



Limmud FSU - A 2016 Retrospective

Entering the Second Decade

With ten years of Limmud FSU safely concluded in 2015, we have confidently embarked on our second decade. Once again, we have been bowled over by the enthusiasm of some 9,700 participants in 11 separate events held in eight countries – details of which can be found in the following pages.

No longer with any need to prove itself, Limmud FSU has become an eagerly awaited annual event in the lives of thousands of young Russian-speaking Jews for most of whom, especially those from the former Soviet Union, it has become an annual milestone event which cannot be missed.

There is no doubt that Limmud FSU has become a crucial element, not just in providing events packed with Jewish

content, but also for the many people who have joined us as volunteers working on the planning, programming, logistics and administration of all our events and through this, no less important, in nurturing a new generation of leaders who are creating or revitalizing the Jewish communities in their own countries.

Once again, we must point out that our programs and festivals could not have taken place where it not for the loyal and devoted partners, donors and both private and institutional donors. They have our deep thanks and appreciation as well as those of the participants, presenters, volunteers and staff. We have given a list of these in this report and we honor them for their commitment and dedication.



Matthew Bronfman
Chair, Limmud FSU
International Steering
Committee



Aaron G. Frenkel
President, Limmud FSU

The Second Decade Begins

With our first decade behind us, we have set sail enthusiastically on the new and second decade. We take an inordinate amount of pride in the fact that over 40,000 young Russian-speaking people, predominantly aged 20 to 40, have been, since 2006, exposed through Limmud FSU, for the first time, to their Jewish heritage, which, under 70 years of Communist rule in the USSR, was suppressed or expressly forbidden.

The Jewish world has seen an enormous upheaval during those last ten years. With free immigration from the USSR beginning in the late 1980's, Russian-speaking Jews have spread across the world. Over one million arrived in Israel where their effect and influence in so many spheres of activity have changed the country for the good in a way that sometimes beggars belief.

Others have chosen to remain in their countries of origin or in other countries of the Jewish Diaspora and are rebuilding a world of Jewish involvement in their own communities – and we are confident that Limmud FSU has played and continues to play, a major role in this.

Limmud FSU conferences, festivals and events continue to bring a spirit of intellectual freedom and enquiry to young Russian-speakers in a liberal, pluralistic, egalitarian, non-demanding and gender-free atmosphere of study – the personification of the Hebrew word “Limmud” in its widest possible sense.

As always, we cannot praise highly enough the role of our hundreds of volunteers who undertake the planning, programming, recruitment and administration of each event, together with our cadre of talented and

It is this spirit of volunteerism, which was a guiding principle of the first Limmud in the UK over 37 years ago, and that motivates and drives Limmud FSU which is proud to be a part of what is now a worldwide Limmud International movement active on five continents and some 60 countries in dozens of languages.

Needless to say, without the enthusiastic and devoted support of our donors and sponsors, Limmud FSU could not possibly exist. More than 40,000 Russian-speaking Jews owe them an enormous vote of appreciation.

At the same time, in an always difficult financial climate, we must continue to raise international support for our ever-growing range of venues and events. We are already looking ahead to 2017 and you will find preliminary details of our plans in this Report.



