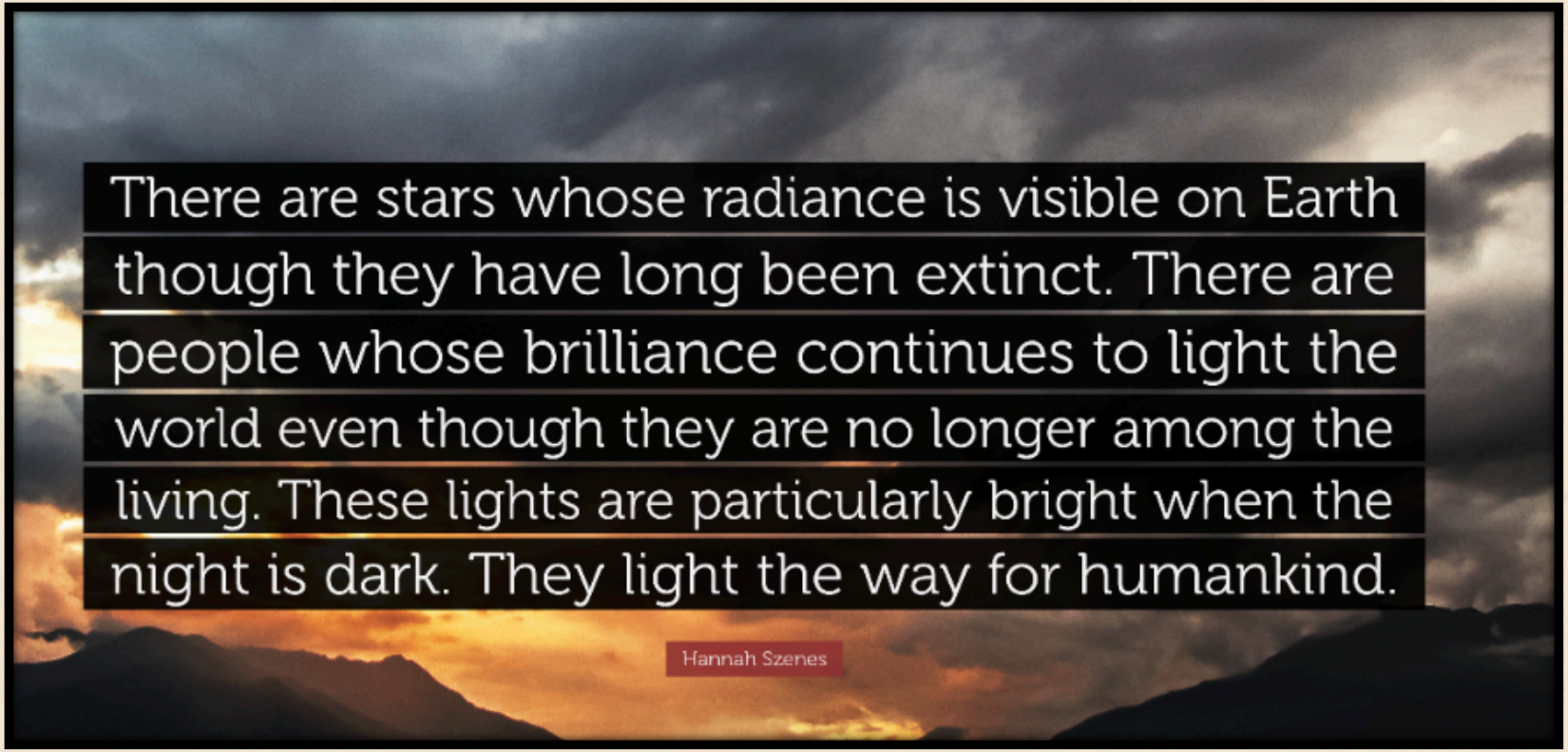
The Kudinsky (Coodin)-Tabachnick Family:

The Power of a Family: a Story of Overcoming Obstacles and Building a Legacy

Music and Mavens – February 14, 2023

Martin Itzkow


There are stars whose radiance is visible on Earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world even though they are no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for humankind.
Hannah Szenes

Our Family History in Four Parts

01 Our Purpose

02 The Beginning

03 The Legacy Project

04 Our Focus on Youth

Our Purpose



Our Purpose

Preserving Cultural Heritage:

- Telling the story of our family that we believe can help to preserve the cultural heritage and traditions of our family, the community and our ancestors;
- Believing that this can help to ensure that the history of our family is not lost and will be passed onto future generations;

Understanding the Past:

- Exploring the history of our family that we believe is possible to gain a deeper understanding of events or the forces that shape our lives;
- Helping to shed light on important historical cultural events and to provide context for how we live our lives today;

Connecting with Others:

