REPORT. December

On this month Kiev Community had special events. We were part of global Kiev life.

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Shabbat
Every Friday all community members enjoy the celebration of Shabbat in warm and family atmosphere. There were about 40-45 people.

December 2, 16, 23 – Parashat Hashavua, Mincha and Havdalah
On Shabbat day community members spent time with Mincha and lessons on Parashat Hashavua and Halacha in the community finished with Havdalah ceremony. On Shabbat day community attended from 15 to 25 members. Rav Reuven Stamov prepared people for conversion. Lena and Reuven Stamov had a meeting with the families of the community for dinner. Also, Rav Reuven Stamov does a personal meeting for Conversion preparation. Rav Reuven also works on the Siddur.

December 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 - NOAM
Children happily took part in Kabbalat Shabbat prayer, Parasha Shavua peula, reading Jewish stories and play funny games. Twice every week is working on NOAM activity program. This month, mostly all peulot were dedicated to the Weekly Torah Portions and Hanukkah. There are two groups in age between 8-10 years and 12-15 years. Together were nearly 25 people.

December, 3 – Olympiad on Hebrew "Israel through Hebrew" organized by the Israeli Cultural Center in Kyiv
Members of Kiev Community "MASORET" took part in the Olympiad on Hebrew "Israel through Hebrew" organized by the Israeli Cultural Center in Kyiv.

December 4, 12, 13, 21 - Tzevet meetings and preparation for Hanukkah
The Kiev Masorti Community team gathered five times this month to do preparation before Hanukkah, prepare activities and programs for the whole month. All prepared for the NOAM Ukraine Seminar for madrichim and Hanukkah. At each meeting, all share their impressions and gave feedback.

December 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28 – Ulpan. Hebrew Classes
As usual in Kiev Community took place Ulpan two times a week. We have groups for children, teens and two groups of different levels for adults. There were about 15 people.

December, 3, 24 – Master classes and Artistic Studio
Talented kids from NOAM Kiev group study tradition in such an interesting way and it is one of the best methods to grasp information for them. Children
with madrichim had master class dedicated to the oncoming Hannukah. There were about 10 people.

**December, 3 – Lecture by Rav Reuven Stamov**

In addition to the traditional program community members had great pleasure to listen really interesting lessons about Hanukkah history. There were about 15 people.

**December, 3, 24 – Culinary Midrash**

Everyone had the opportunity to cook Israeli kosher food with Lena Stamov on the Culinary Midrash. Everybody had a great opportunity to learn how to cook potato chips and latkes before Hanukkah and Winter kosher master-class. The most favorite and most interesting was a part of discussion about Jewish tradition and connection with Torah. There were about 20 participants.

**December 3, 10 - Theatrical Midrash**

Madrich Vlad Ponomarenko taught children how to shoot a video clip for Hanukkah. The new video clip was performed for the Kiev Community during the celebration of Hanukkah on December, 16. It was one of the memorable and emotional moment of the event because parents were so proud of their children who took part in the video shooting.

**December, 4-11 – Rabbi Reuven and Lena Stamov on 2017 Annual Tribite Event in New York**

**Hanukkah**

**December, 12 – The first candle lighting**

The first candle lighting, as well as all of the other days was on Kontraktova Square. Kyiv Masorti Community enjoyed the celebration within the company of Dmitriy Zelenetzkiy - the Head of Executive Support Service of the Minister of Culture of Ukraine and Genadiy Polishchuk - the Counselor of the Minister of the State of Israel in Ukraine and Maxim Shmagin - the Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Minister of the State of Israel in Ukraine. After the candle lighting, speech of Lena and Reuven Stamov, and invited guests from the city government and Jewish organizations, the Violin play and the fire show were presented for people. Also, during the show one and all could taste sweet Hanukkah doughnuts. The festival's evening visited more than 100 people, both community members and guests.

**December, 13 – The second day of Hanukkah. The candles lighting and lecture by Julia Smelyanska about Jews of Podol**
On the second day of Hanukkah candles were traditionally lit on Kontraktova Square. After the candles lighting community members were invited to the lecture by Julia Smelyanska about Jews of Podol. It was a fascinating journey to the past of Jewish Podol. People asked about the past of places and the streets of Podol they are crossing every day.

