



# LIMMUD ANNUAL REVIEW 2015

# LIMMUD EVENTS IN 2015

**Limmud's promise is  
that, wherever you find  
yourself, Limmud will take  
you one step further on  
your Jewish journey.**

ARAVA	CHINA	LIMMUD IN THE WOODS	PERU
ARIZONA	CZECH REPUBLIC	MANCHESTER	SCOTLAND
ATLANTA	DURBAN	MAR DEL PLATA	STOCKHOLM
AUSTRALIA (FSU)	ESSEN	MEXICO	SYDNEY
BALTICS	FRANCE	MIAMI	THAMES VALLEY
BARCELONA	GALIL	MODI'IN	TORONTO
BAY AREA	GERMANY	MOLDOVA	TURKEY
BELGIUM	HAIFA	MOSCOW	UKRAINE
BOSTON	HARROW	NETHERLANDS	URUGUAY
BUENOS AIRES	ISRAEL (FSU)	NEW YORK	VANCOUVER
BULGARIA	ITALY	NEW YORK (FSU)	VIENNA
CANADA (FSU)	JERUSALEM	NEW ZEALAND	VOLGA-URAL (FSU)
CAPE TOWN	JOHANNESBURG	ORESUND	WINNIPEG
CHICAGO	LEEDS	OTTAWA	YEROHAM
CHILE	LIMMUD CONFERENCE		

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS

In 2015 there were  
**66 LIMMUD EVENTS**  
**RUN BY 3,000 VOLUNTEERS**  
**WITH 33,000 PARTICIPANTS**

**This annual report celebrates the global success and growth of the Limmud model and message, creating a wonderful global community of communities.**

When I look at this review, what strikes me first are not the statistics, but the photos and words (in multiple languages) which add colour and immerse us in the Limmud experience. Two things stand out.

First, Limmud is about people. The wonderful volunteers, presenters and participants who give so much, and get so much from their Limmud involvement. Each time I look at Facebook, a smile comes to me for those whom I have met and who have become my friends. I get email suggestions from around the world, make introductions for cross-Limmud initiatives such as Chavruta, and questions are a pleasure to answer for the relationships that are forged by doing so. It is special to witness the contact between groups, and the hospitality that is shown from one Limmud volunteer to another.

Second, Limmud is not a homogenous experience. We value diversity. For every event to be created by each community for their community. The programme, tastes, and atmosphere of a Limmud is both familiar and unique – from Lithuania to Turkey, Scotland to Stockholm. And while we are not all the same, we are still one family, connected by common values as we create temporary Limmud tabernacles around the world.

And it is these things that really build the story of Limmud's success and impact on the people who participate, who get involved, and the communities they are a part of.

**KEVIN SEFTON**

Over the course of the last three years as Chair of Limmud, I've been able to visit many groups, and to participate in training programmes and gatherings. I treasure it all.

Thank you to everyone who makes this possible. To those on individual teams. To those who shlep chairs across a room. To those who invite presenters. To those who present. To those who listen and learn. To those who stay up late printing badges. To those who think that nobody notices, and those who ensure that everyone notices. To those who have written their reports, to those who have assembled this review and to those on the Limmud board, Limmud in the UK Executive and the Limmud International Steering group who have supported them.

I was always asked "What is Limmud?" I would answer "It's an opportunity. The greatest opportunity in world Jewry. For people, and for communities." As I complete my three years in this role and wish David Hoffman well as he succeeds me, I still believe that, but now have a follow up when people ask "An opportunity to do what?". It's an opportunity to create memories, to build friendships and relationships, to be part of a community, to form our own communities, to be who we want to be, to challenge who we want to be, and above all truly to live up to Limmud's promise to take everyone one step further on our Jewish journey.



KEVIN SEFTON  
CHAIR OF LIMMUD

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS

## DAVID BILCHITZ

**As we prepare this annual review of Limmud activities, we are shortly approaching the complex holiday of Chanukah.**

The Babylonian Talmud (Shabbat 21b) outlines a dispute between the famous schools of Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai concerning the manner in which we should light candles during this eight day festival. Beit Shammai argues that on the first day we should light eight candles and decrease their number every day. Beit Hillel, on the other hand, argues that we should start with one candle and increase it every day. As is well known, the tradition and custom has followed Beit Hillel. Yet the Talmud preserves the dispute: why does it keep Shammai's view alive if it is not to be followed in our practice?

The Talmud famously recognizes that there is a practical reality that we have to follow one way: at the same time, that fact does not negate the truth that often exists in opposing views. The disputes that are preserved often highlight different perspectives on the world, our tradition and provide us with diverse ways of seeing. Consider the dispute between Shammai and Hillel. Shammai seems to focus on the number of days that are remaining and ends up with one candle burning: that could itself represent the manner in which ultimately everything is unified. We know famously that we proclaim G-d's oneness in the Shema too.

The approach of Beit Hillel on the other hand is often more appealing in that it is progressive and we feel as if we are moving forward one day at a time. One of my students expressed the view that it can be seen to regard the days in a more individualistic manner as each candle (and day) is valued one by one, providing a profound lesson about the importance of appreciating every individual and each day in which we live.

A simple dispute has so much depth in it and would be so much the poorer if one of these voices had been erased from our tradition. That is why Limmud has committed

itself globally to celebrating the diverse voices that exist within the Jewish community today. This unique model has spread across the Jewish world for the reason that it values every voice and recognizes the individuality of each: true community is built on a celebration of this diversity. As will be seen in the pages of this annual review, Limmud is now in 43 countries with 83 groups and it continues to grow. These exciting developments create new challenges for the organization: the Limmud International Steering Group has begun the task in 2015 of creating regional structures which enables enhanced learning between groups. We continue with our successful Training on Tour programmes. We are also hoping to launch our own Oral Tradition Project which will capture the global debates and perspectives of Limmud volunteers on the Limmud values and how to give effect to them.

**In 2015 there were  
83 LIMMUD GROUPS  
IN 43 COUNTIES**

We congratulate all the volunteers in the Limmud global community for your contribution to rendering your events successful and hope to see the candle of each event growing brighter and developing one by one.

To those who have supported Limmud volunteers throughout the year, whether as part of the Limmud International Steering Group, the wider Limmud International Team leading Training on Tour or development and support visits, and our dedicated staff, I offer a heartfelt thank you. We would not be able to carry out our activities without the generous support of our funding partners, to whom we are grateful. Finally, I would like to thank outgoing Chair of Limmud Kevin Sefton for his enormous contribution to the organisation and his support for Limmud International and look forward to working with the new Chair David Hoffman to ensure Limmud globally, goes from strength-to-strength.



DAVID BILCHITZ  
CHAIR OF LIMMUD INTERNATIONAL  
STEERING GROUP

# TRAINING ON TOUR

**Limmud's world regional development and connection programme this year took place in the three locations of Jerusalem, Chicago and Prague, supporting 100 Limmud leaders and activists from over 30 Limmud communities. Participants respectively from Israel, North America and Europe each came together to share their experiences of Limmud leadership, review challenges and explore how they might work together collectively going forward.**

Improving on accessibility and scope for engagement, large parts of the Israel seminar in 2015 were conducted in Hebrew compared to the inaugural Israel seminar in 2013. Limmud Tel Aviv, Limmud Arizona and Limmud Belgium were welcomed to the seminars this year as they had not been in existence when their previous regional seminars took place.

The programmes opened with a dedicated space for each Limmud community to highlight their successes, concerns and ambitions and closed with a deeper consideration of how Limmud teams in their region might collaborate and support each other. With many shared experiences, discussions and inspirations in between!

Sessions focused on exploring inclusivity and diversity within Limmud processes and events were balanced with choices of workshops covering a range of issues led by a combination of participants and the Limmud International facilitation team. These included topics such as what we can learn about participant care from Disneyland customer care, branding beyond logos, team building, engaging young people, fundraising, and planning for a residential Limmud event.



As a Limmud seminar, a key component was also the opportunity for Jewish learning, reflecting on the theme of food using the international Limmud chavruta project resource. European participants explored a choice of synagogues in the Jewish Quarter of Prague and took part in a guided tour of the Jewish Museum of Prague and associated sites. In both seminars in Israel and Chicago, participants organised egalitarian Kabbalat Shabbat services.

Our thanks to all those who planned and led these seminars, our funding partners whose support has been crucial, and to those who participated and made the seminars such a successful experience for themselves and each other.

We look forward to Training on Tour in Latin America and Europe in 2016!



## ABOUT LIMMUD

**From a 75-person conference just outside London for Jewish educators from different parts of the community and their families over the winter holidays in 1980, Limmud has become a global movement.**

**While each group is independent, we are connected by common values, training and community.**

Volunteers visit and support each others' events, and the week-long Limmud Conference each December in the UK remains a focal point for hundreds of volunteers around the world to join 2,500 other participants in a unique and intense celebration of Jewish learning and culture.

All this is held together by the Limmud organisation. Based in the UK, the organisation is the strategic framework and governance structure for Limmud and our values.

The Limmud organisation includes:

- Limmud in the UK that is responsible for all Limmud activities in the UK
- Limmud International that nurtures and supports the network of independent Limmud groups outside the UK
- Support and shared teams for marketing, finance, fundraising and other support activities

We thank everyone involved in making Limmud special, all our volunteers, our small professional team, our presenters, participants and financial supporters, without whom none of this would be possible. Each event has a story. Each person has a story.

Thank you.

## THANKS

Limmud acknowledges the generous support of individuals and Jewish foundations and organisations who support our international volunteer development and connection activities (under the auspices of Limmud International), including Pears Foundation, Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, The Natan Fund and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

### SUPPORTED BY



# LIMMUD GROUPS' REPORTS

## Limmud SA Cape Town

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.ZA)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 7 – 9 AUG 2015

NEXT EVENT: 19 – 22 AUG 2016

2015 saw new enthusiasm brought to Limmud Cape Town. Our brilliant and enthusiastic volunteers brought a special energy to Limmud, which added to our growing reputation in Cape Town. We were thrilled that our 9th annual Conference, held in August, was a sold-out success, with over 550 Limmudniks passing through the gates of the Protea Hotel Technopark in the beautiful surrounds of Stellenbosch. Our 86 presenters, of whom 72 were local, presented world-class sessions across the spectrum of Jewish thought and experience. 130 stimulating sessions later, all the delegates left feeling exhilarated, albeit exhausted, after taking one step further on their Jewish journeys. Our Conference chairs, Craig Nudelman and Maxine Boyd, did a stellar job overseeing the team, which included a number of new volunteers in key leadership positions.

We were especially proud of the large number of first-timers to attend this year's Conference, which bodes well for the growth of our organisation. We also saw an increase in young adults and young families coming to Limmud, bringing an energy that is needed not only within Limmud, but Cape Town Jewry itself. These young adults who attended helped contribute to the buzzing atmosphere over the weekend. Finally, our programming team, under the guidance of Gabi Nudelman and Heidi-Jane Esakov-Jacobson must be commended for sourcing new and exciting presenters, whose fresh contributions kept delegates riveted. We congratulate each Limmud volunteer who made the event so successful and look forward to the continued growth of Limmud Cape Town.

BY CRAIG NUDELMAN, CO-CHAIR 2015

## AFRICA



## Limmud SA Durban

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.ZA)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 10 AUG 2015

NEXT EVENT: 22 – 23 AUG 2016



We started off the year with a 'Taste of Limmud' with two presentations - Gilad Stern on what determines Jewish heritage and Dennis Davis's review of Ari Shavit's book 'My Promised Land'. A delicious buffet lunch was included in the event. A large turnout resulted in our having to use the spacious Minor Hall at the Durban Jewish Club.

The annual conference was held on Monday 10th of August. As this was a public holiday, it enabled us to have a full day event unlike previous years when the Durban event was held on a Monday and Tuesday evening, book-ended between the Cape town and Johannesburg weekend residential events.

Because of the change in scheduling, we were able to attract a number of young families with children who took advantage of a special Young Limmud programme featuring various activities, including a puppet show, games and craft projects that were run by a number of enthusiastic and capable young new volunteers who acted as madrichim.



LIMMUD SUNDAY  
JHB 2015



Utilizing the facilities provided by the Durban Jewish Centre, we held seven concurrent sessions throughout the day in four venues, a total of 28 sessions. A range of international and local presenters spoke on a wide variety of topics including literary and biblical texts, Jewish history, music, politics and current affairs, and anti-Semitism. Some of the popular presenters included Naftali Brawer, an Orthodox rabbi, Joel Hofman, a biblical scholar and Avi Melamed, a Middle East analyst, as well as local presenters, Warren Shapiro, a lawyer, and David Bilchitz, a well-known presenter from Johannesburg and Chair of Limmud International.

A kosher vegetarian buffet lunch was enjoyed by the 182 participants representing the diversity of the Durban Jewish community of about 2,000. As a result of our innovation in the event format and timing, we were able to attract more people, specifically young families, who had not been able to attend previously. We hope to hold a similar full day Limmud in 2016 and continue to stimulate interest and attract younger people.

BY ROB HACKENBRUCH, CO-CHAIR 2016

## Limmud SA Johannesburg

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.ZA)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 31 JULY – 2 AUG 2015

NEXT EVENT: 26 – 29 AUG 2016

As we enter our 10th year of Limmud in South Africa, we have the opportunity to look back with gratitude and humility at all that has been built. In Johannesburg, Limmud has allowed individual paths to link forming a community dedicated to tolerance, growth, passion and mutual respect. A group united by a generosity of spirit and the desire to learn, share and create.

In particular, 2015 was a year of significant success for Limmud Johannesburg. Chief among our highlights was celebrating our largest ever residential conference with over 550 participants sharing a Limmud weekend and Shabbat filled with diverse learning and engagement. A further 400 participants joined for Sunday. This figure included an unprecedented number of young adults and families, bringing a new dynamic to our community.

For the first time we were also able to offer a specially designed teen track featuring some of the most innovative and diverse sessions ever seen at conference.

