



Limmud FSU - A 2018 Retrospective

The future is here

In 2018, after more than a decade of mounting festivals of Jewish learning for the Russian-speaking Jewish world – six festivals over the past 12 months alone impacted over 6,000 people in six countries, as well as a preparatory training program for the next pan-European festival, which saw 43 Limmud FSU key staff and activists from western and central Europe come together in Vienna, and a global leadership summit that brought together in Poland 50 leaders from Limmud FSU and 11 Limmud FSU locations in 9 countries. There, sessions of learning on Jewish topics included a special focus on the Holocaust through participating in March of the Living, and were combined with workshops on leadership development and informal opportunities to share experiences and learn from one another.

At the same time, Limmud FSU also initiated a strategic planning process to ensure that we move beyond the first 12 years of unprecedented success, effectively and efficiently. We, like other successful start-ups, are at a critical point in our development; too big and growing too fast to rely any longer on informal methods of planning and communication. We are now studying the recommendations of the strategic plan, beginning to refine the focus of our mission, and examine how we can continue to provide high-quality, peer-led educational opportunities for Russian-speaking Jews, and effectively mesh these festivals with an ongoing continuum of educational opportunities and leadership nurturing for our volunteers and activists.

We are proud of achievements, conscious of our responsibilities, and committed to ensuring that the informal educational opportunities that are the essence of Limmud FSU, continue to engage Russian-speaking Jews around the world.



