

## *Sukkot in Kiev Masorti Community*



Members of our community spent the afternoon with their families and friends at festive celebration for all ages on September 27. People come to decorate sukkah before Sukkot started. There were fun holiday-oriented activities for kids and adults.



Decoration of the sukkah became a community activity. Such a sukkah become both a focus of communal celebration of the holiday and the center of the community`s social life during Sukkot.

On the second evening of Sukkot Arkadiy Monastirskiy - president of the Jewish Forum of Ukraine, Chairman of the Board of the Jewish Fund of Ukraine, with his family had come to sukkah. He is a good friend and partner of the Masorti community for several years. Close cooperation of organizations helps the development of the community.



A major focus of public worship on Sukkot is the waving of the “four species” during communal prayer services. Also lulav are picked up and symbolically waved at morning service. For some of members of our community who have never done it before, binding lulav was a bit tricky. At the same time, Rav Reuven Stamov told about the four varieties, about what each of them means. The seventh day of Sukkot is a semi-holiday in its own right. Still counted among the days of hol-hamoed.



The preparation for this holiday began not only to the manufacture of decoration for Sukkah, but also with her construct. Very pleased for us those in our community men with great pleasure were building Sukkah under the watchful guidance of Rav Reuven Stamov.



Also this year sukkah is much bigger; everyone could stand in sukkah and say a blessing. Adults and children learn new songs for the holiday, learnt several Jewish dances.



This day was a special atmosphere. In addition despite the fact that the beginning of the holiday were more than 90 people come.



On the second day of Sukkot Masorti Community invited teachers, students and independent students of the Master's Program in Jewish Studies at NaUKMA celebrating Sukkot holiday. Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov told about community, celebration and traditions of Sukkot. Everyone could join to perform certain commands.



Another great activity was on September 30 evening. Youth from our community and guests from JAFI and Hillel Kiev were invited to the musical evening. There was very tasty food cooked perfectly by Lena Stamov, beautiful instrumental music and of course a lot of pleasant time. That evening, there were more than 25 people.

On the next evening leaders of various programs and board of JAFI visited Kiev Masorti Community, performed the commandment about sukkah. Masorti Community had very good relationship with JAFI, cooperating in various projects.



On Thursday Rav Reuven Stamov and Lena Stamov visited JUICE event Lu-ovely Sukkot in PODOL Inn Kosher Hotel.

On Friday before Shabbat teenager from JAFI visited sukkah. Rav Reuven Stamov told about how to build a kosher sukkah, about Yom Kippur, Aseret Yemei Teshuva and the importance of this period of the year for every Jew.



On October 3 Rav Reuven Stamov with Lena Stamov was on Project Keshar Youth Forum "Communication without Borders". Rav did Havdalah and told about secrets of the success. Project Keshar is a good partner of Kiev Masorti Community.

On Sunday evening the board of Project Keshar of USA visited Masorti Community sukkah. The leaders of project from Ukraine, Belorussia and USA expressed their gratitude to the community for assistance in the sukkah building. And of course they said words of appreciation to Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov.

More photos you can find on our page in Facebook –

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