frequently Asked Questions about the JGFF* are available in English, Spanish, French, Russian and Hebrew. As of December 2013, the JGFF contains more than 520,000 entries and is searched more than one million times per year.



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

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

*Example of a JGFF Search Results Page*



*A JGFF Success Story: Geoff Isaacs (2nd from right), his wife Jenny (far left), and newly found cousins Avishai (center), Baruch (right), and Baruch's wife, Mimi – all because of JewishGen's JGFF!*

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/jgff>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## GAZETTEER

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

How is the Gazetteer useful? Presume 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 — how do you know which one your grandfather was referring to?

**JewishGen Gazetteer – Town Search**

Search for town	<input type="text"/>
Narrow the search by country / region?:	Eastern Europe
Measure distances in:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Miles <input type="radio"/> Kilometers
Show the distance and direction from:	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> The capital city of the relevant country	
<input type="radio"/> Latitude:	<input type="text"/> ° <input type="text"/> ' N <input type="text"/> Longitude: <input type="text"/> ° <input type="text"/> ' E
<input type="radio"/> Selected City:	Select Country <input type="text"/> No cities <input type="text"/>
Search method:	Phonetically Like — Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching

*The Gazetteer Search Form*

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.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Communities/LOCTown.asp>



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## 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, we added the "1933 German Towns Project." Here is a brief description of the project:

*In the 1960's the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany wrote letters to mayors and other officials of West German counties and towns asking them to list the Jewish inhabitants of their communities in 1933, i.e. pre-Hitler; and, to the extent known, the fate of these Jews. This collection includes the reports created by those local towns received by the International Tracing Service. The information on each individual varies in detail. In almost all cases, dates and places of birth, as well as dates of death, where known, are listed. (In some cases street addresses were provided, but these have not been entered into the database). Where it was known that an individual had been deported, this is noted, though a check of other material indicates that the compilers were not aware that many persons on the lists had been deported. Accordingly, researchers should always check other sources of information, such as the German Government's Gedenkbuch, before concluding that a person had not been deported.*

This is an ongoing project. As of the December 2013 update, there are 178 towns listed.

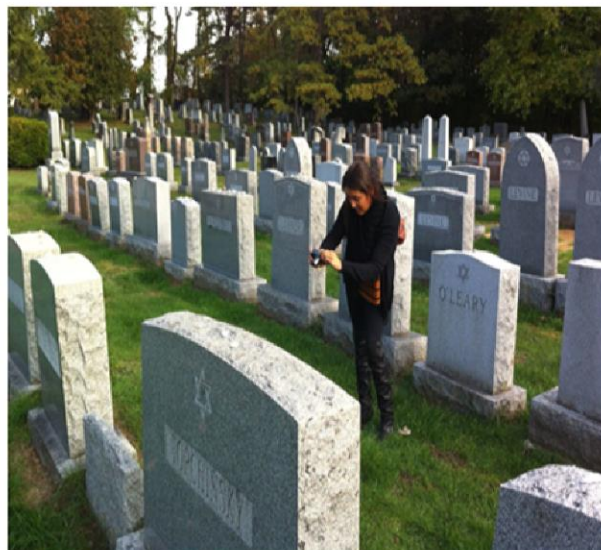
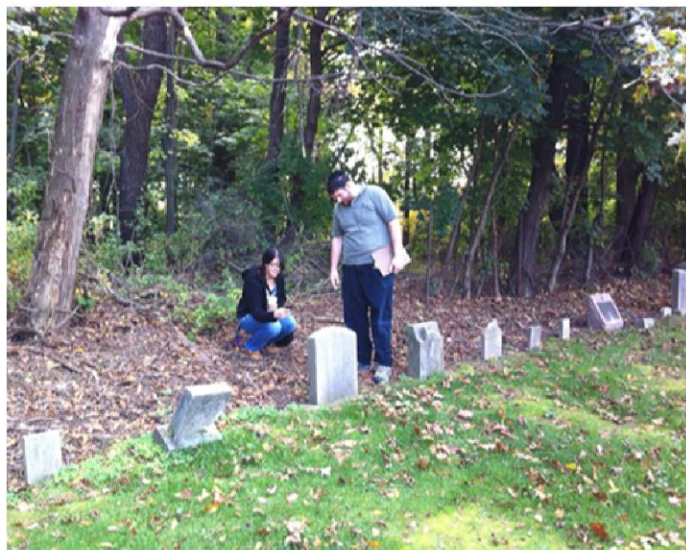
The Holocaust Database is managed by Nolan Altman. For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.JewishGen.org/Databases/Holocaust/>

## JEWISHGEN ONLINE WORLDWIDE BURIAL REGISTRY (JOWBR)

The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) is a database of names and other identifying information from Jewish cemeteries and burial records worldwide, from the earliest records to the present. It is a compilation of two linked databases: a database of burial records, and a database of information about each particular cemetery. JOWBR's aim is to catalog extant data about Jewish cemeteries and burial records worldwide. Photographs of the gravestones (matzevot) are also included in this database.

In 2013, JOWBR added approximately 225,000 new records to its online database, including more than 35,000 photos. Overall, JOWBR contains more than 2.15 million burial records from approximately 4,200 cemeteries in 83 countries throughout the world.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW



*JewishGen volunteers from the State University of New York – Albany (SUNY Albany) indexing cemeteries for JOWBR.*

The JOWBR project is managed by Nolan Altman. For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.JewishGen.org/Databases/Cemetery/>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

The JewishGen Memorial Plaques Database is a database of names and other identifying information from Jewish synagogue and memorial records worldwide. The project was inaugurated last July, and as of December 2013, has 35,000 records from 57 Synagogues throughout the world.



*Example of typical Memorial Plaque found in many Synagogues*

The Memorial Plaques project is managed by Nolan Altman.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Databases/Memorial>



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## KEHILALINKS

KehilaLinks aims to create virtual Yizkor Books online, where anyone with an interest in a place where Jews have lived can commemorate that community. To accomplish this, an individual web page with information, pictures, databases, and links to sites that provide additional information is created on each place. KehilaLinks is not confined to Ashkenazim (descendants of eastern European Jews); it is open to Sephardim (descendants of Jews from Spain and Portugal), Mizrachim (the Middle East, North Africa and the Caucasus) and Jewish immigrant communities and neighborhoods.

As of December 2013, KehilaLinks numbered 710 websites, including 138 new ones. There are currently 106 new sites in progress. The project has been managed by Susana Leistner Bloch since 2000, and Barbara Ellman is the Technical Coordinator. There are more than 25 volunteers who help organize and design pages.

We wish a special Mazal Tov to Susana Leistner Bloch and Barbara Ellman, whose leadership of KehilaLinks led to its receiving the IAJGS' 2013 award for "Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print, or Electronic Product."



*Barbara Ellman & Susana Leistner Bloch receiving the award.*

The KehilaLinks project is managed by Susana Leistner Bloch.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.KehilaLinks.JewishGen.org>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## EDUCATION



*Phyllis Kramer, VP for Education, teaching a course at the 2013 IAJGS Conference in Boston, MA*

JewishGen is delighted to offer online interactive courses in Jewish genealogy, to help you organize your information and begin to trace your ancestral roots. Our two week courses are text based and offer self-paced exercises for each topic. Longer courses feature, in addition to the "lectures", a personal mentoring program via our Forum. Students are encouraged to post one ancestral branch (one surname), set goals for their research, and work with the instructor to research that branch.