[Chaim Chesler](#)
Founder, Chair,
Executive Committee



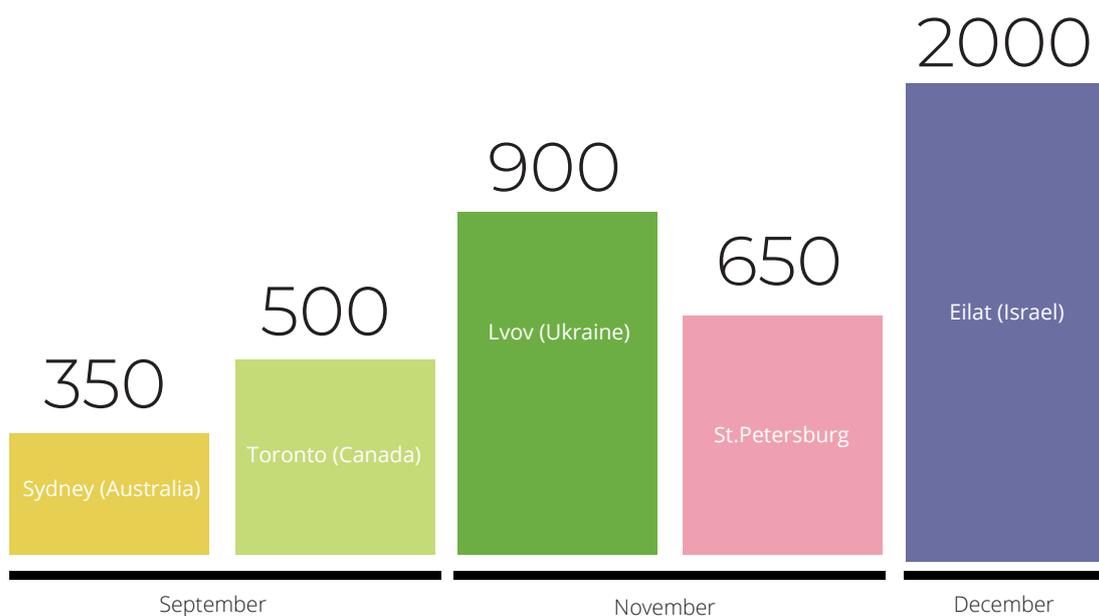
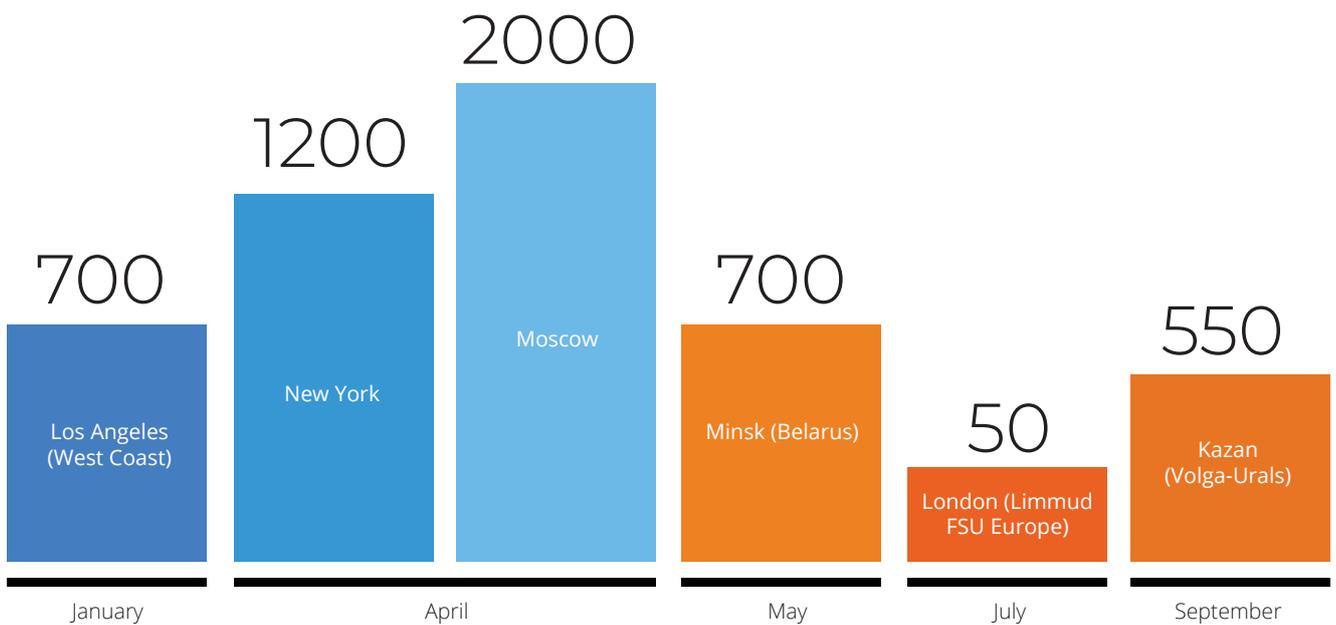
[Sandra F. Cahn](#)
Co-Founder, Chair,
Fundraising Committee



[Roman Kogan](#)
Executive Director

Our Events in 2016

The growth of Limmud FSU, from the spark of an idea for a unique program of informal Jewish education for Russian-speaking Jewry, has evolved into a lively locally driven volunteer organization with individual events in eleven locations in 2016.



