

Ukraine REPORT- December

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Shabbat

Everyone enjoys our atmosphere and new people start to visit your other activities. Every Friday one of the community members prepared several interesting moments from Parashat Hashavuah, everyone took part in Shabbat quiz, Drama Midrash related to Parashat Hashavuah topic. There were at least 40-45 peoples of all ages.

December 3, 10, 31 – Parashat Hashavua and Havdalah



On Shabbat day community members spent time with Mincha and lessons on Parashat Hashavua and Halacha in the community. Gathered together and started the new week with Havdalah. On Shabbat day community attended more than 20 members. Rav Reuven Stamov prepared people for conversion.

Lena and Reuven Stamov had a meeting with the families of community for dinner. Also, Rav Reuven Stamov does a personal meeting for Conversion preparation. Rav Reuven devotes every day 2 hours for the work on the Siddur.

December, 2 – Lena Stamov on Hillel Kiev seminar “Hillel Art project” held a unique master class on Shabbat songs

December 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 - NOAM

Children happily hear about Parashat, reading Jewish stories and play fun games. Twice every week is working on NOAM activity program. This month, mostly all pilots were dedicated to the Hanukkah. Madrichim did Kabalat Shabbat and Tfila with NOAM Kiev. There are two groups in age between 8 -10 years and 12-15 years. Together were nearly 25 people.

December 4, 18 – Master classes



Participants have the opportunity to make their own hand crafts. This month all created beautiful gift cards dedicated to the upcoming Hanukkah. There were at least 15-20 peoples of all ages, especially parents with their children. Lena Stamov told about the history and traditions of the coming holiday. Community members had a great opportunity to create by their own hand different types of hanukkiyot.

December 4-5 – NOAM Kiev on the Song concert

Children from the NOAM Kiev have special rehearsals before the concert "Yiddish pearls". The good friend and partner of the Kiev Masorti Community - Arkadiy Monastirskiy – the president of the Jewish Forum of Ukraine invited the children of the Kiev community to come up with songs at the seminar for Yiddish teachers.



On **December, 7** NOAM Kiev group perfectly performed at the concert and gained the love of the audience.

Songs



Members of our community are very fond of singing. People did not 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. Every Sunday children with great pleasure learn a song, performing with them on Shabbat and holidays. Also, all had a great opportunity to learn Hebrew in the process of learning the songs, because the Hebrew teacher also helps in these classes. This class attended by 10-15 people of different ages. Also this month was really an active preparation to the song concert “Yiddish pearls.”

Theatrical Midrash

December, 4 – Madrich taught children how to take and shoot the interview



December 4, 11, 18 – Shooting film to the Hanukkah



December 4, 11, 18 - Rehearsal of the Hanukkah performance (a lot of community members took part in it, both adults and children)

December 4, 11, 18 – Meeting of the Women's Club



This month in Kiev Masorti Community we had three women`s meetings. The first had the topic “I cannot keep calm, I am a Jewish mother”. All participants can talk about a stressful situation and how to deal with them.

The next two were master class "Women's Health" with the psychologist Julia Iorsh. There were about 20 people at every meeting.

December 4 – Lecture by Rav Reuven Stamov

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

December 4, 18 – Artistic Studio



Talented painters study tradition in such an 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. This time artists drew a beautiful picture with views of Jerusalem, which will be used in the filming of a movie about Hanukah. More than 15 people attended artistic studio.

December 4, 8, 11, 15, 20, 22- Tzevet meetings

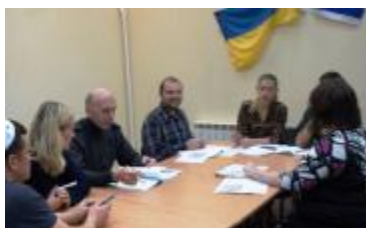
The Kiev Masorti Community team gathered four times this month to do preparation to the Hanukkah, prepare activities and programs for the whole month. We have feedback for every meeting.

December 5, 12 – Shacharit



Community members read from the Torah and gathered on Shacharit in the midst of the working week. About 10-15 people gathered every Monday morning.

December 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 26, 29 – Ulpan. Hebrew Classes



As usual in Kiev Community took place Ulpan three times a week. We have groups for children, teens and adults in two groups of different levels. There were about 12 people.

December, 18 - Olympiad on Hebrew "Israel through the Hebrew" from the Israeli Cultural Center.

Many community members took part in it and took the prizes.

December, 8-13 – Rav Reuven Stamov in Odessa Conservative Community “Tiferet”



Rav Reuven Stamov visited the conservative community in Odessa where were held Kabbalat Shabbat, Parashat Hashavua, Halacha lessons and Havdalah. Also, he had private meetings with people who want to convert and meetings with the leader of the community. Many community members had different questions to the Rabbi. That is why the visit was really very eventful and saturated, all the time employed by events and meetings.

December, 11 – Hebrew seminar in Odessa

Rav Reuven took part in Heber seminar which lasts 6 hours. All participants need to speak only in Hebrew. It was the main clause.



The day was started with the Shacharit on the seminar which was conducted by Rav Reuven. There were about 12 participants.

