



Card designed by Elizabeth Kessin Berman

September 2021

Dear Kremenets District Friends,

We hope this new year finds you happy and healthy. Here are a few newly completed projects to browse, as well as a report on this year's Askara, hosted in Israel.

As always, we thank you for your past generosity and invite you to include our projects in your holiday giving. Instructions for donating are at the end of this email.

New Datasets Available

- **Kremenets, Vishnevets, and Yampol gravestones:** Translations from the cemeteries in Kremenets (3,153 gravestones), Vishnevets (648 gravestones), and Yampol (128 gravestones) are searchable via

the [JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry \(JOWBR\)](#). (Note: These translations represent only a small portion of the gravestones in those cemeteries. Most early gravestones do not include surnames.) Thanks to Michael Snyder for serving as our contact with JOWBR.

- **Photos related to Kremenets-district towns** from the [Yad Vashem Photo Collections](#) (linked from our [Photos page](#)): This file includes information and thumbnails for 576 photos. Most, but not all, captions and inscriptions have been translated. Thanks to Enid Cherenson for compiling this spreadsheet. (Note: this is a very large Excel file.)
- **Kremenets-district-related names in the USC Shoah Foundation's interviews with survivors:** We have added 177 name-town entries from this collection to the [Indexed Concordance of Personal Names and Town Names](#). To find your family names and towns, either search the Concordance for your family names, or search the collection via [JewishGen](#). Thanks to Don Tannenbaum for compiling this information.

All the names and towns in these resources are searchable in the [Concordance](#) (our master index of names and towns). The Concordance now has more than 440,000 entries.

Report on the August 16 Askara

The Organization of Kremenets and Shumsk Emigrants in Israel held its annual azkara (memorial) on August 16, 2021, to mark the anniversary of the August 1942 massacres of Jews in Kremenets, Shumsk, and Lanovtsy. Rachel Karni provided the following report of the online event.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic and the outbreak of the fourth round in Israel, we decided to hold this year's memorial meeting on Zoom rather than at our usual venue of Seminar Hakibbutzim in Tel Aviv. We approached this with great trepidation since over 40 of our some 200 members did not even have a computer two years ago (when our last *azkara* was held). It was a pleasant surprise to find that 38 of these members now had a computer and were conversant with Zoom. Sixty-one screens were open during the program, but many had two or three viewers, so there were around 80 participants.

After an introduction, I talked about the Kremenets District Research Group's recently prepared translation of the October 12, 1944, [report on Shumsk](#) by the Extraordinary State Commission to Investigate German-Fascist Crimes Committed on Soviet Territory.

The [Soviet Extraordinary Commission](#), as it is known for short, compiled town-by-town testimony and evidence from neighbors, eyewitnesses and survivors after World War II. In Shumsk, the commission discovered that babies and young children who had been thrown into the pits (mass graves) had not been shot, as had the adults. "Medical evidence in court finds that they died from suffocation while alive," the report concludes.

This was followed by the memorial prayer *El Maale Rachamim*.

Ilona Angert of Yad Vashem's project [Gathering the Fragments](#) discussed this campaign to rescue personal items from the Holocaust period. She showed some artifacts contributed by people from Kremenets. She detailed the kinds of material that Yad Vashem is interested in receiving, clarifying many widely held misconceptions. For example, they want items from 1920 to 1950, not just the World War II years. They want letters, pictures, and artifacts of survivors and of those who left our towns before the war and thus survived, not only of people who perished.

Many of our organization's members possess letters and pictures that belonged to their now-deceased parents. They themselves are often "downsizing" their homes or using time during the pandemic to "arrange things," and now is exactly the time to raise the issue of preserving these materials. A few people told of boxes of pictures of people, only some of whom are identified. Ilona explained why these pictures are important and how Yad Vashem often can identify some of the people in them.

Sadly, seven of our members passed away these last two years. Each of them was eulogized. One, Shimshon Bahat, had been our organization's president for quite a few years. He was the first person from the second generation to hold this position. The deceased were all members who attended the *azkara* each year and will be

sorely missed.

Using slides provided by Enid Chersonson, I talked about a new project she is spearheading involving the town museum in Shumsk. We have been asked to contribute material for exhibits about the Jewish community in Shumsk.----*Rachel Karni*

Regards,

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Co-Coordiators, Kremenets Research Area, JRI-Poland
an activity of the Kremenets District Research Group
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How to Donate to the the Kremenets Research Area

Credit card, PayPal, or bank draft: Follow the instructions at <http://jri-poland.org/support.htm>. Be sure to specify that your contribution is for **Kremenets Towns**.

Mail: Fill out [this form](#) and mail it it with your check. Be sure to specify that your contribution is for **Kremenets Towns**.

When you send your donation, please also send an e-mail message to kremenetsdrg@gmail.com with the amount and date of your contribution so that

we can be sure the donation gets applied properly. If your employer has a matching gift program, please think about matching your donation through that program.