

## Ukraine Report- June

**On this month Kiev Community had special events. The community was a part of global Jewish life in Kiev and even Ukraine.**

### June, 11 – Participation in the Israel Open III



Kiev Community “MASORET” on Israel Open III presented all programs, events and activities, lecture about Israeli music and Jerusalem art master class. Many participants get information about the Masorti Movement in Kiev and Ukraine. It was a great opportunity to advertise Conservative movement for all Jews in Ukraine.

Many people gave their contact information and community gets huge data with new people that are interested in being the part of the conservative movement.

### June, 18 - Rav Reuven Stamov held the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony in “JAFI – Ukraine”



Rav Reuven Stamov held Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony in “JAFI – Ukraine”. Many families interested in our organization and they were pleased to be able to ask all interested questions in a casual atmosphere.

### June, 19 - The Beit Din and Conversion Ceremony



*(These photos NO for publication in the social media!)*

This year six people from Kiev, Chernowitz and Odessa successfully passed Beit Din and Mikvah and get their Teudat Giur. Some community members, friends and family congratulated them with this important step in their lives on conversion ceremony.

### June, 19 - Final exam for the future mashgihim

Six people from three cities in Ukraine during the year studied with Shlomo Zakharov, Rav Reuven and Lena Stamov. It was ashgaha lessons and the last part of the examination was koshering the private kitchen of the hummus company “Insha Yizha” (Another Food). After the final exam Masorti movement in Ukraine will have six professional, conservative mashgihim that can work in camps and communities.

In addition, the company “Insha Yizha” (Another Food) gets Teudat Kashrut and now in Ukraine every Jew can buy products with conservative eksher.

### June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Shabbat



Every Friday all community members enjoy the celebration of Shabbat in warm and family atmosphere. There were about 40-50 people.

On June, 16 and till Yom Rishon the group from the London Masorti Community with Rav Chaim Weiner visited the Kiev Masoti Community. It was unforgettable

Shabbat when people can feel that their grandparents came from the Kiev area that they felt the connection to the Jewish generations. There were at least 60-65 people of all ages.



### **June 3, 10, 17 – 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 from 15 to 25 members. Rav Reuven Stamov prepared people for conversion.

On June, 17 the lesson was held by Rav Chaim Weiner. The group from the London Masorti Community also was present on the lesson that is why it was a good chance to get acquainted more closely, ask question about Masorti movement in Great Britain and Ukraine and of cause to hear Rav Chaim class.

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.

### **June, 5, 12, 19 - Shacharit**



Community members read from the Torah and gathered on Shacharit on the working week. About 10-15 people gathered every Monday morning. On June, 19 it was Morning Prayer with three conservative rabbis.

### **June 2, 4, 9, 16, 18, 23 - 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. There are two groups in age between 8-10 years and 12-15 years. NOAM group started to prepare for the family camp. Together were nearly 25 people.



**June, 14 – Lena Stamov held a lesson as the guest teacher in the Hebrew speaking** The Hebrew speaking club invites Hebrew teachers and native speakers. Lena Stamov was invited to hold the last lesson in this educational session and the topic of the last was the summer vacation.

### **June, 4, 6, 8, 15, 20 - Tzevet meetings and preparation for the Family Camp**

The Kiev Masorti Community team gathered five times this month to do preparation before the Family Camp and completion of the main educational season. At each meeting, all share their impressions and gave feedback. With all tzevet we thought over all the details of the evening and all activities.

### **Preparations for Family Summer Camp**

At least in February was started preparation for Family Camp. During 5 months madrichim and tzevet gathered to prepare the camp, to study materials and the topic. Rav Reuven Stamov and Lena Stamov created the program, had meetings with madrichim and helped them to learn more about the main theme, did everything necessary for the organization.

### **June 2, 9, 16 – 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 halavi pies and different Israeli salads. The next Culinary Midrash was dedicated to vegetarian food in Judaism. There were about 25 participants.

### **June 2, 4, 9, 16, 18, 23 - 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.

### **June 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 25, 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 15 people.

### **June, 16 - Day camp from JAFI Ukraine in Kiev Community "MASORET". The Shabbat Island**



Within the cooperation with the JAFI Ukraine and their Family project before Shabbat children were in Kiev Masorti Community. Rav Reuven made blessing for children and Lena Stamov talked about Shabbat traditions, law and Midrashim.