**December, 14 – The third candle and the beginning of NOAM madrichim seminar**

On the third day of Hanukkah candles were lit on the Kontraktova Square too. There were about 25 people. The NOAM madrichim seminar started. Also, Rabbi Reuven Stamov lit Hanukkah candles on JUICE event “Awesome Hanukkah”.

**December, 14-18 – The NOAM madrichim seminar**

*The goals of the seminar were:*

- **To realize the goal and principles of the NOAM movement**
- **Training of leaders in NOAM Ukraine**
- **Preparation for the winter mahane**

December, 14 was the day of NOAM madrichim seminar participants' arrival. There were participants from Chernovtzy, Odessa, Rovno, Kyiv and Israel. It was a warm meeting where each one could share their skills and ideas concerning Jewish education and upbringing.

The NOAM madrichim seminar was related to NOAM representation and NOAM in communities.

The second day began with Shacharit, as well as the other three days of the seminar. At Shacharit Noa and Moria from Israel taught the new melodies of the prayers and funny gestures. There was a Reuven Stamov lecture about the leadership and the conservative movement. The madrichim discussed the Jewish youth upbringing in the tradition and the methods of peulot construction. After personal preparation for the Shabbat the participants of the NOAM madrichim seminar with Lena Stamov lit Shabbat candles in Masoret Community. Also, before the praying and Shabbat dinner, madrichim listened to lecture about creativity during the process of communication with children by Zeev Vaksman and age-related psychology class by Tatyana Kritskaya, the psychologist specialized in teenagers’ problems. There were unexpected tasks and surely creative approach to the development of madrichim’s creativity, psychology class was very helpful to understand the teenagers’ needs and inner world.
On the Shabbat day madrichim made Kiddush and had a class on the construction of the Jewish prayer, Jewish liturgy class and Parashat Hashavua class. In the afternoon there was Mincha. After Havdalah, warm hugs and well-wishings all madrichim lit the Hanukkah candles, both in the building of the community and on Kontraktova square. Also, they visited "Kyiv musical theatre" where they could enjoy the Big Hanukkah celebration with members of the community and guests.

On December, 17 the participants of the NOAM madrichim seminar were working on the creation of a program of the NOAM winter mahane and lit candles in the building of Kyiv Community "Masoret".

December, 18 was the last day of the NOAM madrichim seminar. The participants shared their impressions from the seminar and summed-up it, and continued to work on peulot.

**Summary:** The first leaders NOAM madrichim seminar was very successful. We had lectures and master-classes, learned how to write goals and tasks of peulot. Learned the six main principals of NOAM, studied principals of tfilot NOAM, new games, psychological features and needs of teenagers, charges and duties of NOAM madrich, and have done the winter mahane program with goals of peulot and events. There were 16 participants.

**December, 15 – The fourth candle and Shabbat**

On the fourth day of Hanukkah candles were lit on Kontraktova Square and after it the participants of the NOAM madrichim seminar with Lena Stamov lit Shabbat candles in Masoret Community.

**December, 16 – The fifth day of Hanukkah candles lightening and Big Hanukkah celebrating**

On the fifth day of Hanukkah Rav Reuven Stamov with Yosef Zisels lit candles on Kontraktova. After the candles lightening all the people could see the fire show. That evening was a Big Hanukkah celebration in "Kyiv musical theatre". At the beginning of the event Lena and Reuven Stamov, and Consul of the Embassy of Israel Maxim Shmagin spoke to the audience. Rav Reuven Stamov and Maxim Shmagin lit the Hanukkah candles. Then coming guests could enjoy the Hannuka video clip, holiday songs and meal. At the end of the celebration Kyiv Masorti Community and the guests danced
to traditional Jewish music. The dancing united all the Community and it was really touching. There were more than 150 people.

**December, 17 – The sixth day of Hanukkah candles lightening**

The sixth Hanukkah candle was lit by Kyiv Community "Masoret" and "Family and youth projects of the branch "Sokhnut - Ukraine" in Arena city, where children of the community took part in master-classes devoted to Hanukkah. Also, the participants of the NOAM madrichim seminar lit the candles in the building of Kyiv Community "Masoret".

**December, 18 – The seventh day of Hanukkah candles lightening**

The seventh candle was traditionally lit on Kontraktova Square. There were about 15 people. It was snowing and the Hanukkiah cast its light on the snowflakes.

