

## ***NOVEMBER IN MASORET-KIEV COMMUNITY***

**SHABBATOT:** Every Friday community members prepare for Shabbat. Shabbat is not only an opportunity for families to spend time together, it is also a chance to enjoy the company of extended family and community in a relaxed atmosphere. Every Friday, one of the community members prepared a few words about the Parashat Hashavuah and everyone took part in a weekly Shabbat quiz. Between 45–60 people of all ages attend Shabbat tefillot and activities. In addition, Rabbi Stamov's family hosted families from Donetsk who visited the community.



**CULINARY MIDRASH:** Lena Stamov organizes a cooking class every Friday for women and girls about foods connected to Judaism and Shabbat. This month's topics were carob and where it is mentioned in Tanah, olive oil and wheat.



**NOAM ACTIVITY:** Children met weekly to read Jewish stories, plan games and discuss Parashat Hashavua. This month, teenagers created a movie for Hanukkah with NOAM madrich Vlad Ponomarenko. Lena and Reuven Stamov talked with madrichim about Seminar NOAM.

### ***PARSHAT HASHAVUA AND HAVDALAH:***

On Shabbat day, over 20 community members gathered for Mincha, lessons on Parashat Hashavua and Halacha in community and Havdalah. Rav Reuven Stamov learned with families in preparation for conversion.



### ***NOVEMBER 5-8, LIMMUD 2015 IN LVIV:***

Limmud, a conference on Jewish learning takes place in communities all over the world, including Limmud FSU held in Lviv this year. Rabbi Reuven Stamov presented a lecture-conversation on the "Secrets of King Shlomo" and Lena Stamov presented "Judaism in Music. From King David to Amy Winehouse." The conference was an opportunity to connect with a diverse and interesting group of people.

### ***ART MIDRASH:***



Alina Dotzenko worked with the students on creating pictures from leaves for Parshat Hashavua, Hayei Sarah.



### ***BRIEFING DISPUTE:***

The Jewish Forum of Ukraine with the support of the Assembly of Nationalities in Ukraine and the Charitable Foundation "For you" held a session on "Steps to overcome xenophobia and anti-Semitism in

Ukraine", dedicated to the International Day against fascism and anti-Semitism. The briefing was attended by public figures and statesmen of Ukraine, representatives of security agencies, diplomats and journalists. Rav Reuven Stamov was invited and took an active part in the discussion.

### **MEETING BEFORE HANUKKAH:**

The heads of the Jewish communities and organizations in Kiev and Ukraine were met together in The Jewish Library of Osher Shvartsman for a planning session on activities, plans and programs for Hanukkah.

### **RAV REUVEN STAMOV LECTURE:**



Rav Stamov gave a lecture followed by a conversation about the building of the Third Temple – “Is it fantastic or reality?”

### **NOVEMBER 15 – THE EXCURSION under the sightseeing-historical project "History of Kiev and neighborhood"- mysterious Lieberman`s hall:**

Members of the community that are interested in Kiev`s Jewish history visited Liberman`s Hall. This site is hall is a Kievan legend, many retell stories about this house. The House of the Ukrainian Writers' Union, it is also called, Gingerbread house or Puppet Palace, and is the former mansion of a Jewish merchant, Simcha Lieberman. Everyone really enjoyed this excursion and grateful for the opportunity to see and explore such interesting places of Jewish History. This excursion was part of The Global Day of Jewish Learning in in which our community took part.



### **NOVEMBER 22 – Discussion with Lena and Reuven Stamov, “The contribution of Kiev Jewish philanthropists at the first part of XIX century (Lieberman, Zaytzev, Brodski, Apshtein)**

### **NOVEMBER 15 – HILLEL KIEV**

Rav Reuven Stamov lectured to students of the Hillel Kiev, “Love and other troubles: a Jewish view of the eternal questions.”



### **NOVEMBER 16 – ROSH HODESH KISLEV: Women`s Club in Kiev Masorti Community**

Once a month women from the community gather together to study different topics and Jewish traditions with Lena Stamov. This month it was about Kislev and Hanukkah. Every woman had an opportunity to spend time in pleasant company, engaged in physical and mental practices and of course learn more about the Jewish tradition.