Aaron G. Frenkel
President



Sandra F. Cahn
Chair, Fundraising
Committee



Chaim Chesler
Founder and Chair, Executive
Committee



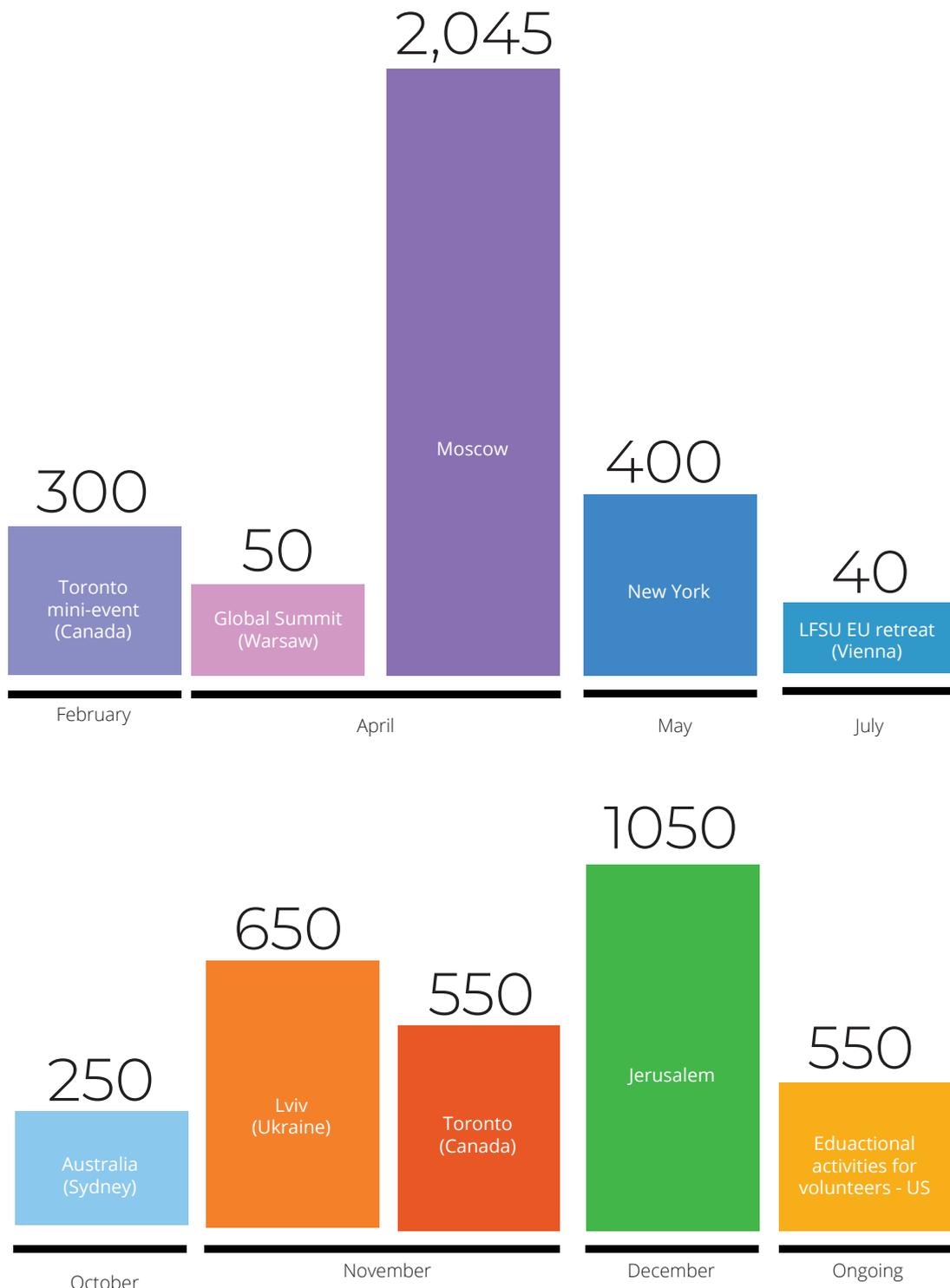
Roman Kogan
Executive Director



Matthew Bronfman
Chair, International
Steering Committee

Our Events in 2018

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 eight locations in 2018.



LIMMUD FSU 2018 EVENT BY EVENT

The Global Leadership Summit is the major gathering for Limmud FSU activists, where participants have the opportunity to learn, share experiences, and plan future directions for development. To this end, over 50 volunteers and members of the Limmud FSU lay and professional leadership who represent 9 countries that mount some 12 festivals came together for a 5-day learning, sharing, and leadership nurturing summit that provided a unique opportunity to enrich, widen and deepen the professional knowledge, tools and skills needed for the future development of Limmud FSU.

Most of the volunteers had never attended a Limmud FSU summit before. The participants learned from each other and from the Limmud FSU lay and professional leadership about Limmud FSU, Limmud values, how to be an effective leader, and that each Limmud FSU community is part of a worldwide network that provides support, guidance, best practices and advice, while the Limmud FSU infrastructure also provides fundraising support, supervision and control, and the development of budgets for each event.

The meetings helped the volunteers understand that they are not alone, and though each Limmud FSU festival is developed independently of each other, they are all part of a wider framework of opportunities for Jewish learning and community engagement for Russian-speaking Jews around the world. Behind the festivals there is a support infrastructure that provides help with fundraising, budgets, the development of budgets, and supervision, as well as

11-15 April

Global Leadership

Summit, Warsaw

No less, the location of the summit provided a very real learning opportunity on the Jewish history of eastern European Jewry in general, and of Polish Jewry in particular, with a special focus on 20th century history and the Holocaust. This subject tailored elegantly with the concept of being part of a larger community, for participation in March of the Living was a very eloquent expression of Jews from around the world coming together to remember and memorialize.

The two sponsors of the Global Leadership Summit were UJA-Federation of New York and the L.A. Pincus Fund for Jewish Education in the Diaspora.



19-22 April

Limmud FSU Moscow

The 12th Limmud FSU Moscow conference was held over the weekend of April 19-22, 2018, and, as has been the case for a number of years, took place in the Klyazma resort center, one of the biggest event locations in the Moscow area, and one of the few that is large enough to house an event such as Limmud FSU.

2,045 participants, the oldest among them aged 88, could choose from some 250 sessions, with as many as 12 running simultaneously. Some 85% of the participants came from Moscow or the Moscow area, with other participants from Russia, Israel and USA. As usual, a special program was developed for the Limmudniks aged 0-15.

Keynote speakers at the conference included Russia's chief rabbi, Berel Lazar, Israel's minister of aliya and integration, Sofa Landver, Limmud FSU president, Aaron G. Frenkel, Israel's ambassador to Russia, Gary Koren, former Israel ambassador to Russia, Dorit Golender, who now serves as vice president of the Genesis Philanthropy Group, head of Nativ, Netta Briskin-Peleg, acclaimed composer, Sergey Nikitin, and TV journalist, Nikolay Svanidze.