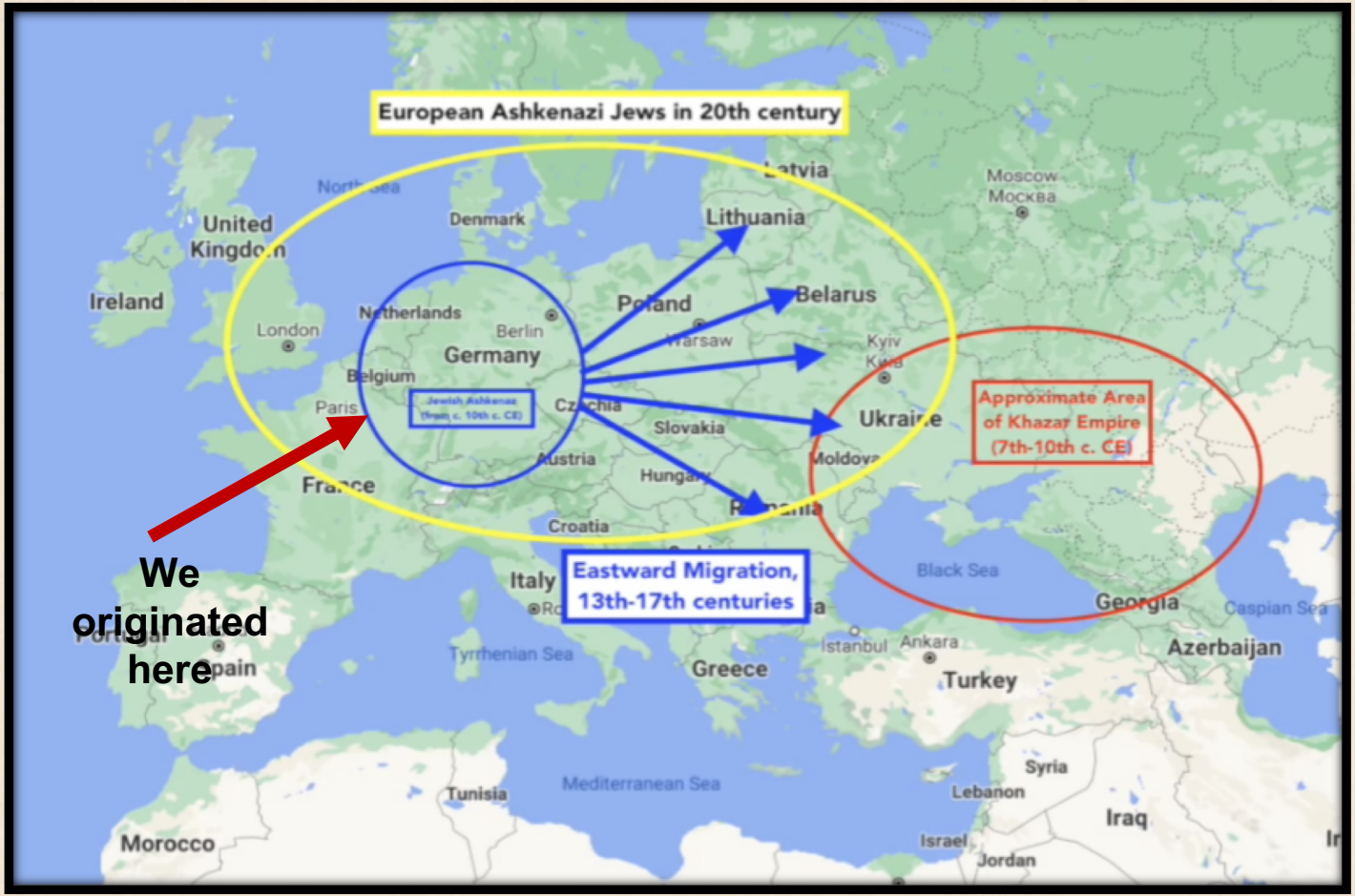
- Sharing the story of our family can help to connect individuals who share a similar heritage or background; and
- Fostering a sense of our community and can provide a platform for exchange, dialogue and celebration;

Telling the story of our family from a legacy perspective can be a powerful way to understand and preserve the cultural heritage of our family, understand the past and it's impact on the present to build a sense of our community together.

The Beginning



Let's Start Here:
Ashkenazi Jews


European Ashkenazi Jews in 20th century
Approximate Area of Khazar Empire (7th-10th c. CE)
Eastward Migration, 13th-17th centuries
We originated here
United Kingdom
Ireland
London
Netherlands
Berlin
Germany
Belgium
Paris
France
Denmark
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Warsaw
Belarus
Moscow
Москва
Kyiv
Ukraine
Moldova
Slovakia
Czechia
Austria
Hungary
Croatia
Italy
Black Sea
Georgia
Caspian Sea
Azerbaijan
Istanbul
Ankara
Turkey
Greece
Tyrrhenian Sea
Mediterranean Sea
Tunisia
Morocco
Syria
Lebanon
Iraq
Israel
Jordan

Ashkenazi Jews originated from the Rhineland in Germany

- Ashkenazi Jews trace their ancestry to the Jews of the Rhineland in Germany;
- The term ‘Ashkenazi’ comes from the Hebrew word for Germany, Ashkenaz;
- The Ashkenazy Jewish community in the Rhinelander Germany starts in the late mediaeval period around the 11th century;
- Over the centuries, the Ashkenazy Jews of Germany face various forms of persecution, including expulsions, enforced conversions, and fled to other parts of Europe, Russia and Ukraine;

The Polish - Lithuanian Commonwealth

The Stages of the History of Ukraine

14th – 16th Centuries:

- During this time, Ukraine was divided into several principalities, including Galicia, Volhynia, and Kiev. In the later 1300's, **The grand Dutchy of Lithuania conquered much of Ukraine, and the region** became part of the **Polish – Lithuanian Commonwealth** in late 1500s. During this time Ukraine was ruled by Polish and Lithuanian nobility.

17th – 18th Centuries:

- In the late 1600's and early 1700's, the **Cossacks**, a warrior class in Ukraine, rose up against Polish rule in what is known as the Khmelnytsky uprising. Although the uprising was ultimately unsuccessful, it demonstrated **a growing desire for independence** among Ukrainian people.

19th – 20th Centuries:

- In the late 1700's and early 1800's, **Ukraine became part of the Russian Empire** as a result of the partitioning of the Polish – Lithuanian Commonwealth. During this time, Ukraine was ruled by the Russian Empire and governance was often characterized by **repression attempts to suppress Ukrainian culture and language.**

The 20th century:

- After the collapse of the Russian Empire in 1917, **Ukraine declared independence**, but the country was soon invaded by Soviet forces. Ukraine became the part of the Soviet Union and was ruled by the communist party of the Soviet Union until its collapse in 1991. During this time, Ukraine suffered greatly under Soviet rule, including famine, purges and repression.



POLISH LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH

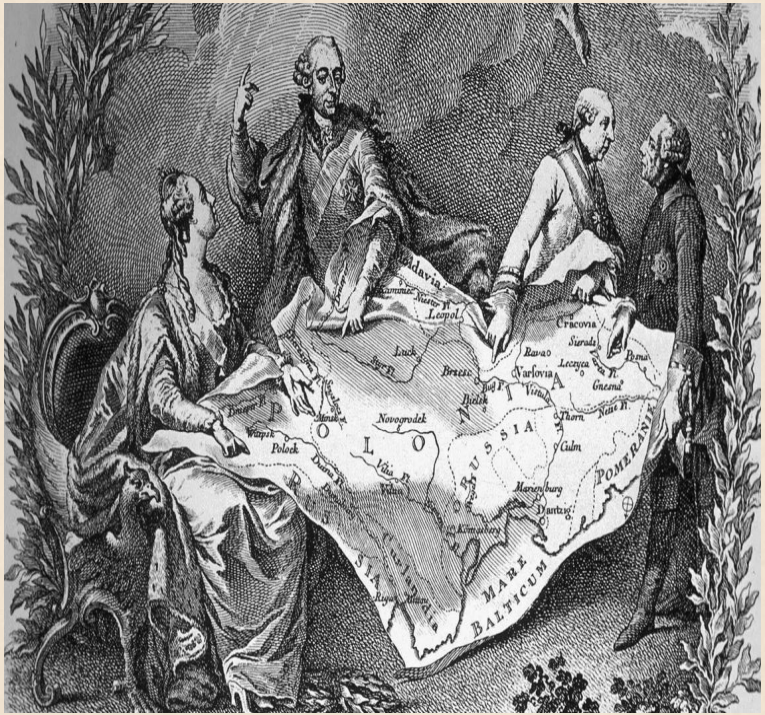
Belilovka was in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

The Commonwealth existed from 1569 to 1795

At its height, it included most or all of today's Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, Ukraine and western Russia.

