

# Institute of Judaica Activity Report 2017

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

## 1. Exhibitions

February 2017

Exhibition "Babi Yar: History and Fates" was demonstrated in the building of the former office of the Lukyanovsky Jewish cemetery. It is in this building that, according to the project of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, the creation of the Babi Yar Museum is planned.

September 2017

The exhibition "Babi Yar: History and Fates" was presented at the Kiev Natural Science Lyceum No. 145. A series of educational seminars for teachers and pupils of the Lyceum was held. Lyceum pupils took part in educational seminars and worked as guides at the exhibition "Babi Yar: History and Fates".

October 2017.

The exhibition "Babi Yar: History and Fates" was presented at the Kiev school of boarding school No. 20. A series of educational seminars for teachers and schoolchildren was held.

November 2017.

The exhibition "Babi Yar: History and Fates" was presented at the Kyiv Lyceum of Business. A series of educational seminars for teachers and students of the school was held.

*Excerpts from the reviews:*

*"Pupils of grades 6-9 warmly met in the walls of the assembly hall thematic exhibition devoted to the anniversary of the tragedy of the Babi Yar. Special emotions and experiences were caused by excursions conducted by students of Grade 9 Dyatsyuk Nazariy and Eletin Oleksiy.*

*The general impression of the overhang, the students expressed on summing up the results of the week and class hours. And they also expressed their desire to go on training and become guides next year, because it is very interesting and enthusiastic to study history, recognize it and disclose unknown events in this way, and bring it to their peers. "*

*History teacher O.Kothenova*

### 3. Educational excursions and lectures

- A series of excursions to the educational spaces of the exhibition "Babi Yar: History and Destiny" for Kyivans and guests of the capital, for representatives of the Jewish community of Kiev, for schoolchildren and teachers of Jewish schools in Kiev.
- A series of excursions on the Jewish history of Ukraine and Kiev for citizens of Israel, the United States, etc., who are interested in their Jewish roots in Ukraine.
- A series of excursions for the representatives of the Jewish community in Kiev, as well as for schoolchildren and teachers of Jewish schools in Kiev at the exhibition "Jewish mansions of Lipki".
- A series of lectures on Jewish history and culture on the basis of the Jewish community center Halom, Kiev.
- Educational trip to the Jewish places of Ukraine.  
Together with the "Mnemosyna" Club and the Kiev Jewish Community Center "Halom".

### 4. Seminars and conferences



- Seminar for teachers "Exhibition as an educational tool. Lessons of the tragedies of the twentieth century in modern Ukraine are attempts at comprehension. "

Teachers were offered lectures, excursions to exhibitions, viewing the installation of Babi Yar, as well as trainings enabling them to touch the world of "another", "someone else's", allowing to analyze documents, photographs, legislative or administrative documents, letters, fragments of diaries written by teenagers During the Second World War. All these are possible ways of teaching not only the history of the Holocaust, but also any public discipline that allows students to become interested and give them the necessary amount of knowledge through a deep understanding of the problem, through the possibility of a profound, independent or collective analysis of historical events.

The project was organized by the Judaica Institute with the support of the Babi Yar Memorial Fund and the Dar charitable center. The Institute of Judaica thanks the Department of Education and

Science, Youth and Sports, and especially the Shevchenko Department of the Department, for help in organizing the project activities.

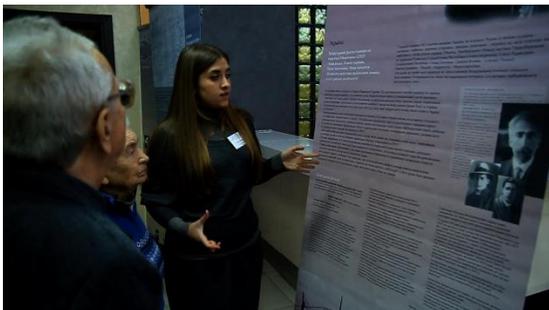
The seminar venue is A-Gallery multimedia gallery in ART MALL and Kyiv Lyceum No. 38.

- 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 International Charity Fund "Babi Yar."
- A series of seminars for schoolchildren of Jewish schools in Kiev at the exhibition "Jewish mansions of Lypki".

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

- International conference "Limud" (Limud-Ukraine, Odessa, 2017).  
Conducting lectures and thematic studies.
- Community of Creative Judaica "Sambation".  
Conducting lectures and thematic studies.
- "International Youth Conference: Babi Yar, history, tragedy, warning." Kiev.  
Conducting lectures and thematic studies.

## **6. Community programs**



### **6a. Project "Lessons of the tragedies of the 20th century on the Ukrainian land. Attempts to comprehend. An exhibition as an educational tool". Historical and philosophical crash course for history teachers from the Donetsk region.**

November 2017. Town of Konstantinovka (at the border with the conflict zone).

Historical and philosophical crash course for history teachers from the Donetsk region.

Based on the exhibitions "Holodomor, the Holocaust, the Gulag - Three Tragedies on Ukrainian Land in the Twentieth Century, The Totalitarian Regime Against the People and Man", "Anna Frank: Lessons of History" and "Origins of Tolerance" lecturers - Director of the Institute of Judaism Yulia

Smilyanskaya and anthropologist, philosopher and the theologian Alexander Filonenko - acquainted teachers with historical documents, photographs and little-known facts about the three terrible tragedies of the twentieth century.

The project was initiated and supported by the charitable foundation "DAR".

## **6b. Project “Life is beautiful. And tell your son one day”.**



In 2017 the Institute of Judaica began to implement the life-affirming project "Life is beautiful. And tell your son one day "

The project provides for a joint immersion in Jewish history - family, community, city and township - of several generations: great-grandparents, grandparents, moms / daughters, daughters / sons, grandsons / great-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives, friends and neighbors. You expect formal and informal meetings at different levels, joint and individual walks, common memories and fixing them on the page "Life is beautiful", interactive communication, photos and other joys.

## **6c. Mnemosina Club (led by J. Smilianska).**

The Mnemosina Club continues its work for seventeen 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.

## **6d. Project "Preparation of young guides".**

In early 2017 the Institute of Jewish Studies launched the project "Preparation of Young Guides". The project is managed by a researcher, historian and guide, director of the Judaica Institute, Julia Smilianska.

Participants in the project are Kyiv schoolchildren, most of whom received training at seminars and conducted excursions at the exhibition "Babi Yar: History and Memory".

## **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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Director of the Institute – Julia Smilianska