Topics covered ranged from the history of Israel during the War of Independence and various discussions of the geo-political situation in the Middle East, through an insider view of the United Nations to bitcoins and Israel as a startup nation, and from discussions of Jewish philosophy – attitude to the other in Judaism, new approaches to the Torah – through the football world cup to the fate of the Jews in the early decades of Soviet rule.

In the best tradition of Limmud, the event was made possible by its team of local leaders and volunteers, including the Project Manager Galina Murakhovskaya, Mikhail Libkin, Alexandra Livergant, Alexander Piatigorskiy, and others.

Supporters of the event included Genesis Philanthropy Group (GPG), Nativ, Claims Conference, Euro-Asian Jewish Congress, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and more.





May 6

Limmud FSU New York

The event was held in Columbia University in the center of Manhattan, an ideal location to attract untapped audiences, and attracted 400 who were undeterred by a BDS rally on the campus. There were 27 sessions over 7 time slots, with as many as 4 sessions running in parallel, on topics ranging from trends in Jewish philanthropy, with a particular focus on philanthropy within the Russian-speaking Jewish world; the émigré experience of Russian-speaking Jews; stand-up comedy; the geo-political situation in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza; entrepreneurship in hi-tech, finance and real estate.

In recognition of the fact that Israel is celebrating its 70th anniversary, the country was an overarching theme of the conference. Ruta Vanagaite from Lithuania a, non-Jewish writer with a background in theater criticism and theater direction, whose third book, *Mūsiškiai* (Our People; Journey with an Enemy), co-authored with Efraim Zuroff, focused on the complicity of Lithuanians in Holocaust crimes and the efforts of all Lithuanian governments since independence to hide the role played by local Nazi collaborators, and has deeply affected public discourse on the participation of Lithuanians in the Holocaust and inspired a search for truth on this subject among many young Lithuanians, talked about the history of the Holocaust in Lithuania, while together with Holocaust scholar Natalia Aleksun, she discussed the return of antisemitism in everyday life. The fate of American Jews who were attracted to Soviet ideology in the early years after the revolution only to find themselves caught up in the Holocaust was discussed, as was the shared history, culture and identity of FSU Jewry in the wake of the Holocaust and decades of Soviet rule, whether they live today in Israel, in the FSU, or in other countries of the Diaspora. The evening concert saw a performance of Golem Band, a New York-based klezmer-rock group.

Supporters of the event included Genesis Philanthropy Group, Claims Conference, IDB Bank, Tom Blumberg and Covenant Foundation, that supported the event with a brand-new grant for volunteer education and leadership training program for United States based Limmud FSU volunteers. The first activity was held in COJECO on May 3 (Pre-conference volunteers learning session).

In the best tradition of Limmud FSU, the event was made possible by its team of local leaders and volunteers, including the Project Manager Noam Shumakh – Khaimov, co-chairs Alina Bitel and Roman Sidler, as well as volunteers committee chair Estee Bardanashvili, programming committee chair Nina Faynberg and many others.



27-29 July

Limmud FSU Europe leadership retreat, Vienna

More than 40 members of Limmud FSU Europe organizing committee met in the end of July in Vienna, including the ambassadors, new members from Vienna who joined the committee, Limmud FSU founder Chaim Chesler and Executive Director Roman Kogan. The meeting included representatives of 13 European countries: the UK, Switzerland, Lithuania, France, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Spain, Slovakia, Ireland, Israel, and Russia.

The focus of the meeting - planning and preparing for the Pan-European Conference to be held in Vienna in 2020. The new organizing committee will be headed by Julia Tuchinskaia and Igor Zinkov, and the work of the ambassadors will be coordinated by Laurina Todesaite. The seminar was held at the Lauder Business School, and the program focused on drawing conclusions from Limmud FSU London 2017, building the work program and placing it in the new structure, as well as imparting leadership skills and others. This part was presented to the participants mainly by a special guest lecturer from the Jewish Agency - Vadim Blumin.