### **June, 17 – 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.



**Theatrical Midrash.** Madrich Vlad Ponomarenko taught children how to take and shoot the interviews and started preparation for shooting video on Parashat Hashavua topic.

**June, 22 – 27 – Midreshet Schechter Teachers` Seminar in Uzhhorod, Hotel “Druzhba”**

Representatives from the Kiev Community “MASORET” took part in the Teachers` Seminar organized by Midreshet Schechter in Uzhhorod. All were participating in a week of workshops, lectures and team-building to prepare for the summer. This year, three Kiev Community representatives prepared lectures and classes dedicated to the seminar`s topic “What does it mean to be a Jew? (Path to yourself)”.



Lena Stamov prepared two lectures “Jewish Zionist education in Poland in the interwar period” and “Zionism - dreams and reality” with Natalie Portman film screening “The Tale of Love and Darkness”.



Rav Reuven spoke about "Who are the Jews" and “Giur”. Also, he had a hevrutah “Ten commandments” and held Parashat Hashavuach lesson and Kabbalat Shabbat with Lena Stamov. Oksana Remarovych had one lecture about “Golda Meir” and hevrutah “The creation of the State of Israel. The place of religion and the status quo”.

**June, 29 – July, 4 – Ramah Family Camp in Sanatorium "Svitanok", Svydivok, Cherkasy region**



*(June, 27-29 - Pre-camp and June, 5 - Post-camp of the Ramah Family Camp) The detailed report will be sent in the next letter.*

**June, 16 – Group from London Masorti Community came to the Kiev Community “MASORET”**



More than 20 people from the London Masorti Community with Rav Chaim Weiner visited the Kiev Community on Shabbat. It was a big delegation of different age, but everyone with huge interest tried to learn more about the Kiev community. Lena Stam with all delegations visited JAFI day camp, they meet with JAFI and reform community representatives.

**June, 17 – Lena Stamov with the excursion around Podol as the Jewish aria in Kiev for the Group from London Masorti Community. Parashat Hashavua lesson, Minha and Havdalah in Kiev Community** All talked about the Jewish future.

**June, 18 – The last day in Kiev for the group from London Masorti Community. Gala dinner and parting**



All were very excited about being in the Ukraine Masorti Community and gain experience of the Jewish life in Kiev, meet community members and guests from other conservative communities in Chernowitz, Odessa, Kiev, of course had several excursions.

**June, 7 – Rav Reuven with the final preparations for children who took part in Family project Bar/ Bat Mitzvah from "JAFI-Ukraine"**



Rav Reuven Stamov conducted the final preparation for children that had Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony as the part of the Family project at the “JAFI-Ukraine”

**June, 28 - The Master's program in Jewish Studies at NaUKMA marked its fifth anniversary and fourth graduation in the Kiev Masorti Community center**

At the solemn party in Kiev Masorti Community center for this year and last year's graduates "Pushkin Klezmer Band" congratulated everyone. Worth to mention that throughout the entire existence of the master's program Kiev Community was in deep cooperation. And of course, with great joy, the communities invited everyone to celebrate the graduation.

***Lena Stamov meetings***

- 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 Tal Maoz – the director of NOAM Olami
- Private meeting and Skype call during the month with people who want to do the conversion, final preparations for giyur
- Meeting with Tatiana Voitalyuk and Sarah- regional representative of Project Keshet
- Meeting with Olya Elshansky - Head of Youth programs in JAFI Ukraine
- Family camp planning
- Every Wednesday – Skype with Shlomo Zakharov and participant of the ashgaha lessons
- Meeting with the Svitanok
- Final preparations for the koshering the “Another Food” company's equipment and kitchen

### ***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, final preparations for giyur
- Meeting with Alexander Zaslavskiy
- Meeting with Katerina Rabina – coordinator of family programs in JAFI Ukraine
- 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/Bat Mitzvah
- 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
- Meeting with Arkadiy Monastirskiy – The Head of the Jewish Forum of Ukraine
- Meeting with Elza Learner – Moishe House Kiev and planning future cooperation
- Final preparations for the koshering the “Another Food” company’s equipment and kitchen

*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". Cooperation with departure of tourism and The festival of Podol nation's culture.

Many thanks for all who made this work possible.

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