The Demise of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth

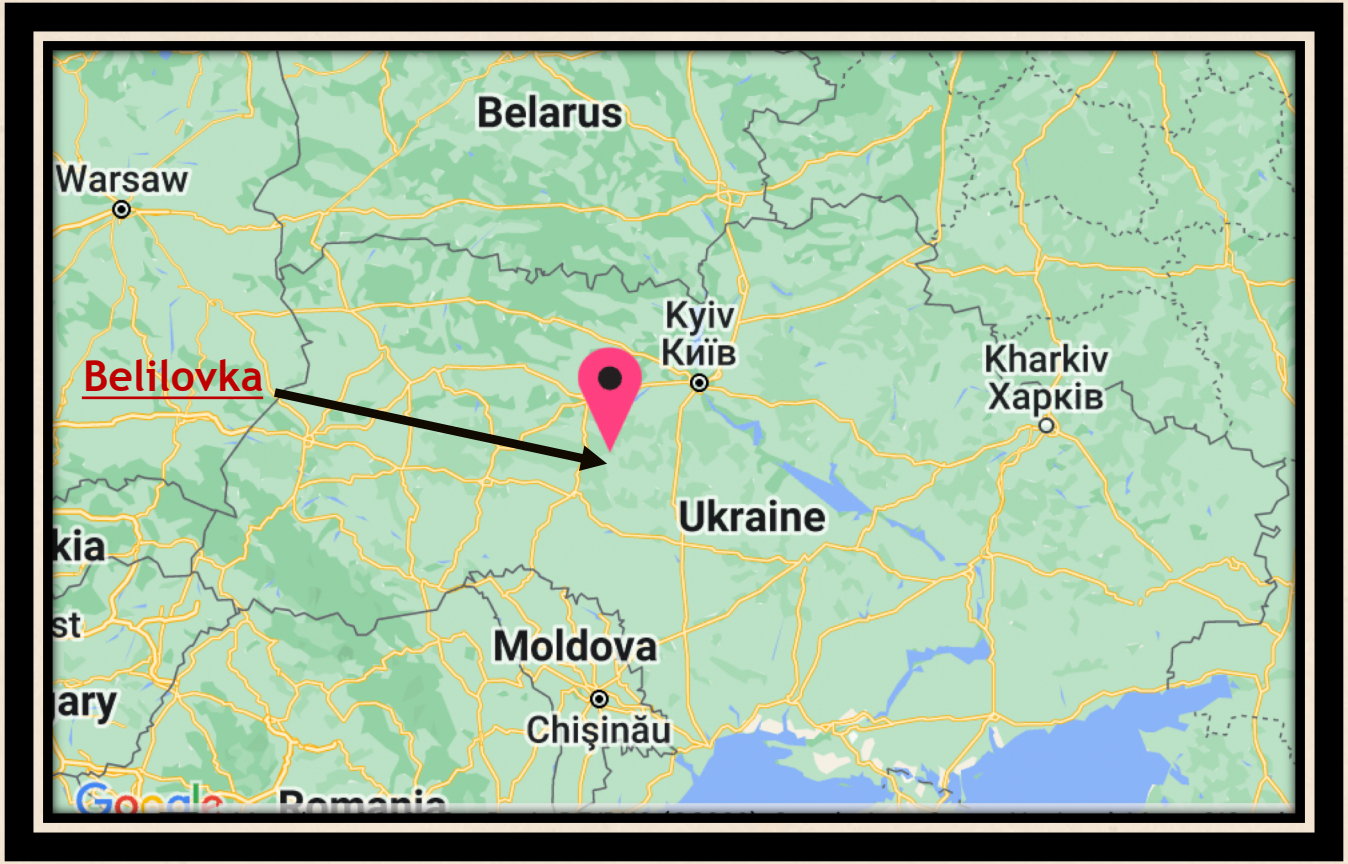
- In 1772, the Russian, Austrian and Prussian Empires began to divide up the Commonwealth
- The Commonwealth finally disappeared from the map of Europe in 1795
- Belilovka became part of the Russian Empire



Our Ancestral Home

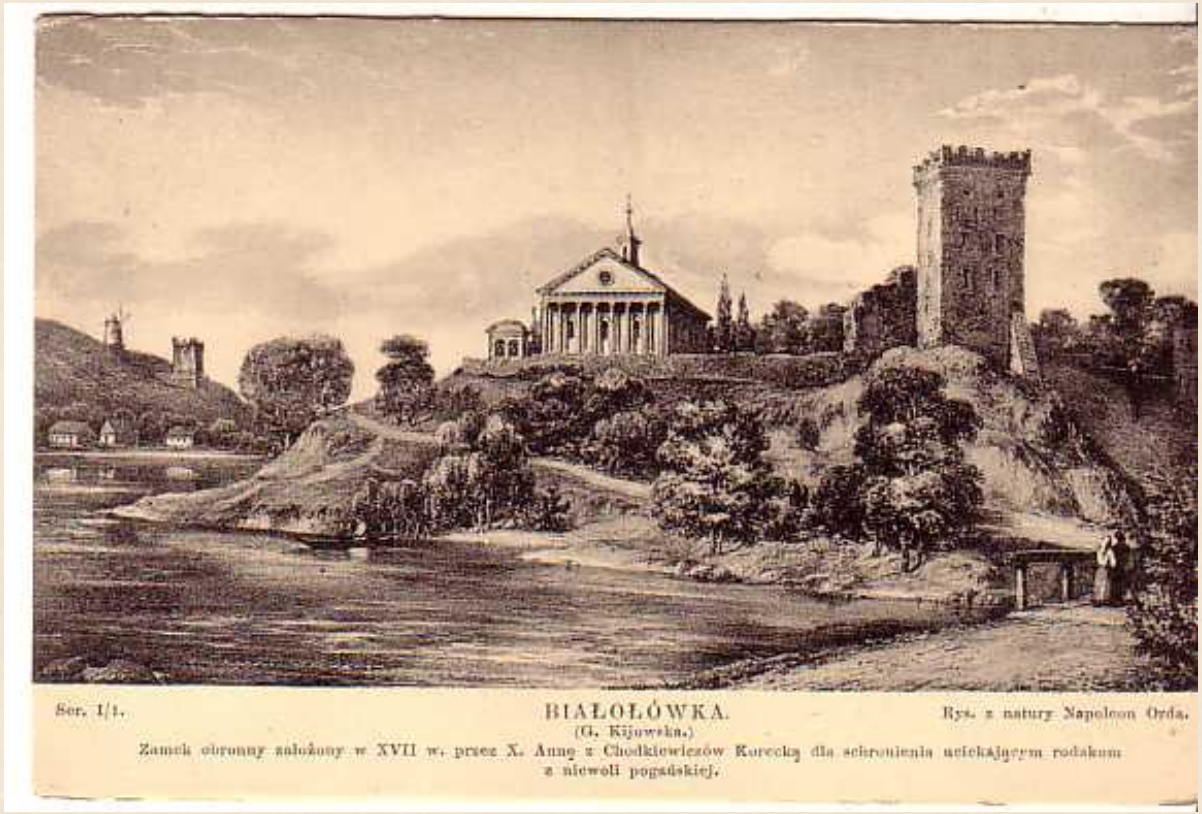
Belilovka

The Russian Empire


Belarus
Warsaw
Kyiv
Київ
Kharkiv
Харків
Belilovka
Ukraine
Moldova
Chişinău
Romania

ANCESTRAL STORY

The ancestral town of the Kudinsky family is Belilovka in present day Ukraine.