Also, in the framework of the event, Limmud FSU's founder Chaim Chesler and Executive Director Roman Kogan held several important meetings with:

- The Chancellor's foreign policy advisor Mr Gerold Vollmer from whom we were delighted to learn about the Chancellor's acceptance in principle to Mr. Matthew Bronfman's invitation to participate in the Limmud FSU Europe conference.
- Israeli Ambassador to Austria Talya Lador-Fresher.
- in IKG (ISRAELITISCHEN KULTUSGEMEINDE WIEN) with President of the Jewish Community of Austria Oskar Deutsch and Vice-President Dezioni Dawaraschwili.
- Rabbi Arie Folger, Chief rabbi of Vienna; Rabbi Jacob Biderman of Chabad Vienna; Prof. Shlomo Ustaniarov, president of the Bukharian community of Vienna; Edward Serotta, director general of Centropa organization.

July-December

Educational activities for volunteers (US)

Several seminars and day studies took place in the past few months with the generous support of the Covenant Foundation in New York and West Coast :

- Limmud FSU New York held a unique study program in August - an educational walking tour with Yigal Kotler of the Lower East Side. The tour, designed as an interactive walking workshop, took the 30 participants to places associated with the various aspects of this history and its characters.

-July 29: A West Coast Volunteers Study Sunday took place in San Francisco and was attended by some 40. Its study component featured lectures by Professor Zvi Gitelman and Rabbi Dov Dukhovny, a member of the Jewish Studies Network in Palo Alto.

- May 3: Volunteer learning study day took place at COJECO, and was attended by the members of the organizing committee and the conference volunteers, as well as last year's conference volunteers, together with 2 Limmud FSU staff members. The program was divided into two: The study section focused on modern antisemitism in general, the situation in Europe in particular and Holocaust denial. The main speaker was Ruta Vanagaite from Lithuania, non-Jewish writer, whose third book focused on the complicity of Lithuanians in Holocaust crimes and the efforts of all Lithuanian governments to hide the role played by local Nazi collaborators.

The training section discussed Limmud FSU from the perspective of volunteer learning and leadership development, and addressed logistics of the New York festival. It was addressed by the executive director of Limmud FSU, Roman Kogan, and the USA Limmud FSU program manager, Noam Shumakh-Khaimov.

- September 6: Rosh HaShana class/seder was held in New York for 20 Limmud FSU activists with Rabbi Asher Altshul. The talk was followed by a Rosh Hashana seder.

- September 27: Shashlik in the sukkah .This multicultural event was hosted in partnership with JCC Manhattan, GenerationR, the Bukharian Jewish Union.

- October 12-14: Limmud FSU West Coast retreat was held in the hotel where the 2019 festival is due to take place, and was attended by the 25 members of the Organizing Committee. The retreat combined discussions on feedback from the 2017 festival, the values and principles of Limmud FSU and more.

-November 4: West Coast Study Sunday in cooperation with the Contra Costa Jewish Day School, attracted 40 volunteers and activists. The study program focused on a talk by Ruta Vanagaite.

- November 20: Mini Seminar for New York Limmud FSU volunteers with Vadim Blumin from Israel on the transformation of Israeli art from the Torah to the 21st century. The session, was attended by some 30.

- December 5: Hanuka was celebrated by San Francisco. The event was attended by some 30 members of the Limmud FSU West Coast organizing committee and volunteers, together with many members of the wider Jewish community. Following a sports game by the club, there was a communal candle lighting.

- December 6: Limmud FSU Hanuka party, New York. This extremely successful event, co-sponsored with the World Zionist Organization, UJA Federation of New York and Hillel, attracted some 100 and included 2 speakers from Israel- Dafna Sharon and Michael Kipnis, Candle lighting with Rabbi Reuven Haskin and performance by Gera and Ronit Sendler.



October 4

Special memorial event for Elie Wiesel

Two months after a grave anti-Semitic incident in town when anti-Semitic graffiti were daubed on the walls of the Wiesel family home, which is now a museum to Holocaust Remembrance, a special interfaith dialogue took place at Elie Wiesel's family home to mark his 90th birthday, in support of the local community and as part of efforts to combat against violence and anti-Semitism. The event was mounted by Limmud FSU and March of the Living.

At the event, awards were made by the organizing bodies, the Jewish community of Sighet, and the Federation of the Jews of Romania, to the mayor of Sighet, Horia Vasile Scubli, and the local law authorities, who led the campaign against violence and anti-Semitism which resulted in the arrest of the suspected perpetrator a few days after the graffiti attack. Many local citizens participated in the ceremony, including some 100 pupils from local schools. The multi-faith dialogue was attended by members of the three religious communities in Romania. The dialogue was devoted to the fight against hatred, anti-Semitism and violence, as inspired by the legacy of Eli Wiesel.