Limmud FSU in Numbers 2006 - 2016

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
EVENTS	4	5	7	6	6	9	9	11
COUNTRIES	3	4	4	5	5	7	7	8
PARTICIPANTS	1,790	4,271	2,900	3,684	4,025	5,300	6,500	9,600
PRESENTERS	390	680	630	700	750	993	1,200	1,250
VOLUNTEERS	185	290	260	330	340	435	530	790
STAFF POSITIONS*	5	8	8	8	10	11	11	11
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$1,104,250	\$1,857,206	\$1,291,646	\$1,662,506	\$1,991,620	\$2,768,000	\$2,372,000	\$ 3,211,000

* Permanent year-round staff including independent contractors (part-time and full-time)

LIMMUD FSU 2016 EVENT BY EVENT

29-31 January

Limmud FSU

West Coast, Los Angeles

To begin the New Year, Limmud FSU moved – for the first time – to the West Coast of the USA. The first of what will be an annual event took place at the Westin Pasadena Hotel near Los Angeles, under the slogan “Avant Garde.” More than 700 participants took part in the three-day event, most of them coming from LA, San Francisco and as far north as Seattle and south to San Diego.

Choosing the name Avant Garde showed the organizers’ desire to present a different dynamic concentrating on an innovative, state-of-the-art and exciting program. More than 70 speakers from California and the rest of the USA, Israel, Russia, Ukraine and elsewhere gave some 100 sessions, often as many as six or seven taking place simultaneously, giving the participants an agonizing choice. Among subjects covered were discovering your Jewish identity, gangsters from Odessa, Russians in Hollywood, dating, the Ukraine-Russia conflict, health and fitness, including demonstrations of Krav Maga – the Israeli close combat self-defense method, to mention just a few.

Star speakers included Matthew Bronfman, Sandy Cahn, Michal Grayevsky and Chaim Chesler from the Limmud FSU leadership, prominent Jewish communal leaders such as Eric Fingerhut of Hillel, Jerry Silverman, President of the Jewish Federations of North America, Jay Sanderson of the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, and Rabbi Marc Schneier, joined by leading West Coast rabbis of different persuasions, such as Ilana Baird, Dovid Gurevich, Yuri Foreman, Aryeh Katzin, Benzion Klatzko, David Wolpe and Sholom Rodal. Visiting presenters from Israel included Natan Sharansky, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Board, MK Nachman Shai, Maj.Gen (res) Uzi Dayan, editor of the Jerusalem Post Steve Linde, MK Sharren Haskel and prominent journalists, Yoav Krakovsky from Kol Israel, Yaniv Halily from Yediot Ahronot, and Mordechai Haimovitch of Ma’ariv.

The chairperson of Limmud FSU West Coast, Sasha Shteyn said, “It was profoundly inspirational to see people breaking away from the daily hustle and merge into something bigger. I believe we created a legacy for many years to come.” In 2017, Limmud FSU West Coast is scheduled to move to San Francisco, and will take place on November 17-19.





1-3 April

Limmud FSU New York

Once again, the Sheraton Parsippany Hotel, New Jersey, was the venue for this year's Limmud FSU New York area, the seventh annual event since the first one in 2009. Every year has since an exponential growth in the number of participants (from all over the East Coast and as far afield as Canada) and this year the record was again broken with 1,200 Russian-speaking participants.

As usual, the volunteer organizers, led by co-chairs Olga Barskaya and Ilya Bratman, had stitched together a wide-ranging array of lectures, panel discussions, round-table groups, movie showings, as well as workshops in Yoga, sculpture, making your own pickles, painting, wine-tasting and making a hamsa (good-luck amulet.)