Jewish life in The Russian Empire was never easy

- Restrictions on where Jews could live
- Conscription
- Economic restrictions
- Government policies directed toward assimilation
- Oppressive taxes
- Oppression of Jews culminated in pogroms that recurred in waves during this period.



- The first Jewish settlement in Belilovka is mentioned in the early 18th century.
- In the end of the 19th century Belilovka 2,223 Jews constituted approximately 46 percent of the total population.
- In 1918, during the Russian civil war, Belilovka suffered from pogroms during which several Jews were killed or wounded.
- By 1939 the number of Jewish residents of the town had declined to 633 or about 11 percent of the entire population.

The Kudinskys were millers.



They milled mostly kasha.





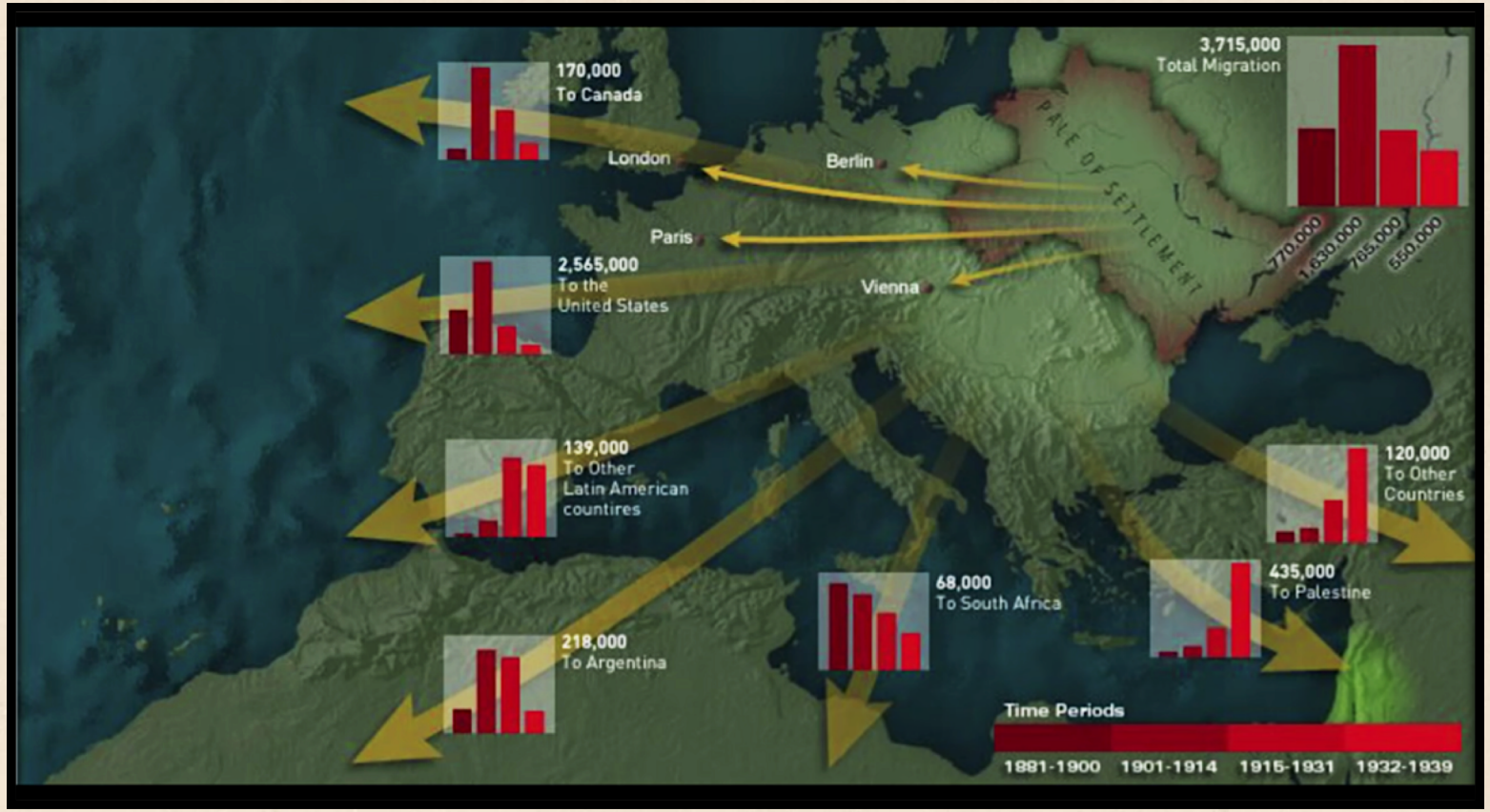
FORESHADOWING THE FUTURE

On the eve of World War II , more than 1,800 Jews lived in Village . During Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union , the village was occupied by the German army on July 15 , 1941. The September 10 , 1941, more than 850 Jews were murdered during a mass execution perpetrated by mobile SS units , aided by the local police .

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, 1.5 million Jews emigrated from Russia to North America.

The Kudinskys (Coodins) were among them.




3,715,000
Total Migration
PALE OF SETTLEMENT
770,000
1,630,000
765,000
550,000
170,000
To Canada
London
Berlin
Paris
Vienna
2,565,000
To the
United States
139,000
To Other
Latin American
countires
120,000
To Other
Countries
68,000
To South Africa
435,000
To Palestine
218,000
To Argentina
Time Periods
1881-1900
1901-1914
1915-1931
1932-1939

The Legacy Project



The Idea

- *This project came about during a lunch visit between a few cousins who have remained in contact.*
- *A discussion was had about how big the Coodin side of the family was and how we don't really know each other.*
- *Wouldn't it be great to plan a reunion?*
- *A few of us at the table committed to continue to talk about this and try to make it happen.*

- At first the vision was our branch of the family.
- There were 9 siblings who were either the parent or grandparent of those at the table.
- Can you imagine how many cousins we must have that we don’t even know.
- So, it began with trying to gather all the names of the descendants of Nissel.