As part of its year-long programme of activities Limmud Johannesburg hosted charity projects, quizzes, theatrical workshops and a Shavuot learning night focused upon the theme of "Ruth, the Convert" as a lens to engage with xenophobic attacks that have rocked South Africa. Beyond the traditional learning environment Limmud also hosted a walking tour of "Old Jewish Johannesburg".

A moving moment for many was experienced when it was discovered that one of the Synagogues visited now serves as a church for a Zionist Christian congregation. Approximately 5,000 people were in attendance for the morning service filling the building completely. Every single one of them burst into cheers when a former shul member hugged the pastor and thanked him for looking after his childhood place of prayer.

Internally, 2015 was a year of important transition for Limmud Johannesburg as a core executive team with years of experience was bolstered by the addition of younger members who had not played as decisive a role in the past. We believe that we are in a stronger place for this new balance and are able to look towards the future with deep gratitude and excitement.

BY JOSHUA HOVSHA, 2015 CHAIR

## ASIA



### Limmud China

[WWW.LIMMUDCHINA.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDCHINA.ORG)

[INFO@LIMMUDCHINA.ORG](mailto:INFO@LIMMUDCHINA.ORG)

LAST EVENT: 27 – 29 NOV 2015

**Limmud** China recently held its fourth conference. Amid the cold winds of snow-covered Beijing, 170 participants gathered for our most packed and diverse programme of sessions to date. Presenters came from around China, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, India, Israel, the US and the UK. This year's conference was the first to be held within the city itself, allowing for much broader participation from various parts of the local community. The event was preceded by Beijing Jewish Film Week. This successful melding of two Jewish fixtures created a week-long festival of Jewish activities in the city.

The largest contingent of participants this year was from Beijing. We hope to build on the success of this year's event and the momentum of its rich programme to attract yet larger numbers of participants from around Southeast Asia and, in turn, broaden the range of communities which take ownership of the conference. The conference provides a platform for Jews of the region to share ideas and experiences and has strong ambitions in this area. We hope it will become the forum through which established and nascent communities come to draw energy, build connections and test new ideas.

This year's conference has uncovered and put on display the incredible talent and knowledge that resides in the Jewish communities of the region. We hope that the vibrancy of this year's programme has raised the bar for what Jews in this part of Asia can achieve.

BY LIMMUD CHINA

### Limmud India

[CONTACT VIA FACEBOOK](#)

LAST EVENT: 23 – 24 OCT 2014

NEXT EVENT: EARLY 2016

After a successful pilot residential event in 2014 that took place over two days outside of Mumbai, Limmud India has been planning its next event making use of the same model. Their event had been scheduled for November 2015, but due to overlaps with national Hindu Diwali celebrations, the team has decided to postpone their event until early 2016.



# LIMMUD GROUPS' REPORTS

## AUSTRALASIA



### Limmud Canberra

**NEXT EVENT: JUNE 2016**

Following a successful Limmud-style learning event at Shavuot for the small Canberra Jewish community, a cross-communal team including young adults have come together to create a Limmud Canberra community. They are planning their first full Limmud event for June 2016.

### Limmud FSU Australia

[WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG.AU](http://WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG.AU)

LIMMUDFSUAUS@GMAIL.COM

**LAST EVENT: SYDNEY, 6 MAR 2015; MELBOURNE, 8 – 9 MAR 2015**

**NEXT EVENT: 2016/2017**

Over 400 participants attended the inaugural Limmud FSU events for Russian-speaking Jews in Sydney and Melbourne, run in partnership with the Zionist Federation of Australia.

The first event in Sydney was attended by 150 participants with another 250 arriving for a two day festival of Jewish learning in the Lorne Mantra Resort, on the Great Ocean Road, near Melbourne. Bringing together Russian-speaking Jews from the length and breadth of Australia, the festival celebrated Jewish identity, history and culture, in an inclusive, pluralistic and egalitarian celebration of contemporary Jewish life.

The prominent Member of the Victorian Parliament, David Southwick opened the Melbourne festival by saying, "We are extremely proud of the very first Limmud FSU festival to take place in Australia, which will enrich the Jewish community of Victoria and will strengthen the ties between the Australian Jewish community and Israel."

"Going to Limmud FSU was the best decision I made this year," said one of the organising team members, Jemima Meltser. "It was great to spend time with so many like-minded people, meet new friends, learn about Judaism and celebrate being Jewish. Now all I want to know is when the next Limmud festival will be held!"

"The Zionist Federation of Australia is excited to be in partnership with Limmud FSU in this exceptional event," said Danny Lamm, President of the ZFA. "We believe that it is essential to engage the Russian-speaking members of the Australian Jewish community in the life of the broader Jewish community, just as the arrival of over one million Russian speakers to Israel has proved to be a vital element in the building of the State and its future."

Ron Weiser, President of the Zionist Federation of New South Wales said, "Following the success of Limmud FSU in Australia this year, we are now looking forward to hosting the next Limmud FSU festival in Sydney a year from now."

BY SARAH BENDETSKY



## Limmud Melbourne

[WWW.LIMMUDOZ.COM.AU](http://WWW.LIMMUDOZ.COM.AU)  
[INFO@LIMMUDOZ.COM.AU](mailto:INFO@LIMMUDOZ.COM.AU)  
**LAST EVENT:** 7 – 9 JUN 2014  
**NEXT EVENT:** 25 – 27 JUN 2016

 Limmud Oz alternates its main event between Melbourne and Sydney each year. As 2015 was the year for Sydney, Limmud Oz Melbourne has been quieter since June 2014. Our next event will be 25-27 June 2016 so we are now busy making plans!

BY CO-CHAIRPERSON

## Limmud NZ (New Zealand)

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.NZ)  
**CONTACT VIA WEBSITE**  
**LAST EVENT:** 22 – 23 AUG 2015

 Limmud NZ once again held a successful conference, recognised as a highlight in the annual calendar of the Jewish community, bringing together around 500 participants. Through crowdsourcing, earlier in the year Limmud NZ held a slogan competition to create a tagline that embodies the Limmud NZ experience. The winning slogan was 'Link, Learn & Laugh' and the lucky winner received a free ticket to the Limmud NZ event.



## Limmud Perth

**NEXT EVENT: 20 MAR 2016**

We are planning to hold our first ever Limmud event on Sunday March 20, 2016. It will be a one day event run at Carmel School who are holding their own Judaica Conference on the Thursday / Friday prior and are kindly loaning us some of their presenters. The exact identity of these presenters is yet to be revealed, but we on the steering committee are already very excited that they are planning to join us in Perth, Western Australia - one of the most isolated cities in the world. See you there!

BY CAROL MILLNER, STEERING COMMITTEE

## Limmud Queensland

Inspired by Limmud communities and events taking place in other parts of Australia, there is enthusiasm for Limmud to join the Jewish communal calendar in Queensland. A small team of activists are working on raising awareness about the values and potential of Limmud with a view to holding a Limmud event along the sunshine coast.



## Limmud Sydney

[WWW.LIMMUD-OZ.COM.AU](http://WWW.LIMMUD-OZ.COM.AU)

LIMMUD@SHALOM.EDU.AU

LAST EVENT: 6 – 8 JUN 2015

NEXT EVENT: 3 JUL 2016; NOV 2016

**Limmud-Oz** 1,000 people enjoyed Limmud Sydney in June 2015. With over 225 presenters the diverse program offered exciting options for everyone over 2.5 days. Record high session submissions left only one possible option – the buzz had to start right away!

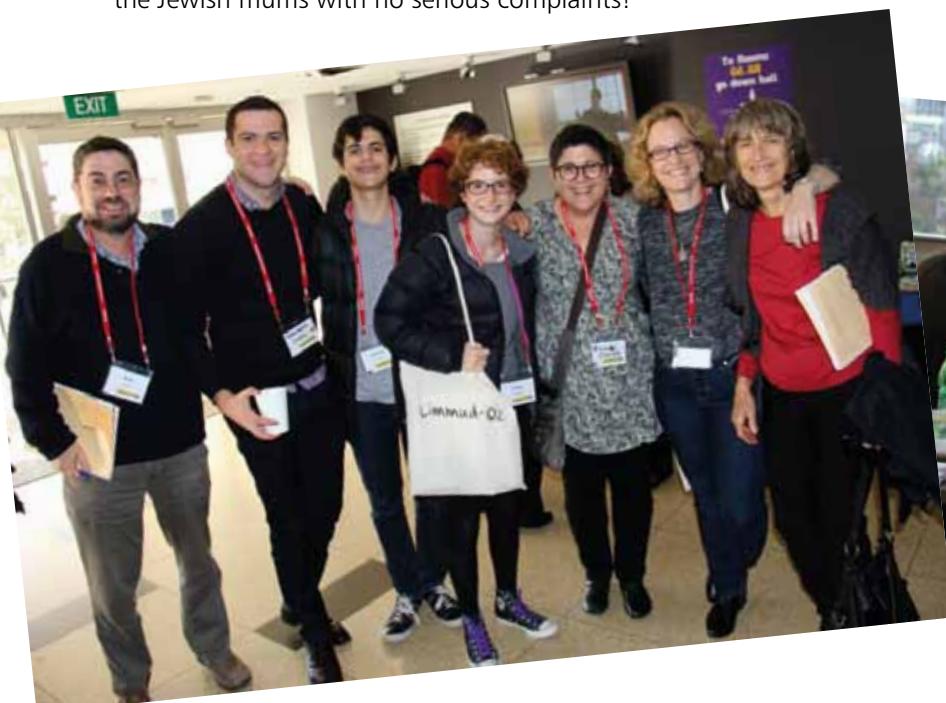
A true festival of Jewish ideas – arts, culture, books, thought, philosophy, religion, history, current affairs and performances – international, local and over 20 interstate presenters were proud to put on an inspiring program that made it difficult to choose where to go. We successfully trialled a movie track for the first time – with a diverse range of movies available throughout the day, often with the opportunity to hear more from the producer.

The fully supervised kids drop-off program for ages 5–12 was fun and engaging, and greatly appreciated by the parents, allowing them to fully enjoy the main program. In addition, pre-school and tots activities made Limmud Sydney an all-ages event.

This year we collaborated with caterer Our Big Kitchen (OBK), a local community kitchen that provides for those in need. From the outset it was evident that OBK had put on outstanding quality food and service that left even the Jewish mums with no serious complaints!

The volunteer team worked for many months with the assistance of The Shalom Institute to create this outstanding event. The volunteers (like the participants) were a diverse bunch, motivated by a variety of reasons: engaged in the community, secular, Israeli, young, old, observant, political, social and everything in-between. They all worked together to create this unique Jewish community learning opportunity. Limmud Sydney enables people to get inspired again, together, without apology.

BY TOMER HASSON, LIMMUD SYDNEY CO-CHAIR



## Limmud (Limud) Barcelona

WWW.LIMUDBARCELONA.ORG

LIMUDBARCELONA@LIMUDBARCELONA.ORG

LAST EVENT: 25 OCT 2015



Limud de Barcelona ha alcanzado su segundo año de vida, con mayores desafíos y un equipo que ha ido ganando experiencia y la creación de oportunidades.

Hemos logrado nuestros dos objetivos principales para 2015: la realización del segundo Limud Barcelona y la constitución de la Asociación Limud España, que trabaja para proveer una estructura formal del cual proyectar cada evento con garantías mínimas.

En esta segunda edición participaron casi 200 personas, incluidos los niños y jóvenes, y programación exclusiva para ellos (limud niños y adolescentes).

El evento fue organizado por un equipo de más de 20 voluntarios, dirigido por dos miembros de la Asociación Limud España, que estuvieron a cargo de la coordinación general del evento.

Se organizaron diferentes áreas como la atención de los participantes, comunicación y las redes sociales, logística, catering, bitajón, etc., para proporcionar las mejores condiciones para cada participante.

En este Limud 2015, ofrecimos un programa atractivo e innovador con 35 presentadores, que desarrollaron una amplia gama de actividades y lecturas de los diferentes campos del pensamiento, la creación y la educación judía.

Con la participación de un público con distintas nacionalidades: israelí, brasileños, chilenos, argentinos, americanos, alemanes, peruanos etc. Residentes españoles en Cataluña, Madrid, Valencia fueron protagonistas de un evento sin precedentes en nuestra ciudad de Barcelona.

Contamos con presentadores que vinieron especialmente de Israel, Francia, Alemania, Perú y otras partes de España, para compartir con todos nosotros.

Limud Barcelona es posible gracias a las contribuciones de las instituciones judías, aportes públicos y contribuciones de donantes privados, lo que nos permitió hacer de cada evento, y nuestro siguiente reto es traer este festival de la cultura judía en España en otros lugares.

Limud Barcelona has reached its second year of life, with greater challenges and a team that has been gaining experience and creating opportunities.

## EUROPE

We've achieved our two main goals for 2015: the realization of the second Limud Barcelona and the constitution of the Limud Spain Association, which works to provide Limud Barcelona with a formal structure from which to put on each event with minimum guarantees.

In this year, there were nearly 200 people participating in Limud, including children and youth, and exclusive programming for them (Limud kids and teens).

The event was organized by a team of over 20 volunteers, led by two members of the Association Limud Spain, who were in charge of the overall coordination of the event. Different areas such as participant care, communication and social networks, logistics, catering, security etc. were organized to provide the best conditions for every single participant.

In this Limud 2015, we offered an attractive and innovative program with 35 presenters, who developed a wide range of activities and readings from the various fields of thought, creation and Jewish education.

Participants of many nationalities, Israeli, Spanish, Brazilian, French, Chilean, American, Argentinean, German, Peruvian, and Spanish residents in Catalonia, Madrid a Valencia took part in an event unparalleled in our city Barcelona.

Presenters included those who came especially from Israel, France, Germany, Peru and other parts of Spain, to share with all of us.

Limud Barcelona is possible thanks to the contributions of Jewish institutions, public contributions and contributions from private donors, which allowed us to make each event, and our next challenge is to bring this festival of Jewish culture to other locations in Spain.