Two special exhibitions were show here for the first time – and will hopefully travel to additional Limmud FSU locations: one on Ze'ev Jabotinsky, founder of the Revisionist Movement, called "From Odessa to New York via the Land of Israel," introduced by his grandson, also called Ze'ev Jabotinsky; and the other on the late Prime Minister Golda Meir, curated by Yoram Dori, strategic advisor to former President Shimon Peres (Peres died later in the year).

Shabbat was marked in various ways, a family Kabbalat Shabbat; a musical Kabbalat Shabbat; Orthodox and Reform traditional eve of Shabbat prayer services and a celebration of poetry dedicated to the Sabbath.

The distinguished former diplomat and politician, Colette Avital, who had served as Israel's consul-general in New York, spoke about shaping the memory of the Holocaust – what will the next generation remember? Popular Israeli television personality, Gil Hovav, spoke about his great-grandfather Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the reviver of Hebrew as a modern spoken language, and also about what Jerusalemites cooked and ate when the city was under siege during the War of Independence in 1947-8. Leeza Negelev told about the origins and evolution of the mikveh – Jewish ritual bath.

Of the over 100 presentations on offer, taking place in seven or eight simultaneous sessions, among popular topics were Jewish love, dating and marriage; sex, women and war; anti-Semitism in Europe, as well as several sessions on child-rearing – while the young Limmudniks had, as usual, a special program of their own.

14-16 April

Limmud FSU Moscow

Moscow was the venue of the very first Limmud FSU event ten years in 2006 when an intrepid pioneer group of Russians, Israelis and Americans, including Chaim Chesler, Sandra Cahn and Alexander (Sasha) Pyatigorsky, first decided to create a Limmud aimed at Russian-speaking Jews, after being inspired by a visit to the mother of Limmud - in the United Kingdom, where it all began 37 years ago.

To celebrate this important milestone, this year a record crowd of over 2,000 people descended on the Klyasma Resort Center, outside Moscow, for a packed program prepared by a mammoth organizing team of 30 people together with another 50 volunteers.

The participants were treated to a feast of 200 sessions given by as many presenters from all over Russia, Ukraine and the former Soviet Union, Western Europe, the United States and Israel, on every conceivable subject of Jewish interest, in as many as ten sessions taking place at the same time, making the choice of where to go and what to listen to, even more difficult than usual.





13-15 May

Limud FSU Belarus, Minsk

Belarus was hosting Limud FSU for the third time, previous events having been held in Vitebsk. This time, the event moved to Minsk, the capital, where it formed part of the Belarus Cultural Year. Belarus has one of the smallest Jewish populations in Europe but nevertheless, 700 participants attended the conference at the Belarus Hotel on the Dvina River, where they heard more than 100 sessions given by over 120 presenters, including noted scholars, teachers, actors and journalists from Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, as well as leading personalities from Israel, Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, Minister of Social Equality Gila Gamliel and MK Yehiel Bar.

The planning and logistics were run by Limud Project manager for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, Galina Rybnikova, backed up by a team of nearly 70 volunteers.

Belarus, or as it was widely known - Belorussia or "White Russia" was the heartland of the Jewish Pale of Settlement in the Russian Empire and gave birth to some of the greatest figures in modern Jewish history, such as Israeli President Chaim Weizmann, two prime ministers, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, the artists Marc Chagall and Chaim Soutine, Zionist leaders Nachum Goldman and Menachem Ussishkin, Isser Harel legendary head of Israel's security services, historian Simon Dubnow, the composer Irving Berlin, actress Hanna Rovina, and many more.

Chagall was honored in the first Limud FSU Belarus in his home town of Vitebsk in 2013 and this time, special exhibitions were devoted to two other iconic figures in contemporary Israeli history, Berl Katznelson, pioneer ideologist of the Eretz Israel labor movement and Abba Achimeir, revisionist and revolutionary.

The two men - widely differing in their political opinions, grew up together in the Belorussian town of Bobruysk. Among the presenters and guests at Limud in Minsk were the niece of Katznelson, Dita Vered-Katznelson, and the three children of Abba Achimeir, his daughter Ze'eva Zavidov, the prominent journalist Ya'akov Achimeir and Yossi Achimeir, a former Knesset member and director of the Jabotinsky archives in Tel Aviv.