Questions we Asked:

- Learning about Belilovka our ancestral home was important in developing and understanding of the history and the topography of the land (and achieve a deeper sense of place), the easier it is to capture what our ancestors experienced.

- Learning when and how our ancestors came to Canada helps us to understand what it was like for them to say goodbye to everything they knew and set off in search of a better life. How, when, and who they came with connects us to that experience.
- The hardships and triumphs in their new home give us a better understanding of what was passed down to the future generations.

How we started:

- After a short article was written in the Winnipeg Jewish Post, our ‘tree’ that we started to build, has blossomed with branches of the family that were unfamiliar to us. This has brought together a group of people who are keenly interested in learning about the Kudinsky/Tabachnick family legacy.
- Planning a reunion for such a large group of people has proven to be a big undertaking. We have and continue to think about creative ways to connect.
- However, the work that has been done so far has resulted in a way to preserve the family’s history and heritage for future generations.

Our Plan



WEBMASTER

LEADERSHIP

WRITING STORIES

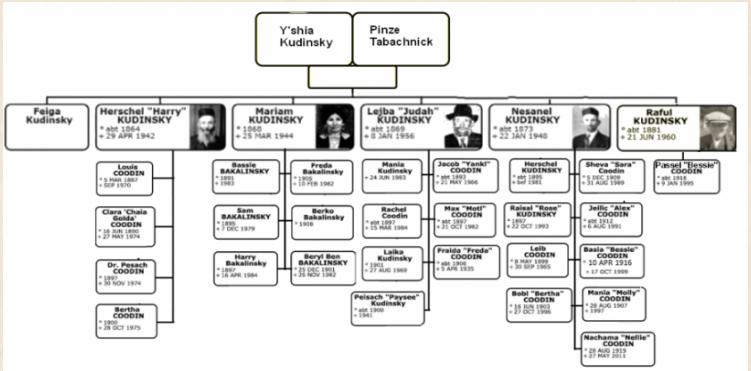
- How the Immigrant Coodins Earned a Living;
- Emigration in the 1920s
- Those Who Stayed Behind



REUNION PLANNING



FINDING OLD FAMILY PHOTOS & DOCUMENTS



BUILDING THE FAMILY TREE



RESEARCH

Stories

THE KUDINSKY FAMILY MILLING TRADITION

…Max operated the mill until a few months before his death in 1982. He called himself the "Buckwheat King of Western Canada" because his was the last buckwheat mill in the West…

HOW THE IMMIGRANT COODINS EARNED A LIVING

…Pesach also had a job with a bakery making early morning bread deliveries on a horse drawn wagon…

…Daughters provided crucial income for newly arriving families by going to work in factories virtually right after stepping off the boat. Many of these young women took jobs in Winnipeg's booming garment industry…

Stories

EMIGRATION IN THE 1920s

…The real cost of passports could be more as officials sometimes required bribes before issuing them…

…Raizel and Bentsie Rabinovitch embarked from Antwerp bound for Quebec City on the SS Melita. Their 3rd class (“steerage”) fare was about $90…

FREEDA COODIN

…Freeda paid with her life for her passionate commitment to social justice…



Coodins of Note



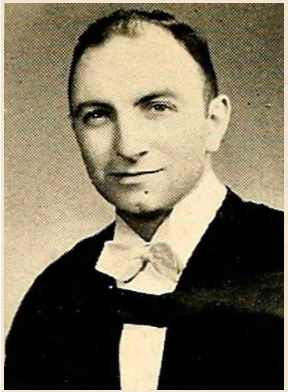
Rosalie Bakalinsky
DSW



Shia Bakalinsky



Freda Posner



Dr. Harry Winrob



Mindele Triep



Arnold Kudinsky

The Genealogy Story

By

Mike Cunningham

Initial Wave

- I developed an interest in genealogy around the time that I was **having kids of my own**
- I didn't know much about my mother's side: I knew my Baba's maiden name to be **Coodin and that she had 9 siblings.** I knew that they came over from "Russia" and perhaps had to change their name when they arrived
- Ancestry had many users at this time, but there were **no relevant Coodin family trees** available for viewing on the entire site

Digging Deeper

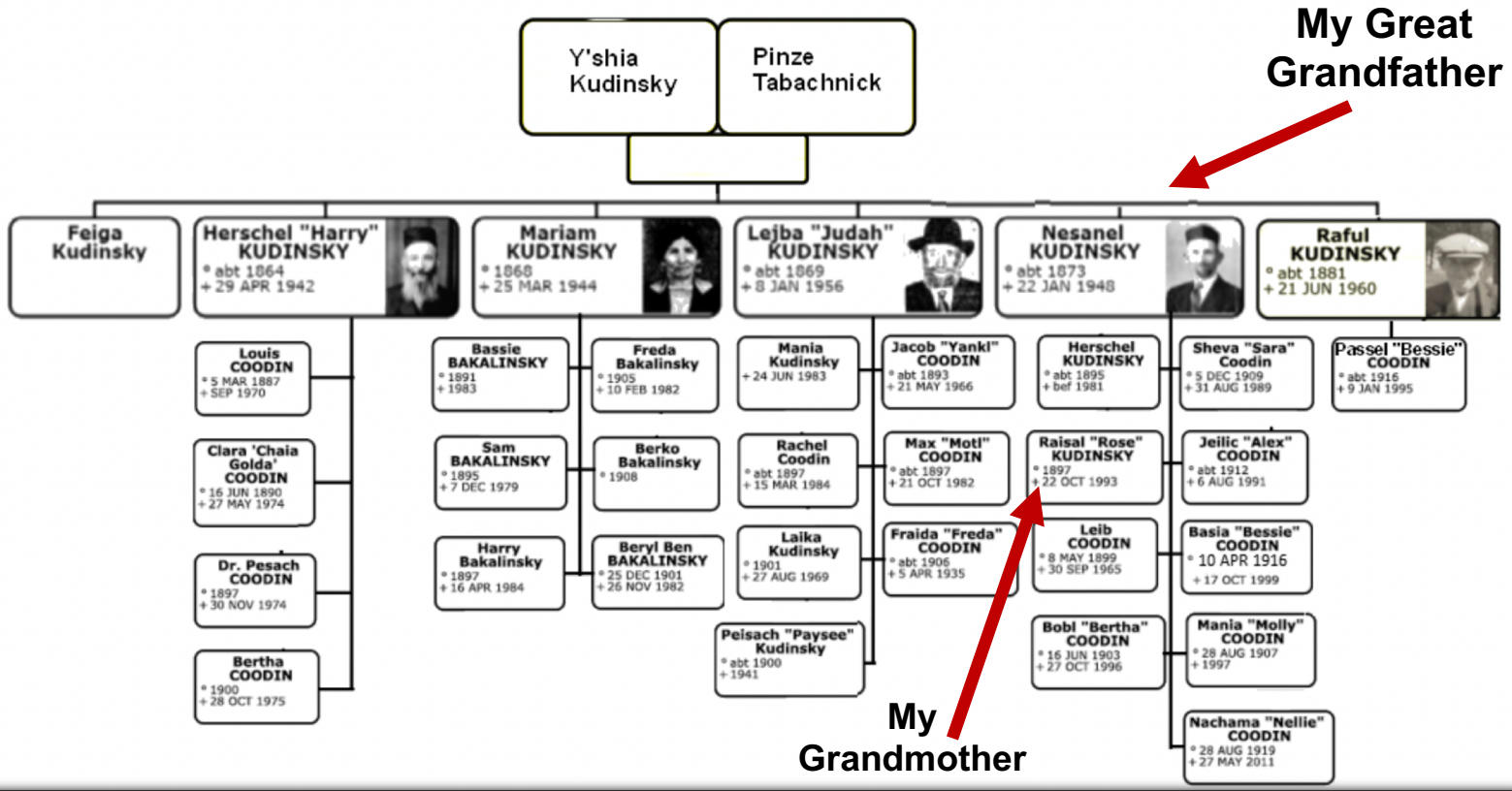
- From immediate family members I learned how the name **"Coodinsky" had been shortened to Coodin and through trial and error he stumbled onto the "Kudinsky"** spelling of our name.
- found that scans of trans-Atlantic voyage documents are available on the Canadian government website. I found multiple hits for Kudinsky, including the passage document of my then teenage Baba, her parents, and 6 of her siblings
- **Nesanel Kudinsky, my Baba's father,** becomes the focal point of my family tree investigations. I wou build his full family tree
- My new goal is to piece together this puzzle of multiple interconnected families. Complicated matters is that many of the **names are the same – example) there are 4 Bessie Coodins** in Winnipeg in the 1930s, all with different dates of birth.