BY MARGOT FUENTES KRATTER,  
GENERAL COORDINATOR LIMUD BARCELONA 2015



## Limmud Belgium

[WWW.HOWDOYOUJEW.BE](http://WWW.HOWDOYOUJEW.BE)  
 CONTACT VIA FACEBOOK  
 LAST EVENT: 21 JUN 2015

In Belgium this journey started five years ago, just after the passing of the three founding fathers of the community's postwar reconstruction, as a deep and wide collective soul-searching. "Where are the others?" can stand as the crispest delineation of the horizon we traced (i.e. where are the disenfranchised or the unseen; the 25-45s; the innovative initiatives or projects; and the togetherness rather than the divisiveness).

Flash-forward to our Conference (the second edition of HowDoYouJew? - Limmud Belgium - the festival of Jewish life, learning and the unexpected) with 600 participants on 21 June 2015, which for various reasons (and most important of all for solidarity and symbolic reasons) we decided to organise at and with the Jewish Museum of Belgium, in the heart of Brussels.

After the resounding and unforeseeable success of the first HowDoYouJew? over a year ago, and after the painful events in the intervening period (in Brussels on 24 May 2014, Paris, Copenhagen and further afield), we had come to the collective conclusion that our next horizon of learning and enabling should be to take the process of dialogue and enjoyment and togetherness towards the inclusion of further Others, and notably to take it beyond the self-(Jewish-community)-centred towards inter-cultural dialogue.

Alongside the widening of our volunteers team and the enhanced multi-lingualism (with sessions in French, Dutch, German, English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino), the inclusion of this inter-cultural dialogue programming and sense of purpose constituted an important milestone of 2015.

We had heartening participation from other European Limmud teams, had also sent members of our core team to participate in other Limmuds (France, Germany, Canada, UK notably, as well as the Training on Tour), and we benefited from the tremendous support and inspiration offered by fellow Limmuds and Limmudniks. Also to note: the intense and fruitful cross-fertilisation with other endeavours (Moishe House, Dor HaShalom, Israel Connect European Young Leadership Programme, youth movements, etc).

All of this is bringing us all closer to the reality of our initial dream, this shared vision of a vibrant and diverse Jewish life; of a European Limmud hub; and of establishing the conditions of possibility for new initiators and initiatives to emerge and blossom.

BY JIM DRATWA, CO-CHAIR

## Limmud Birmingham

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY)  
[BIRMINGHAM@LIMMUD.ORG](mailto:BIRMINGHAM@LIMMUD.ORG)  
 NEXT EVENT: 10 JUL 2016

 A team has been formed and we are very excited to be planning our first event, a day of Limmud in Birmingham and the West Midlands. It is due to take place on Sunday 10 July 2016 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

BY MARION KINSHUCK, SECRETARY

## Limmud Cambridge

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY)  
[CAMBRIDGE@LIMMUD.ORG](mailto:CAMBRIDGE@LIMMUD.ORG)  
 LAST EVENT: 3 NOV 2013  
 NEXT EVENT: 19 JUN 2016

 With some new members recruited to the team, Limmud Cambridge are in full planning mode for their diverse Jewish learning event for 2016. Expected to draw participants from the southern part of England and East Anglia, the level of Jewish learning in this illustrious university town will certainly be raised!

## Limmud Conference (UK)

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG)  
[OFFICE@LIMMUD.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@LIMMUD.ORG)  
**LAST EVENT:** 25 – 31 DEC 2015  
**NEXT EVENT:** 23 – 29 DEC 2016

 Limmud Conference 2014 saw 2500+ people from 27 countries converge for a week of celebrating all things Jewish. A diverse programme of more than 1,200 sessions kept participants busy from 8am until the early hours of the next day. With balanced panels, opportunities for debate, text-based learning, cooking, dancing, singing and comedy, the programme was challenging, thought provoking and curated to inspire. Learning was not just confined to the session spaces, with exhibitions and displays around campus to promote discussion; including The Library of Rescued Memories, Rainbow Jews and JTrails.

Limmud Conference 2014 was a conference of hellos and goodbyes. We said hello and welcomed a new affiliation with Celia Clyne Banqueting, resulting in tasty food and satisfied Limmudniks. And, in addition to saying goodbye to 2014, we said goodbye to Warwick University, which had been the home to Limmud Conference for eight years, and where Limmud has truly thrived.

Limmud Conference 2014 would not have been possible without the hard work and efforts of the 30 core volunteers on the Limmud Conference steering group and the hundreds of people who volunteered in the lead up to and on the event to make conference the success that it was.

Our focus this year has largely been on the site move from Warwick to Birmingham. We are once again expecting a high number of participants and have seen demand surge for family places at Conference which we have expanded this year. We are working with Celia Clyne Banqueting again to provide our catering for the second year running, following excellent feedback from last year. The programme continues to grow and we look forward to another brilliant Limmud Conference this year.

BY SHANA BOLTIN, LIMMUD CONFERENCE 2014 CO-CHAIR, AND CLAIRE SAMUEL, JOANNA ISH-HOROWICZ AND MIKE GLADSTONE, LIMMUD CONFERENCE 2015 CO-CHAIRS

## Limmud Czech Republic (CR)

[WWW.LIMMUD.CZ](http://WWW.LIMMUD.CZ)  
[INFO@LIMMUD.CZ](mailto:INFO@LIMMUD.CZ)  
**LAST EVENT:** 29 APR – 3 MAY 2015  
**NEXT EVENT:** 25 – 29 MAY 2016

 Knowing what Limmud CR's residential event might hold in store following their first event in 2014, this second, now annual, event sold out quickly, including the extra accommodation provided this year. Much learning, interaction and fun was had by all, with the team planning for further expansion in 2016 to meet demand from current and future participants to take part.

## Limmud (Limoud) France

[WWW.LIMOUD.ORG](http://WWW.LIMOUD.ORG)  
[INFO@LIMOUD.ORG](mailto:INFO@LIMOUD.ORG)  
**LAST EVENT:** 27 FEB – 1 MAR 2015  
**NEXT EVENT:** 4 – 6 MAR 2016

 The residential weekend of Limoud is a highlight in the French Jewish community and is an important opportunity for different streams of Judaism to come together under one roof and to speak and hear different opinions in a safe space. Jewish learning for the mind and soul over the weekend is fueled by plenty of delicious French cuisine and late night singing!



## Limmud FSU Belarus

[WWW.LIMMUD.BY](http://WWW.LIMMUD.BY) / [WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG)

INFO@LIMMUD.BY

LAST EVENT: 12 – 14 SEP 2014

NEXT EVENT: 13 – 15 SEP 2016

 Last year, some 700 participants from Belarus, but also from Ukraine, Russia, Israel and the US came to celebrate the best Jewish educational experience ever. The former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's grandparents and the founder of modern Hebrew Eliezer ben Yehuda were born in Belarus. The son of Ariel Sharon – Gilad Sharon – and the grandson of Eliezer Ben Yehuda Gil Hovav – came to Limmud for special ceremonies dedicated to their famous relatives.

Two special events surrounded the Limmud FSU Festival. During a September 11 tour in Luzhky, the hometown of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, a special memorial plaque at the site of Ben-Yehuda's childhood home was unveiled. Additionally, a memorial and special photo exhibition honoring the late Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon were held on September 15 in the National History Museum of Belarus, in the capital city of Minsk.

Limmud itself started on Friday morning, with the usual five to eight lectures at the same time, old friends meeting in the lobby, people going to the lectures held in two Belarusian theaters and at Vitebsk art museum, and always active Limmud FSU founder Chaim Chesler – who hugs almost everybody in the lobby – I would call it an ideal Limmud start.

BY LARISA POPOVSKAYA

## Limmud FSU Europe

[WWW.LIMMUDFSU.EU](http://WWW.LIMMUDFSU.EU)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

NEXT EVENT: 2017

 This year a multi-national Limmud FSU Europe team has formed to create an event for Russian speaking Jews to learn and connect together, wherever they live in Europe. After an exciting start with volunteers Skyping in from different countries, the team are planning a volunteer retreat for 2016 and a weekend residential event aimed at Russian speaking Jews from across Europe in 2017.



## Limmud FSU Moldova

[WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG)

GALINA.RYBNIKOVA@GMAIL.COM

LAST EVENT: 15 – 17 MAY 2015

NEXT EVENT: MAY 2017

 The Limmud FSU Moldova festival which took place on 15 – 17 May in Chisinau, Moldova, gave the more than 400 young Jewish participants a choice of dozens of lectures, workshops, presentations and cultural events in a fascinating multi-faceted program.

One participant was Michal Grayevsky, President of Jerusalem Capital Studios, representing Ronald Lauder, current President of the World Jewish Congress. She announced that Lauder, the philanthropist and cosmetics mogul, was making a major donation to Limmud FSU. Grayevsky had been invited to Kishinev by Matthew Bronfman, Chair of the Limmud FSU International Steering Committee and Limmud FSU Founder Chaim Chesler, to experience the event, and accompany him and his 19 year-old daughter Sasha, on a roots visit to Ataki, the small town from which the Bronfman family emigrated to Canada at the beginning of the 20th century.

During the conference, an exhibit of the works of the painter Nahum Gutman was shown for the first time and his son, Professor Chemi Gutman, gave a lecture. The exhibition was mounted by the Nachum Gutman Museum in Tel Aviv together with Nativ, the department in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office which deals with Russian immigrants. It included reproductions of the artist's work, especially landscapes, family and biblical stories.

A variety of artists, journalists and opinion makers from Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Israel took part in the events including the jazz pianist virtuoso Leonid Ptashka, the violinist Sanya Kroiter, singer Irena Rosenfeld, Veniamin Smekhov, a star of Russian cinema and television, Mark Galesnik, editor of the popular Russian-Israeli satirical magazine Beseder, Igor Schupak Director of the Holocaust Center in Dnipropetrovsk, Aaron Weiss of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and documentary film director, Boris Maftzir, among many others.

BY ROMAN KOGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LIMMUD FSU

## Limmud FSU Moscow

[WWW.LIMMUD.RU](http://WWW.LIMMUD.RU)

[PM@LIMMUD.RU](mailto:PM@LIMMUD.RU)

LAST EVENT: 22 – 26 APR 2015

NEXT EVENT: 14 – 17 APR 2016

 This year's Limmud FSU in Moscow gathered together a record 1,500 people, making it the biggest Jewish event of the year and the second largest Limmud in the world. This Limmud was different in several ways. First, there was a new project manager Tatiana Pashaeva. Second, for the first time in Moscow Limmud history, people had to live in two hotels, because space in our loved Klyazma resort had run out. And thirdly, the program was a blast!

Natalia Dobzhanskaya, a volunteer from Israel, is an experienced Limmudnik, but had come to Moscow for the first time. "I came because I had heard about its scope, high level and the many interesting presenters. Limmud Moscow is the largest scale Limmud conference I've ever attended".

Polyna Berlin came from Los Angeles, to gain experience to help in developing the first Russian-speaking Limmud planned for early 2016 on the US West Coast. "I looked up the program of the Limmud Moscow and I liked it. It had strong content, is well-organized, the presenters are great". Polyna's response to my question "What is Limmud for you?" was: "Limmud is my Judaism and my affiliation to Jewry".

With some nine parallel sessions, it was very hard to decide where to go. Especially in the evening. Especially at night. Especially when you want to have fun. The choice at night was wide: those who were ready for even more lectures had that opportunity; others who preferred to play intellectual games were welcome to do so, whilst

others listened to a concert. Here too there were choices: klezmer, wartime music, contemporary music and spontaneous groups of guitarists all around the hotel lobbies. It is already a Limmud tradition to join a sing-song in the lobby which finished at six on Sunday morning.

BY LARISA POPOVSKAYA

## Limmud FSU St Petersburg

[WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG / WWW.LIMMUD.SPB.RU](http://WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG / WWW.LIMMUD.SPB.RU)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE / [LIMMUDSPB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LIMMUDSPB@GMAIL.COM)

LAST EVENT: 28 – 30 NOV 2014

NEXT EVENT: FALL 2016

 One of the most vibrant, flourishing Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union, roughly 100,000 Jews reside in St. Petersburg.

Here, in the second-largest Jewish community in Russia, cultural, social, and religious life in the Jewish community of St. Petersburg showcases a very active and exciting place to explore with Limmud FSU. Annual conferences, started in 2011, reflect high intellectual calibre and cultural-oriented programming, as one would expect from a Jewish learning festival held in Russia's cultural capital.

At the 2014 Limmud FSU St. Petersburg event, former Prisoner of Zion Josef Mendelevich made an emotional return to the city where he was imprisoned in the 1970s to join hundreds of Jews from across Russia for the 4th Annual Limmud FSU St. Petersburg. The three-day Jewish learning festival, at the New Peterhof Hotel, featured a packed program of lectures, workshops, round-table discussions, music and a wide-range of cultural events.



Mendelevich was held in a Soviet prison after being arrested for leading the 1970 "Operation Wedding", a Soviet Jewish plot to steal a plane from then-Leningrad's airport and escape to Israel. After gaining his freedom, Mendelevich made Aliyah to Israel. He was among the Limmud FSU St. Petersburg main speakers.

350 participants, primarily from St. Petersburg, but also from many neighbouring cities and countries (including Moscow, Kaliningrad, Kazan), attended some 80 seminars, lectures, presentations, master-classes, round-table discussions and creative workshops on a wide variety of topics.

BY LIMMUD FSU

## Limmud FSU Ukraine

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.UA](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.UA)  
[GALINA.RYBNIKOVA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GALINA.RYBNIKOVA@GMAIL.COM)  
**LAST EVENT: 5 – 8 NOV 2015**  
**NEXT EVENT: OCT 2016**

 The city of Lviv in Western Ukraine welcomed an influx of over 750 (mostly) young participants to a Limmud FSU Ukraine conference. The opening was addressed by the Mayor of Lviv, Andrei Sudovey, who welcomed the Jewish participants to what was historically a major Jewish city and by Eliav Belotserkovsky, the Israeli ambassador in Ukraine.