1-3 July

Limmud FSU Europe London

For the first time a Limmud FSU Europe, gathering Russian-speaking Jewish families from all over Western and Central Europe will be held in the United Kingdom in February 2017. Some 50 volunteers met in London with the Organizing Committee Semyon Dovzhik and project manager Tanya Pashaeva, to make Limmud FSU Europe a reality and to lay the groundwork.

This will be the first multi-national Limmud FSU conference and we anticipate some 600 participants from 20 different countries. This will also be a "mobile Limmud." The initial conference will take place in the UK (venue still to be determined), and future festivals will be hosted in other Russian-Jewish communal centers in Europe. Limmud FSU Europe has already recruited 20 "Ambassadors."

They hail from Germany, Belgium, Ireland, Sweden, Poland, France, Spain, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Switzerland, and different cities in the UK. This Ambassador's Program will bring together young leaders from Russian-speaking communities to promote Limmud FSU Europe, develop leadership skills, and prepare youth to take on leadership roles in their own communities.

Because Limmud FSU Europe is the first extra-territorial Limmud, it will entail the empowerment of a volunteer leadership cadre in all the main centers of Jewish life in Europe. We believe that the Limmud FSU training process, which the "Ambassadors" will experience, will encourage them to take wider leadership roles upon themselves in their own communities.

Moreover, since the annual conferences of Limmud FSU Europe will take place in different locations, we anticipate that the Ambassadors will be a fulcrum in bringing Limmud to their communities in the future and thus provide a base for local volunteers to implement the project.



2-4 September

Limmud FSU Volga-Urals, Kazan

Following on the success of the first Limmud FSU Volga-Urals held in Kazan in September 2015, the second event was equally well received and the event will now hopefully take place annually. 550 participants flocked to the Regina country resort near the city of Kazan, the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Tatarstan from all over the region - Saratov, Samara, Yoshkar Ola, Chelyabinsk and Nizhniy Novgorod.

Kazan is the eighth biggest city in Russia and one of the country's leading education, cultural and sports centers, with a small but dynamic Jewish community, third only to that of Moscow and St. Petersburg. During the three-day festival, more than 80 speakers from the Kazan-Urals area and from all over Russia, as well as from the United States and Israel, gave a wide ranging series of presentations – beginning with Orthodox and Reform prayers, the Israel-Russia relationship, political advocacy in Russia, Jewish soldiers in the Second World War, banking in Russia, freedom of the press.

In addition to an impressive array of well-known Russian scholars, artists, businessmen and journalists, there were prominent presenters from abroad including Eli Ben-Dahan, Deputy Minister of Defense in the Israel government, Tzvi Heifetz, Israel's ambassador to Russia, Ephraim Lapid, a former spokesman of the IDF, Dr. Yoel Rappel, curator of the Elie Wiesel exhibition that was shown during the Kazan festival, as well as Limmud FSU leaders Matthew Bronfman, Aaron Frenkel, Chaim Chesler and Sandra Cahn.

The Shuk ("Market") band provided entertainment and there were workshops in Yoga, Jewish and Israeli dance, oil painting, ice-cream making, singing, cooking and sessions of intellectual mind games so popular with Russian-speaking audiences.





11 September

Limmud FSU Canada, Toronto

This, the third Limmud FSU event to be held in Canada, was unusual inasmuch as it was a one-day event, bridging the three-day event held last year and the next three-day event to be held in 2017, and which is already well in the preliminary planning stages.

This time, 500 participants gathered together in the Schwartz-Reisman Centre of the Jewish Community Council in Toronto, which has as its aim "to strengthen individuals, families and communities within an inclusive and welcoming environment."

Within the context of this aim, the Centre hosted a packed and intense, morning- to-night event, dubbed "Explore," encompassing some 37 sessions, five or six taking place simultaneously. A main emphasis in this event were issues of personal relationships; sessions were devoted to such topics as: "Testing 1-2-3 - passing life's tests with flying colours," "Generations of hyper, moody, bored, lazy kids - reasons and solutions," "Ways to a happy and long life," "Finding and keeping your soul-mate," "Cultivating the power of humility, and "Child rearing."