Collaborations are the key

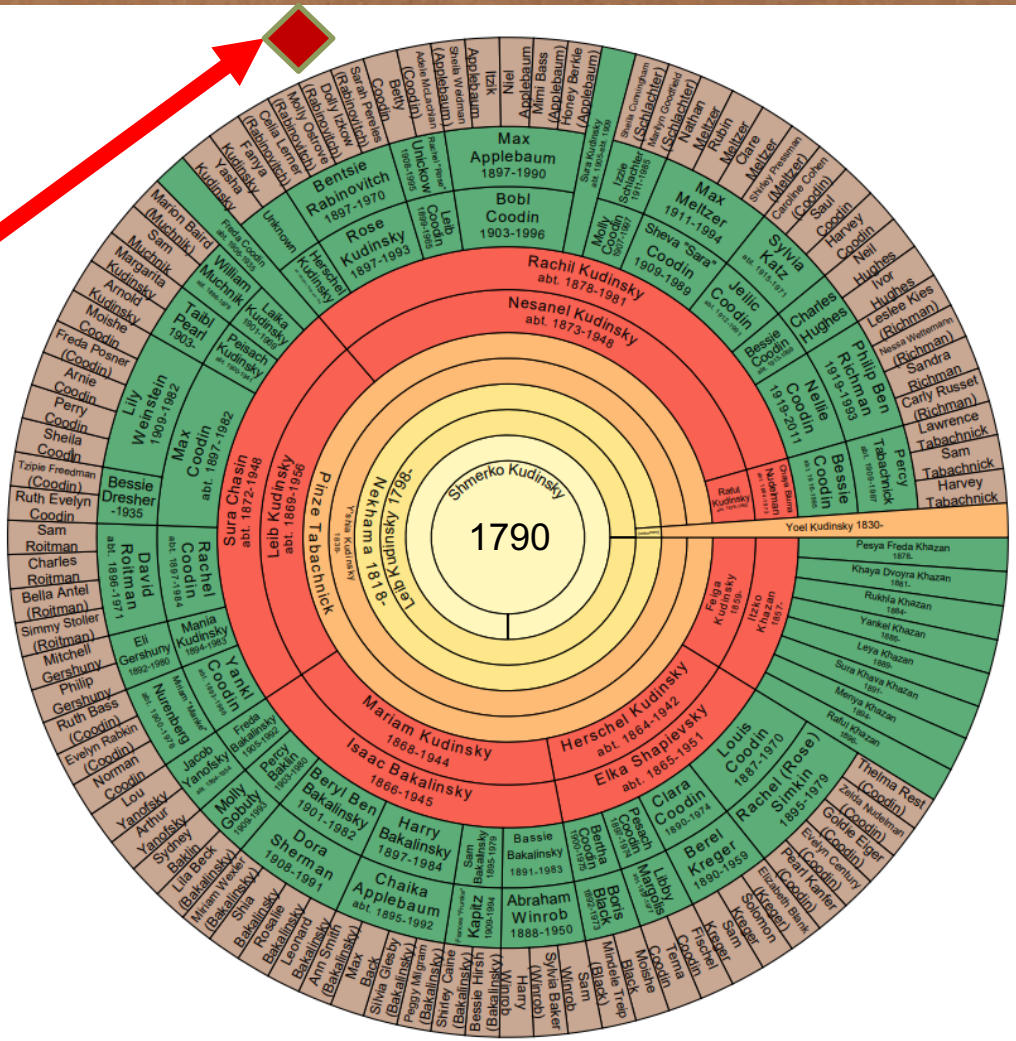
- I took the **Ancestry DNA test**, and got my parents to do so as well
- I began to reach out to mother-side DNA matches to broaden my contacts list – they were able to help me add branches to the tree and verify the work I had done already
- I reached out to people I found on **Facebook** – everyone was very friendly
- I become aware of the work of **Martin and Colleen, 2nd cousins of mine** who are interested in building stronger family bonds and planning a family reunion. I join with them in their monthly family discussions and present my family tree findings to a larger audience
- There is much collaboration at this point. **Representatives from each branch of the Kudinsky tree work to vet and complete the trees of Nesanel and his 5 siblings**
- I **met Mark, a 3rd cousin from the Herschel tree**. We share a motivation to dig into the family tree even further
- Mark uncovers the original **Kudinsky-Tabachnick union** – explaining the bond between the 2 families going back many years
- Using his sleuthing skills, Mark takes the family tree research back to the **Russian Empire**. We have translated Russian census documents to validate the **humble Kudinsky existence 200+ years** ago
- Importantly, we now know the names of Kudinskys that go back **5-7 generations. Names not previously known to anyone still living: Y'shia, Leib, Shmerko**


