



“IAJGS Announces Memorial Plaques Indexing Challenge”

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies aims to index information from 5,777 synagogue yahrzeit plaques and other memorial records.

NEW JERSEY, USA, November 1, 2016 — The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) announced today a worldwide crowdsourcing challenge to photograph and transcribe Yahrzeit memorial plaques. These plaques typically display some or all of the following; the deceased’s Hebrew patronymic name including father’s name, the deceased birth & death dates, important information to help people trace their Jewish ancestors and relatives.

Every plaque photographed and indexed is another clue to an ancestor remembered. Many plaques have been lost over time when synagogues have closed, merged and abandoned. Sometimes there is no one left to keep the records. The challenge will help ensure that the information on memorial plaques is preserved for the future.

The information will be searchable on the JewishGen, the primary online resource for Jewish genealogical research website (www.jewishgen.org), as a free public service to anyone who is interested in researching their Jewish roots.

The challenge takes place during the Hebrew month of Cheshvan (this year November 01 thru 30) during the International Jewish Genealogy Month. 74 IAJGS member societies worldwide will provide coordination points for the many indexing volunteers. Individuals not within reach of a member society, wherever Yahrzeit plaques exist, are also encouraged to participate. The goal is to transcribe 5,777 plaques.

Follow the progress of the Memorial Plaque Indexing Challenge on Facebook www.facebook.com/IAJGSjewishgenealogy and on Twitter using the hashtag #MEMPLAQ.

About the IAJGS

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is an umbrella organization of 74 Jewish genealogical societies, Jewish historical societies, and other organization worldwide. The IAJGS serves the shared needs of its members, coordinates and organizes activities such as the annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, and provides a unified voice & acts as the spokesperson on behalf of its members. The IAJGS’s vision is a worldwide network of Jewish genealogical research organizations and partners working together as one coherent, effective & respected community – enabling people to succeed in researching Jewish ancestry and heritage. Find us at www.iajgs.org, like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/iajgsjewishgenealogy>, and follow us at www.twitter.com/iajgsconf.

About the JewishGen

JewishGen, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, is committed to ensuring Jewish continuity for present generations and generations yet to come. JewishGen’s mission is 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. Primarily driven by volunteers, JewishGen hosts more than 20 million records, and provides a myriad of resources and search tools designed to assist those researching their Jewish ancestry. JewishGen provides its resources online without charge as a public service. For more information, visit www.jewishgen.org.

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