Opportunities for questions and answers are provided via forums. All courses are tuition based and require enrollment. In 2013, the following new courses were made available, at no charge, to JewishGen Genners who qualified for Value Added Services:

- Basic 1 – Search Strategies
- Basic 2 – Exploring JewishGen
- Basic 3 – Getting Organized
- Basic 4 – Cite Your Sources

In total, JewishGen offered 12 classes and taught more than 250 students.

The Online Learning Center is managed by Phyllis Kramer. For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.JewishGen.org/Education/>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## VIEWMATE

ViewMate is an incredibly useful tool that 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. While we are proud of the accomplishments of this great project, we were also saddened that Bernie Kouchel, a'h, who first dreamed of ViewMate, passed away last April. As we noted then:

*"...Bernie was one of the pioneers of Jewish genealogy on the internet. As a member of the original JewishGen Board, he has left his indelible footprints on the pages of JewishGen. As stated in a proclamation declaring the month of December, 2001 to be Bernard Israelite Kouchel Month, the award read: "Such honor bestowed upon our friend and loyal member of the JewishGen Board for his illustrious service rendered over a long and productive tenure and his accomplishments both outstanding and unforgettable to this virtual community."*



*Bernie Kouchel, a'h, after receiving the 2012 IAJGS "Outstanding Program or Project" award.*

We extend our condolences to his beloved wife, Elaine and their entire family.

The ViewMate project is managed by Sam Eneman and Gary Sandler.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/ViewMate/>



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## 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.

Here is a brief snapshot from 2013:

- Work was completed on the translation of 8 Yizkor books.
- On average, edits were done to approximately 25 books per month.
- 37 new projects were initiated, of which we are raising funds to support the translation of 10 of them.
- 13,700 entries were added to the JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology database.
- Yizkor Books-in-Print update:
  - Published 11 hard cover books in 2013 for a total 22 books published since the start of the project.
  - Sold 767 books in 2013, for a total project of 1103 books sold.
  - We have another 5 books in final preparation for publishing and another 5 books in early stages of preparation.

The Yizkor Book project is managed by Lance Ackerfeld.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Yizkor>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## Part 4. Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

### AUSTRIA-CZECH SIG



The JewishGen Austria-Czech SIG covers Jewish communities that once existed in Austria and the Czech Republic (Bohemia and Moravia).

In the past year, we obtained cemetery lists for the Old Olsany (Wolschan) cemetery in Prague as well as a computerized index of the New Olsany Jewish Cemetery. The latter was placed on JOWBR.

At the conference:

- As we recently obtained online access via badatelna.eu to more vital records from the Czech State Archives, we invited archivist Lenka Matusikova to speak at the annual IAJGS conference in Boston. The conference was very well attended, and there were many speakers with topics relevant to our SIG.
- Sunday: We had terrific presentations by Paul King (Israel) on the Familanten decree and Thomas Fürth (Sweden) on tracing the identity of the senders of telegrams to his grandparents' wedding in Vienna.
- Tuesday: our guest speaker Lenka Matusikova (Czech Republic) gave not one, but two amazing presentations describing archival and online resources in the Czech State Archives and elsewhere.
  - We are very lucky to have someone like Lenka working to make our records public, and it was so nice for all of us to see her in Boston and learn more about her work.
  - She told us of a few more resources that should become available in the next 12 months, including over 1,000 duplicate control record books and the Familanten books, as well as a collection of thousands of postwar death declarations that could allow us to trace the fate of victims of the Holocaust. After so many years of struggling without access to

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

records, it is hard to believe our sudden good fortune in having all of them at our fingertips.

- Everyone agreed that the SIG meeting on Tuesday was the best attended in our history. E. Randol Schoenberg went through a review of what is new and available to us for Austria and the Czech Republic. The powerpoint is available for download (29mb) at <http://www.JewishGen.org/austriaczech/SIG2013.ppt>. At the end we discussed the items on our agenda.
- We had several volunteers that wanted to help work on or organize an indexing project for the Czech vital records available on [badatelna.cz](http://badatelna.cz).
- We discussed the possible availability of cemetery records. There are several projects underway in the Czech Republic and we need to aggregate the data and get it onto the JOWBR database. Julius Mueller wrote that he might be able to help with this.
- Translations of Hugo Gold chapters are continuing. We discussed where to place these translations. The consensus was that there would not be any set rule or guidelines. The possibilities include Yizkor Book pages, KehillaLinks or Geni project pages. In some cases, the Hugo Gold chapter will probably be placed on all three pages.
- On Wednesday afternoon, our presentations concluded with Chuck Weinstein and his research tracking down the fate of the residents of the town of Misslitz in Moravia and the Czech torah scroll at his temple.

The Austria-Czech SIG is managed by: E Randol Schoenberg.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/AustriaCzech>

## BELARUS SIG



Map of Russian Empire's Belarus (<http://www.JewishGen.org/infofiles/eefaq.html>)

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

The JewishGen Belarus SIG covers the former Russian Empire gubernii of Grodno, Minsk, Mogilev, Vitebsk, and southern Vilna, now in Belarus.

In 2013, we uploaded approximately 12,000 records from:

- Vilejka district family lists for 1888-1891 (634 records)
- Brest marriage records from 1906-1913 (1023 records)
- Pinsk district revision lists for 1816-1819 (2575 records)
- Lyakhovich revision list records from 1834, 1850 (1950 records)
- Ulla family lists from 1894 (1271 records)
- Lepel family lists from 1894 (2500 records)
- Minsk birth records from 1906, 1917 (2242 records)

## **Volunteers needed:**

We have initiated a project to translate all the microfilmed records for Novogrodek, but we need more Russian translators. Places we still have to translate are:

- 1811: Tsyryn, Korelich, Mir, Snov, Kroshin, Polonechka, Stolovich, Novaya Mysh
- 1816: Tsyryn, Korelich, Novaya Mysh, Kroshin, Polonechka, Snov, Stolovich

We are also looking for people to proof read the work that has already been done for the following places:

- Polonechka 1811
- Delyatichi 1811, 1816
- Polonka 1811, 1816
- Vselyub 1811, 1816
- Negnevichi 1811, 1816
- Tsyryn 1811, 1816

## **Conference news:**

At the 2013 IAJGS conference in Boston, MA (USA), our speaker was Dr. Michael Lozman. His topic was "Personal reflections on the restoration of ten Jewish Cemeteries." During this talk Dr. Lozman talked about the work he has done saving and restoring Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe.

At the general meeting Paul Zoglin spoke about the innovative work he has been doing in developing detamanged inventories by town of delos not previously inventoried in the following archives:

- NHAB Minsk
- NHAB Grodno
- LVIA Vilnius
- CAHJP Jerusalem
- YIVO New York City

The Belarus SIG is managed by: Sharon Fingold, David Feldman, Ruth Silver and Paul Zoglin.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Belarus/>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## BESSARABIA SIG



*Map of Russian Empire's Bessarabia (1910 Marx's Large world table Atlas)*

The JewishGen Bessarabia Special Interest Group (Bessarabia SIG) was created for those with Jewish roots in the region historically known as Bessarabia, an area now comprising the Moldova Republic and parts of Ukraine. Our research also covers Transnistria (Pridnestrovie), a small area adjacent to the eastern border of Bessarabia, formerly in Kherson and Podolia Gubernia of Russia and now part of the Moldova Republic / Transnistria self-proclaimed territory.