Three hotels had been taken over in their entirety during the three-day pluralistic, egalitarian conference, which, like all Limmud FSU events, is entirely planned and run by young local volunteers. Participants had the choice of more than 150 lectures, presentations, discussions, master-classes, workshops and study groups on many different subjects, from Jewish history, prose and poetry, theater and dance, Yiddish and Hebrew languages, the Middle East and the Israel-Arab conflict, musical performances and much more, all planned to widen their Jewish knowledge, pride and identity. A talk was given by Eitan Haber, the chief of staff of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on "The Effect of the Murder of Rabin on the Political and Social Life of Israel," and another by historian Yoel Rappel on the Jewish history of Lviv. David Yonatan Greenberg, the son of the noted Israeli poet, Uri Zvi Greenberg, who was born in the nearby town of Bilyi Kamin and studied and wrote in Lviv, spoke about his father in a talk entitled, "The Poet and Prophet."

Tanya Abovich, a volunteer, says: "Before Birthright I had thought that being a Jewish activist or professional was

rather shameful and embarrassing". In 2012, she received a phone call from Osik Akselrud, the regional director of Hillel and a chairman of Limmud in Ukraine. As a result of the call she was appointed director of Hillel in Kiev, the country's capital, which serves the city's Jewish population of some 50,000 people. She says, "I wanted to create a unique environment where every student can negotiate his or her own path. It doesn't matter where the path leads, as long as it is a Jewish path. Limmud is a great opportunity for our students to get more involved in their Jewish path."

BY ASHER WEILL

## Limmud FSU Volga-Urals

[WWW.LIMMUDVU.RU](http://WWW.LIMMUDVU.RU)  
[INFO@LIMMUDVU.RU](mailto:INFO@LIMMUDVU.RU)  
**LAST EVENT: 6 – 8 SEP 2015**  
**NEXT EVENT: 2016/2017**

 The first Limmud FSU to be held in Kazan was dubbed Limmud Volga-Urals. Held in a lakeside resort some 15 kilometers from Kazan, the mostly young Jewish adults in the three day event came from Kazan itself and the cities of the surrounding areas including Nizhny Novgorod, Saratov, Samara, Chelyabinsk and Yekaterinburg. The 450 participants could choose from over 100 presentations (five or six taking place at the same time) given by speakers from Russia and Israel.

Among popular speakers were Rabbi Yosef Mendelevich, the Russian refusenik who, in June, 1970, attempted with a group of 16 other dissidents to hijack a plane from Leningrad and fly it to freedom. Mendelevich spent several years in the Chistopol prison near Kazan, and this was his first return visit after having been released in 1981. Particularly popular for the Russian-speaking audience were the well-known blogger Anton Nosik, the poet and actor Vladimir Vishnevskiy, noted academic



Evgeniy Satanovskiy, and an enormously popular but rather weirdly named Gefilte Drive Band.

Roman Kogan, Executive Director of Limmud FSU said, "It is always very exciting for us to launch a Limmud FSU in a new community. It is equally important for the local community itself because Limmud, with its special and unique qualities, brings a special message: that of attracting people to a Jewish circle of activity, and Limmud is virtually the only door to such circles. Limmud Volga-Urals certainly lived up to our expectations and was a great success."

In summing up the festival, the founder of Limmud FSU, Chaim Chesler, said, "Over and beyond the Limmud conference itself, the inter-faith dialogue we convened brought together Moslems, Russian Orthodox, Catholics and Jews – including Chabad, with whom we had not had a working relationship before. The whole Limmud FSU event was an unqualified triumph."

BY ASHER WEILL

## Limmud Germany (Limmud.de)

[WWW.LIMMUD.DE/EN](http://WWW.LIMMUD.DE/EN)

[INFO@LIMMUD.DE](mailto:INFO@LIMMUD.DE)

LAST EVENT: 30 APR – 3 MAY 2015

NEXT EVENT: 5 – 8 MAY 2016

**limmud.de** For Limmud Germany, the year 2015 was filled with many firsts and unique opportunities.

The most significant change was the new location of the main event, as the annual Limmud.de festival moved to a new venue by the North Sea. Since it offers the right conditions for a multi-day Jewish learning festival and experience, the new location was received by the participants with great enthusiasm, and with a quarter of the 400 participants being children, the family friendly environment added greatly to the success. Yet it was the volunteers from all over the country who devoted their time and efforts to organize or to teach at Limmud, who allowed Limmud to bring its full potential to life.

In addition to the annual Festival, Limmud Germany had two day events in Berlin and Essen. The Day Limmud

Berlin in August was held as part of the European Maccabi Games, and allowed Limmudniks to meet and learn with the athletes and fans of this high profile event in the German and European Jewish community. Some 200 people attended this in many ways special Day Limmud event held over Shabbat.



Both the Festival and the Day Limmud in Berlin events sparked the interest of individuals to create an event of their own. Ultimately, a new Limmud Day event was formed in Essen to bring together the surrounding Jewish communities and to give them a local flavour of what Limmud has to offer.

Thanks to these and many other tireless efforts of dedicated volunteers before, during and after the events, Limmud Germany was able to handle all these challenges successfully and to lay the groundwork for future successes.

BY JONATHAN MARCUS, BOARD CHAIR



## Limmud Harrow

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY/HARROW](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY/HARROW)

HARROW@LIMMUD.ORG

LAST EVENT: 15 MAR 2015

NEXT EVENT: 19 MAR 2017

 Eagerly anticipated by Londoners and some Limmudniks further afield, Limmud Harrow held its biennial one day event in the spring, drawing 1,000 participants to engage in a wide selection of learning choices, from history and politics to the relationship between Buddhism and Judaism and much more. The team took moving to a new site, the Jewish Free School (JFS), in their stride and with a wider team of volunteers on the day it was a huge success.



## Limmud Helsinki

[WWW.LIMUD.FI](http://WWW.LIMUD.FI)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

NEXT EVENT: 30 – 31 JAN 2016

 Gathering a planning team together from across Jewish Helsinki, Limmud Helsinki have been working hard this year to introduce the concept of Limmud and to plan their first motzei Shabbat and Sunday event for January 2016. Adding Finland to the Limmud map, they are a welcome addition to the Scandinavian Limmud community and will brighten the dark winter days.

## Limmud Hungary (Magyarország)

[WWW.LIMMUD.HU](http://WWW.LIMMUD.HU)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 14 JUN 2015; 13 DEC 2015

NEXT EVENT: 2016

 This year we joined the new project of the JDC/MAZS in Hungary, the Mozaik Jewish Community HUB ([www.mozaikhub.hu/](http://www.mozaikhub.hu/)).

The HUB will accommodate our need for meeting space, workspace and will help us with our infrastructure development. The Limmud volunteers have the option to participate in four segments of training at the HUB: project management, volunteer management, basics of fundraising and presentation skills.

Since November we have been employing a part-time coordinator, who will handle our issues and slowly build up a Limmud Center in Hungary.

Looking forward to 2016, we would like to strengthen our relationship with the HUB: open a mobile desk office at the HUB workspace, participate in further trainings, and apply for funding to organize more, better and bigger events. We would like to integrate into our events a regular, richer kids' program. We are building a sound database with recordings of our events that we will be sharing via our website. We look forward to a spread and growth in the spirit of Limmud.

BY EVA BADA





## Limmud in the Woods

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/WOODS](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/WOODS)

OFFICE@LIMMUD.ORG

LAST EVENT: 27 – 31 AUG 2015

NEXT EVENT: 25 – 29 AUG 2016

 Over the August bank holiday weekend, in a field in Oxfordshire, 250 Jews of all ages, backgrounds and denominations from across Britain, and as far away as the US, Israel and South Africa, gathered for Limmud in the Woods.

The event epitomized grassroots Judaism. Every participant played a role; be it cooking, schlepping, chopping fire wood, decorating the site, welcoming new participants – the list goes on. Thus an empty field was transformed into a colourful community.

The programme included discussions on subjects ranging from the Labour leadership to organic kosher farming, as well as yoga, dance, live music, comedy and an array of children's activities.

Limmud in the Woods Co-Chairs Naomi Webber and Anna Lawton both grew up participating and volunteering in Limmud events, exemplifying how today's children become tomorrow's leaders.

BY ZOE JACOBS, CO-CHAIR SHABBAT PROGRAMME

## Limmud Italia

[WWW.LIMMUD-ITALIA.IT](http://WWW.LIMMUD-ITALIA.IT)

INFO@LIMMUD-ITALIA.IT

LAST EVENT: 31 MAY – 1 JUN 2015

NEXT EVENT: JUN 2016

In 2015 Limmud Italia produced its second event, Limmud Italia Day, actually spanning a day and a half over the bank holiday long weekend. The event took place in Florence, in the central Tuscan region of Italy, where most members of the steering team reside and which hosts a small Jewish community with significant resources.

The programme had five themes: current events, history, text study, art, science and philosophy; with 38 sessions, presenters, and evening musical entertainment. Our Young Limmud Program had approximately ten children of ages five to ten, with a volunteer kindergarten teacher in a dedicated classroom.

Evaluating the event, the venue, compared to the first ever Limmud Italia Day (June 2014), had far greater classroom capacity, and sufficient safety features to include children. Hence it will be proposed again for 2016. Attendance increased by approximately 30%; in absolute figures 130 as compared to 103 for the inaugural Limmud. Just under half of the attendees hailed from the host city while the rest came mostly from other Italian cities, mostly with tiny Jewish communities, plus a coterie of five Australians, who found our event on the internet and coordinated our event with their travel plans! One of these participants presented. Young Limmud was a first-time offering and superhuman effort was required to enact this feature, but worthwhile considering the boost in attendance that ensued.

Going forward, we want to continue to produce one event per year in June, and to expand our visibility amongst Italian Jews through stepped-up publicity initiatives. In the longer-term we want to increase the non-Florence members of the core team to handle rotation of venues and strengthen fundraising capabilities.

BY NANCY LIPPMANN, CO-CHAIR 2015

## Limmud Keshet Baltics

[WWW.LIMMUD.EU](http://WWW.LIMMUD.EU)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 20 – 22 FEB 2015; 6 – 8 NOV 2015



This year Limmud in the Baltics encompassed a number of events, providing extended Jewish learning opportunities for the Jewish communities of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, collectively and individually. February saw the celebration of the 11th annual Limmud Keshet Baltics event for all three countries, held in Lithuania, while a new event took place in Latvia focused on the Jewish community there and Estonia's Yachad festival of Jewish learning took place again, drawing a large proportion of the Estonian Jewish community.

## Limmud Keshet Bulgaria

[WWW.LIMMUD.INFO](http://WWW.LIMMUD.INFO)

[INFO@LIMMUD.INFO](mailto:INFO@LIMMUD.INFO)

LAST EVENT: 1 – 6 SEP 2015

NEXT EVENT: SEP 2016

This year Limmud Keshet Bulgaria celebrated its 10th anniversary.

On September 1-6 we held our conference for the second time in Borovetz (100km from the capital Sofia). We had over 560 participants and more than 80 volunteers.

On it's 10th birthday, Limmud Keshet Bulgaria was once again a great experience for its participants. For the second year in a row we made an even bigger Tikkun Limmud program, where a great number of people from different ages got involved in doing good deeds. On our gala evening our participants had the chance to hear one



of the most famous pop singers and a great friend and member of our Jewish community, Etien Levi, who made our celebration even more amazing.

We are looking forward to our next conference in September 2016 with even more volunteers, participants and presenters.

BY DARIA MELAMED, CO-CHAIR

## Limmud Keshet ExYu

[WWW.LIMMUD-KESHET-EXYU.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUD-KESHET-EXYU.ORG)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 7 – 10 NOV 2013

In the past few years a multinational team of dedicated volunteers has worked with host Jewish communities of Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro to create meaningful Limmud experiences. Participants regularly return to Limmud to learn and connect with family and friends, often increasing the size of the Jewish population in the host country for the weekend. Taking time to review their achievements and consider the way forward on a more sustainable footing, core team members are working on creating a smaller and more local Limmud event in Serbia.

## Limmud Keshet Poland

[WWW.LIMUD.PL](http://WWW.LIMUD.PL)

[LIMUD@JEWISH.ORG.PL](mailto:LIMUD@JEWISH.ORG.PL)

LAST EVENT: 21 – 23 NOV 2014

NEXT EVENT: 11 – 13 MAR 2016

 This year Limmud had provisionally been scheduled to take place in early December. However, a valiant social media and Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign were unfortunately not successful in reaching their goal. Yet the awareness and support generated by the campaigns have contributed to the viability of planning for Limmud in March 2016.

## Limmud Keshet Romania

LAST EVENT: 19 JAN 2014

Refreshing Limmud in Romania, a small new team of enthusiastic volunteers re-launched Limmud with a day event in Bucharest, attracting 120 participants in 2014. This was a great opportunity to introduce new local presenters and to raise awareness of the Limmud phenomenon in the community. The team learnt a

lot from this experience and although in 2015 some key volunteers were unable to continue, there is now renewed activity, working on expanding the team and partnering with the JCC to continue the journey of Limmud in Romania.

## Limmud Leeds

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY)  
[LEEDS@LIMMUD.ORG](mailto:LEEDS@LIMMUD.ORG)  
**LAST EVENT: 1 NOV 2015**

 Many of the 300 people who attended our 13th Limmud day event on 1 November commented that the programme was the best so far. 45 presenters offered a range of topics including the Cairo Genizah, cockney-Yiddish music hall, asylum seekers in Israel, the Jews of Japan and Latin America (separate sessions!), and feminism in Orthodox Judaism. Our team of committed volunteers worked hard to ensure that the event ran smoothly, everyone was made welcome and was well-fed. We had a full complement of stalls in the 'Shuk 'n' Shmooze' area, giving people welcome down time from the hectic schedule. For the first time, some of the sessions were recorded for podcasting, and these will be uploaded to the Limmud website so that more people have the opportunity to hear them.