17-18 September

Limmud FSU Australia, Sydney

After the success of the first ever Limmud FSU in Australia that took place in March 2015, there was a great deal of enthusiasm and expectation surrounding the second festival which will now become an annual event. The first event was a two- day festival in Lorne near Melbourne, preceded by a one-day event in Sydney.

This second event, held again in partnership with the Zionist Federation of Australia, was sponsored by the Triguboff Foundation. The celebration, held under the slogan "Be a Part of the Journey" took place in the Novotel Manly Pacific Hotel in Sydney adjoining the ocean, with 350 participants.

Under the overall guidance of project manager Tania Shvartsman, the two-day event was arranged, planned and run by a dedicated team of volunteers led by Anna Maylis and Rami Teplitskiy, co-chairs of the Organizing Committee, and included a packed program of lectures, workshops, debates and discussions, some in Russian and some in English, given by some 40 presenters from Australia and Israel (including Zeev Elkin, the minister for the environment and Jerusalem who spoke about "Jerusalem Today and Tomorrow.")

Other sessions covered such varied topics as Jewish weddings, irony in poetry, the Russian mass media in Israel, talking to children about sex, Ashkenazi genes and health, King David, Fertility and Halacha, Russian Jews between Austria and Australia; and more. Entertainment was provided by Hemi Rudner and his "Eifo hayeled," an Israeli rock group, a klezmer band – and to cap it all, a vodka tasting session.

A special program for children given by a group of dedicated young counselors included arts and crafts workshops, cartoons, movies and learning krav maga – the Israeli art of self-defense.





3-5 November

Limmud FSU Ukraine, Lviv

Limmud FSU in Ukraine is the second oldest of our annual circle of events, preceded only by Moscow. It is a moveable event taking place in different Ukrainian cities, In Yalta, Uzhgorod, Truskatvets, several times in Odessa, and this year, for the second time in Lviv (better known to the Jewish community by its Russian name, Lvov.)

The conference was sponsored by Limmud FSU together with the All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress and the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, and in partnership with the JDC Ukrainian charitable fund, "Hessed ArieH."

It is enthusiastically supported by Andrey Sadovoy, the Mayor of the city who participated in the opening ceremony and is a keen supporter of Limmud. Once again, the conference took place in the Dnister Hotel, with overflow participants staying at nearby hotels. Osik Akselrud, chair of Limmud FSU in Ukraine and regional director of the Hillel students organization together with project director Galina Rybnikova, oversaw an organizing committee and a volunteers group of some 30 people.

They put together an intensive program for the 900 participants, of 120 sessions covering the usual huge range of subjects, including relations between Israel and Ukraine; contemporary Jewish theater; Jewish teenagers; Jewish cinema; the ever-popular theme of Odessa humor;

power and politics in Israel; fashion and art; Russian-speakers who have changed the face of Israel; a virtual shtetl: portrait of the history of the Jews in Eastern Europe; Jewish fashion and much more. Most of the lectures and presentations were in Russian as usual, but several this time were given in Ukrainian – as well as in Hebrew

Workshops were held in drawing Jewish symbols, gymnastics, dance, Zumba, candle-making, personalized jewelry from glass and stones, and making wooden magnets. Musical entertainment was provided by Vladimir Brystyakov, a well-known Ukrainian songwriter, singer and composer, Serafima Gorelova a Yiddish singer, Elana Malanchuk a leading actress in musicals, and a program of light classics with pianist Valery Moshev.

They were aided and abetted by two groups, the local Sheine Maidelach (could be loosely translated as "Cute Chicks") from the JDC Hessed ArieH and the well-known Los Caparos band from Tel Aviv.

11-13 November

Limmud FSU St. Petersburg

This event was the fifth to be held in St. Petersburg, the historical and cultural capital of Russia, or to be exact, in the Helios and Aquamarine hotels, adjoining each other, in the small resort town of Zelenogorsk on the Gulf of Finland, in the midst of the forests, some 50 kilometers from the city. A record number of nearly 650 participants filled the two hotels to bursting and braved the cold weather – 16 degrees centigrade below zero.