The multi-faith dialogue was attended by members of the three religious communities in Romania including, among others, Chief rabbi of Romania, Rabbi Rafael Schaeffer, Chief rabbi of Russia, Rabbi Berel Lazar, Aaron G. Frenkel, the President of Limmud FSU; Dr. Joel Rappel, founder of the Eli Wiesel Archives at Boston University; Prof. Aviad Hacoen, Dean of the Sha'arei Mishpat Academic College; Chaim Chesler, Founder of Limmud FSU; and Aaron Tamir, Deputy Chair of the "March of the Living." The dialogue was devoted to the fight against hatred, anti-Semitism and violence, as inspired by the legacy of Eli Wiesel.

A year earlier, a procession, arranged by Limmud FSU, March of the Living and the Conference for Jewish Material Claims against Germany, was held in Sighet to mark the first anniversary of the death of Elie Wiesel. Participants walked from the Nobel laureate's home to the train station, from where the Sighet Jewish community was transported to Auschwitz, and which has been renamed "Gare Elie Wiesel."



October 24

Limmud FSU Australia, Sydney

The third Limmud FSU festival in Australia was held in Sydney and attended by over 250. The one-day conference included more than 70 seminars, lectures, presentations and workshops, given by an array of international and local speakers, as well as a full-day program for children. Headline presenters included Academy Award winning film producer Emily Sherman, former concertmaster of the Bolshoi Ballet of Moscow Emma Lipka, and Lithuanian journalist and researcher Ruta Vanagaite, whose book "Our People – Journey with an Enemy" chronicles Lithuanian complicity in Holocaust crimes, and remains banned in her home country.

Emmanuel Gruzman, talked about his ongoing Ph.D. research at Monash University on the Jewish identity of Russian-speaking Jews in Melbourne, where some 7,000 of the 11,000 Russian-speaking Jews in Australia live. His research reveals that the proportion of Jews from the FSU who have a partner or spouse who is non-Jewish is lower (18% among secular and traditional) than among Israelis living in Melbourne (23%), and substantially lower than the rate of intermarriage in USA – 58% between 2000-2013, according to the 2013 PEW study.

A full program for children reached out to young participants in 3 age groups – pre-school, primary school age and high school age.

Limmud FSU Australia is made possible by a team of local leaders and volunteers, led by Project Manager Anna Maylis, together with Rina Kuczko, Inna Polura, Anatol Romanov and others. Maylis said; "I have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback from the participants, who so much appreciate the efforts made by the volunteers in organizing such an important and remarkable event for our community. The festival has brought together hundreds of Russian Jews and demonstrates the unity of our community and its strong connection to Jewish culture and heritage."

The festival took place thanks to the generous support of Genesis Philanthropy Group, Harry Triguboff, the Zionist Federation of Australia, the Conference for Material Claims against Germany and several other Limmud FSU donors.





1-4 November

Limmud FSU Ukraine, Lviv

The twelfth Limmud FSU Ukraine took place in Lviv, for the fourth time, and brought together 650. It was dedicated to Israel's 70th anniversary and combined more than 160 lectures, presentations, excursions and workshops, as well as a special program for children.

Among keynote speakers were Joel Lion, Israel's Ambassador to Ukraine; Dorit Golender, Genesis Philanthropy Group and former Israeli Ambassador to Russia; Dr. Zeev Khanin, Chief Scientist of the Israel Ministry of Immigration and Absorption; Mayor of Lviv, Andriy Sadovyi; the famous Russian-Jewish actor, Immanuel Vitorgan from Moscow; Alex Mershon, Director of the Department of Culture and Education at Nativ; Dr. Igor Shchupak, Director of "Tkuma" - the Ukrainian Institute for Holocaust Studies; Rabbi Grigoriy Abramovich from Belarus and many others.

Limmud FSU Ukraine was made possible thanks to the team of local leaders and volunteers, led by Project Manager Galina Rybnikova and Limmud FSU executive director Roman Kogan, together with the volunteers' committee chair, Dasha Yefimenko from Rovno; program committee chair, Valeria Ogorodnik from Uzhgorod, public relations and marketing committee chair, Zhenya Khorzhevskiy, from Odessa, and the participants' experience committee chair, Olena Kolpakova, from Dnepr.