Many Jews started to settle in this land when it became part of the Russian Empire in 1812, first as the Bessarabia Oblast and later the Bessarabia Gubernia. Many came from Galicia, Ukraine, Poland, and other regions lured by tax incentives and other favorable rules. They brought with them special working skills, such as the ability to cultivate the land as farmers, and practiced various crafts and trades. It was on that land that Klezmer music thrived with influence from Romanian and Roma folk music.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

In 1897, Bessarabia was a home for 228,000 Jews, 11% of the total population of the region. Its capital, Kishinev, had almost 50,000 Jews, half the population of this city. Tens of thousands of Bessarabian Jews emigrated to the USA, Argentina, Palestine, and other countries at the end of 19th century, before and especially after the infamous Kishinev Pogroms of 1903 and 1905. By the eve of World War II, the Jewish population in Bessarabia was estimated to be between 300,000 and 350,000.

Please find below a summary of our activity in 2013.

## General Resources:

- Work continued on our Geographical Dictionary which identifies Towns and Shtetlakh where Jews lived in Bessarabia. All new information is incorporated within the JewishGenTown Finder as well.
- We translated all 35 Town books for Bessarabia and Moldova from the Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities in Romania, vol.1, 2
- Work continued on our "Bessarabia Annual books research and translation" initiative. We created a table of Jews involved in Public life, 1862-1893 in Bessarabia.
- Landsmanshaften projects: New information was added to our collection from First Kishinever Progressive Society of NY and The Chotiner Branch #271/WC.
- Archives, Libraries, Museums projects:
  - Several entries were added to Bessarabia SIG website:
  - Jewish Cultural Center KEDEM; Jewish Public Library, Museum and Research Education Center, Kishinev, Moldova.
  - "Voices from the Past" – a catalogue of Jewish Materials from National Archive of Moldova.
- Kishinev Yizkor Book translation: Several chapters were translated this year, and can be viewed here: <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Kishinev/Kishinev.html>
- A large number of memoirs, stories, books, travel instructions and more were uploaded to our Bessarabia SIG website.

## Cemetery Projects:

- Bendery: 5,110 burial records added to JOWBR.
- Beltsy: 788 burial records added to JOWBR.
- Chimishliya: There are nearly 400 graves in the cemetery. We added 131 records to JOWBR with 395 photos, of which 276 are for unknown graves (these photos can be viewed on the Bessarabia SIG website).
- Kishinev Doyna: 3,227 burial records sent to JOWBR.

## Data Projects:

- Bessarabia Vital Records: About 6,000 birth and marriage records were added to the database.
- Revision List project: 12,495 records were added for the towns of: Bendery, Kishinev, Novoselitsa, Lipkany, Lomachenets, Khotin, Beltsy, Skulyany, Faleshty, Rezina, Teleneshty, Kalarash, Rashkov and Soroki. In addition, records were added for many villages within the Soroki district.
- Tiraspol Zionists: Documents were found, researched, translated and uploaded.
- Catalogue of all LDS microfilms on Bessarabia Jewish Records. Project included also the weblinks for the records LDS has at their website.



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## Other Projects:

- There are a number of projects in the preliminary state, such as:
  - Researching Jewish Names in Bessarabia
  - Creating a repository of famous Jewish Writers, Poets, Musicians from Bessarabia
  - Creating a repository of Rabbis, Cantors who lived and served in Bessarabia
  - And more!

## At the 2013 Conferece:

- The Bessarbaia SIG held a meeting, a Bessarabia Board meeting, participated in SHARE Fair. Our members conducted following lectures/workshops on Bessarabian topics:
  - No One Remembers Alone: Tracing Three Missing Members of a Bessarabian Family. Speaker Patricia Klindienst
  - Jewish Life in Bessarabia Through the Lens of the Shtetl Kaushany. Speaker Yefim Kogan
  - Computer Workshop (PC): Genealogical Research for Bessarabian (Moldovan) Jews.
  - Kishinev - My Native Town: History of Jews and Genealogy. Speaker Yefim Kogan
  - Bessarabia SIG Luncheon: From a Virtual to an Actual Experience in Bessarabia . Moderator Ala Gamulka, panelists: J. Michael Burke, Elise Simon Goodman, Marla Raucher Osborn and Jay Sage

The Bessarabia SIG is managed by: Yefim Kogan

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Bessarabia>

## FRENCH SIG



*Areas covered by the JewishGen French SIG*

The JewishGen French SIG covers France and other French-speaking areas such as Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland, and in former French colonies such as Tunisia, Algeria, etc.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

In 2013, we began our first major project, creating a cemetery database for JOWBR. With the extremely generous permission of the Cercle de Généalogie Juive of Paris, their tireless researcher, Jean-Pierre Bernard, and the editors of a book of the cemeteries of the Moselle region published by the CGJ, Françoise and Sylvain Job, the entire listing from the book has been sent to us. The first entries are already available on JOWBR. Additional volunteers to assist with this large project would be welcomed. Anyone interested should contact the Coordinators of the FrenchSIG.

The French SIG is managed by: Rosanne Leeson, Pierre Hahn.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/French>

## GERMAN SIG



*Map of German Speaking Lands*

The JewishGen German Jewish Special Interest Group (GerSIG) covers German-speaking or once German rumanaged areas such as Alsace, Lorraine, Silesia, Posen, and parts of Switzerland and Poland. (Austria, Bohemia and Moravia are covered by the Austria-Czech SIG).

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

In 2013 the GerSIG continued to grow, and:

- The first piece of the Hessen Gatermann database is now available. We have over 31,500 records from northern and eastern Hessen. Most important: a successful query will return not only surnames and towns, but also a direct link to the image of the record.
  - The records now available represent about 45% of Phase 1 of our project. The map on the Gatermann page explains Phase 1 and shows our progress to date.
  - For more information, and to access the database, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/databases/Germany/Gatermann.htm>
- We experienced an increase of 200 subscribers to the GerSIG discussion group (an increase of 10% from 2012).
- We co-sponsored the Obermayer German Jewish History Awards, and nominated 5 more German historians who received recognition in Berlin in January, 2014.

At the same time, GerSIG volunteers:

- Continued work on the Name Adoption List project (<http://www.JewishGen.org/databases/Germany/Naldex.htm>).
- Participated (with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum) in an indexing project on Jewish residents in German towns in 1935.
- Indexed 20 cemeteries (with approximately 2,150 tombstones in total) and added this information to JewishGen's burial registry (JOWBR).

At the 2013 IAJGS Conference in Boston, MA:

- GerSIG brought Dr. Joachim Hahn from Germany to present 3 illustrated lectures on his Alemannia Judaica website and on restored synagogues in Germany.
- The presentations (in German) can be reviewed at: <http://www.alemannia-judaica.de/iajgs2013.htm>

The German Jewish SIG is managed by: Nancy Adelson, John Paul Lowens, Roger Lustig, Arthur Obermayer, and Jeanette Rosenberg.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Gersig>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## HUNGARIAN SIG (H-SIG)



Map of Hungarian Empire before the Treaty of Trianon

The JewishGen Hungarian Special Interest Group (H-SIG) is for those with Jewish roots in the area known as "Greater Hungary" or pre-Trianon Hungary and covers all those 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.

In 2013, Hungarian SIG volunteers continued to index records that have made the JewishGen Hungary Database one of JewishGen's largest. The database includes more than a half million vital records, most of which were indexed from films collected by the Family History Library, which is being augmented by additional records from registers found in archives in Romania.

