



## EDUCATION

A key component of the Rohatyn Jewish Heritage program is education. We have developed resources for teachers and students of all ages, to help re-introduce the Jewish history of Rohatyn into school curricula and self-study programs as an integral part of the overall history of the town and the region. And we are creating active projects for use in schools and at home, to re-connect the descendants of Rohatyn's Jewish community with the modern town and its residents. We believe the learning path can be walked in both directions.

The heritage program grew out of family history research, and genealogy can serve as an engaging means to educate about the lives of Rohatyn's families, their work, and their leisure activities. Another component of the effort is in geography, both on a macro level - Rohatyn's place in the world - and on a micro level - who lived where in town, and when. These resources can be applied to all the people in Rohatyn, and we hope the data and tools will be used in complementary studies of the town's rich history. Education is a long-term component of our program, and we welcome input and ideas from others.



## Rohatyn Jewish Heritage

Rohatyn Jewish Heritage is a volunteer-led program of heritage preservation and education, working to re-connect the history of Rohatyn's now-lost Jewish community with the people and places of the modern town. Begun in 2011, it is a cooperative initiative involving descendants of Rohatyn Jewish families, current Rohatyn residents, city administration officials, local and regional religious leaders of all faiths, and individual volunteers from Rohatyn and all over the world.

You can participate - with information, time, and money. Donations are tax-deductible in the US.



You can follow Rohatyn Jewish Heritage on Facebook, to stay abreast of program progress and coming events:

<https://www.facebook.com/RohatynJewishHeritage/>



Our website provides contact info, and details the past program history, current project status and plans, a timeline of the Jewish community of Rohatyn, and educational resources to strengthen the connection between Rohatyn's past, present, and future:

[www.rohatynjewishheritage.org](http://www.rohatynjewishheritage.org)

## Rohatyn Jewish Heritage

History, Education, and Heritage Preservation



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## HISTORY

Jews were first recorded in Rohatyn in the 15th century. For the next 500 years, Rohatyn's Jewish families participated in a dynamic town culture with Ukrainians and Poles, while people, kingdoms, countries, borders, laws, and fortunes shifted again and again. Even within the Rohatyn Jewish community there was great diversity of religious, economic, and cultural trends. Rohatyn was an important crossroads and saw many significant movements of people and ideas.

Jewish life in Rohatyn ended with World War II, and today the tangible remnants of the city's Jewish past are few. Perhaps worse, the long and complex history of the Jewish community is nearly forgotten, except to a small number of descendants around the world, and a few local people who work to stop further loss. Our program seeks to recover and rebuild some of the intangible heritage of Rohatyn's Jewish past, and make it accessible to all. Our sources are broad and global, but grounded in the archives and historians of Ukraine and Poland. A view to the past will help us look to the future.



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## HERITAGE PRESERVATION

In the century before World War II, Jews made up a third of the population of Rohatyn and were an integral part of the social and economic fabric of the town. Thanks to all of its citizens of all ethnic groups, Rohatyn was a transport and commercial hub connecting the major cities of the region. Bricks, lumber, bread, liquor, and more were made and sold by Rohatyn's Jews. As part of their civic and social life, the large Jewish population built, supported, and maintained at least five prayer houses (synagogues), both religious and secular schools, and two cemeteries.

The war destroyed Rohatyn's Jewish community and most of the buildings related to their faith; even the cemeteries were robbed of their art and history in stone. Little remains in Rohatyn today of its once extensive Jewish material culture, and the surviving sites and markers are difficult to identify and locate without a knowledgeable guide or assistance from the local Ukrainian community. The Rohatyn Jewish Heritage program aims to help preserve the remaining physical heritage of Rohatyn's Jewish

community, and to help the town's residents and visitors locate and appreciate the sites.

Recovery and documentation of Jewish headstones (and fragments) from scattered locations around Rohatyn continues to be our project's primary focus. Planned future projects include clean-up and rehabilitation of the old Jewish cemetery, erection of a modest memorial for recovered headstone fragments, maintenance of the two memorials at wartime mass graves at the edges of town, and installation of signage and information points at key locations around town to tell the history of the Jews of Rohatyn and the surviving Jewish heritage sites.

An important component of the Rohatyn Jewish Heritage project is assisting visitors coming today to Rohatyn to learn about the town's deep prewar Jewish past and the location of the surviving sites of Jewish physical heritage. Although the number of Jewish visitors to Rohatyn is currently small, heritage tourism in central and eastern Europe is a growing phenomenon within the Jewish diaspora.