The festival enjoyed the generous support of the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund (JHF), Genesis Philanthropy Group, Euro-Asian Jewish Congress, the Conference for Material Claims against Germany, Israeli Foreign Ministry, Nativ - Israel Prime-minister's office, All-Ukrainian Jewish congress headed by Vadim Rabinovich and Ukrainian Jewish Encounter (UJE).

9-11 November

Limmud FSU Canada, Toronto

550 gathered near Toronto for Limmud FSU Canada, where over 50 presenters appeared in more than 70 lectures, workshops and panel discussions that covered subjects ranging from art, to Jewish culture and tradition, history, politics, academics, business and lifestyles. There are some 137,000 Russian-speaking Jews in Canada.

Among the presenters were IDF commando officer and team member of Operation Entebbe Rami Sherman, Hebron community spokesperson Yishai Fleisher, writer and blogger Rachel Danziger-Sharansky, award-winning Canadian writer Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, who spoke about her young adult novel, based on a true story, of a Ukrainian family that saved their Jewish neighbours during World War II, Irvin Studin, president of the Institute for 21st Century Questions, and editor-in-chief and publisher of Global Brief magazine, who discussed the Russia-West conflict and the impact of President Trump on Canada.

The festival enjoyed the generous support of Genesis Philanthropy Group (GPG), UJA - Federation of Greater Toronto, Claims Conference, UJE, BMO Wealth Management, Great Gulf Charitable Foundation –Harry and Malka Rosenbaum, The Binah Charitable Foundation – Julia and Henry Koschitzky, Nathan and Lily Silver Charitable Foundation - Shoel Silver, Miriam and Larry Robbins Foundation and others.

Limmud FSU Canada was made possible thanks to the team of local leaders and volunteers, led by Country Director Mila Voihanski and Limmud FSU executive director Roman Kogan, together with Conference Chair Eitan Dudnick, Chair of Program committee Alexander Kutman, Chair of Fundraising committee Alex Plotkin, Chair of Marketing committee Ella Petrenko, Co-chairs of Logistics committee Ilia Dobkin and Irina Levit, Chair of Finance Julia Raudanskis and many more.



20-22 December

Limmud FSU Israel, Jerusalem

The festival was held in Jerusalem and attracted over 1,000 to a program that included more than 180 lectures, workshops, master classes and presentations given by 100 speakers on a vast range of subjects that ranged from the Hebrew language and the evolution of Judaism over 3,000 years to halakha and its approach to celebrating new year on December 31 and, separately, to the donation of organs; from Israel's Declaration of Independence and aliya from France and the FSU, to journalism and politics; the evolution of memorialization of the Holocaust of Kiev's Jewish population in Babi Yar, and the complicity of the Lithuanian population in the mass murder of Lithuanian Jewry. Lighter sessions included Israeli dancing, salsa, and hip hop, as well as ceramics and glass bead making. The program was complemented by a special age-appropriate program for children.

The festival hosted a range of leading public figures and political leaders, including the President of the Supreme Court, Justice Esther Hayut, former Deputy President of the Supreme Court, Elyakim Rubinstein, State Comptroller, Yosef Chaim Shapira, Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Immigration, Prof. Zev Hanin, two former defense ministers, Avigdor Lieberman and Lieut. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, former minister Gideon Sa'ar, Minister for the Environment and Jerusalem Affairs, Zeev Elkin, head of the opposition in the Knesset, Tsipi Livni, Chair of the Jewish Agency Executive, Isaac Herzog, the founder of Mobileye, Ziv Aviram, Rabbi Benny Lau and head of the Sha'arei Hamishpat College, Rabbi Aviad HaCohen. The festive opening ceremony featured the popular singer, David Da'Or.

A panel discussion devoted to the 90th birthday of the late Elie Wiesel, took place with the participation of Justice Hayut who said, "The State of Israel is a source of strength, pride and hope for us all and we have the obligation to guard and protect it and its democratic values determined by our forefathers when the state was created. At the head of those values is the respect for the basic human rights of freedom and equality."

The Limmud FSU Festival was supported by the Immigration and Absorption Department of the Municipality of Jerusalem, Euro-Asian Jewish Congress, Genesis Philanthropy Group, Conference for Jewish Material Claims against Germany, Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, Ministry for Jerusalem Affairs, Joel Passick, and March of the Living.