Of specific note:

- About 16,400 records from Maramaros County, including areas now in both Romania and Ukraine, have been uploaded. The Maramaros collection is ultimately expected to comprise some 200,000 records created before October 1895.
- Volunteers began extracting Jewish births, deaths, and marriages from Maramaros civil records dating to about 1910.
- Family Search has recently added more than 11,000 records indexed by H-SIG volunteers working on JewishGen's first partner project with Family Search. These records will also be uploaded to the JewishGen database. Volunteers are continuing to index these records as images are made available by Family Search.
- Among new Hungarian SIG projects is a database of Jewish soldiers serving in the Austro-Hungarian military.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

At the 2013 conference:

- Zsuzsanna Toronyi, archivist at the Hungarian Jewish Archives in Budapest, was our guest speaker at the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Zsuzsa presented an overview of the resources at the archives along with one showing how she used the archive for forensic research to identify the members of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Budapest wedding. Zsuzsa also participated in a panel with other European archivists and joined H-SIG Coordinator Vivian Kahn and Israeli genealogist Rony Golan for the breakfast with Hungarian research experts.
- The Hungarian SIG luncheon program featured Berkeley filmmaker Lynn Schneider showed a short film documenting her family's return to 1920's Hungary created from a trove of family home movies.
- More than 45 enthusiastic H-SIGs attended a standing-room only meeting to hear reports on H-SIG's recent and upcoming projects.

The Hungarian SIG is managed by: Vivian Kahn

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Hungary>

## JCR-UK SIG



*Map of the United Kingdom*

The *Jewish Communities and Records – United Kingdom (JCR-UK)* is a joint project between the Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain and JewishGen, and seeks to record details of all Jewish communities

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

and congregations that have ever existed in the United Kingdom, as well as in the Republic of Ireland and Gibraltar, in order to preserve the information for posterity. We currently have details of more than 1,200 Jewish congregations.

Here is a summary of work accomplished in 2013:

- Added searchable records of nearly 10,000 burials, including approximately 8,000 photographs of headstones, in the Leeds New Farnley Cemeteries, generally in use from 1896 to 2013.
- Added records of 1,577 burials, including photographs of headstones, in the Southport Jewish Cemetery, 1912-2012.
- JCR-UK's already extensive (and continually growing) Bibliography section has now been expanded to include works on the Middle Period of Anglo-Jewish history (1290-1656).
- Lists of Seatholders for 1933 (9,268 records) added to the All-UK Database in respect of the following London Synagogues: Bayswater, Borough, Brixton, Brondesbury, Central, Crickelwood, Dalston, East London, Golders Green, Great, Hambro', Hammersmith & West Kensington, Hampstead, New, New West End, South Hackney, St. Johns Wood and Stoke Newington.
- On the community pages of approximately 100 communities, provided a breakdown, by decade (1760's through 1910's), of the number of records on the 1851 Anglo Jewry Database.
- Provided details on the Greater London home page and on approximately 50 other community and congregation pages of the contents of the All-UK Database that are specifically associated with such community or congregation.

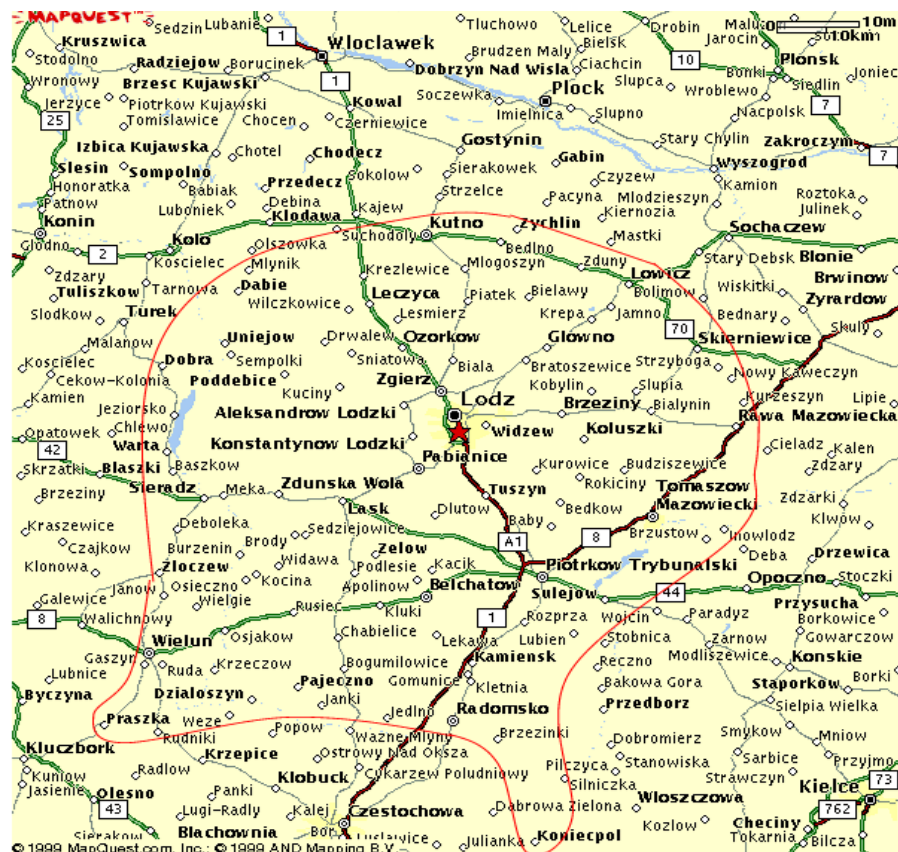
The *JCR-UK* SIG is managed by: Mark Nicholls, Louise Messik and David Shulman

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Jcr-Uk>



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## LODZ AREA RESEARCH GROUP



*Current map of the Lodz region.*

*The area within the red outline represents the areas covered by the Lodz Area Research Group.*

The Lodz Area Research Group, founded by Shirley Rotbein Flaum and Roni Seibel Liebowitz, aims to provide researchers with a forum, clearinghouse and resource for the collection and dissemination of genealogical and historical information relating to the Jewish communities of Lodz, Poland, and the surrounding area. This research group is dedicated to the rescue and preservation of materials relating to the Jewish communities of the Lodz area and as a living memorial to our ancestors' impact on, and contribution to Poland's second largest city.

In 2013, membership in LARG continued to grow with many more inquiries from researchers. Of particular note:

- More indexing of the 80 towns in LARG has been done.
- The new agreement between the Polish State Archives and Jewish Records Indexing-Poland has resulted in many vital records of LARG towns being digitized. Indices will soon be available through 1911 and linked to the digital images.
- Work is also continuing on the vital records of the Lodz Ghetto and Last letters.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

- Data has also been uploaded for the towns of: Lask, Lowicz, Sobota, Strykow, Zloczew (LDS records), and Konstantynow Lodzki, Lutomiersk, Pajeczno, Skierniewice (PSA).

The Lodz Area Research Group is managed by: Roni Seibel Leibowitz, and Debra Kay Blatt

For more information, please visit: <http://kehilalinks.JewishGen.org/lodz/LARG.htm>

## ROMANIAN SIG

The Romanian SIG (Rom-SIG) includes interests in the countries of Romania and Moldova, as well as a southwestern portion of Ukraine and southern Hungary. Included in these countries are the areas formerly known as Bukovina, Moldavia, Bessarabia, Transylvania, Wallachia and The Banat.

