

Ukraine REPORT- February

February 3, 10, 17, 24 – Shabbat

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.

February 4, 11, 18, 25 – Parashat Hashavua 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 about 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 also works on the Siddur.

February 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 - NOAM



Children happily take part in Kabbalat Shabbat prayer, Parasha Shavua peula, reading Jewish stories and play fun games. Twice every week is working on NOAM activity program. This month, mostly all peulot were dedicated to the Weekly Torah Portions, Tu B`Shevat and Purim. There are two groups in age between 8 -10 years and 12-15 years. Together were nearly 25 people.

February 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 - 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. On Tu B`Shevat celebration was prepared beautiful songs and performance by children and singing teacher. This class attended by 10-15 people of different ages.

February 5, 8, 12, 19, 26 - Tzevet meetings



The Kiev Masorti Community team gathered five times this month to do preparation before the Tu B`Shevat and Purim, prepare activities and programs for the whole month. At each meeting, all share their impressions and gave feedback.

February 5, 12, 19 – Lectures by Rav Reuven Stamov



In addition to the traditional program community members had great pleasure to listen really interesting lesson about Jewish holidays, Halakha and kashrut. This month's lecture was dedicated to the Tu B`Shevat, the month Adar, and kashrut. There were about 20 people.

February 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27 – 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 15 people.

February 5, 12, 19, 26 - Hebrew lessons for children



Children from Kiev Community, especially the NOAM group with great pleasure learn Hebrew in a playful way. There about 10 participants in the group.

February 6, 13, 20 – 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.

February, 12 – Israeli dances



These classes are successfully run 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. On Sunday evening everyone had an opportunity to dance vivid dances and remember that the spring is coming. The dance classes attended 25-30 people.

February 5, 12, 19, 26– Master classes and Artistic Studio



Participants have the opportunity to make their own hand crafts. This month all created almond trees on Tu B`Shevat, decoration for community center as a huge blossoming tree and beautiful hats as preparation to the Purim celebration. There were at least 15-20 peoples of all ages, especially parents with their children. Madrichim told about the Tu B`Shevat and oncoming Purim. 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 pictures with spring flowers – snowdrops. Lena Stamov told about the oncoming month Adar. More than 15 people attended artistic studio.

February 5, 12, 26– Culinary Midrash



Lena Stamov held a Culinary Midrash on Sunday. Everyone had the opportunity to cook Israeli kosher food. This time everybody had a great opportunity to learn how to cook semolina dishes (the class was dedicated to the Parashat Beshalach), Tu B`Shevat schtrudel on women`s meeting with Project Keshet ideas for discussion and Persian sweets with poppy and oranges in honey dedicated to the oncoming Purim. There were about 25 participants.

February, 8 – Brit Mila



It was a day of a great joy in the Kiev Masorti Community. Three generations of the Lebovich family gathered in the synagogue. It was a really touching ceremony when pass the baby to Lena Stamov`s and Rav Reuven`s hand to Eliahu chair. The modern Orthodox rabbi from Jerusalem did Brit. Moreover, it was fist conservative Brit Mila in the whole territory of the FSU. On the seudat Mitzvah were sitting Stamov`s family, three generations of Lebovich family and many relatives, friends and of course many community members.

February, 11 - @Shtrudel Party in MAROM Kiev Club



The MAROM Kiev club gathered to celebrate Tu B`Shvat in friendly and Jewish atmosphere. People get acquainted and had a great opportunity to play interesting games, took part in the Seder. Rav Reuven Stamov told about the holiday history and Lena Stamov told about the mystic part of the Tu B`Shvat. It was 35-40 people.

February, 12 – Mesibat Ivrit and Tu B`Shevat



That Sunday in Kiev Masorti Community was unusual family Tu B`Shevat celebration. Everyone also had a great opportunity to take part in the Mesibat Ivrit program with incredibly interesting and entertaining games, competitions, songs and Culinary Midrash in Hebrew. Lena Stanov with Rav Reuven told about the holiday. There were 35 people.

February, 18 - Post Tu B`Shvat Havdala, Music & Charity Party



Rav Reuven Stamov held a Havdalach ceremony at the event. The Masorti Ukraine movement was one of the event organizers. The action was attended by representatives of many Jewish organizations of all ages and generations. Rav Reuven also gave interviews for the OpenTV internet site and channel.

February, 25 – 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.

February 19, 26 - Theatrical Midrash



Preparations for Purim has already started and is very active. This month of theatrical Midrash rehearsals of the Purimshpil was held.

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 Natella Andryushchenko – Director of the Jewish school "Mitzva- 613" in Belaya Tzerkov
- Meeting with Nikida Didenko and Valeriy Pinchuk - resident of Moishe House Kiev
- Meeting with Tatiana Abovich – Director of the Hillel Kiev
- Skype with Reut Rahav
- Private meeting during the month with people who want to do the conversion
- Meeting with Tatiana Voitalyuk - regional representative of Project Keshet
- February, 27 – Lena Stamov in Hillel Kiev on seminar with lecture “Different musical traditions on Pesach”



Rav Reuven Stamov meetings

- Every Wednesday – Skype with Shlomo Zakharov and participant of the ashgaha lessons.
- Skype consultations with community members in other Masorti communities
- Private meeting 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 Viktoria Godiki – 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
- Preparations to the Bar Mitzva
- Meeting with Josef Akselrut - head of Hillel
- Meeting with Ron Garfield - Director of the "JAFI Ukraine" and Dmitriy Joffe - JAFI envoy for the aliyah
- Meeting with the director of Nativ - Genadiy Polishuk
- February, 5 – Lecture about Tu B`Shevat in JAFI Kiev.
- February, 26 – Rav Reuven Stamov in Hillel Kiev on seminar with two lectures “Pesach traditions”



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 and certificate program in National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy"

Many thanks for all who made this work possible.

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