BY LINDA ROSEN, CHAIR



## Limmud Liverpool

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY/LIVERPOOL](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY/LIVERPOOL)  
[LIVERPOOL@LIMMUD.ORG](mailto:LIVERPOOL@LIMMUD.ORG)  
**LAST EVENT: 23 MAR 2014**  
**NEXT EVENT: 6 NOV 2016**

 In this past year Limmud Liverpool have been working hard to broaden their core team and are now busy planning for their event to take place later next year. The team will seek to continue to draw new people to the Limmud experience, including those who might not otherwise engage in Jewish learning activities.

## Limmud Manchester

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY/MANCHESTER](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY/MANCHESTER)  
[MANCHESTER@LIMMUD.ORG](mailto:MANCHESTER@LIMMUD.ORG)  
**LAST EVENT: 1 FEB 2015**  
**NEXT EVENT: 7 FEB 2016**

 Moving to an annual cycle of events, no sooner had Limmud Manchester's one day event taken place in February then they started planning for the next one! To enable full family participation in a programme spanning a range of topics and styles, there will be a children's programme throughout the day.



## Limmud Netherlands (Limmoed Nederland)

[WWW.LIMMOED.NL](http://WWW.LIMMOED.NL)  
[INFO@LIMMOED.NL](mailto:INFO@LIMMOED.NL)  
**LAST EVENT: 8 NOV 2015**

 Some 300 participants, presenters and volunteers took part in a Limmoed day on Sunday, November 8th, 2015 for a memorable event, endorsed by enthusiastic feedback responses during and after the Limmoed event. In a beautiful location and nearly 70 presentations and workshops on a wide variety of Jewish topics, Limmoed helped its participants take a step further on his or her Jewish way.

## Limmud Oresund (Ö / Øresundslimmud)

[WWW.ORESUNDSLIMMUD.ORG](http://WWW.ORESUNDSLIMMUD.ORG)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 28 FEB – 1 MAR 2015

NEXT EVENT: 6 MAR 2016

 On March 1, 2015, our fourth annual Øresundslimmud was held for the first time in Copenhagen instead of on the Swedish side of the bridge (yes, for fans of the crime series, it is indeed The Bridge.) Our Limmud group is the only regional adult Jewish study organisation, convening Jews from all backgrounds for a tri-lingual (Danish, Swedish, and English) Limmud.

This event took place two weeks after terror struck Copenhagen. Many participants knew Dan Uzan, z"l, the volunteer security guard who was killed outside the synagogue. The learning sessions began with a moment of silence in his memory.

But the rest of the day was far from silent. That buzzing sound of Jewish learning, on topics ranging from the role of halacha in non-Orthodox communities to queer approaches to Jewish text study to modern Israeli poetry, filled the corridors for nine hours. During a coffee break, someone began to play a hora on the piano and soon at least 50 of the 200+ participants were dancing in the halls.

There were signs that this community had recently experienced a terrorist attack. Most notable is that Sandra Kviat, a London rabbi from Copenhagen, made a special trip to her home community to lead learning sessions in response to the incident. Titled 'Fear, anger and retribution - Jewish responses to the violent events of the past months', both the English and Danish versions

were standing room only. Sandra brilliantly wove together selections from the Psalms and from Eicha to stimulate discussion that was based on both the text and our raw emotions.

Most aspects of the event, though, simply felt Limmudy. We ended the day with more music, and with several new participants volunteering to create our 2016 event.

BY REBECCA LILLIAN, PROGRAMME CO-CHAIR

## Limmud Scotland

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY)

[SCOTLAND@LIMMUD.ORG](mailto:SCOTLAND@LIMMUD.ORG)

LAST EVENT: 8 MAR 2015

 Participants from Glasgow, Edinburgh and beyond enjoyed a day of learning with home grown Scottish presenters (and a few from south of the border!). Partnering with UJIA, a Young and Teen Limmud programme engaged and entertained the younger participants. Looking forward, the Limmud Scotland team will seek to raise awareness of Limmud and what it has to offer the local Jewish community and to grow participation.

## Limmud Stockholm

[WWW.LIMMUD.SE](http://WWW.LIMMUD.SE)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 14 – 15 NOV 2015

NEXT EVENT: 19 – 20 NOV 2016

 Limmud Stockholm's motzei Shabbat and Sunday annual winter event attracted 1,050 participants with over 100 sessions including Yoni Berrouss from Yad Vashem navigating history, memory and education about the holocaust; Marc Harris, Limmud Stockholm board member, exploring how the US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Jewish thought informs her legal reasoning; and Michael Melchior on building relationships with Muslims and other non-Jews. The opening havdalah ceremony included a minute's silence to respect and remember those killed in the atrocities in Paris the previous night.



## Limmud Thames Valley

[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY/THAMES-VALLEY](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/DAY/THAMES-VALLEY)

THAMESVALLEY@LIMMUD.ORG

LAST EVENT: 4 MAY 2015

NEXT EVENT: 2017

 Limmud Thames Valley celebrated an event drawing together 250 participants from the towns and picturesque countryside to the west of London. A packed programme featured lectures, film discussions, Israeli-dancing, arts and crafts, textual study, panel discussions and perfect smoked salmon sandwiches.

Clair Sirkis chaired the event seven years after coming to the UK and attending her first Limmud event. Following her participation in the Limmud development and connection programme in Berlin last year, Training on Tour for European Limmud leaders, she led a wonderful team of volunteers to create a memorable and meaningful day.

## Limmud Turkey

[WWW.LIMMUDTR.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDTR.ORG)

LIMMUDTR@GMAIL.COM

LAST EVENT: 7 – 8 NOV 2015

 Our event took place after Shabbat on 7th November and continued with a full day on Sunday 8th November and was very successful. There were 65 sessions, 75 presenters, and five exhibitions.

Most of the presenters were local and presented in Turkish. Over 1,150 people participated in the event.

BY SIBEL FRANKO



## Limmud Vienna

[WWW.LIMMUDDANUBE.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDDANUBE.ORG)

INFO@LIMMUDDANUBE.ORG

LAST EVENT: 31 MAY 2015

NEXT EVENT: 22 NOV 2015

 The last short event of Limmud Vienna (our LIMMUDerl – Viennese for small Limmud) took place on Sunday May 31, 2015, at the offices of the Jüdisches Institut für Erwachsenenbildung (JIFE), in Vienna (a part of the Wiener Volkshochschulen). Although our attendance was small, the team took it in its stride and has put in an amazing amount of work for our upcoming event.

We had a very successful pre-Limmud Shabbat dinner for potential volunteers on November 6 and the upcoming event, to be held at the Vienna Music Institute on November 22, 2015, is looking to be spectacular. With this event we finally believe that Limmud will continue to be an annual (and growing) tradition in Vienna.

BY JON GOLDBERG, CHEERLEADER

(PUBLICATION DATE PRIOR TO EVENT)



# LIMMUD GROUPS' REPORTS

## ISRAEL

### Limmud Arava

[WWW.ARAVA.CO.IL/MOATZA/MATNAS/LIMOD/LIMOD-ENGLISH.HTM](http://WWW.ARAVA.CO.IL/MOATZA/MATNAS/LIMOD/LIMOD-ENGLISH.HTM)  
[LIMMUDARAVA@ARAVA.CO.IL](mailto:LIMMUDARAVA@ARAVA.CO.IL)  
LAST EVENT: 19 – 20 FEB 2015  
NEXT EVENT: 18 – 19 FEB 2016

 The seventh annual Limmud Arava event drew approximately 400 participants of all ages, mostly from across the Arava region of Israel with some visitors from further afield. Participants were able to engage in a range of workshops, lectures and activities indoors and to come to understand the local environment through tiyulim into the local desert area.



### Limmud Beer Sheva

[WWW.LIMMUDNEGEV.COM](http://WWW.LIMMUDNEGEV.COM)  
LAST EVENT: 1 – 4 JUN 2014

Over several days leading up to and on Shavuot in 2014, Limmud Beer Sheva held study workshops on the theme of the ten commandments. Events also took place in different neighbourhoods around Beer Sheva, followed by online study opportunities on a new social study platform called Scrolar. Altogether some 300 people participated.

### Limmud FSU Israel

[WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG.IL](http://WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG.IL)  
CONTACT VIA WEBSITE/ [REG@LIMMUDFSU.ORG.IL](mailto:REG@LIMMUDFSU.ORG.IL)  
LAST EVENT: 17 – 19 DEC 2015  
NEXT EVENT: DEC 2016



Israel has nearly one million immigrants from Russian-speaking countries, who began arriving in large numbers with the collapse of Communism in the early 1980s. Limmud FSU for Russian speakers living in Israel began in 2008. Since then, annual festivals have taken place attracting more than 8,000 people from all over Israel and overseas. The 2014 Festival took place at Kibbutz Ginosar on the Sea of Galilee with 850 participants, partly devoted to the famous Russian-born poet Rachel. The venue for 2015 is Ginosar again and we anticipate over 1,200 participants.

BY ROMAN KOGAN (PUBLICATION DATE PRIOR TO EVENT)

### Limmud Galil

[WWW.LIMMUDGALIL.COM](http://WWW.LIMMUDGALIL.COM)  
[LIMMUDGALIL@WALLA.COM](mailto:LIMMUDGALIL@WALLA.COM)  
LAST EVENT: 13 – 14 DEC 2015



Limmud Galil celebrated its 13th Conference on December 13 - 14, 2015, lighting the last two candles of Hanukka together. The theme of this Bar Mitzva Conference was 'בְּקַשׁ שָׁלוֹם וַדְּחַפֵּוּ', 'Seek Peace and Pursue It'. The two day residential conference took place at the Rosh Hanikra Holiday Village and included Chavruta study, workshops, panel discussions, theatre, films, music, a nature hike in the surrounding area, 'tisch' and singing 'shalom' into the night. This is the third year with a programme for young Limmudniks.

The Limmud Galil volunteer team held a preparatory Shabbat November 6 – 7 with workshops on 'Limmud at 13 – Questions of Identity and Belonging – What brings us together?' and 'Dilemmas in Organising Conference #13'.



The Shabbat provided the opportunity to learn and teach together, to delve into the topic of 'Shalom' and prepare for the upcoming Conference.

Limmud Galil activities and events took place throughout 2015. Seder Tu B'Shat and Tu B'Av were celebrated jointly with local community centres. A Beit Midrash meeting was held on Lag B'Omer and Tikkun Leil Shavuot was marked with an evening of study. The annual Shabbat Conference was combined with TiyulLimmud in May and an additional tour visited the Old City in Akko. The holidays were marked with a Rosh Hashanah gathering in the home of one of the volunteers and an evening of slichot with study and 'piutim'.

Limmud Galil is supported by Partnership Northern Galil – Great Britain, a project of the UJIA and the Jewish Agency, and by regional councils in the Galil.

By Mary Azaria, Executive Team Member

## Limmud Haifa

[LIMMUDHAIFA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LIMMUDHAIFA@GMAIL.COM)

LAST EVENT: 9 JUN 2015

 For the first half of 2015 Limmud Haifa continued its tradition of a monthly Taste of Limmud. Through the process in which Limmudniks took turns teaching and learning the core group grew and the ties between the volunteers strengthened. The build up to our June 9th event was strong with cross-cultural partnerships, municipal support and community buy-in. With the event close at hand we were very excited to launch our Haifa Teen Limmud Track which was one of the highlights of our day event.

The event itself doubled the number of orthodox participants from the previous year, lowered the average age and got wide publicity. Some 50 teens self-led a four hour track with various groups and individuals taking the lead on sessions. A Shmitah Tent featured prominently as the center of the event with fruit and books shared for free. With close to 200 participants the event marked Limmud as a meaningful addition to the Jewish renewal scene of Haifa.

After a summer break we began our new approach of "Wondering Limmud" in which our core group of volunteers have identified and connected with the communities and groups who are involved in the Jewish renewal in the region. We reach out to each group, meet and plan a joint mini event. We then are hosted or host

the group for an interaction with Limmud Haifa. In the first event in October we partnered with a group called Dror Israel, a fascinating movement of people in their 20s and 30s who live together in communes and work in education, and we led a memorial for Yitzhak Rabin and a round table discussion. This was a great start to our new experiment.

BY GOLAN BEN-CHORIN, CO-FOUNDING CHAIR

## Limmud Jerusalem

[WWW.LIMMUDJERUSALEM.ORG.IL](http://WWW.LIMMUDJERUSALEM.ORG.IL)

LIMMUDJLM@GMAIL.COM

LAST EVENT: 27 – 28 AUG 2015



Limmud Jerusalem's first ever two day event took place at the Har Herzl campus at the end of August 2015 and was a huge success, with close to 600 participants of all ages and over 120 sessions during the course of the jam-packed two days. Sessions in Hebrew and English included everything from Kabbala to sexuality in Judaism and understanding the other; with discussions about the Haredi community and those who leave it; with panels on being gay (and



Orthodox) in Jerusalem to interfaith dialogue; with music, movement, walking tours, art installations, plus two musical Kabbalat Shabbat sessions and so much more... the team of over 30 volunteers look forward to creating an even bigger and more diverse programme for 2016.

## Limmud Modi'in (Limmudi'in)

[WWW.LIMMUDMODIIN.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDMODIIN.ORG)  
[URIM.MODIIN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:URIM.MODIIN@GMAIL.COM)  
LAST EVENT: 3 – 4 DEC 2015

 Our annual event for 2015 will be taking place at the beginning of December. Limmudi'in has been a part of Urim - the city-wide program for enhancing pluralism - and is viewed as one of our flagship activities. The Limmud Team is part of a larger group of Urim activists, and as such are part of a wider program, benefiting from training and seminars both locally and nationally.

BY PERI SINCLAIR, DIRECTOR OF URIM  
(PUBLICATION DATE PRIOR TO EVENT)

## Limmud Sharon

Working in partnership with the local municipality, this new Limmud team in the west coast Sharon region of Israel, is starting small to raise awareness of Limmud and to develop its activities. They are starting from scratch with weekly meetings for Parashat Shavua, Tanach and Gmara, which are open to everyone who wants to explore these new worlds.

