

## THE IVANSK PROJECT e-NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 9      January 2005  
Supplemental Issue

This interim issue of our e-Newsletter deals with progress reports and housekeeping matters. The next regular issue of the e-News will be published in February.

### CONTENTS:

- **Progress Report: Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project**  
Work has started on reclaiming our cemetery in Ivansk. The campaign to fund the project is off to a very encouraging start, but we still need your participation to reach our goal of \$50,000.00. Your gift of any size will assure success!
- **Progress Report: The Ivansk Virtual Cemetery and Yiskor Book Project**  
Your help is badly needed to document those who were buried in the Ivansk cemetery and to identify any matzevot returned to the restored cemetery. In addition, the names of our people killed in the Shoah are being collected so that a suitable record and memorial can be developed to honor them.
- **First Generation Ivanskens Can Receive Our e-Newsletter by Mail**  
Members of our community who were born in the shtetl are entitled to receive our e-Newsletter by regular mail. We need you to tell us who they are.
- **Undeliverable e-Newsletters**  
Several people on our e-mailing list are not receiving the e-Newsletter. Please examine the list, and if you know any of these people, get back to us with their correct e-mail address.
- **A Terrific Web Site** < <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/TorontoSynagogues/index.html> >  
The history and cultural significance of three of the earliest shules in Toronto are presented in this stunning and artistically vivid documentary.

## Progress Report: Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project



Restoration of our cemetery is underway. In mid December **David Blumenfeld** and **Greg Gregorczyk** drove down from Warsaw to be in Iwaniska as a work crew began to clear the cemetery of trees, undergrowth and other debris that had accumulated for more than 60 years. It is a daunting task: the weather is cold and the work is hard.

Several fragments of tombstones were revealed and more are likely to be found. These treasures will be used in the reconstruction of the cemetery wall.

David Blumenfeld, whose grandfather left Ivansk for Toronto in the 1920s, is videotaping the restoration project and will prepare a documentary film that tells the story of the lives of our ancestors.

Meanwhile, the campaign to raise funds to cover the cost of the cemetery restoration has also gotten off to a great start.

The Ivansker Mutual Benefit Society kicked off the fundraiser in Toronto with a very generous donation and is encouraging its members, as well as other Ivanskers to join together as a community to honor our ancestors.

In the USA \$5,350.00 has been received thus far. In Canada, a total of \$14,400.00 has been collected and we have additional informal pledges. If the Canadian dollar keeps climbing against the American dollar, we may lose relatively little (and may even come out on top) when we convert these gifts into US funds.

It is important to emphasize that we have done so well even though we have yet to systematically canvass potential donors. In this connection, **Lisa Newman** and **Gary Lipton** (in Canada) and **Audrey Taichman** and **Susan Taichman-Robins** (in the USA) are preparing to mount a mail and telephone drive to enlist the support of members of the Ivansker community as well as friends and business associates.

We are most grateful to all who have donated thus far. Our goal is to raise at least \$50,000.00 (USD) before Phase III of the construction work in the cemetery begins in the spring. At that time we shall reconstruct the perimeter wall, the gate at the entrance to the cemetery and erect a memorial to our ancestors who are buried in the cemetery as well to those who were murdered in the Shoah.

The project is scheduled for completion in June 2005.

You will be invited to attend the ceremony to consecrate the restored cemetery. More information will be forthcoming as spring approaches.

Please do what you can to share in this mitzvah.

All gifts, large or small, will make a difference and are tax deductible.

### ***Questions or Concerns??***

Please contact one of the following:

Gary Lipton	<a href="mailto:glipton@lndsales.com">glipton@lndsales.com</a>
Lisa Newman	<a href="mailto:lisa.newman.a@utoronto.ca">lisa.newman.a@utoronto.ca</a>
Norton Taichman	<a href="mailto:nstaichman@comcast.net">nstaichman@comcast.net</a>

**Thank you so much for your generosity!**

Instructions on how to donate to the project in Canada and the USA are outlined on the next page.

## How To Make A Donation To The Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project

### CANADIAN DONORS

Please send cheques made payable to the: **United Jewish Welfare Fund of Toronto**

c/o Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto  
4600 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, Ontario M2R3V2  
Attention Angela D'Aversa

***N.B: In the cheque's memo line, be sure to insert:  
"for Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project"***

Donations can also be made on VISA or MasterCard by calling Janice Benatar at 416-631-5847 or by sending the information in writing including your Name, Card Number, Expiry Date and the amount of your donation.

If you wish, you may designate a person you wish to honour, and a card will be sent to this person or the family to acknowledge your gift.

The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto will deposit all donations to a special account dedicated to the Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project. You will receive a tax receipt from the Foundation.

### US DONORS

Please make your check payable to: **The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies**

c/o The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies  
PJCRP Account  
787 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14209

***N.B: In the check's memo line, make sure to indicate,  
"for Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project"***

You Can Donate On Line: < [www.jewishphilanthropies.org](http://www.jewishphilanthropies.org) >

You will be asked to specify which agency and which fund you want to support.