פ נ
COODIN
רחל לאה בת ר' יואל
נפטרה כט שבט תשמ"א
ת נ צ ב ה
RACHEL
BELOVED MOTHER,
GRANDMOTHER & GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
AT REST FEB. 3, 1981
AGED 103 YEARS


פ נ
איש חשוב ונכבד
ר' נתנאל בר' יהושע
קודין ע"ה
נפטר ביום י"א שבט תש"ח
ת נ צ ב ה
FATHER
NISAN COODIN
DIED JAN 22 1948
AGED 74 YEARS
COODIN


Y'shia Kudinsky
Pinze Tabachnick
My Great Grandfather
Feiga Kudinsky
Herschel "Harry" KUDINSKY
° abt 1864
+ 29 APR 1942
Mariam KUDINSKY
° 1868
+ 25 MAR 1944
Lejba "Judah" KUDINSKY
° abt 1869
+ 8 JAN 1956
Nesanel KUDINSKY
° abt 1873
+ 22 JAN 1948
Raful KUDINSKY
° abt 1881
+ 21 JUN 1960
Louis COODIN
° 5 MAR 1887
+ SEP 1970
Clara 'Chaia Golda' COODIN
° 16 JUN 1890
+ 27 MAY 1974
Dr. Pesach COODIN
° 1897
+ 30 NOV 1974
Bertha COODIN
° 1900
+ 28 OCT 1975
Bassie BAKALINSKY
° 1891
+ 1983
Sam BAKALINSKY
° 1895
+ 7 DEC 1979
Harry Bakalinsky
° 1897
+ 16 APR 1984
Freda Bakalinsky
° 1905
+ 10 FEB 1982
Berko Bakalinsky
° 1908
Beryl Ben BAKALINSKY
° 25 DEC 1901
+ 26 NOV 1982
Mania Kudinsky
+ 24 JUN 1983
Rachel Coodin
° abt 1897
+ 15 MAR 1984
Laika Kudinsky
° 1901
+ 27 AUG 1969
Peisach "Paysee" Kudinsky
° abt 1900
+ 1941
Jacob "Yankl" COODIN
° abt 1893
+ 21 MAY 1966
Max "Motl" COODIN
° abt 1897
+ 21 OCT 1982
Fraida "Freda" COODIN
° abt 1906
+ 5 APR 1935
Herschel KUDINSKY
° abt 1895
+ bef 1981
Raisal "Rose" KUDINSKY
° 1897
+ 22 OCT 1993
Leib COODIN
° 8 MAY 1899
+ 30 SEP 1965
Bobl "Bertha" COODIN
° 16 JUN 1903
+ 27 OCT 1996
Sheva "Sara" Coodin
° 5 DEC 1909
+ 31 AUG 1989
Jeilic "Alex" COODIN
° abt 1912
+ 6 AUG 1991
Basia "Bessie" COODIN
° 10 APR 1916
+ 17 OCT 1999
Mania "Molly" COODIN
° 28 AUG 1907
+ 1997
Nachama "Nellie" COODIN
° 28 AUG 1919
+ 27 MAY 2011
Passel "Bessie" COODIN
° abt 1916
+ 9 JAN 1995
My Grandmother

I AM HERE


Shmerko Kudinsky
1790
Yoel Kudinsky 1830-
Leib Kudinsky 1798-
Nekhama 1818-
Rachil Kudinsky
abt. 1878-1981
Nesanel Kudinsky
abt. 1873-1948
Herschel Kudinsky
abt. 1864-1942
Elka Shapievsky
abt. 1865-1951
Mariam Kudinsky
1868-1944
Isaac Bakalinsky
1866-1945
Leib Kudinsky
abt. 1869-1956
Pirze Tabachnick
Sura Chasin
abt. 1872-1948
Max Applebaum
1897-1990
Bobl Coodin
1903-1996
Bentsie Rabinovitch
1897-1970
Rose Kudinsky
1897-1993
Max Meltzer
1911-1994
Sheva "Sara" Coodin
1909-1989
Sylvia Katz
1915-1971
Jellic Coodin
1912-1987
Charles Hughes
Bessie Coodin
1913-1980
Phillip Ben Richman
1919-1993
Nellie Coodin
1919-2011
Bessie Coodin
1919-1987
Percy Tabachnick
1909-1987
Max Coodin
abt. 1897-1982
Lily Weinstein
1909-1982
Rachel Coodin
abt. 1897-1984
David Roitman
abt. 1896-1971
Bessie Dresher
-1935
Yanki Coodin
1897-1983
Mania Kudinsky
1894-1983
Eli Gershuny
1892-1980
Louis Coodin
1887-1970
Rachel (Rose) Simkin
1895-1979
Clara Coodin
1890-1974
Berel Kreger
1890-1959
Beryl Ben Bakalinsky
1901-1982
Dora Sherman
1906-1991
Harry Bakalinsky
1897-1984
Chaika Applebaum
abt. 1895-1992
Abraham Winrob
1888-1950
Sylvia Baker (Winrob)
Sam Winrob
Boris Black
1892-1973
Libby Margolis
1898-1973
Mindele Treip (Black)
Black Moishe
Tema Coodin
Sam Kreger
Fisorel Kreger
Solomon (Kreger)
Elizabeth Blenk (Kreger)
Pearl Kanfer (Coodin)
Evelyn Century (Coodin)
Goldie Elger (Coodin)
Zelda Nidelman (Coodin)
Thelma Rest (Coodin)
Rafuj Khazan
Mennya Khazan
Sura Khava Khazan
Leya Khazan
Yankel Khazan
Rukhla Khazan
Khaya Dvoyra Khazan
Pesya Freda Khazan
Itzko Khazan
Feiga Kudinsky
Rafuj Kudinsky
Chaye Basha Nudelman
Yakira Kudinsky
Herschel Kudinsky
Laika Kudinsky
Pesach Kudinsky
Taibl Pearl
William Muchnik
Fanya Kudinsky
Yascha Kudinsky
Unknown
Leib Coodin
Unickow
Molly Coodin
Izzie Schlachter
Nathan Meltzer
Rubin Meltzer
Claire Meltzer
Saul Coodin
Harvey Coodin
Neil Hughes
Ivor Hughes
Leslee Kies (Richman)
Nessa Wettemann (Richman)
Sandra Richman
Carly Russet (Richman)
Lawrence Tabachnick
Sam Tabachnick
Harvey Tabachnick
Percy Tabachnick
Bessie Coodin
Nellie Coodin
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Sura Kudinsky
Izzie Schlachter
Molly Coodin
Nathan Meltzer
Rubin Meltzer
Claire Meltzer
Shirley Freedman (Meltzer)
Caroline Cohen (Coodin)
Saul Coodin
Harvey Coodin
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Rukhla Khazan
Khaya Dvoyra Khazan
Pesya Freda Khazan
Itzko Khazan
Feiga Kudinsky
Rafuj Kudinsky
Chaye Basha Nudelman
Yakira Kudinsky
Herschel Kudinsky
Laika Kudinsky
Pesach Kudinsky
Taibl Pearl
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Fanya Kudinsky
Yascha Kudinsky
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Eli Gershuny
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Rachel (Rose) Simkin
Clara Coodin
Berel Kreger
Beryl Ben Bakalinsky
Dora Sherman
Harry Bakalinsky
Chaika Applebaum
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Chaye Basha Nudelman
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William Muchnik
Fanya Kudinsky
Yascha Kudinsky
Unknown
Leib Coodin
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Molly Coodin
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Ivor Hughes
Leslee Kies (Richman)
Nessa Wettemann (Richman)
Sandra Richman
Carly Russet (Richman)
Lawrence Tabachnick
Sam Tabachnick
Harvey Tabachnick
Percy Tabachnick
Bessie Coodin
Nellie Coodin
Phillip Ben Richman
Bessie Coodin
Jellic Coodin
Sheva "Sara" Coodin
Max Meltzer
Sylvia Katz
Charles Hughes
Max Coodin
Lily Weinstein
Rachel Coodin
David Roitman
Bessie Dresher
Yanki Coodin
Mania Kudinsky
Eli Gershuny
Louis Coodin
Rachel (Rose) Simkin
Clara Coodin
Berel Kreger
Beryl Ben Bakalinsky
Dora Sherman
Harry Bakalinsky
Chaika Applebaum
Abraham Winrob
Sylvia Baker (Winrob)
Sam Winrob
Boris Black
Libby Margolis
Mindele Treip (Black)
Black Moishe
Tema Coodin
Sam Kreger
Fisorel Kreger
Solomon (Kreger)
Elizabeth Blenk (Kreger)
Pearl Kanfer (Coodin)
Evelyn Century (Coodin)
Goldie Elger (Coodin)
Zelda Nidelman (Coodin)
Thelma Rest (Coodin)