CONTRIBUTED TO BY ITAI ENGELBERG



## Limmud TLV (Tel Aviv)

[WWW.LIMMUDTLV.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDTLV.ORG)  
[CONTACTUS@LIMMUDTLV.ORG](mailto:CONTACTUS@LIMMUDTLV.ORG)  
LAST EVENT: 14 – 15 MAY 2015  
NEXT EVENT: 29 JUN – 1 JUL 2016

After two years of building our organization and community, in 2015 we held our first ever Limmud TLV festival of Jewish and Israeli culture. The event took place on 14th-15th May at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yafo and Ruth Daniel Residence in Jaffa. Over 400 people attended 120 sessions and experienced the unique Limmud atmosphere.

Many participants in our Limmud TLV festival had never attended a Limmud event. They found us through friends, social media (where we had a significant presence) or supporting organizations. Many Tel Avivians who had not previously heard of Limmud now know what it is all about and are looking forward to our future events.

We would like to thank the Schusterman Foundation, ROI Community and the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yafo for their generous support in 2015.

Our plans for the coming year include activities which will strengthen and support our community throughout the year – such as short courses and volunteer training opportunities. Our next festival is planned for 29 June – 1 July 2016.

BY TAL GRUNSPAN, CHAIR 2015 & CYGAL PELLACH, HEAD OF MARKETING TEAM 2015



## Limmud Yeroham

**LAST EVENT: 24 DEC 2014**

**NEXT EVENT: 8 DEC 2015**

Limmud Yeroham takes place every year for one day during Hanukkah, from the early afternoon hours through the night. Last year's Limmud took place on December 24th 2014, the last day of Hanukkah, on the theme of Shmittah. We hosted Teva Ivri's 'Israeli Shmittah Tent' as well as an exhibition of the Yeroham Sustainability Forum's initiatives. This year Limmud will happen on December 8th, 2015, in the various buildings of the local Community Center, and the theme is 'Dreams'. The presenters and participants reflect the multicultural diversity of Yeroham's population (secular, traditional, religious Zionist, Haredi, many Mizrahi and Ashkenazi origins, Russian-speakers and English-speakers alongside Hebrew, children and youth as well as adults), with some guest presenters and participants coming from outside Yeroham, including our Bedouin neighbors.

One unique element in our Limmud is the connection with Miami, Yeroham's Partnership2Gether community. A special session in Limmud Yeroham 2014 was devoted to a well-prepared Skype discussion with Jewish educators

in three Miami schools in which Yeroham educators and Diller youth leaders from both communities participated. Limmud Miami (February 2015) had a film and session screened from Yeroham. We plan to do the same this year – with internet-streamed sessions in each of our community's Limmuds.

Other innovations this year: 'Taking Limmud to the neighborhoods', i.e., Limmud activities will be held in the communal gardens around town, before the sessions begin in the Community Center. While our focus is primarily on Yeroham's residents, Russian-speaking communal activists from Ofakim and Kiryat Gat who participate in Atid Bamidbar programs will also be attending and hopefully be inspired to initiate Limmud in their communities. Several of the sessions will tribute the 25th anniversary of Atid Bamidbar, which helped bring Limmud to Yeroham and the Negev more than six years ago.

BY DEBBIE GOLDMAN GOLAN, MEMBER OF ORGANIZING TEAM

# LIMMUD GROUPS' REPORTS

## NORTH AMERICA

### Limmud AZ (Arizona)

WWW.LIMMUDAZ.ORG  
INFO@LIMMUDAZ.ORG  
LAST EVENT: 8 FEB 2015  
NEXT EVENT: 31 JAN 2016

 Our inaugural event was held on Sunday, February 8, 2015. We had about 42 presenters (15 who came from out of town). Total attendees, including presenters, was approximately 400. It was a full day from 9am until 5 pm, including a kosher lunch and snacks throughout the day. We had a small Camp Limmud program for kids ages 3 – 12. Additionally, we had a teen/college program with about 25 attendees.

Participants engaged in a large variety of programs throughout the day. Overall topics were: text/Torah, spirituality, life cycle, Jewish thought, arts and culture, Jewish future, Israel, contemporary Jewish life, and off the beaten track.

Surveys received after the event (almost 50% response) were overwhelmingly positive. The biggest problem seemed to be rooms that were overfull for some presenters... a wonderful problem to have! We are increasing the capacity of the rooms for our next program on January 31, 2016 and planning for a larger number of participants. Both participants and presenters were highly complimentary about the day and its organization, which was very gratifying to our planning committee.

We were delighted that so many people commented that Limmud AZ was just what our community needed!

BY SANDY ADLER, TEAM LEADER



### Limmud Atlanta+SE

WWW.LIMMUDSE.ORG  
INFO@LIMMUDSE.ORG  
LAST EVENT: 4 – 7 SEP 2015  
NEXT EVENT: 2 – 5 SEP 2016



Limmud Atlanta+Southeast celebrated its 7th year at Camp Ramah Darom with a robust local attendance, lots of first-timers, and Limmudniks attending from Miami, Boston, New Orleans, New York, New Jersey and Israel. The weather was perfect for hiking, swimming, boating, and outdoor study. We hit the 330 attendance mark on Sunday with an influx of day-only registrants.



Our deepening relationship with Camp Ramah Darom was a hallmark of this Fest, reflecting a mutual mission of lifelong Jewish learning. The camp program was superbly run by the summer staff of Camp Ramah Darom and rebranded as Camp Ramah@Limmud.

This year's YAD (Young Adult Development scheme) cohort benefitted from close mentoring by seasoned Limmudniks and a very compelling six month leadership program directed by past Conference Chair, Eliana Leader. Several of them will assume Team Leadership responsibilities for 2016.

Grants from the Jewish Women's Fund of Atlanta and the Covenant Foundation helped us bring some special presenters to Fest, and Ramah Darom was helpful in reducing residential costs for invited presenters. The program was simply astounding. Please view our program book online at [www.limmudse.org](http://www.limmudse.org). Feel free to "borrow" our session ideas and bring our Georgia presenters to your Limmud.

As we approach our 10th anniversary, we're extremely proud to be one of the few North American communities putting on a multi-day residential Conference. Even with all its complexities, we love the way the abundant informal time, Shabbat celebration, plus the wonderful camp porch and rocking chairs, help build relationships and bring the generations together.

BY NINA RUBIN, BOARD CHAIR

## Limmud Bay Area

[WWW.LIMMUDBAYAREA.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDBAYAREA.ORG)  
[CONTACT@LIMMUDBAYAREA.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@LIMMUDBAYAREA.ORG)  
**LAST EVENT: 26 – 28 JUN 2015**  
**NEXT EVENT: 24 – 26 JUN 2016**

 Returning to the beautiful surroundings of Sonoma Valley, California, Limmud Bay Area held a full Shabbat programme as part of its residential event for the first time. Limmud Bay Area has faced the challenge of setting a date for its weekend event to maximise participation, cover its costs and take into account site availability. This has meant holding an event at the same time as San Francisco's Pride weekend. Limmud Bay Area surveyed their participants on dates and have also written to explain their decision making process, and how they are working to ensure they are inclusive of the LGBT community.

## Limmud Boston

[WWW.LIMMUDBOSTON.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDBOSTON.ORG)  
[OFFICE@LIMMUDBOSTON.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@LIMMUDBOSTON.ORG)  
**LAST EVENT: 6 DEC 2015**

 The Limmud Boston Program Team, led by Julie Wolkoff, has put together an amazing conference for 2015.

Now, all of the other preparation teams are mobilizing for a wonderful weekend.

The one day Limmud Boston 2015 will take place on erev Chanukah. Everyone is invited to bring a chanukiah and participate in a Chanukah sing-along led by Kol b'Seder's Jeff Klepper and Dan Freeland. They will be joined by Sheldon Low from New York. Dan, who currently serves as head of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, will moderate a mid-day panel on the future of Judaism that will include Yaffa Epstein of Pardes, one of the 20 female

Orthodox women who have received rabbinic ordination, Aaron Panken, head of HUC-JIR, Adam Chalom, from the seminary for Secular Humanistic Judaism, and Lenny Gordon, representing the Conservative Movement's Kehilla Strengthening and Transformation Committee. There will be two play readings, more than 70 sessions, a Camp Limmud, and storytellers galore.

"CHAI ALIVE!" is a whole new initiative for Limmud Boston, for which videographer Ken Hausman will be capturing personal stories to share with future generations. During the conference day participants may sign up to interview one another, or simply share a Jewish memory on camera. Even Camp Limmud kids will be practicing interview skills and interviewing one another and some conference participants. These stories will be archived on the Limmud Boston website.

"Shabbat: the REST of Limmud" will include more than half a dozen Limmud Boston presenters at area synagogues for Shabbat, as well as multiple Havdalah choices for the entire community.

Most essentially, each presenter shares a Limmud Boston "Encore:" that gives ideas for ways to continue to explore the concepts discovered at our conference. Thus, one day stretches into an entire year of learning and discovery.

BY STEFFI ARONSON KARP, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT (PUBLICATION DATE PRIOR TO EVENT)

## Limmud Chicago

[WWW.IMMUDCHICAGO.ORG](http://WWW.IMMUDCHICAGO.ORG)  
[INFO@LIMMUDCHICAGO.ORG](mailto:INFO@LIMMUDCHICAGO.ORG)  
**LAST EVENT: 8 NOV 2015**



Limmud Chicago 2015 represented a transition of leadership with a planning team composed entirely of volunteers who were not involved in the founding of Limmud Chicago. We benefited

from our society's geographic mobility which brought us team members and volunteers who moved to the Chicago area after involvement in Limmuds in Philadelphia, Boston, LA, and the UK. The team also included a 15 year old Program Co-Chair – the youngest team chair of any Limmud world-wide and a second generation Limmudnik.



Our 6th annual Conference was infused with Limmud Values -- represented on posters in every session room and signage throughout the venue, as well a set of "Limmud mini-sessions" to help every participant understand what Limmud is all about. Many new participants engaged in Limmud-style learning and we were able to increase the communal diversity of the presenters significantly.

As our founders transition to mentors, we look forward to the new energy and innovations of the next "generation" of Limmud Chicago leaders.

BY SHOSHANA WASKOW, BOARD MEMBER

## Limmud FSU Canada

[WWW.LIMMUDFSUCANADA.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDFSUCANADA.ORG)

MILA@LIMMUDFSUCANADA.ORG

LAST EVENT: 20 – 22 NOV 2015

NEXT EVENT: 2016

 Last year marked the founding conference of Limmud FSU Canada, when some 500 participants attended the event in Toronto, a city with a large Jewish population, including some 70,000 people of Russian-speaking origin. The Organizing Committee, under the chairmanship of Leon Martynenko, is already planning the program for the second Limmud FSU Canada, which will again take place in Toronto on November 20-22, 2015.

BY ROMAN KOGAN (PUBLICATION DATE PRIOR TO EVENT)



## Limmud FSU New York

[WWW.LIMMUDFSUUS.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDFSUUS.ORG)

INFO@LIMMUDFSUUS.ORG

LAST EVENT: 27 – 29 MAR 2015

NEXT EVENT: 1 – 3 APR 2016



At the Limmud FSU NY Conference in Parsippany, NJ - the sixth Limmud FSU conference to be held in the United States and the largest-ever in terms of attendees - there were 850 adult participants and 120 children, from toddlers to teens. This year's event featured nearly 100 presenters including Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, New Yorker writer Boris Fishman, rabbi and educator Aryeh Katzin, former U.S. Foreign Service Officer Ilya Levin, Ukrainian singer and actress Iryna Rosenfeld, and a Moscow-based journalist and writer Victor Shenderovich; and offered a yeasty combination of lectures and performances.

Sandra Cahn, who co-founded Limmud-FSU with Chaim Chesler, commented, "There are more attendees at Limmud-FSU these days who are observant Jews than was the case a few years ago, but the main thing is that this is a big open tent with a warm, inviting atmosphere. People feel welcome at Limmud FSU wherever they are in their Jewish journeys and whatever amount of Jewish learning they have."

Yulia Mazur-Zito, an observant Russian-born Jewish educator from Brooklyn, who is on the Limmud FSU Organizing Committee, commented: "The great thing about Limmud FSU is that we have people from all religious and political opinions, but we aren't fighting with each other, but hearing each other out. In my own experience, this is one of the only venues where that sense of mutual tolerance and understanding still exists, which makes it all the more precious."

Anna Gusel, a 43 year old efficiency expert from Brooklyn, who came to the conference with her husband Lenny and three small children said of the Limmud FSU conference; "With three kids and full time job, this is a wonderful opportunity to kick back, hang out with dear friends and do some learning, while allowing the kids to run off and have a great time, while having the peace of mind that they are safe." Gusel added, "For me, Limmud FSU is about community building at its best. It is easier to have a community before you get married and have kids, but for those of us who have done that, Limmud helps to hold our community together. What you see here is an expression of Russian American Jewish community and its trajectory and growth."

BY WALTER RUBY

## Limmud FSU West Coast

[HTTP://WESTCOAST.LIMMUDFSUUS.ORG/](http://WESTCOAST.LIMMUDFSUUS.ORG/)

LIMMUDFSUOSANGELES@GMAIL.COM

NEXT EVENT: 29 – 31 JAN 2016

 The weekend of 23 – 25 January 2015, in the historical part of Los Angeles, also known as "Crown City", a group of 30 young energetic leaders from Los Angeles and San Francisco joined together to lay out the foundation for the first ever project of that magnitude on the West Coast, focused on the Russian Jewish Community – called Limmud FSU.

Throughout our retreat we experimented with ideas, pushed the boundaries, and focused on innovative approaches. Friday night was opened by Shabbat dinner and opening remarks from the founder of Limmud FSU Chaim Chesler and the co-founder Sandy Cahn. They inspired volunteers with their stories, passion, commitment and vision for the conference. Then a series of workshops were conducted by the Limmud FSU Executive Director Roman Kogan and Project Manager in the US, Noam Shumakh-Khaimov.

