

# Institute of Judaica Activity Report 2016

The past year was very fruitful for our organization.

The greatest attention was paid to the implementation of projects related to Jewish education and the education of tolerance.

This year the institute continued work on several projects, and also started several new ones.

## 1. Exhibitions

- **Exhibition “The Jewish addresses in the Lipki Area of Kiev”.** By request of the Sokhnut-Ukraine. March 2016.

– **Exhibition devoted to the tragedy of Baby Yar. The Holocaust Museum, Houston.** September, 2016.

The exhibition was prepared by the Institute of Judaica under the patronage of the Sigma Bleiser Foundation and the Dar Center.

The exhibition consists of eight posters. It narrates about the Jewish life in Kiev over ten centuries, the contribution of the Jewish community to the history and appearance of the city.

It represents the structure of the population of Kiev on the eve of the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. The posters expose the first days of the war, the public moods in the city, the events that led to massacres. The most noteworthy are excerpts from personal documents, maps and stories of witnesses to the Nazi "murder machine". The exhibition ends with the stories of the "Righteous Among the World" and the stories of those who, thanks to their courage, were lucky enough to survive.

– **Exhibition "Baby Yar: History and Fates". Gallery M17, Kiev.** By request of the International Charity Fund "Babi Yar." September 2017.

The exhibition immerses visitors into the tragic atmosphere of the autumn days of 1941 - the days when the Nazis began to destroy the Kyiv Jewry.

Traveling with the installations of the exhibition, the visitors watch the drone of airplanes and bomb bursts breaking into the peaceful life of prewar Kiev. They see the space broken into three tragic roads: the road to the front, the road to evacuation, and the occupation; and the last defenders leaving the city; and German troops enter Kiev on September 19, 1941; the Khreschatyk street blowing up on September 24 ...

Together with the Kyivites in 1941, the visitors of the exhibition read announcements, which were scattered around the city. They understand that Jewish families are left alone for one night and are worried with those who, 75 years ago, tried to take away the most necessary things for a long journey – no one where and for how long.

And then a mournful path begins - from the city road to Baby Yar. The ashes mixed with sand ... Is that all that remains of those 33,771 people shot on September 29-30? Or from those five thousand who were shot in the next two days? And those who were shot in Baby Yar for the next two years? Jews, Roma, the patients and the doctors of the Cyril Psychiatric Hospital, prisoners of war, members of the OUN ... Only those who live today can answer this.

The memory space allows each visitor to look into the eyes of the murdered, pronounce their names, put on the ground a chestnut - many of them lay on the land of Kiev in September 1941, and today they are all scattered over the streets of Kiev.

Take the chestnut, say the name of the deceased. Let the phrase come true: "They tried to bury us, but did not know that we were seeds." Let our hearts germinate memory; in our minds - the desire to know and understand; in our hearts is the determination to take care of each other. To never kill more children.

## **2. Publications.**

**Digest "The Way to Dream"**. The publication is devoted to the common moments of the history of Ukraine and Israel, and more precisely, to people, these moments shaping. The digest is a continuation of the project "The Way to a Dream", carried out by the Institute in 2014.

Compiled by: J. Smilianska, director of the Institute of Judaica, ADEF-Ukraine Publishers, 2016.

## **3. Educational excursions**

– A series of educational excursions in the exhibition "Baby Yar: History and Fates".  
September 2016.

## **4. Seminars**

– A series of seminars for schoolchildren and teachers of the history of schools in Kiev at the exhibition "Babi Yar: History and Fate". By order of the Baby Yar International Charity Fund.

- A series of seminars for schoolchildren of Jewish schools in Kiev at the exhibition "Jewish mansions of Lypok".
- A series of educational seminars for visitors to the Museum of the Holocaust, Houston.

## **5. Participation of employees of the Institute of Judaica in international projects, seminars and conferences.**

- International conference "Sefer" (Moscow, Russia).
- International conference "Limud" (Lvov, Ukraine, 2016)
- Sambation

## **6. Community programs**

### **Mnemosina Club (led by J. Smilianska).**

The Mnemosina Club continues its work for fourteen years since September 2000 with the purpose of activating the creative potential of the Hesed wards. Each event is held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Each member of the club writes his note in a harmonious melody, uniting those who came to share their new finds in the archives. Those who brought interesting information, or wrote their memories of any period of their lives, about a street in our city or about the place of their childhood, and those who thankfully listens and aptly comments on what is happening.

Members of the club take an active part in organizing the search for documents and photographs, working in archives and libraries, doing research in the field of Jewish life in Kiev from the mid-nineteenth to the beginning of the twenty-first century, preparing materials for club meetings, exchanging information, recording their memories of events related to Jewish history of modern times.

Members of the Mnemosina Club take part in the archival programs of the Institute of Judaica.

## **7. Internet projects.**

Web-site of the Institute of Judaica (E. Zaslavska) - <[www.judaica.kiev.ua](http://www.judaica.kiev.ua)>

The site contains information about the work of the institute, its publications, programs and projects, as well as the table of contents and texts of the collections of the International Jewish Studies Conferences "Jewish History and Culture in Central and Eastern Europe", the magazine "Egupets" and some other books.

There is also news on the work of projects and programs of the Institute of Judaica and on some events in the life of the Jewish community of Ukraine.

The site is registered in more than 300 catalogs and search systems of Ukraine, Russia and other CIS countries. The information on the site is updated regularly. Attendance site - more than 2,000 a month.

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