The Rom SIG has a number of volunteers throughout the world who are working furiously to get data and place them on JewishGen as quickly as possible. Here are some significant updates from the past year:

- We have been fortunate to locate two Research Assistants who are helping us with the Iasi and Bucharest archives. Work is ongoing.
- In addition to records from Iasi and Bucharest, we are obtaining records from the Suceava archives as well, however we need more funds to do so.
- Southern Bucovina: We have been working on the birth, marriage and death records from Southern Bucovina that are listed in the Leo Baeck Institute Guide to the Jewish archives of southern Bucovina for the past year. This includes the birth, marriage and death records listed in the guide for: Burdujeni, Campulung Moldovenesc, Gura Homorului, Radauti, Solca, Suceava and Falticeni.
- Check out the listing for the database to see what records we currently have online at <http://www.JewishGen.org/databases/Romania/BucovinaVRs.htm>
- Herța: We have been working hard to classify, sort, and arrange all the needed files to start working on records from Herța, a small town south from Czernowitz, currently in Ukraine. Many of our ancestors came or are related to people from Herța.
- Bucharest: We have received all Bucharest marriages from 1866 to 1903. We expect to receive more marriages to about 1909 and then we will start to get the births and deaths, as we have the funds to proceed. Estimated cost for these is about \$12,000.
- Iasi records: we have received all of the marriages from 1866 to 1905 and all births from 1866 to 1908 that are available. Marriages and births that have been translated are in the Moldavia databases at <http://www.JewishGen.org/databases/Romania/>. As we have the funds we hope to add the deaths from 1865 to 1908. Estimated cost for these is about \$8000.
- Moldavia: We are pleased that the Moldavia Vital Records Database introductory page is now online. This database currently contains over 13,650 records. The vast majority of the records are from the city of Iasi, with some records from: Bicz, Botosani, Dorohoi, Falticeni, Harlau, Herța, Lespezi, Pascani and Podu Iloaiei. The page also shows a listing of all of the records that we currently have. We also show the percent of Jewish records in the registers that have been translated. This gives us an insight in the composition of the Jewish births, marriages and deaths of the various towns and cities of the region compared to non-Jewish events.
- Bucovina: The Bucovina region database now contains more than 6,400 Jewish birth records, from the towns of: Kimpolung (Campulung Moldovenesc), Gurahumora (Gura Humorului), Radautz (Radauti), and Suczawa (Suceava).

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

- Bessarabia: The Bessarabia databases added more than 4,600 birth and 1,400 marriages records, bringing the total number of records to more than 160,000 records.

Conference update:

- At the past IAJGS conference, Rom SIG had a meeting to show our members the many data that we have acquired, and hope to acquire in the future. Much will depend on sufficient funding.

The Romania SIG is managed by: Rosanne Leeson, Jeni Armandez & Bob Wascou.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/ROMsig>

## SUB-CARPATHIA SIG



*Former Hungarian Counties within present-day Sub-Carpathia Ukraine (Zakarpatt'ya oblast)*

## JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

The JewishGen Sub-Carpathia SIG, with 353 members, encompasses the former Hungarian megyék (counties) of Bereg, Máramaros, Ugocsa and Ung, today located in present-day, Sub-Carpathia Ukraine (Zakarpatt'ya oblast).



*Marshall Katz, and his wife, Helen, at the 2013 IAJGS Conference in Boston, MA*

In 2013, leaders of the SIG visited 176 villages and towns of Sub-Carpathia---passing through many other villages and towns---and photographed 100 cemeteries and all of the tombstones therein. In addition, the leaders of the SIG created 81 new KehilaLink web sites for Sub-Carpathia (now totaling 190) and updated a plethora of others. Finally, a team of volunteers is in the process of translating and transcribing different projects.

The Sub-Carpathia SIG is managed by: Marshall Katz and Amos Israel Zezmer  
For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/sub-carpathia>



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## UKRAINE SIG



*Map of Russian Empire's Ukraine (1910 Marx's Large world table Atlas)*

The JewishGen Ukraine SIG covers the nine core gubernias (provinces) of the Russian Empire which are now in Ukraine: Chernigov, Ekaterinaslav, Kharkov, Kherson, Kyiv, Podolia, Poltava, Taurida, and Volhynia.

This past spring, Dr. Ronald Doctor announced his retirement from the Ukraine SIG, so that he could pursue other interests, which include writing his memoirs. This does not mean that Ron is no longer part of the Ukraine SIG, and he remains quite active in his role as “Coordinator Emeritus.” In fact, Ron is still so involved that it’s hard to remember that Ron is “officially” retired!

While we were sad to see Ron officially step down, we were encouraged that Ron found an eminently capable and qualified replacement to take over the SIG – Dr. Janette Silverman. Prior to assuming responsibility for the Ukraine SIG, Janette had been active in the JewishGen (and general Jewish genealogical) community for many years. Some of her past positions include a JGS president, data entry, teaching genealogical research techniques, transcribing cemetery records, and more. She remains active as a JewishGen Discussion Group moderator. Professionally, Janette has worked in Jewish education for most of her adult life, and also founded RelativaTree ([relativatree.com](http://relativatree.com)), a company that offers genealogical research and consulting services. She is currently the Outreach Director for The Davidson School of The Jewish Theological Seminary.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW



*New Ukraine SIG Coordinator, Dr. Janette Silverman*

With the personnel changes, people may be surprised to know that the Ukraine SIG had an active year. This is actually a major understatement considering that there are more than 75 volunteers actively working on a variety of Ukraine SIG projects.

Here is a synopsis:

- The number of Ukraine SIG Town leaders increased to 196 (a 41% increase from 2012)
- We now have 85 KehilaLink webpages, with 33 new pages in progress. New pages focused on: Ostropol, Nova Priluki, Savran, Korostyshev, Olyka, Proscurov, Kniazhe-Timanovka, Kherson, Bobrinets, Slavuta, Berezovka, Novokonstantinov, Letichev, Krasnostav, Novograd Volynskiy, Gorodok, Zhabokrich, Radomysl, Lutsk, Matsiov, Kryzhopol, Novy Oleksinets, Medzhybozh, Buki, Beliovka, Hola Prystan, Pilyava, Shpol, Kamenca, Grigoriopol, Stepantsy, Sokolovka, Uman, Gorodische, Burty, Poltava, Romny, Semenkov, Gadyav, Kremenchug, Kyiv, and Boyarka.

Record updates:

- The acquisition from the CAHJP of 24,000 pages of documents related to: Balta District, Feltshin, Kamenets Podolskiy, Kherson District, Kiyev, Kremenets District, Belozerk, Bereshets, Oleksinets, Pochayev, Rokhmanov, Letichev-Zinkov, Litin-Mezhirov, Mogilev Podolskiy, Olgopol-Bershad, Proskurov, Rashkov, Ternopil, and Vinnitsa.
- Translation projects have already been initiated for: Olgopol-Bershad, Mogilev Podolskiy and Kherson District.
- Work has been completed for the towns of: Balta, Berdyansk, Belozirka and Poninka. In process are: Alexandrovsk, Emilchino, Kovel, Pavoloch, Andreyevka, Graskaya and Zhytomyr.
- So far, our huge scanning project of vital records on microfilm at the FHL has netted over 19,000 images from 41 towns! Images from two of those towns, Priluki and Nikolaev, are currently being translated.
- About 7,000 pages of indexes of births, marriages and deaths have been acquired from Odessa from 1875-1920. Translations of those indexes have begun.
- About 4,600 photos and 7,400 records have been added to JOWBR from cemeteries in Yampol, Mogilev Podolskiy, Rafalivka, Staryy Chartoriysk, Marupol, Sevastopol, Rokytn, Pohrebyshche, Khmil'ny and Zhytomyr.



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

- Full lists of immigrants from Courland to Kherson from 1837-1840 were acquired from the Latvian archives.
- An 1897 census from Pokaltilovo and some records from Dnepropetrovsk were acquired from donor families
- Our EIDB Project, re-indexing ship manifests by town names has made great progress this year. Most recently, Pereyaslav-Khmelnitski was added. Zenkow and Zinkov are being proofread.
- On the social media front, our Ukraine SIG Discussion Group added 167 new subscribers. Our Facebook “likes” have increased by 44% since the beginning of 2013. We have posted 36 items to Facebook.
- We have added several more fundraising projects all to cover costs of data acquisition and translation.