The whole weekend was focused on creating the vision for the West Coast Limmud FSU, designing the structure of the organizing team, brainstorming on the marketing plan as well as programming content. On Saturday night, Leo Hmelnitsky, the elected Co-Chair from San Francisco, conducted a very beautiful Havdallah service. He was followed by Sasha Shteyn, elected Chair of the conference from Los Angeles, who opened up the dinner ceremony, for all the volunteers and their guests. Amongst the guests were influential leaders from the Jewish Community of Los Angeles, such as from the Consulate General of Israel, Jewish Federation, local media and other local business owners. The evening was a huge success and resulted in partnerships that would make a big difference in the development of the future of the project on the West Coast.

The retreat weekend left no doubt that the volunteers' enthusiasm, energy and desire to make a positive impact on the West Coast Russian Jewish community would result in an impeccable West Coast Limmud FSU event in 2016. We promise everyone a great program, incredible speakers, music, dancing, arts, culture, innovations, history and a weekend full of fun in a warm, sunny California.

BY SASHA SHTEYN

## Limmud LA (Los Angeles)

[WWW.LIMMUDLA.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDLA.ORG)

OFFICE@LIMMUDLA.ORG

LAST EVENT: 15 - 17 AUG 2014



Limmud LA changed its event model to hold a summer Limmud Fest in 2013 and 2014. As planned, this year Limmud LA has been focusing on assessing its mission and vision, taking a strategic look at the future of Jewish Los Angeles and their place in it.

## Limmud Mexico (Limud México)

[WWW.LIMUDMEXICO.COM](http://WWW.LIMUDMEXICO.COM)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 8 NOV 2015



Limud México continúa su desarrollo en este 2015. Desde enero y hasta noviembre se desarrollaron tres versiones de "Limud Express", un espacio en conjunto con otras organizaciones que busca generar un pequeño debate y que la gente busque cuestionarse lo que piensa sobre diferentes temas. Hay otras 4 instituciones con quienes realizaremos Limud Express en 2016.



El Día Limud sigue creciendo. Este año, el 8 de noviembre se llevó a cabo por segundo año consecutivo en la Universidad Hebraica con una participación de más de 400 personas. Entre lo más novedoso estuvieron las visitas de Yaffa Epstein, directora académica del Pardes Institute en Nueva York, así como Howard Blas quien trabaja para Camp Ramah y pudo llegar a México gracias a una beca de la Fundación Covenant en Estados Unidos. El programa para niños (Limudit) fue llevado a cabo

por los madrijim de Moetzet Tnuot Hanoar. Con más de 54 ponentes y todo un día lleno de aprendizaje, Limud México amplió su base de donadores. A todos ellos, muchas gracias. También somos parte de las capacitaciones internacionales en Training on tour, así como en Limmud Conference en Inglaterra, cada año.

Limud México keeps growing. This year three "Limud Express" activities took place. A dialogue or debate with at least two visions about a specific topic was arranged by Limud and other Mexican Jewish institutions. Already we have four other institutions that would like to have their own "Taste of Limmud".

Our one day event, Día Limud, on Sunday 8th November, had over 400 people attending with over 54 sessions at Universidad Hebraica. Yaffa Epstein, Academic Director at Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies, and Howard Blas, Covenant Award winner in 2013, were part of our new English track. We tried to open up new Jewish perspectives with people from abroad and keep learning. Limudito, our young program, was taken care of by all the Jewish youth movements in Mexico: Moetzet Tnuot Hanoar.

Limud México, after its fourth year, is now consolidated and trying to improve every time, with new projects and strengthening Día Limud as the main event in the year. There are more people donating to Limud and we kept our previous donors. We thank them all. A large number of participants take part in Training on Tour and Limmud Conference in the UK as a way of understanding Limmud values better and to be part of the international experience Limmud is.

BY RENATO HUARTE CUÉLLAR, CHAIR OF LIMUD MÉXICO

## Limmud Miami

[WWW.LIMMUDMIAMI.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDMIAMI.ORG)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 22 FEB 2015

NEXT EVENT: 21 FEB 2016

 Limmud Miami strives to ensure that there is something for everyone, no matter what their level of Jewish knowledge or commitment to Jewish life. Limmud Miami co-chairs for 2016-2017 are young Latin Jews who have brought an entirely new cohort to volunteer at Limmud. Two pop-ups will focus on underserved demographics: one all in Spanish, for Spanish speaking families in Aventura and the other,

in Miami Beach, with a focus on intimacy for a younger cohort in the downtown, South Beach and Brickell area. There is a small executive board composed of four community leaders as well as two leaders that serve as co-chairs for the Limmud program. There are 22 additional volunteers who serve in a leadership capacity. Limmud Miami anticipates an additional 100+ volunteers.

The main objective for Limmud Miami 2016 is to keep all the resources that were successful in 2015. We want to preserve the programmatic structure and try to have a small measured increase in participant attendance. We would like to work on the following challenges and opportunities to improve the quality of the event.

1. Food – aim to have a 100% kosher gastronomic offer. It will be varied and good quality.
2. Backyard – to have a hang out and recreation space in order to take advantage of the backyard. It will be a social and networking space with tables, sofas, games and different recreational elements.
3. Young adults – aim to create more content targeted to young adults. If we can control the increase in terms of participants, we will try to bring more young adults to the event.
4. Experiential sessions – aim to offer interactive sessions to create a space of innovation in terms of means of expression and transmission of values and teachings.
5. Gala – to have a closing event, where we will be able to thank the volunteers involved during the year, the presenters and those who made Limmud Miami possible. This event will include presenters performing on a stage.
6. International track – aim to offer sessions held in alternative languages such as Spanish, Russian, and Hebrew, in order to bring closer together participants from different backgrounds within the community of Miami.

BY MICHELLE STRULOVIC AND FEDERICO PALLAS



## Limmud Michigan

[WWW.LIMMUDMICHIGAN.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDMICHIGAN.ORG)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

NEXT EVENT: 13 MAR 2016

**Limmud MI** We are planning our first Limmud Michigan, a one day event to take place Sunday March 13th in Ann Arbor. We are a regional team including the Detroit suburbs, City of Detroit and Ann Arbor with the hope that we will also attract people from other parts of the state. We are a 501C3 with a Board of Directors and have a dedicated Steering Team crossing regional, generational, political and religious boundaries, including experienced Limmudniks.

We have booked a venue and confirmed a caterer. We have sent out our "ask" letters and are in the process of putting together our program. Money is scarce at this point as we try to put together a development plan. I must say we've greatly benefited from the invaluable counsel of Limmud International and Gail Chalew, and the continuing guidance and support of Karen Radkowsky.

BY SUE BIRNHOLTZ, SECRETARY

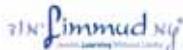
## Limmud NY (New York)

[WWW.LIMMUDNY.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDNY.ORG)

[INFO@LIMMUDNY.ORG](mailto:INFO@LIMMUDNY.ORG)

LAST EVENT: 13 – 16 FEBRUARY 2015

NEXT EVENT: 12 – 15 FEBRUARY 2016



Selling out early, Limmud NY's eleventh annual conference was a resounding success! More than 800 participants gathered for a four day celebration of Jewish life and learning over President's Day Weekend. Highlights included sessions with Yosef Abramowitz, Art Green, and Dasi Fruchter, and musical performances by Zusha, Nefesh Mountain, and the New York Andalus Ensemble. Foodies enjoyed tasting khachapuri with the owners of Marani, a Georgian kosher restaurant, and exploring Ashkenazi food ways with the founders of the Gefilteria and the owners of the world-renowned Russ and Daughters appetizing shop. Rooms overflowed for a live taping of the "Joy of Text" podcast with Dr. Batsheva Marcus and Rabbi Dov Linzer amongst others.

We were also proud to host our first-ever Inter-denominational Rabbinical Students Track in partnership with the Shalom Hartman Institute. Rabbinical students from the different seminaries in New York had the



opportunity to meet and learn together. Following the conference, many remarked how meaningful it was for them to build connections and have thoughtful discussions with rabbinical students from other movements in this unique, supportive environment. We were also pleased to partner with Ramah Nyack and Ramah Berkshires to create Camp Ramah at Limmud NY, a fun and educational experience for over 70 of our youngest LimmudNYks.

In May, we hosted our annual benefit, honoring the work of three families who have been dedicated to Limmud NY across the generations: the Alt family, the Arons family, and the Skop family. We gathered at the Jewish Museum on Manhattan's Upper East Side, and guests were able to tour a fascinating exhibition juxtaposing judaica with contemporary art. We were thrilled that benefit attendees were able to have a true Limmud experience while celebrating the work of Limmud NY and our tireless volunteers at the same time.

BY DANIEL INFELD, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONS

## Limmud NOLA (New Orleans)

[WWW.LIMMUDNOLA.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDNOLA.ORG)

[INFO@LIMMUDNOLA.ORG](mailto:INFO@LIMMUDNOLA.ORG)

LAST EVENT: 7 – 9 MAR 2014

NEXT EVENT: 18 – 20 MAR 2016



Continuing on its two year event cycle, Limmud NOLA is currently planning its next weekend long event for March 2016 under the next generation of event team leadership. The event will build on the successful and innovative integrated Shabbat activities of the Limmud NOLA 2014 event.

## Limmud Ottawa

[WWW.LIMMUDOTTAWA.CA](http://WWW.LIMMUDOTTAWA.CA)  
[LIMMUDOTTAWA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LIMMUDOTTAWA@GMAIL.COM)  
**LAST EVENT: 18 OCT 2015**

 With nearly 400 participants enjoying over 60 presenters, including a first time "Human Library" with fascinating members of our community and guests such as a young local Imam, this was certainly our biggest event yet. But also the highest quality in terms of smooth execution and the quality of sessions overall.

BY ADAM MOSCOE



## Limmud Philly (Philadelphia)

[WWW.LIMMUDPHILLY.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDPHILLY.ORG)  
**CONTACT VIA WEBSITE**  
**NEXT EVENT: 13 NOV 2016**

 Limmud Philly is exploring how to develop its structure and leadership strategically and sustainably. As part of this process, experienced and new team members continue to focus on outreach and building a wider platform of engagement.



## Limmud Toronto

[WWW.LIMMUD.CA](http://WWW.LIMMUD.CA)  
[INFO@LIMMUD.CA](mailto:INFO@LIMMUD.CA)  
**LAST EVENT: 8 MAR 2015**  
**NEXT EVENT: 6 MAR 2016**

 In 2015 Limmud Toronto held its first event since 2009 with great success. The day event saw over 400 people around Toronto brave the snow to re-welcome Limmud into the community and learn from local and international presenters.

In 2016 Limmud Toronto is growing with a fantastic team planning our next event for 6 March 2016.

We are hoping to continue growing and to expand into a weekend-long event in the near future and to increase our connections across the community so we can truly engage Jews throughout the Toronto Jewish community.

BY YSZI HAWKINGS, LEADERSHIP TEAM

## Limmud Vancouver

[WWW.LIMMUDVANCOUVER.CA](http://WWW.LIMMUDVANCOUVER.CA)  
[LIMMUDVAN@TELUS.NET](mailto:LIMMUDVAN@TELUS.NET)  
**LAST EVENT: 1 FEB 2015**  
**NEXT EVENT: 30 – 31 JAN 2016**

 Returning for a second successful annual event, the number of participants drawn to the Limmud Vancouver experience grew by a third.

Founder and team lead Avi Dolgin, quoted in the Jewish Independent, was noted as taking special pride in the diversity of Limmud Vancouver's offerings, saying: "It was a mix of some text, some history ... this year we had a lot of arts and culture – Bernstein and opera and Shakespeare, Jews and Western literature... This year, we also had workshops, group discussions about what's your relationship with Israel and Jewish identity, and traditional



talmudic study chavruta-style. We had a panel talk which included a debate on the issue of Shmita, which is the seventh year in which the land and the economy is supposed to revert to the situation before."

Planning for their next event in early 2016, Limmud Vancouver hopes to expand their programme for children and engage more widely with the Orthodox community.

## Limmud Winnipeg

[WWW.LIMMUDWINNIPEG.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDWINNIPEG.ORG)

COORDINATOR@LIMMUDWINNIPEG.ORG

LAST EVENT: 14 – 15 MARCH 2015

NEXT EVENT: 12 – 13 MARCH 2016



This year Limmud Winnipeg held its 5th annual event which brought together over 350 participants – starting with a spectacular Havdallah with the participation of children and youth choirs on Saturday night. There were three sessions followed by a nice freilach reception with Israeli and Jewish music in the background. Sunday provided a full day of diverse sessions (35 to choose from) featuring both local and out of town talent, and a full lunch and array of snacks.

Pre-Limmud Shabbat programs exposed 500 Winnipeggers to out of town talent at Shabbat dinners (as part of a Shabbaton at a modern orthodox synagogue, at a YAD dinner and a Family Shabbat Dinner with PJ Library and the JCC) and speaking engagements at a variety of synagogues.

The content balanced Jewish issues with culture and the arts, covering diverse topics such as religious life in mainstream Israel, the future of Jewish Education, art workshops, brit mila and krav maga; plus a full day program for children including a PJ Library Lego family program based on one of the popular PJ Library books. Former speechwriter for the ambassador of Israel and stories about volunteering for the IDF and at a summer camp during Operation Protective Edge brought interesting stories about Israel to our participants.

The 6th annual Limmud Winnipeg is scheduled for March 2016 and promises to be another successful event; new ideas and potential presenters are already being suggested and discussed by a strong and growing group of volunteers who are part of the planning team.

BY JULIE BIREK, JUDY SHUSTER AND HOWARD KIDECKEL, LIMMUD WINNIPEG CO-CHAIRS



# LIMMUD GROUPS' REPORTS

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Limmud Bogotá

[WWW.LIMMUDBOGOTA.ORG](http://WWW.LIMMUDBOGOTA.ORG)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

NEXT EVENT: 28 FEB 2016

 In Bogotá we are very excited to be working toward our first event in Colombia, to be held on Sunday, February 28th. Thus, our review for the year is a recap of meetings we have held and the blueprint we have for our debut. The organizers are a group of about ten people from various backgrounds and affiliations, including the Chief rabbi of Bogotá and the rabbi of the Conservative community. We have been meeting for about six months now.