- For agency, select Poland Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project.
- For fund, type in "Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project".

You can honor someone or send a memorial gift via this site, and the funds will be credited to the Ivansk Project.

Your donation will be acknowledged by the Foundation and a tax receipt will be forwarded to you.

## The Ivansk Project Virtual Cemetery and Yiskor Book Project

### HELP!!!

**The Ivansk Cemetery Restoration is now in progress, but we are still not receiving requested family information from Ivansker descendants.**

No doubt we will be recovering "lost" matzevot during the restoration project. In Poland it was not the common practice to put family names on the gravestones. Thus, unless we are helped by Ivansker descendants we may never know the identity of the person whose matzeva has been rescued from oblivion.

To identify any tombstones that may belong to your ancestors, we need to compile a comprehensive database of the names of your people who were buried in the cemetery *PLUS* their family connections.

For example, our restoration team may discover the memorials of five men named "*Moishe ben Zvi*", but unless we know that your grandfather Moishe ben Zvi was a respected merchant and that he died in a certain year, we may never be able to positively establish from the memorial that this Moishe ben Zvi was *YOUR* grandfather. If, in the future, anyone in your family decides to set up a family tree, the generation of your grandparents and great grandparents and beyond may be permanently lost because you did not submit the data that you or a member of your family have in your possession.

For the database, we need to know the ancestor's connection to you. We need to know his or her name, vital dates, name(s) of spouse(s) and names of parents. We also need to know the names of the children to establish and connect the various family lines and to help determine which Moishe ben Zvi is which. We realize that you may not personally have all the requested information, but together with other family members you may be able to construct a meaningful profile.

Although archival records in Ivansk are not available [presumed lost], we may some day be able to access official Polish census records. In such instances, our database will be invaluable in sorting out and putting together a portrait of the lost community of Ivansk and understanding how our ancestors lived.

Finally, if you lost Ivansker relatives or friends in the Holocaust, fill out a separate form listing their names and other vital information.

**The Ivansk Virtual Cemetery and Yiskor Book Project form is on the next page.**

## IVANSK VIRTUAL CEMETERY AND YIZKOR BOOK PROJECT

Information on Persons Who were Buried in the  
Ivansk Cemetery or Who were Murdered in the Holocaust

Please use a separate card for each person.

Name (surname and given names):	
Place of birth:	
Date of birth and date of death:	
Cause of death:	
His/Her Father's name / birthplace:	
His/Her Mother's name and maiden name/ birthplace:	
His/Her Spouse's name:	
Business / career:	
Location of dwelling (on the Kesten-Brauner map):	
Names of his/her Children:	

Indicate whether the person is buried in the Ivansk Cemetery or whether he or she was killed in the Holocaust and did not receive a proper burial.

**If you cannot complete all the requested information, do the very best you can.**

### Address your submissions to:

Dr. Arthur E. Zimmerman (Semelman) at: << [arthurz@look.ca](mailto:arthurz@look.ca) >>

or mail to: 514 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R 2Z5.

**Please help us now!!      Thank you!**

**First Generation Ivankers Can Receive  
The Ivansk Project e-Newsletter by Mail**

Thanks to the \$500.00 award given to The Project by The Ivansker Mutual Benefit Society, Ivankers who were born in the shtetl can now receive our e-Newsletter by regular post.

Thus far, only 5 names have been submitted!

Surely there are many more Ivankers who are entitled to and would welcome this service.

We are organizing booklets containing previous editions of the e-Newsletter and will order only enough for those Ivankers who are on the mailing list as of February 1, 2005.

So, if you know any First Generation Ivankers, please forward the following information as soon as possible to: < [nstaichman@comcast.net](mailto:nstaichman@comcast.net) >

Name	
Address	
City or Town	
Province or State	
Postal Code	
Country	

## Undeliverable e-Newsletters

Several people are not receiving our e-Newsletter because something is wrong with the e-mail address recorded in our files. If you know any of these individuals please get in touch with them and send us their correct mailing address.

Ada Holtzman	ada001@netvision.net.il
D. Lederman	d.lederman@excite.com
Steven Lederman	farfl@idirect.ca
Marie Lipowitz-Sautma	isautman@aol.com
Marilyn Nefsky	ronn@interlog.com
Maryline Pearlston	molmar@idirect.com
Sima Rosen	simro@idirect.com
Alan Rusonik	arusonik@houston.rr.com
Eleanor Sherman	shermans@idirect.ca
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Jay Wortzman	worja@ica.net

## A Terrific Web Site

**Toronto's First Synagogues** <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/TorontoSynagogues/index.html>

This web site documents the history and cultural significance of 3 early Toronto shules founded by Eastern European Jews: First Nayaever, Kneseth Israel and Kiever Synagogue. The authors have collected an incredible amount of archival material, which is presented in text, photographs, documents and audio-visual clips. Set aside a couple of hours to enjoy a rich and rewarding experience.