The festival was mounted by a devoted group of volunteers under the direction of Limmud FSU Executive Director, Roman Kogan, project director, Tanya Pashayeva, chair of the Program Committee, Rina Zaslavsky, Alex Agranov, chair of the Participant Recruitment Committee, Pavel Pivavarov, chair of the Marketing Committee, and Max Rusinov, chair of the Logistics Committee.



STRATEGIC PLAN COMPLETION

Limmud FSU recently completed a strategic planning process, recognizing that it is at a critical point in its development and needs to confront such issues as the balance between participation in festivals and ongoing engagement; nurturing leadership development versus providing educational opportunities; continued growth to new locations where there are substantial Russian-speaking Jewish populations versus consolidation in existing locations.

The strategic plan was developed by Ukeles Associates after extensive research into the background to Limmud FSU; an internet survey of participants, presenters, volunteers and organizers, as well as a survey of potential target audience that has not participated in Limmud FSU festivals. The full recommendations and the results will be published in the upcoming months!

80%

Of participants, volunteers and presenters report that the Limmud FSU event met or exceeded their expectations

Of participants expect to return to a Limmud FSU event as do a large majority of volunteers, presenters and organizers

99%

95%

Of participants feel that the event was worth what they paid for it

Most participants "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that Limmud FSU increases Jewish knowledge

80%

70%

Most participants "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that Limmud FSU deepens connection to the Jewish people

Most participants "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that Limmud FSU deepens connection to Israel

59%

69%

Most participants "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that Limmud FSU leads to feelings of being part of a Jewish community

Of the participants report that they made new friends at Limmud FSU events

70%

57%

Most participants "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that Limmud FSU exposes them to breadth of Jewish tradition

Limmud FSU

ONLINE

Limmud FSU International : 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
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Moldova

www.jcm.md

USA New York

www.limmudfsuus.org

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westcoast.limmudfsuus.org

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www.limmudfsucanada.org

Australia

www.limmudfsu.org.au

Europe

www.limmudfsu.eu

Volga - Urals

<http://2015.limmudvu.ru/>

Limmud FSU Official Blog

<https://www.limmudsublog.com/>

Limmud FSU on Social Media:

https://www.instagram.com/limmud_fsu/

https://twitter.com/Limmud_FSU

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrDe_ubC7tFL-OiAQ9sw7Ug

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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.

Matthew Bronfman
Aaron Frenkel
Ronald Lauder
Conference for Jewish Material
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American Jewish Joint Distribution
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Diane Wohl
Jewish National Fund (KKL)
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Tom Blumberg
UJE -Ukrainian Jewish Encounter
Wilf Family Foundations
World Zionist Organization

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



We would like to thank our local sponsors and partners

Australia: ZFA (Zionist Federation of Australia), Harry Triguboff Fund.

New York: COJECO, Edith and Carl Marks Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst, Hillel at Baruch College, Hillel at Queens College, JCC of Manhattan, ZplaySchool, IDB Bank.

Moscow: CAF Russia (Charity Aid Fund), STMEGI Fund, Tkhiya Educational Centre, Federation of Jewish communities of Russia. Russian Jewish Congress, Jewish Cultural Center at Nikitskaya, Jewish museum and Tolerance center, ORT Russia, Hillel Russia, Expert Service company, J-Camp.

Moldova: Jewish Community of Moldova.

Volga - Urals: Mikhail Skoblionok and the Jewish Community of Kazan, Afifon Jewish Youth Center.

Ukraine: Hillel Ukraine, Tkuma, Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter, Dutch Humanitarian Fund, All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress (headed by Vadim Rabinovich).

Canada: Schwartz/Reisman Centre (SRC), UJA – Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, Nathan and Lily Silver Family Foundation, Apotex Foundation, Air Canada, UJE Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter, Riviera Parque Dining Banquet and Convention Centre, Meir Kosher Affair, BMO Wealth Management, Great Gulf Charitable Foundation –Harry and Malka Rosenbaum, The Binah Charitable Foundation – Julia and Henry Koschitzky, Miriam and Larry Robbins Foundation, Israel Bonds, YZY Travel group.