## Conference news:

- At the 2013 IAJGS conference in Boston, MA (USA), Ron was officially recognized by JewishGen for his leadership and dedication to the Ukraine SIG. Speaking at the general JewishGen session, Avraham Groll, Director of Business Operations, noted that:  
*“...It’s hard to describe the impact Ron has had on the Ukraine SIG, and the amount of work he has put in these past few years. Maybe the best thing I could say, is that anytime someone is not happy with what is happening at JewishGen, they will say “why can’t do you do what Ron Doctor is doing with the Ukraine SIG?!”...*
- We arranged for a guest luncheon speaker Yochai Ben Gedalia from the Central Archives for the Jewish People (CAHJP)
- We had our annual general meeting and discussed the progress we made in 2012, what our hopes were moving forward into 2013, the need for more volunteers and strategies for continuing to acquire and translate documents
- Members of the Ukraine SIG also contributed their resources and donated more than \$1,500
- We added new Board members and reorganized our Board structure somewhat, changing some titles to reflect the duties of our Board members.
  - New to the Board are Lara Diamond, Projects Director; Joel Spector, Volunteers Director; and Phyllis Berenson, Discussion List Director, a new position.
  - Emily Garber moved from Projects Director to Media and Communications Director, a new position.
  - The new position of Ukraine SIG Coordinator Emeritus was created to reflect Ron Doctor’s changing role with the SIG.
  - Ariel Parkansky’s title was changed to Information System Director, to better reflect his role with the SIG.
  - Chuck Weinstein, Towns Director and Hal Bookbinder, Special Projects Director remained on the Board in those roles.
  - Two new positions were created and remain vacant: Translations Director and Data Acquisitions Director.

The Ukraine SIG is managed by: Dr. Janette Silverman.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Ukraine>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## OTHER SIGS

Other JewishGen SIGs focus on early American history, Bialystok, Courland, Danzig/Gdansk, Southern Africa, and Warsaw. In addition, topical SIGs focus on Rabbinic genealogy, DNA and Yiddish Theater. 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 5 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 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.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org)

### JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES



JewishGen also hosts websites for 10 local Jewish Genealogical Societies (JGSs).

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## Part 5. Support

While it seems that price of everything continues to rise, JewishGen takes its fiscal responsibility extremely seriously, and we are proud that we have raised more money than we spent for the past four years – despite economic uncertainty throughout the world. We have accomplished this by ensuring that funds donated to us are used properly, and in a way that “preserves our history for future generations.”

As in previous years, our primary sources of revenue included spring and fall fundraising campaigns, the Value-Added Services initiative, education classes, grants, and allocations. In addition, for the first time, JewishGen hosted a Spring Brunch, and also formally inaugurated the Tree of Life Society.

### SPRING BRUNCH

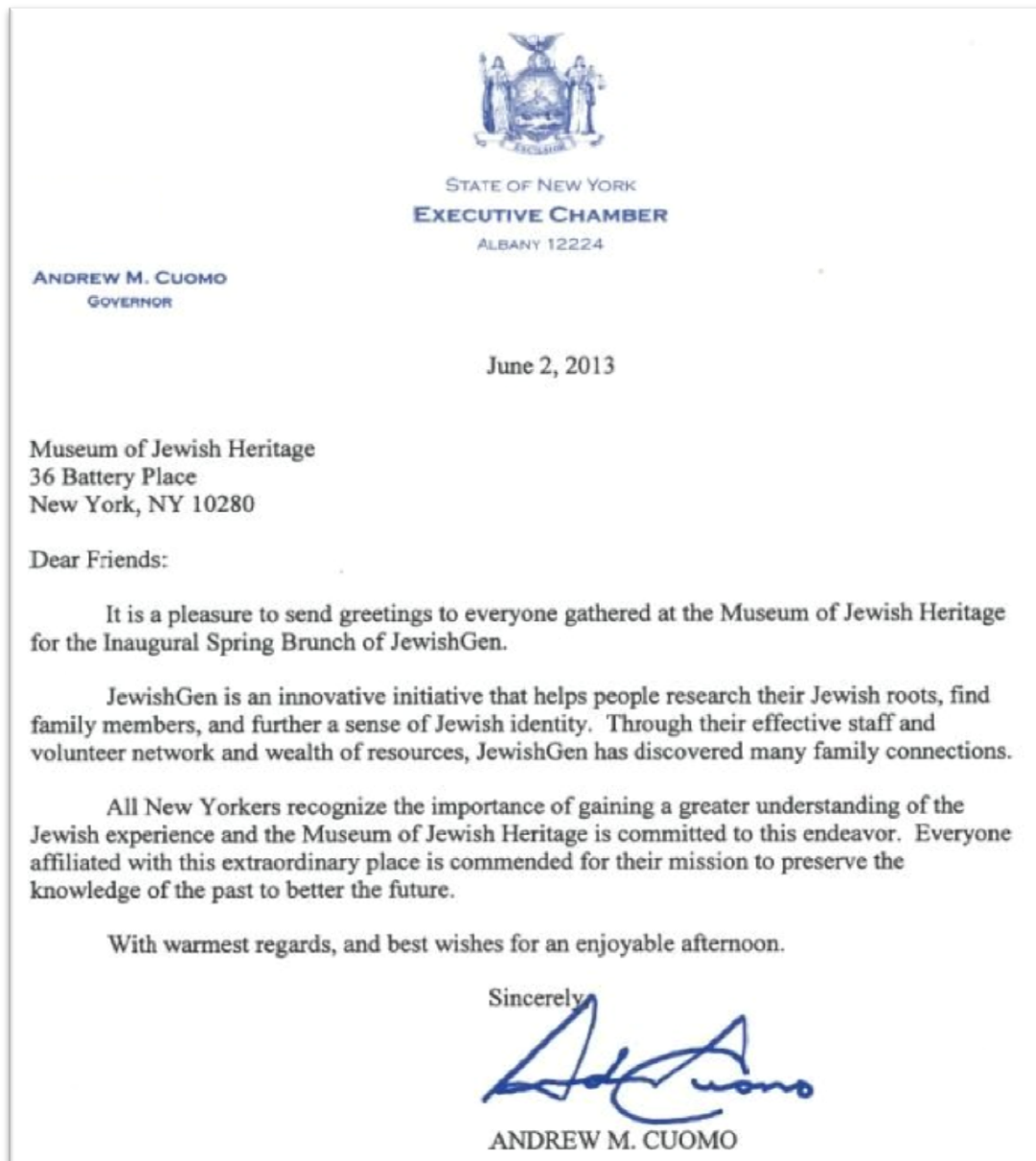
On Sunday, June 2, we hosted a Spring Brunch at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in NY (of which JewishGen is an affiliate). Approximately 100 people attended and showed their support not only for JewishGen’s important work, but for honorees Karen Franklin, Gary Mokotoff, and Lance Ackerfeld (who was awarded the Volunteer of the Year). Following the brunch, all participants were invited to a special lecture given by Karen Franklin (hosted together with the JGS of NY) on *Against the Odds: American Jews and the Rescue of Europe’s Refugees, 1933-1941*.



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

It was a beautiful event that not only raised funds for JewishGen, but helped us raise awareness and foster enthusiasm. At the same time, it permitted JewishGen to offer a small token of appreciation to some of our volunteers who have distinguished themselves by their indefatigable work and dedication to JewishGen.