December, 9 – Rav Reuven in Hillel Odessa

Rav Reuven held lecture about Jewish Shabbath liturgy in Hillel Odessa.

December, 14-18 - Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov at AJT Conference (Active Jewish Teens) in Kharkov

It was the third International AJT Teenager Conference held in Kharkov for members of the Jewish youth movement. This year's conference was attended by over 350 people from 9 countries: Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Georgia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Israel and the United States. Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov were invited as the coaches who have spent a lot of lessons for the participants of the conference.

Lena Stamov had five lectures about the Jewish music calendar. Rav Reuven on his five lectures spoke about the book of Jonah and its interpretation in other cultures. Also, there were many meetings with JOINT representatives.

Three teenagers from Kiev Masorti Community were invited to the Conference and it was a great time for them.



Also, on these days Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov visited the Jewish Lyceum “Shaalavim”. Rav Reuven held there Shacharit with Torah reading and had many conversations with children, their parent and teachers. He had a lecture dedicated to the Hanukkah history and traditions. Lena Stamov had the lesson about Jewish literature and about Agnon, and really many conversations with children.

December, 11 – Culinary Midrash



Lena Stamov held a Culinary Midrash on Friday or Sunday. Everyone had the opportunity to Israeli kosher food. There were 25 participants. This time everybody had a great opportunity to learn how to cook Hanukkah salad. It was like holiday stories in one salad - Judith and Alafern. The symbols of light and menorah in Israel coat of arms.

December, 22 – Lena Stamov in Hillel Kiev with Culinary Midrash



It was very tasty and useful culinary Midrash for the Hillel participants. Lena Stamov taught them how to cook latkes. There were about 15 people.

December 11, 18 – Master class on creation of wooden pictures



All community members had an opportunity to take part in the series of master classes where they can learn how to transfer photos on a wooden plank and create beautiful pictures for themselves and their families. There were about 30 people.

December, 11 – Parents and baby club

Once a month we have babies and parents meeting, where parents and children can play together, discussed their problems, share experience. Now four families attended this club with their babies at the age from 1 till 3 years old. This time meeting was before the Parashat Hashavua lesson. Parents (mostly mothers) come earlier to communicate.

December, 22-28 – International NOAM Olami seminar and USY International Convention in Dallas



Oksana Remarovych presented NOAM Ukraine on the international seminar.

Lena Stamov meetings

- Meeting with Arkadiy Monastirskiy – The Head of the Jewish Forum of Ukraine
- Meeting with Ilona Didenko – The Head of educational programs at the Hillel Kiev
- Meeting with Julia Goldenberg – Director of the charitable foundation “2U”
- Meeting with Irina Knopova – Director of educational projects in the education department of the “JAFI Ukraine”
- Meeting with Marina Shteiman – responsible employee of the “JAFI Ukraine”
- Meeting with Natella Andryushchenko – Director of the Jewish school "Mitzva- 613" in Belaya Tzerkov
- Meeting with Elza Lerner - resident of Moishe House Kiev
- Meeting with Tatiana Abovich – Director of the Hillel Kiev
- Private meeting during the month with people who want to do the conversion and some private problems
- December, 7 – Lena Stamov had a Skype conversation with Reut Yahav – NOAM Olami Director.
- December, 11 – Meeting with Tatiana Voitalyuk - regional representative of Project Keshet

Rav Reuven Stamov meetings

- Every Monday – Skype with Shlomo Zakharov and participant of the ashgaha lessons.

- Skype consultations with community members
- Private meeting during the month with people who want to do the conversion
- December, 5 – Rav Reuven Stamov had a meeting with Dani Gershkovich - Joint representative in the Central and Western Ukraine
- December, 7 – Meeting with Alexander Zaslavskiy
- December, 21 – Meeting with the director of Nativ - Genadiy Polishuk
- December, 6 and 22 – Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov had two meetings with new JAFI envoy for the aliyah - Dmitry Joffe
- The meetings and negotiations with Kiev businessman, who wants to get a conservative kashrut
- The lessons with the boy who want to have a Bar-Mitza and his parents. The Bar-Mitza ceremony is planned to be in the next month.

Cooperation with other organizations and foundations

The partnership continues with Hillel, JUICE, project KESHER and Jewish Agency for Israel, Juice, Moishe House. Youth from Hillel and JAFI visited Kabbalat Shabbat. The Chief Editor of the publishing house "Dukh I Litera (Spirit and Letter)" - Leonid Finberg and with master program Jewish Studies in of National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy".

Hanukkah in Kiev Masoti Community

December, 24 – The charity evening with solemn Hanukkah Menorah lightening ceremony, buffet dinner and concert. The first day of Hanukkah



It was the first time in Ukraine when on Podil (Kontraktova Square) – the historical place of the Jewish settlements was lightening the Hanukalna Menorah. The conservative movement in Kiev was the first Jewish movement that did it on this Jewish historical region in Kiev. Even the Ortodox movement didn't do that.

