

## **Keeping the Jewish Heritage – Interview with Peter Absolon**

Peter Absolon is a Slovak genealogist from Košice specialized in Jewish heritage. Having a full-time job abroad besides this time consuming admirable hobby, he spends most of his free time in Slovak archives looking for long-forgotten information. Peter Absolon took upon himself—voluntarily—the project of mapping and documenting the Jewish cemetery in Košice, consisting of 6000 graves. In addition to numbering all of them, 3800 Matzevas were read and translated by Peter. He is further volunteering for [Jewish Gen](#) by transcribing acquired archival records. His name and contact information is listed in the cemetery for everyone who comes there needs help in finding ancestors Matzevas.

### **What sparked your interest in the Jewish topic?**

*"I discovered late in life that I have a Jewish ancestry. I wanted to learn more about my roots, about my ancestors, their customs and culture. The wish to understand and know more about the Jewish tradition was somehow always in my mind, but it fully emerged when my dear grandmother passed away. I felt as if my connection to the past was lost. It was the spark that started my wish to learn as much as I could and uncover the history of the local Jewish community in Kosice area. As I gained more information—specifically about the Jewish cemetery in Kosice, I have been trying to also help others who have similar needs in finding their Jewish ancestry."*

### **What inspires you about the Jewish culture?**

*"The Jewish culture is about family, community, and helping others. All these are appealing and very inspiring, but what I love the most is the Jewish humor - the unique way to deal with a complicated reality."*

### **What do you see as the focus of future projects/development in Košice?**

*"The chain is only as strong as its weakest link. We have to continue to pass the traditions— cultural heritage and knowledge—to our young generation so that the link between the past and the future is not broken."*