Our Website

A Reunion

Physical Reunion

- Began discussions in early 2021 about a reunion in Winnipeg Summer 2021 or 2022. Reached out to some other family members who had reunion experience for advice;
- Conducted surveys about numbers able / willing to attend;
- Surveys showed those willing to attend would prefer less structure / formal events and more informal social gatherings – picnics in the park etc.
- Contacted possible reunion sites / gathering places (restaurants, meeting halls, parks etc.)
- Ran into major roadblocks due to Covid-19 pandemic. Sites virtually impossible to book in advance. Also, numbers were highly restricted due to social distancing and costs / deposits were an obstacle
- Discussions shifted from a large reunion to smaller local reunions in Winnipeg, Toronto and Vancouver. So far only Winnipeg group was able to organize a get together in Summer 2022.

Virtual Reunion

- Idea to set up a virtual reunion on Zoom focused on **family elders;**
- Asked younger family members to help with the technology
- Reunion held on **(May 30, 2021)** with approx. 40 – 50);
- First time some cousins had seen in decades. Much reminiscing about growing up together as children; playing at each other houses etc.;
- **Monthly / bi-monthly meetings of smaller "planning committee"** still taking place;
- Annual large Zoom meeting discussed;
- One major issue is how to involve younger generations;

Our Focus on the Kudinsky-Tabachnick Family Youth

Why does this story matter to our Kudinsky (Coodin) -Tabachnick Youth

Personal Connections:

- encourage Coodin youth to think about **their own family histories and personal connections** to this story;
- explain how the experiences of our families are **part of a larger story of immigration, adaptation, and resilience** and how their stories can help them understand their own experiences of their immediate and extended family;

The Historical Context:

- Place the stories of our family in the broader context of **world history and current events;**
- Explore how the history of our family is **relevant to issues such as discrimination, migration, and cultural identity**, and how it can help youth to inform contemporary discussions and debates;

Cultural heritage:

- emphasize the importance of **preserving our cultural heritage** and passing down the story of our family to future generations;
- Explore our stories as part of a larger **legacy of Jewish culture and history**, and how can help youth to understand their place in this heritage;

Empathy and understanding:

- highlight the importance **of empathy and understanding in a diverse and globalized world**;
- explore how the story of our Jewish family can help **promote empathy and understanding for people from different backgrounds and cultures, and how can inspire youth to be active participants in promoting inclusiveness and diversity;**

Personal growth and development

- explain how learning about the story of our Jewish families could help our **youth grow and develop as individuals;**
- **challenge them to think critically** by reflecting on their own experiences, identities and engage with questions of meaning and purpose;

;

Thank You!

Thank You to Our Creation Team

Bonnie Buchalter, Caithlin McArton, Carly Fassett, Cheryl Hirsh-Katz, Clare McArton, Colleen Cohen, Elana Scoler, Gary Stoller, Harriet Glazer, Jeff Itzkow, Martin Itzkow, Leonard Bakalinsky, Marilyn Goodfield, Mike Weidman, Mimi Bass, Miriam Wexler, Mark Kreger, Michael Cunningham, Nessa Wettemann, Rena Solomon, Leslee Kies, Robert Pudavick, Sheila Cunningham and Terri Wexler

Rady JCC

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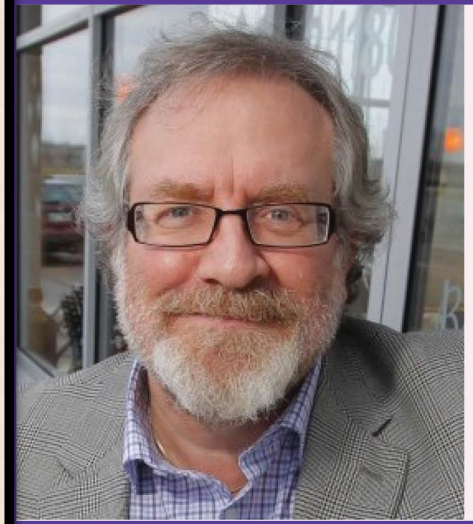

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2:00 PM

Martin Itzkow

A Legacy Project for Future Generations

Martin Itzkow and his cousin Colleen Cohen led a family initiative of research, discussion and planning with a large group of "Kudinsky Family" members throughout North America. They created a website, to provide a repository of knowledge about the family's roots, history, traditions, and stories, for the benefit of current and future generations.

No charge. Donations welcome. **Rady JCC – 123 Doncaster Street**

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Our Website

http://apartmentmall.ca/kudinsky/