**The case of antisemitism**

To our deep regret, this year, hanukkiah was twice disallowed. First time unknown people drew the Nazi cross on the menorah, and the second time, they poured something like blood on the hanukkiah. Security Service of Ukraine and Kyiv Community “Masoret” will do their best to find and punish the guilty.

**December, 19 – "The doughnut with Rebbetzin" and the last Hannukah candle lightening**

On the last day of Hanukkah the eighth candle was lit on Kontraktova Square with Kyiv Masorti Community. In one of Podol's cozy coffee houses, the first meeting "The doughnut with Rebbetzin" took place. Rebbetzin Michal Elena Stamov told about women through Jewish tradition and history. The meeting was held in collaboration with Moishe House and Masoret community. About 10 young people came to get acquainted with a role of woman in Judaism. This evening helped us to get acquainted with new people who are interested in the life of Jewish Community MASORET.

**December, 12-19 - The charity promotion on Hannukah**

During all Hannukah days the members and the staff of the Kyiv Community “Masoret” brought food packages and presents to the old people. Old people were glad to see the guests with Hannukah presents and to lit the Hanukkah candles in the company of members of the Kyiv Community “Masoret”. The meetings were warm and touching.
The promotion is activated and coordinated by J-UP Network (an independent initiative of active young professionals) and the All-Ukrainian Charitable Foundation "For You".

**Lena Stamov meetings**
- Meeting with Ilona Didenko – The Head of educational programs at the Hillel Kiev
- Meeting with Olga Polischuk – The Head of Israeli Culture Centre
- Meeting with Julia Goldenberg – Director of the charitable foundation “2U”
- Meeting with Nikita Didenko and Valeriy Pinchuk - resident of Moishe House Kiev
- Meeting with Tatiana Abovich – Director of the Hillel Kiev
- Skype with Reut Yahav Battat – the director of NOAM Olami
- Private meetings and Skype call during the month with people who want to do the conversion
- Meeting with Tatiana Voitalyuk and Sarah Shtern - regional representative of Project Kesher
- Meeting with Katerina Rabina – coordinator of family programs in JAFI Ukraine
- Meeting with Victoria Godik – Head of UUJS
- Meeting with Elena Zaslavska – Head of projects in VAAD Ukraine
- Hanukkah festival planning
- Meeting with Anton Gotlib – Head of project “Minyamin”
- Working with brand “Another Food”
- Meeting with Leonid Finberg - Chief Editor of the publishing house "Dukh I Litera (Spirit and Letter)"
- NOAM Ukraine Seminar and NOAM mahane planning
- Skype calls with all NOAM Ukraine representatives during the month
- Meeting with Natalia Sklyarskaya – the director of The festival of Podol nation’s culture and conversation on Hanukkah lighting planning

**Rav Reuven Stamov meetings**
- Skype consultations with community members in other Masorti communities
- Private meeting and Skype call during the month with people who want to do the conversion
- Meeting with Alexander Zaslavskiy
- Meeting with Katerina Rabina – coordinator of family programs in JAFI Ukraine
- Meeting with Victoria Godik – Head of UUJS
- Meeting with Elena Zaslavska – Head of projects in VAAD Ukraine
- The meetings and negotiations with Kiev businessman, who wants to get a conservative kashrut
- Meeting with Josef Akselrut - Head of Hillel
- Meeting with Ron Garfield - Director of the "JAFI Ukraine" and Dmitri Joffe - JAFI envoy for the aliyah
- Meeting with the director of Nativ - Genadiy Polishuk
- Negotiations on conservative kashrut on AJT Seminar
- Meeting with Tatiana Abovich – Director of the Hillel Kiev
Cooperation with other organizations and foundations: The partnership continues with Hillel, JUICE, project KESHER, AJT and Jewish Agency for Israel, Moishe House, the Chief Editor of the publishing house "Dukh I Litera (Spirit and Letter)" - Leonid Finberg, master program Jewish Studies and certificate program in National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy". Youth from Hillel and JAFI visited Kabbalat Shabbat. Cooperation with departure of tourism and The festival of Podol nation’s culture. Due to

Many thanks for all who made this work possible.

The more photos you can find on our page on Facebook- https://www.facebook.com/masoretinkiev