Israel: Immigration and Absorption Department of the Municipality of Jerusalem, Ministry for Jerusalem Affairs, Academic Center for Law and Science, Kiryat Moriah Educational Campus.

Belarus: Union of Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities, Exclusive.

West Coast: Koret Foundation, Jim Joseph Foundation, Fooksman Family Charitable Fund, Jewish Family and Children's Services - San Francisco, Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, NCSY, RAJMN: Russian American Jews in Minnesota, Israeli Consulate General of the Pacific Northwest, Jewish Community Foundation of East Bay, Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco.

Europe: Israeli Embassy in Austria, Centropa, IKG - Wien, Lauder Business School, Bukharian Community in Vienna, Chabbaad Vienna.

St.Petersburg: Skandin, Russian Jewish Congress, Adain Lo family center, JCC Yesod, Religious Jewish Community, Jewish Agency in Russia.

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Chaim Chesler, Founder, Chair, Executive Committee
Sandra F. Cahn, Co-founder, Chair, Fundraising Committee

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Noam Shumakh-Khaimov, Project Manager, USA
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Anna Maylis, Project Managers, Australia
Tatyana Pashaeva, Project Manager, Israel, St. Petersburg, Volga-Urals, Europe
Galina Murakhovskaya / Lena Zakharova, Project Manager, Moscow

Limmud FSU affiliated organizations – Leadership

Osik Akselrud Chair, Limmud FSU in Ukraine
Raffi Heltzer Chair, Limmud Russian-speakers, Israel

NEW FACES



Igor Zinkov, co-chair, Limmud FSU Europe

Igor is a rabbinic student at Leo Baeck College in London. Originally from Chelyabinsk, Russia he was a service leader for the local reform community. He achieved a degree in engineering and worked in business before beginning his journey to the rabbinate with studies in Moscow and Jerusalem. Igor has extensive experience in youth work in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine and has worked with organisations including Netzer, Birthright, and The Jewish Agency. Last year Igor's apprenticeship was at Westminster Synagogue and currently he works as a Rabbinic Intern at Liberal Jewish Synagogue (LJS) in London. Igor also serves as an Executive Board member of World Union of Progressive Judaism and a founder of a worldwide project for Russian-speaking Jews 'DOR'.



Dasha Yefimenko, chair of volunteers committee, LFSU Ukraine

In everyday life, Dasha works as a head of the community programs department and the "Club" program in the Hesed-Osher Jewish charity foundation, coordinating the Volunteer Community volunteer school in Rivne. She also a teacher at the Sunday School educational project at the Rivne Education Association of the Jewish community. Dasha attended numerous educational trainings, seminars, conferences and courses from a variety of Jewish organizations and on a variety of topics, She has 20-year experience work in Jewish camps: as madricha, methodologist, administrator, organizer of mass events, program director and more.



Eitan Dudnick, chair, Limmud FSU Canada

Eitan was born in Kharkiv (former Soviet Union) and once the borders were open his family immigrated to Israel. He lived in Jerusalem for 17 years, served in IDF, Givati brigade. After the army Eitan joined his family in Canada, finished York University with major in Finance. Since the 1st LIMMUD FSU conference in Canada in 2014 Eitan started volunteering and last year Eitan took the role of Chair of Conference for the 2018-2019 year. Recently Eitan has changed his profession to Sprinkler Fitter. In his free time Eitan enjoys hiking, Thai boxing and going to Rock concerts.



Deborah Lipson, Development Manager

Deborah is responsible for the English-language programs / booklets of conferences (in non-English speaking countries), as well as fundraising and development. She was born in London and studied Russian and French at university in England, as well as in Paris and Moscow. She made Aliya in 1983 and worked, with Chaim Chesler, in the campaign for Soviet Jewry, and later in the Jewish Agency. She worked for the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum and then for JDC. For the past 17 years she has dealt with fundraising for Jewish Agency educational projects from Holocaust-related funds.



Lena Zakharova, LFSU Moscow Project Manager

Elena Zakharova, Limmud FSU Moscow project manager since 2018, is the Director general of "Zebra" event agency. She also organizes the "J-Camp"- edutainment Jewish camp. Elena graduated from Moscow State University (mechanics and mathematics faculty). During last 20 years, Elena has successfully developed and implemented the principles of informal education in different international projects.