Greetings from the Governor of New York State, the Mayor of New York City, and some pictures, appear below:



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

June 2, 2013

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to JewishGen's inaugural Spring Brunch.

New York City is proud to be the heart of the Jewish American experience. By helping Jewish New Yorkers discover their family roots and connect with relatives, JewishGen plays an important role in preserving this heritage and greatly enriches our Jewish community. We are delighted to support its mission and to join staff, volunteers, and supporters to celebrate its contributions to strengthening Jewish identity.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, congratulations on all of your achievements as an organization. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael R. Bloomberg".

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

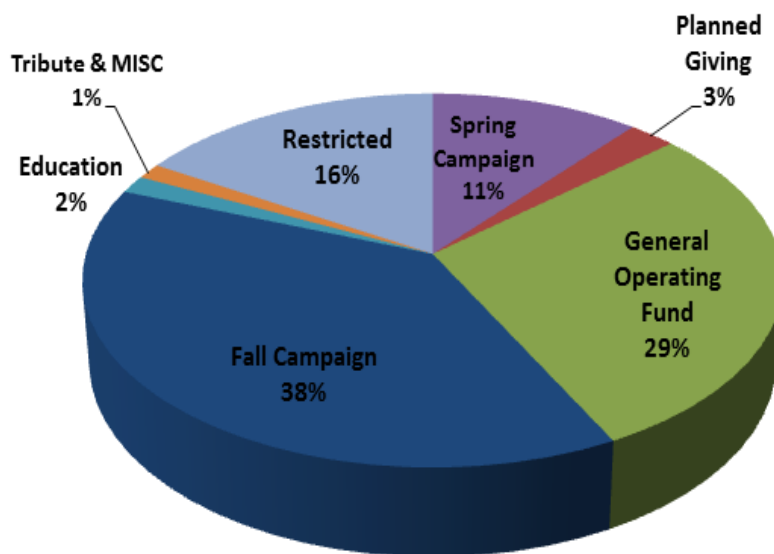


*Some pictures from the brunch. Check out our Facebook page for more pictures.*

## SOURCES OF REVENUE

Overall, the 2013 spring campaign surpassed the total from 2012 by approximately 18%, raising funds from approximately 900 donors throughout the world. The fall campaign likewise surpassed the total from 2012 by nearly 13%, raising funds from approximately 3,900 donors throughout the world. We are so grateful to each of JewishGen's generous donors. Whether it be a gift in excess of \$1,000, or as modest as \$5, each is important to us, and makes a difference.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW



Sources of 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...in recognition of JewishGen's outstanding work, my wife and I decided to make a substantial 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 register, in less than three minutes, for this incredibly valuable program for JewishGen.



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## 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 annually contribute an unrestricted gift of \$100 or more. These Value Added Services currently include:

- *The JGFFAlert System:* The JGFFAlert System is 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 program, 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!
- *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). This feature will be provided to all those who make a minimum \$100 a year donation to the JewishGen General Fund.
- *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. While we never subtract anything from the free basic search capabilities which always have been available, and will continue to be freely available to all, the Advanced Database Search Features is a Value-Added Service — our way of saying "Thank You" to those who provide financial support for all the programs and projects which are offered as a public service.
- *Basic Genealogy Courses:* JewishGen offers four Basic Genealogy Courses: "Search Strategies", "Exploring JewishGen", "Organizing Your Data" and "Cite Your Sources". Our courseware is fee-based, but these four Basic Courses are included as part of the Value-Added Services program.

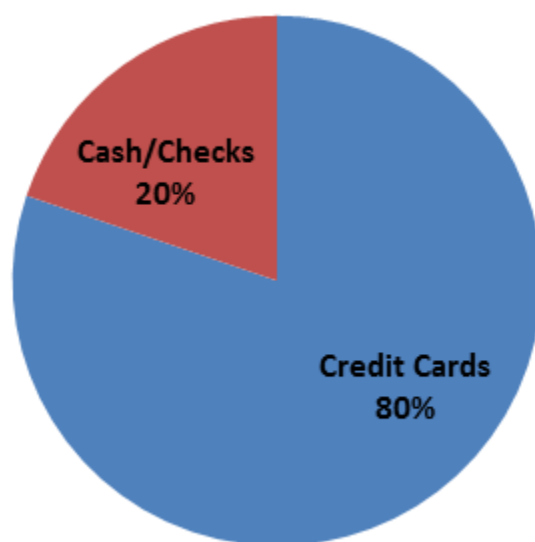
JewishGen Value-Added Services are available to all who contribute a minimum of \$100 annually to the JewishGen General fund. Because of its value, we have not raised the cost of Value Added Services for more than five years. Last year, more than 4,000 people participated in our Value Added services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

To contribute, or to learn more, please visit [www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen-erosity](http://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen-erosity)

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## DONATION METHODS

Adhering to our fundraising strategy implemented 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>



*Donation Methods*

## 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

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## February 2014 Wall of Honor

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

<i>Special Thanks To</i> Renee Steinig	For finding that which I couldn't.	<i>From</i> Carol Cohen
<i>In Honor Of</i> Joseph Michael Rosenberg	In celebration of your 92nd birthday, with love from all your family.	<i>From</i> Jeanette Rosenberg
<i>Special Thanks To</i> Wolfgang Schoenfeld	In honor of your 2013 book on the fate of the Jewish community in Flehingen and your research on the destroyed synagogue there. And thanks for your generous help with my Barth research through ViewMate and GerSIG.	<i>From</i> John Lowens
<i>Special Thanks To</i> Erwin Born & his family	Our families were neighbors for 50 years and have been friends for 150. For your generous hospitality to Ethan and me and your work as historians of the Jewish community in Wallau we will always be grateful.	<i>From</i> John Lowens
<i>In Honor Of</i> Steffen Pross	Congratulations on your <u>2014 Obermayer German Jewish History Award</u> . I'm grateful to my Weingartner and Barth cousins in Flehingen for helping us meet.	<i>From</i> John Lowens
<i>In Honor Of</i> My mother Annetta Able & Aunt Stephanie	Their 90th birthday and surviving Dr. Mengele's experiments.	<i>From</i> Michael Able
<i>Special Thanks To</i> Wolfgang Fritzsche	Your A-H-B Project and its Internet database of German Jewish name adoption lists is invaluable. Thanks for that and for your help to us all via the GerSIG Email Forum.	<i>From</i> John Lowens

*Sample page from the Wall of Honor*

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## PLANNED GIVING

Contribute to the future of JewishGen by planning for a special kind of gift. A planned gift creates a meaningful personal legacy at JewishGen, while securing the future of this important organization and its mission.

There are many ways to include JewishGen in your charitable giving and estate planning:

- **Bequest:** One of the simplest ways to support JewishGen's future is by naming JewishGen a beneficiary in your will. This may be made with a specific dollar amount, asset, or percentage of your estate.
- **Charitable Gift Annuity:** A charitable gift annuity is an agreement between you and JewishGen that provides you with regular fixed payments for life in exchange for transferring assets to JewishGen. You may be eligible to receive significant income tax benefits, and a portion of your annuity payments may be tax-free. Minimum gift of \$10,000 is required.
- **Retirement Plans and Beneficiary Designations:** Retirement (i.e., IRA), life insurance, and real estate assets may all be donated to JewishGen. Making a gift in this manner can mean significant tax advantages for your estate and your heirs.

Donors who contribute through a planned gift or notify us that they have made a provision for JewishGen in their estate plans are honored and recognized as members of JewishGen's **Tree of Life Society**.