This step was really important for the development of the whole conservative movement in Ukraine. There were four main Ukrainian TV channels on the Hanukkah lightening, many journalists were filmed and took the interview. (<http://www.5.ua/kultura/u-kyievi-zapalyly-kilkametrovu-menoru-na-chest-sviatkuvannia-khanuky-134715.html> <http://1tv.com.ua/news/85817> <http://ru.tsn.ua/ukrayina/glavnyy-ravvin-na-prazdnik-hanuki-pozhelal-pobedy-dlya-ukrainy-774380.html>).

Rav Reuven Stamov with right honorable guests, representatives of Jewish organizations and local governments lit Hanukkah candles on the first day of Hanukkah. There were: Head of the patronage service in the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine - Peter Zelenetsky, Counselor in the Embassy of the State of Israel in Ukraine and regional director of the "Nativ" in Ukraine and Moldova - Gennady Polishchuk, Co-president of Vaad Ukraine - Joseph Zissels, President of the Jewish Forum of Ukraine - Arkady Monastic, the adviser of the Kiev mayor - Yulia Lyalka, Board of Trustees Chairman in the Kiev religious community of the traditional Judaism

"MASORET" - Alexander Zaslavsky, Director of the Jewish agency for Israel in Ukraine and Moldova - Ron Garfield, Director of the Kiev Jewish Urban community - Anatoly Shenhayt, President of the All-Ukrainian Charitable Foundation "For you" - Julia Goldenberg, Director of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee - Eduard Dolinsky, Director of the Israeli cultural center - Olga Polishchuk.

Everyone can see the Hanukkah lightening because the action takes place in the historic center of the Kiev, in a place where Jews lived for many hundred years. After that was a really beautiful fire show.

Also that evening in Kiev Masorti Community was organized charitable evening the purpose of which was collecting money for the community and for the Jewish school in Kharkov. On the event were invited powerful people and government representatives.

December, 25 – The second day of Hanukkah in Kiev Masorti Community. Family celebration



The big celebration started with the greeting words Rabbi Reuven and Lena Stamov. In total there were more than 100 people of all ages. It was a grand event with music, teenagers presented their cartoon made about Hanukkah, and children played sevivon and sang Hanukkah songs, got Hanukkah gelt and presents.

The first candle was lighted and the Hanukkah was started. Children from NOAM group also lit hanukkiyot with their madrichim on the windowsills. It was very pleased that there were about 30 kids, not counting the smallest ones and students. Children and adult from the community showed excellent performance dedicated to the Hanukkah history.

December, 26 – The third day of Hanukkah. The celebration in the night club organized by ICC, JAFI and Hillel – Hanukkah Marathon

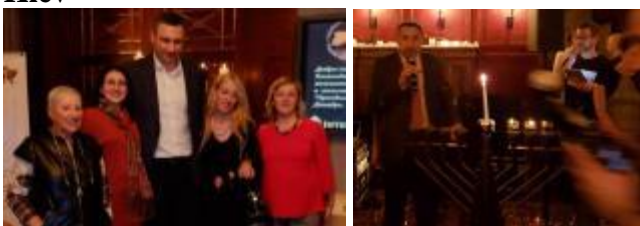
Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov with some community members visited Hanukkah Marathon in Kiev night club.

December, 27 – The fourth day of Hanukkah. Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov on the Hanukkah event “Miracle happens” organized by Jewish charitable organization “JUICE”



Rav Reuven lit Hanukkah menorah.

December, 27 – Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov on Hanukkah celebration with Vitali Klitschko - Mayor of Kiev



Rav Reuven lit Hanukkah candles.

December, 28 – The fifth day of Hanukkah



It was the tzevet meeting and fifth day of the Hanukkah celebration with all staff in Kiev Masorti Community.

December, 29 – The sixth day of Hanukkah with MAROM Kiev



This MAROM Club meeting was dedicated to the Hanukah. It was the sixth day of celebration and Alisa Silberstein held a lecture about the subtleties of this holiday, were reviewed very interesting Hanukkah stories. Also, participants had hevruta classes were learning about the Hanukkah in Jewish tradition. For many people a lot of information was really new, but all of them were found off of this event. That evening, there were more than 15 people.



December, 29 - Rav Reuven Stamov lights the Hanukkah candles in the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy"

December, 29 - Hanukkah in NOAM Kiev. Warriors of Light - "Banu Choshech Legaresh"



The NOAM Kiev group with madrichim had their great Hanukkah celebration with interesting peulot, laser battles, candles lightening, sevivon games and interesting competitions. There were about 25 people.

December, 30 – The seventh day of Hanukkah. The candle lightening before Shabbat

Community members join candle lighting and a perfect Kabbalat Shabbat. The community candle lighting ceremony brought the joy of Hanukkah in a very special way.

December, 31 – The eighth day of Hanukkah in Kiev Masorti Community



On that day all gathered in the community center to spend time with lessons on Parashat Hashavua and Halacha and started the new week with

Havdalah. Also, there were talked about the history of Hanukkah. In the end the community members gathered for the joint candles lighting. It was the last day of Hanukkah and the last chance to light the candles on the Kontraktova square that it why all felt a bit of sadness.

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>

Our YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfBOQS_ABBnns150PBifDzQ/videos