### **NOVEMBER 15 – HARDWORKING SUNDAY**

Every Sunday, there is a very intense program for children and adults. It contains English classes for children and teenagers, Hebrew classes for teenagers and adults, activities for children/ teens – master

classes, artistic studio and peulot. Lena Stamov talked with teenagers about Rosh Hodesh Kislev. At the end of the day, everyone joins in Jewish dancing.

**NOVEMBER 13-15:** Gila Katz visited Kiev MASORET community. She took part in Kabbalat Shabbat, Mincha, Havdalah and Halahah lesson and visited Ulpan.

### **NOVEMBER 22 – YOM MITZVAH in Kiev Community**



Community members created Hanukkah cards for sick and poor children, collected money and presents for Chanukah. We thank children and parents from our community who gave their time, money and presents to make this Hanukah happy to people who are in need.

### **NOVEMBER 24 – MEETING WITH NATAN SHARANSKY**

Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov met with Soviet-born Israeli politician, human rights activist and author, Natan Sharansky. Natan Sharansky now serves as Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency. We talked about Masoret community cooperation with JAFI and the issue of antisemitism in Ukraine.

### **NOVEMBER 15 and 29 – ARTISTIC STUDIO**

Talented painters from our community also prepared for Hanukkah and drew beautiful paintings with hanukkiyot. They had great opportunity to share with



everyone their thoughts and impressions about what is Shabbat for them. Children study tradition in such interesting way and it is one of the best methods to grasp information for them. In fact they are not only engaged in their favorite thing, draw and learn new painting techniques, they also learn about traditions. Lena Stamov also told about different Hanukkah traditions.

### **COOPERATION with other organizations and foundations**

The partnership continues with Hillel, Project KESHER, Found “Step Forward” and Jewish Agency for Israel. Youth from Hillel visited for Kabbalat Shabbat. Two families from the Jewish Agency for Israel started joining events, especially Rothschild Project and Shabbat services, Hebrew and English lessons and have become active members of the community.

### **LENA STAMOV’S MEETINGS**

Lena Stamov during this month had meetings with Julia Smelyanska and Alex Khamray on the educational program from Rothschild Fund, Project Keshet representative Tatyana Voitalyuk and with Lilia Vendrova – a new Jewish Organization JUICE and Valera Pinchuk – Moishe House resident. Lena visited Bulgakov Museum to organize meetings on the Sightseeing-historical project. This year we will have more cooperation with Kiev-Mohyla Academy, Judaica history department and Judaica Institute in Kiev. We coordinate meetings and lectures.

### **Songs**



Members of our community are very fond of singing. People don't just sing, they learn new songs from our vocal coach and even invent your own songs. After these lessons, all enjoy musical performances on Shabbat.

## ***ULPAN***



A large number of students come to our community Ulpán. There are three groups for adults – senior,

middle groups and group for beginners. In addition, there is a full group of children and teenagers studying Hebrew. They attended classes with great pleasure and tell their parents about their achievements.

## ***ENGLISH LESSONS***

The English language teacher, Ryan Brit, who is a native speaker, taught very interesting English classes. Both children and teenagers are fond of him and enjoy attending class.



## ***PREPARATION FOR THE HOLIDAY***

Every Wednesday, the tzvet gathered to prepare for Hanukkah.



***ISRAELI DANCING:*** These classes are running successfully and providing a sense of community for all dancers in a creative, fun and welcoming atmosphere. Classes focus on Israeli dance technique with original choreography. Everyone is fond of the opportunity to dance.

***MAROM CLUB:*** MAROM Club meets every month. This month it was a meeting with Vitally Chernovanonko, a researcher of Kumran Scrolls. It was a warm and friendly atmosphere among the 20 people who attended.



Once a month, we have a meeting of babies and parents, where parents and children can play together, discuss their problems and share their experiences.

More photos you can find on our page in Facebook –

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