

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

presents

Jewish Experience of 'Russification' in Tsarist Russia 1825-1894

Douglas Cohen

Jewish Life in Bessarabia Through the Lens of the Shtetl Kaushany

Yefim Kogan

Sunday, December 9, 2012, 1:30 pm

Temple Emanuel, Newton

The Tsarist regime inherited half a million Jews in the partitions of Poland, and it set about trying to integrate this very different community into the Russian population. Using both carrots (education) and sticks (conscription), they tried to remake its Jews into Russians. Historians from Simon Dubnow to Michael Stanislawski have described these efforts. Using autobiographical literature, Douglas Cohen follows the lives of six individual Jews to understand how they saw the regime and its laws and how these rules impacted them. Their impressions often differ from the "historical" record.

Douglas M. Cohen is an independent financial consultant with 40+ years of financial experience. He graduated from Harvard College and holds an MBA degree from Stanford University and a Master of Jewish Liberal Studies (MJLS) degree from Hebrew College. He has been researching his family history for 15 years.

Yefim Kogan's parents and their parents lived in the shtetl Kaushany for more than 200 years. A typical small town in the Bessarabian province of the Russian Empire, between the World Wars it was part of Romania, after World War II it was in the Soviet Union, and now it is in the Republic of Moldova. In 1924, 165 out of 175 businesses in Kaushany were owned by Jews; by the start of World War II, only 1,875 Jews (35% of the population) lived there. The town had all the traditional Jewish organizations: synagogues, a cemetery, khevra-kadisha and Talmud-Torah, mikve and heder, Zionist organizations, a nursing home, and a Jewish Women's Society. Today there are no Jews left in Kaushany.

Yefim Kogan and his family emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1989. Kogan holds an MS degree in Mathematics from Moscow University and an MJLS degree from Hebrew College. He has done genealogical research for 20 years, lectured at Jewish genealogical conferences, and is the coordinator of the Bessarabia SIG at JewishGen.org.

Temple Emanuel is at 385 Ward St, Newton Centre, MA.

For detailed directions and maps, visit our web page at <http://emanuel.jsgsb.org>.

Admission is free for members, \$5 for non-members.

Refreshments will be served.



Upcoming programs:

- Jan 6 1:30 pm, Michael Marx, *Do You Have German Roots? A Question for All Ashkenazi Jews*
- Feb 10 1:30 pm, Meredith Hoffman, *Who the Heck Is Ida Gerskill? The Challenges of Researching Jewish Names*

The 33rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is in Boston next summer, 4-9 Aug 2013. You can find more information and a volunteer form at www.jsgsb.org/conf2013.

The JGSGB is dedicated to helping people discover and research their Jewish family history. We offer monthly education programs and a comprehensive beginners' course, maintain an extensive collection of research materials, and publish the award-winning journal *Mass-Pocha*.

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