The packed program of more than 100 sessions given by as many presenters, covered a wide range of subjects, from a master-class in public speaking and the economic situation in Russian, to why students choose to study in the USA, the writer Osip Mandelstam, translations of Isaac Bashevis Singer, Bauhaus architecture in Tel Aviv, music in Jewish culture, Israel as a start-up nation, and much more. Nine sessions were devoted to the Holocaust, including the celebrated 1943 prisoner's revolt in the Sobibor death camp and the Holocaust in the light of historical revisionism.

For those seeking lighter fare there were performances by the Israel-based Shuk ("Market") band and the Moscow-based Meidelach ("Girls" Band); workshops in making scarves and jewelry, photography, Chinese gymnastics and Yoga, while Gil Hovav, the grandson of Eliezer ben Yehuda, the reviver of the Hebrew language, told the fascinating story of his part-Yemenite, part-Moroccan and part-Ashkenazi family.

A special highlight of this Limmud was the participation of best-selling Israel author, Etgar Keret, marking the publication in Russian of his latest book (and fifth to be published in Russian). An all-star Israeli cast of Israeli journalists, including Brig. Gen. (res.) Avi Benayahu, a former spokesman of the IDF; the television and talk-show personality Judy Nir-Moses-Shalom; the political analyst for the Yediot Aharonot newspaper, Nechama Duek; and the Moscow-based reporter for Kol Israel, Yair Navot, discussed "The new media as an instrument in politics."



15-17.12.2016

לימוד אילת ЭЙЛАТ

Limmud FSU 2016

Самое образовательное
мероприятие года –
Фестиваль Лимуд 2016
השנה עיר אילת מארחת את
פסטיבל לימוד 2016

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15-17 December

Limmud FSU Israel, Eilat

With more than one million people of Russian descent, most of them immigrants from who arrived in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Israel has the second largest Russian-speaking population of any country in the world save for the former Soviet Union.

To celebrate its first decade of activities, Limmud FSU Israel moved to the southern city after previous annual events in Ashkelon, Jerusalem, Beersheba, Upper Nazareth and Kibbutz Ginosa. The dynamic three-day festival gathered nearly 2,000 participants, including Israel's Minister of defense, Avigdor Lieberman, Members of Knesset Yehiel Bar, Zahava Gal-On, Ofer Shelah, and Ksenia Svetlova; Jewish National Fund World Chairman Danny Atar; Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky, and other leaders in Israel's Russian-speaking community and prominent figures, artists and lecturers from all around the globe.

During the festival, Chairman of the Conference for Jewish Materials Claims Against Germany Rabbi Julius Berman and Limmud FSU leaders Matthew Bronfman, Sandra Cahn and Chaim Chesler honored 94-year-old Holocaust survivor and Jewish partisan Baruch Shub.

Businessman, philanthropist and chairman of Limmud's steering committee Matthew Bronfman, described the exponential growth of the organization as a "movement," at the Red Sea resort conference location that featured stunning vistas of the Jordanian mountains.



Limmud FSU across the Globe, 2017



1 February 3-5 Limmud FSU Europe
The first multi-national Limmud FSU event will be held in London; following annual events will move to different venues across Europe.

2 March 24-26 Limmud FSU Canada
The third Limmud FSU Canada will again be held in Blue Mountains resort near Toronto.

3 April 20-23 Limmud FSU Moscow
The first multi-national Limmud FSU event will be held in London; following annual events will move to different venues across Europe.

4 May 12-14 Limmud FSU New York area
After several years in Parsippany, New Jersey, this year the East Coast Limmud FSU will move to a different location,

5 July 2 Limmud FSU Moldova
Limmud FSU Moldova will take place in JCC "Kedem" for a daylong event.

6 October 19-21 Limmud FSU Ukraine
The annual Ukraine festival will take place in the magnificent city of Odessa.

7 November 17-19 Limmud FSU USA West Coast
After the successful and well-attended first West Coast Limmud FSU festival in 2016, the 2017 event will move south to

8 December 1-3 Limmud St. Petersburg
The three-day Jewish festival of learning and culture Limmud FSU St Petersburg will open at the Crowne Plaza St. Petersburg Airport