**Each gift makes a difference.** Together with your own financial planners, let us help you create a legacy to meet your unique financial, tax, and estate planning goals while ensuring that JewishGen's mission of "preserving our history for future generations" continues.

For more information on planned giving or to arrange a confidential consultation, please contact Avraham Groll, JewishGen's Director of Business Operations, at (646) 437-4326 or [agroll@JewishGen.org](mailto:agroll@JewishGen.org).

## TREE OF LIFE SOCIETY

The seeds for the perpetuation of our collective Jewish family history and heritage were planted in 1987 by a group of individuals who founded JewishGen as an online bulletin board. From this humble beginning, few could have imagined that JewishGen would transform into the premier online resource for Jewish genealogy, utilized by thousands of people on a daily basis.

Donors who contribute through a planned gift or notify us that they have made a provision for JewishGen in their estate plans are honored and recognized as members of JewishGen's **Tree of Life Society**. If you have already included JewishGen in your will, or you intend to, please consider letting us know so that we can honor you appropriately.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## Members of the JewishGen Tree of Life Society

*(As of Dec. 31, 2013/28 Teves, '5774)*

Thomas Spisak  
Sandie Yeaman  
Segio de Carvalho  
Allan Glassman  
Marian User  
Gadi Geva  
Mali Shahr-Mizrahi  
Gary Gershfield  
Meir Lichtenstein  
Nick Galante  
Wagner Rbelo Vilela  
Sandy Aaronson  
Rose Raymen  
Jon Stedman z'l  
Edna Cogan z'l

To become a member of the Tree of Life Society, please contact Avraham Groll, Director of Business Operations, at 646-437-4326 or email [agroll@JewishGen.org](mailto:agroll@JewishGen.org).



# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

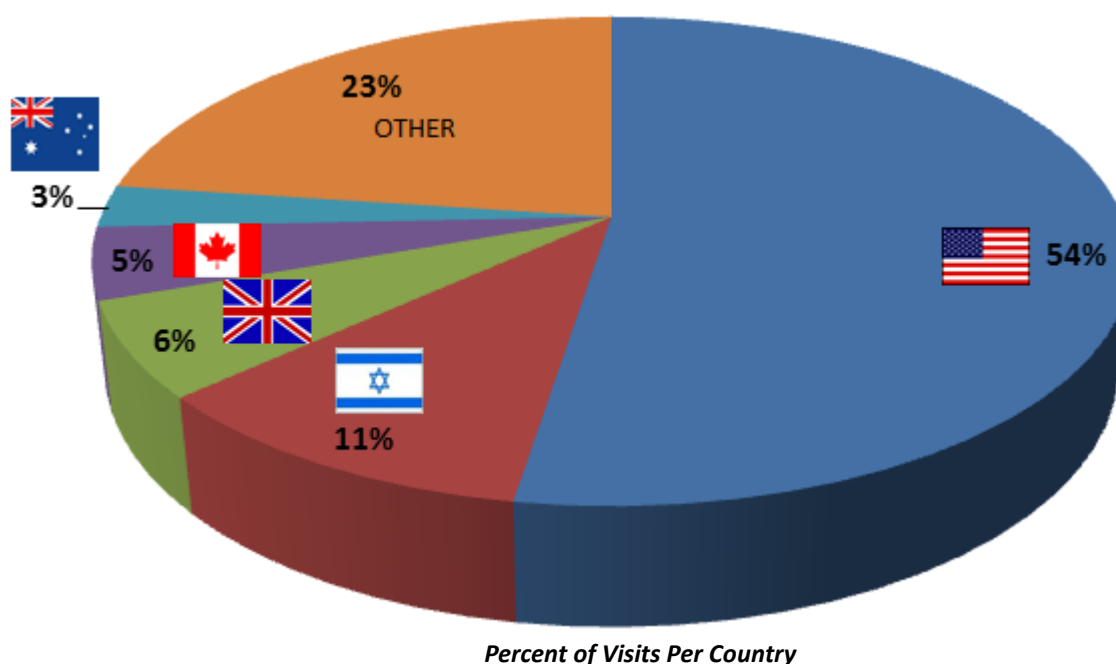
## Part 6. Communications

### WEBSITE STATISTICS

In 2013, JewishGen received 1,087,689 unique visitors from people originating in more than 200 countries throughout the world. This accounts for approximately 2,979 unique visits per day, and 20,859 unique visits per month.

Overall, we received 15,163,399 Pageviews, with the average person viewing approximately 8 pages per visit. Also of great importance is the fact that visitors average approximately 6.5 minutes on the website.

As in previous years, most of our users resided in either the USA, Israel, UK, Canada and Australia.



Another interesting statistic focuses on the cities throughout the world with the greatest number of JewishGenners. According to our research, the top ten cities (by number of JewishGen visitors) were: Tel Aviv, New York, London, Los Angeles, Toronto, Melbourne, Sydney, Warsaw, and Jerusalem.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

## SPOTLIGHT ON BOSTON, MA

Because the 2013 IAJGS conference was in Boston, we thought it would be interesting to analyze how Bostonians use JewishGen.

Here are the statistics:

**Total Visits: 10,830**

**Pages Viewed Per Visit: 9**

**Time Per Visit: 8:31**



## NEW JEWISHGEN VIDEO

In July, JewishGen premiered our brand new video entitled *This is JewishGen* at the IAJGS Conference in Boston. The video explains more about us, who are the people behind JewishGen, and how JewishGen can help you research your Jewish roots. It has been viewed more than 13,000 times thus far. The video can be accessed on our homepage or via JewishGen's YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nASSn4rDXh4>

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

DON'T FORGET TO "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK



JewishGen currently maintains a fan page on Facebook and has more than 4,300 "likes." In addition to posting various announcements, news from the web, pictures, success stories, and more, 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. Our Facebook page is accessible at: [www.FaceBook.com/JewishGen.org](http://www.FaceBook.com/JewishGen.org)

## Part 7. Leadership

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The JewishGen Board of Directors is the fiduciary body legally responsible for JewishGen. Directors are elected by the Museum of Jewish Heritage's Board of Trustees. Its three current members are:*

Dr. David G. Marwell, Tammy A. Hepps, and Bruce C. Ratner

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

*The JewishGen Board of Governors ("BoG"), formed in 2009, is an advisory board, responsible for long-term planning for the future of JewishGen. Its current members are:*

- CO-CHAIRS: Karen Franklin & Gary Mokotoff.
- COMMITTEE MEMBERS:  
Henry Blumberg, Hal Bookbinder, Stanley Diamond, Rand Fishbein (vice-chair), Michael Goldstein, Saul Issroff, Phyllis Kramer (secretary), Hadassah Lipsius, Max Polonovski, Sarina Roffé, Randol Schoenberg.
- EX-OFFICIO: Dr. David G. Marwell, Warren Blatt, Michael Tobias, Avraham Groll.

### STAFF

- Managing Director – Warren Blatt
- Director of Business Operations – Avraham Groll
- Vice President of Programming – Michael Tobias

### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

*The JewishGen Operations Committee ("OpCom") is composed of the staff, the volunteer vice-presidents, and selected key volunteers. The OpCom's nine current members are:*

Warren Blatt, Avraham Groll, Michael Tobias, Nolan Altman, Susana Leistner Bloch, Vivian Kahn, Phyllis Kramer, Dick Plotz, and Karen Franklin.

# JEWISHGEN 2013 REVIEW

**THANK YOU FOR READING.**

**PLEASE SEND  
SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO  
[INFO@JEWISHGEN.ORG](mailto:INFO@JEWISHGEN.ORG)**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!**