9 December 21-23 Limmud FSU Israel
To mark the tenth anniversary of Limmud FSU Israel, the festival will move back to Jerusalem where it all began

Limmud FSU Online

www.limmudfsu.org

Israel
www.limmudfsu.co.il

Moscow
www.limmud.ru

St. Petersburg
www.limmud.spb.ru

Ukraine
www.limmud.org.ua (English: en.limmud.org.ua)

Belarus
www.limmud.by (English: www.limmud.by/en)

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www.jcm.md

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Volga - Urals
<http://2015.limmudvu.ru/>

Limmud FSU Official Blog
<https://www.limmudsublog.com/>

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Limmud FSU Sponsors

Without the following friends, partners and donors, Limmud FSU events could not take place. They all deserve our deepest thanks and gratitude.

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Limmud FSU operates in the USA and throughout the world through the Limmud FSU International Foundation, inc., a US registered charitable organization. If you would like to join us or know more about our activities, please contact Sandra Cahn: sandycahn@aol.com.



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We would like to thank our local sponsors

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Moldova: Jewish Community of Moldova

Volga - Urals: Limmud International European Presenters Fund, Mikhail Skoblionok and the Jewish Community of Kazan

Ukraine: Hillel Ukraine, Tkuma, Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter, Dutch Humanitarian Fund, Limmud International European Presenters Fund

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West Coast: The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Lopez & Grager LLP, Sasha Shteyn, Eric Fihman, Leo Hmelnitsky, Astro TM, Bruce and Nancy Newberg, James and Ada Horwich Family Foundation

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Raffi Heltzer Chair, Limmud Russian-speakers, Israel

NEW FACES



Natasha Chechik , Director of Public Affairs and Communications

Natasha joined Limmud FSU in 2016 as Director of Communications and Public Affairs. She was born in Moscow in 1988, immigrated to Israel with her family in 1997 and did her IDF service as a commander of recruits. She graduated in international relations and journalism from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Later she served as a spokesperson assistant and as digital media manager at the Ministry of Economy and Trade, in several media and strategy consulting firms in the private sector, and as a spokesperson for an international real estate company based in Berlin. Natasha speaks Hebrew, Russian, English and Spanish.



Anna Adamskaya, Project Director for Limmud FSU Moscow

Anna Adamskaya (née Kaller) has been appointed Project Director for Limmud FSU Moscow. She was born in the city in 1987, attended the ORT school and studied at the National Research University Higher School of Economics receiving a Master's Degree in business psychology. She has participated in Limmud Moscow from its beginning in 2006, and has been a volunteer on its organizing committee for more than six years. She worked at Yandex, a Russian Internet company that operates the largest search engine in Russia, and at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) where she was a participant in JDC's Moscow "Knafaim" Young Leadership program.



Ilya Bratman, Chair of Limmud FSU USA

Ilya Bratman has been appointed Chair of Limmud FSU USA, after a stint as Director of Hillel at Baruch College, NY, before which he was Limmud FSU USA Project Manager. Born in Moscow, he immigrated to the United States in 1992. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1999 and then served in the United States Army, being deployed to Korea, Germany and Iraq. After his military service, he returned to the university and gained a master's degree in applied linguistics and education. In 2008 he began working as an instructor at the Sinai Academy in Brooklyn and director of Jewish programs at the Kings Bay Y. Ilya speaks Russian, Hebrew and German in addition to English and lives in New Jersey with his wife and son.



Ilia Salita, Genesis Philanthropy Group , President and CEO. Member of Limmud FSU Steering Committee

An alumnus of Moscow State University, Ilia started his career in academia, where he spent several years in research, as well as teaching at academic institutions in Russia and the U.S. He also has extensive experience in the private sector areas of personnel management, business development and community-centric marketing. Since joining GPG in 2009 as executive director of Genesis Philanthropy Group North America, Ilia has been responsible for oversight and strategic management in North America, which has led to the development of a robust portfolio of innovative and effective educational, as well as community-building initiatives across Russian-speaking Jewish communities, large and small. Also serves as a co-chair of the Westbury Group, board member of the Jewish Funders Network (JFN). Ilia lives in New Jersey with his wife Irina and two sons,