Our aim in Limmud Bogotá is to have three parallel sessions of 50 minutes each and five such sessions. Thus far, we have secured the presence of a former Director of the Central Bank, a current Senator, the sheikh of the local Sunni mosque, a famous writer, a Zionist priest, a former President of the largest University in the country, the best wine connoisseur in Colombia, one of the chefs in the local version of Master Chef – Colombia, and an expert in Rock & Roll just to name a few of the presenters.

During the event, we will have a separate room for kids ages three to 13, another one for Chavruta learning organized by the local Chabad chapter, and finally one room for screening two movies. We plan to wrap up the day with a big kosher cooking event. We are starting to promote Limmud Bogotá on a national level targeting members of communities affiliated with the Confederation of Jewish Communities of Colombia. We will be sending out flyers, mass-mailings, and uploading information to our website and Facebook pages and hope to have more people volunteer to present while we keep in the pocket a few of us as jokers in case we need to fill up spaces.

One of our team members participated as a presenter in Limud México and she will also be our representative at Limmud Conference and the Limmud Development & Connection programme in the UK this December.

BY LIMMUD BOGOTÁ

### Limmud Buenos Aires (Limud BA)

[WWW.LIMUDBA.ORG](http://WWW.LIMUDBA.ORG)

[INFO@LIMUDBA.ORG](mailto:INFO@LIMUDBA.ORG)

LAST EVENT: 20 MAY 2015; 8 JUN 2015; 6 SEP 2015

 During 2015, LimudBA carried out three challenging and successful events: JavrutaBA, DIA Limud and Rosh Hashaná Urbano. They were rich in traditional Jewish learning, diversity and participation.

JavrutaBA consisted of a study afternoon in May developed by three presenters; a philosopher, Tomás Abraham, a researcher, Carlos Escudé and a journalist, Roman Lejtman. All of them talked with the audience about the activity's subject, Why the Jewish community in Argentina were exposed during the 1970s, 1990s and now.

The activity achieved its main purpose which was to offer a space of reflection about events such as Nisman's death, the military process, the Israeli Embassy and AMIA's bomb attack, and how their consequences affected the Argentine Jewish community in terms of divisions and questioning. Each presenter had 15 minutes to present their ideas and after that people gathered in groups in order to debate, share opinions and thoughts.

June saw the 8th edition of DIA Limud, gathering more than 800 people from all ages. This was a record number of participants! Subjects ranged from Judaism, innovation, history, sense of humour to films, cooking workshops for children, parents and grandparents and a music band. Presenters included a young political activist and Second World War survivors. Throughout the day people enjoyed contributing to each other's learning and teaching through Jewish diversity.

Finally, in order to celebrate the arrival of the Jewish New Year 5776, Rosh Hashaná Urbano happened. On a sunny day in September, over 40,000 people participated in this enormous celebration in República Oriental del Uruguay Park. This festival offered a day of music, humour, and

delicious Jewish cuisine. There were activities for all ages, cooking classes, music workshops and bands, a little cinema, and a discussion spaces called Limud Express, with talks about our own individual responsibility for the creation of a better world. Another space called Limud Textual enabled people to learn about ancient passages from Jewish literary and intellectual culture. It was a great celebration!

BY CAROLINA KAPLAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Limmud Chile

[WWW.LIMUD.CL](http://WWW.LIMUD.CL)

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 14 JUN 2015



Our core team made up entirely of volunteers from a rainbow spectrum across the

community organised our first Limmud and we felt very proud to have achieved this. A key factor was that many of the volunteers and core team were senior members with a high number of miles in community voluntary work. Our constant north point was the Limmud core values.



The event took place on June 14 2015, the coldest day of the year. There were 545 adult participants and 63 children in a parallel Limud Kids programme. It was a one day event in the main Jewish school (Dr. Jaim Weitzman), from 10 am through to 6 pm. We held a grand opening with a one hour panel composed of distinctive Jewish public speakers - a government minister, CEO, academics and journalist.

Afterwards we had more than 36 different presenters, a communal lunch, and a theatre play for all the family as a closing activity.



Some key success factors:

- Being able to transmit and work with the Limmud core values, mission, and vision.
- Being able to introduce a "Limmud Brand "as a parallel of one cause with common objectives capable of moving mountains. Everyone was a Limmud member, either as volunteers on a wider team, participants, presenters, or the core organizing team.
- To sell more than 95 % of the tickets before the event.
- To be able to organize a parallel kids programme, so parents could participate with peace of mind in the adult program and the kids had great quality activities.
- To create a successful communication campaign that achieved goals of introducing Limmud and pre-selling 500 paid tickets before the day of Limmud, an event that no one had attended before. A very rare thing in the Chilean Yishuv history!

BY VIVI KREMER AND  
ABRAHAM YUDELEVICH,  
CORE TEAM MEMBERS



## Limmud Mar del Plata (Limud MDQ)

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LIMUDMDQ/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LIMUDMDQ/)

CONTACT VIA FACEBOOK

LAST EVENT: 3 FEB 2015

NEXT EVENT: 15 MAY 2016

 El 1º DIA Limud Mar del Plata, Argentina, se realizò en nuestra ciudad el dia 3 de febrero de 2015, en Villa Victoria Ocampo, con una participaciòn de màs de 250 participantes. Con entusiasmo pudimos lograr que este evento reuniera a muchos judíos que no participan ni estan comprometidos con nuestra única comunidad.

Realizamos actividades simultàneas que enriquecieron la difusiòn de nuestra cultura, conferencias y charlas, cine-debate, taller de arte, cocina, mÙsica y baile, en un marco de fiesta y donde se disfrutò y a la vez se integrò a mucha gente.

Estamos ahora abocados a la organizaciòn de nuestro 2º LIMUD MAR DEL PLATA,Argentina, el que realizarà el dia 15 de mayo de 2016 en la UNIVERSIDAD CAECE con màs de 36 actividades simultàneas.

Mar del Plata es una ciudad en la que actualmente participan comunitariamente sólo 150 familias pero que se encuentran desinteresadas alrededor de 200 más. Es nuestro desafío y pensamos logralo .

Esperamos que todos puedan venir a conocernos.. y participar

IRENE BEATRIZ LAPIDUS, PRESIDENTA

The first Limud Mar del Plata day, Argentina, was held in our city on the 3 February 2015, in Villa Victoria Ocampo, with more than 250 participants. With enthusiasm we were able to bring together through this event many Jews who normally do not participate in activities and are not committed to our unique community.



We conducted simultaneous activities that enriched the understanding of our culture – conversations and debates; film discussions; art, music, cooking and dance workshops - all in a party atmosphere that encouraged the enjoyment and participation of many people.

We are now in the process of organising our second Limud day, to be held on 15 May 2016 at the University CAECE, with more than 36 simultaneous activities.

Mar del Plata is a city where currently only 150 families participate within the community, but there are around another 200 who are not engaged. That is our challenge and we hope everyone will come to know of us (Limud) and participate.

ENGLISH VERSION BY MAX NAAR

## Limmud Peru (Limud Perú)

[LIMUD.PE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LIMUD.PE@GMAIL.COM)

LAST EVENT: 29 NOV 2015

 This year Limud Perú held its third annual event in Lima, drawing together hundreds of local residents to participate in a day of Jewish learning through discussion, dance, film, song and of course eating! Limud Perú is now a key fixture in the Jewish communal calendar, giving people the opportunity to explore their Judaism in many new and inspiring ways.

## Limmud Uruguay (Limud.uy)

CONTACT VIA FACEBOOK

LAST EVENT: 6 SEP 2015

 Following their launch in 2014, Limud Uruguay held an event in September 2015, providing a choice of learning opportunities in the lead up to Rosh Hashanah. Leading up to the event, Limud Uruguay launched an Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign in an effort to raise funds for their activities.



# LIMMUD MISSION AND VALUES

## MISSION: LIMMUD'S PROMISE

Wherever you find yourself,  
Limmud will take you one  
step further on your  
Jewish journey

### Arguments for the Sake of Heaven

### Community and Mutual Responsibility

### Diversity

### Enabling Connections

### Empowerment

### Expanding Jewish Horizons

### Learning

### Participation

### Religious Observance

### Respect

### DIVERSITY

We value the rich diversity among Jews, and so we seek to create cross-communal and inter-generational experiences.

We value accessibility, and aim to be accessible to all.

We value choice in form, content and style in our programmes.

We encourage people not to stereotype others.

### RESPECT

No-one is more important than anyone else.

We expect all participants to be respectful of one another, and to recognise that all volunteers are also participants.

Personal attacks are not acceptable in any Limmud context, especially within sessions at events.

### LEARNING

Everyone should be a student and anyone can be a teacher.

Learning embraces personal development, knowledge and skills.

Learning changes people, inspires action and opens new worlds.

We encourage the creation of a learning environment in which people are able to reflect and grow.

There are many inspirations that can offer opportunities for learning.

### EMPOWERMENT

We inspire people to be ambitious about their contribution.

We challenge people, and trust them to rise to that challenge.

We see the potential of individuals and communities, and support their development.

We empower people to make choices and provide the information they need to inform those choices (including in the biographies which we ask presenters to provide).

### PARTICIPATION

Volunteerism is a key feature of almost everything we do.

We are all responsible for each other and for the communities we create – everyone has an important contribution to make.

We encourage participants to take an active part in all we do.

### ENABLING CONNECTIONS

We aim to create opportunities for communities and individuals to connect.

We recognise the strength of providing a space where spiritual, emotional and intellectual connections are made.

### COMMUNITY AND MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Limmud is a community of learning.

We can achieve more together than we can individually.

We gain from, and should give something back to, the Jewish and wider community.

### ARGUMENTS FOR THE SAKE OF HEAVEN

We recognise and appreciate that 'arguments for the sake of Heaven' can make a positive contribution to furthering our education and understanding.

We do not participate in legitimising or de-legitimising any religious or political position found in the worldwide Jewish community. Anyone coming to Limmud seeking opportunities for this will not find them. We have no part to play in the debates between/across denominations.

Sessions which encourage vigorous debate are entirely acceptable but we will seek to avoid religious or political conflict. Sessions should be educational, and not polemical.

### RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

We seek to create an inclusive environment for all participants whatever their religious observance practices.

We believe in the importance of enabling Shabbat and kashrut to be kept in all public areas as far as possible, so that Jews do not have to separate themselves one from another.

We recognise that in private areas, people will behave as they wish.

We ask that in matters of Shabbat and kashrut all participants behave in a way which is respectful of the religious observance of others.

### EXPANDING JEWISH HORIZONS

We strive to create individual, collective and communal experiences, through which we strengthen and develop our Jewish identity.

# LIMMUD EVENTS 2016

## LIMMUD EVENTS 2016 (THAT WE KNOW ABOUT SO FAR)



29 JAN to 1 FEB – Limmud FSU US West Coast  
[www.westcoast.limmudfsuus.org](http://www.westcoast.limmudfsuus.org)

30 to 31 JAN – Limmud Van (Vancouver)  
[www.limmudvancouver.ca](http://www.limmudvancouver.ca)

30 JAN to 1 FEB – Limmud Helsinki  
[www.limud.fi](http://www.limud.fi)

31 JAN – Limmud AZ (Arizona)  
[www.limmudaz.org](http://www.limmudaz.org)

7 FEB – Limmud Manchester  
[www.limmud.org/day/manchester](http://www.limmud.org/day/manchester)

12 to 15 FEB – Limmud NY (New York)  
[www.limmudny.org](http://www.limmudny.org)

18 to 19 FEB – Limmud Arava  
[www.jewishagency.org/he/limmud-arava/content/31351](http://www.jewishagency.org/he/limmud-arava/content/31351)

21 FEB – Limmud Miami  
[www.limmudmiami.org](http://www.limmudmiami.org)

28 FEB – Limmud Bogota  
[www.limmudbogota.org](http://www.limmudbogota.org)

4 to 6 MAR – Limmud France  
[www.limoud.org](http://www.limoud.org)

6 MAR – Limmud Öresund  
[www.oresundslimmud.org](http://www.oresundslimmud.org)

6 MAR – Limmud Toronto  
[www.limmud.ca](http://www.limmud.ca)

11 to 13 MAR – Limmud Keshet Poland

12 to 13 MAR – Limmud Winnipeg  
[www.limmudwinnipeg.org](http://www.limmudwinnipeg.org)

13 MAR – Limmud Michigan  
[www.limmudmichigan.org](http://www.limmudmichigan.org)

18 to 20 MAR – Limmud NOLA (New Orleans)  
[www.limmudnola.org](http://www.limmudnola.org)

20 MAR – Limmud Perth

1 to 3 APR – Limmud FSU New York  
[www.limmudfsuus.org](http://www.limmudfsuus.org)

7 to 10 APR – Limmud Training on Tour Latin America  
[www.limmudinternational.org](http://www.limmudinternational.org)



14 to 17 APR – Limmud FSU Moscow  
[www.limmud.ru](http://www.limmud.ru)

5 to 8 MAY – Limmud Germany  
[www.limmud.de](http://www.limmud.de)

13 to 15 MAY – Limmud FSU Belarus  
[www.limmudfsu.org](http://www.limmudfsu.org)

15 MAY – Limmud Mar del Plata

25 to 29 MAY – Limmud CR (Czech Republic)

19 JUN – Limmud Cambridge  
[www.limmud.org/day/](http://www.limmud.org/day/)

24 to 26 JUN – Limmud Bay Area  
[www.limmudbayarea.org](http://www.limmudbayarea.org)

25 to 27 JUN – Limmud Melbourne  
[www.limmudoz.com.au](http://www.limmudoz.com.au)

29 JUN to 1 JUL – Limmud Tel Aviv

3 JUL – Limmud Sydney  
[www.limmud-oz.com.au](http://www.limmud-oz.com.au)

10 JUL – Limmud Birmingham  
[www.limmud.org/day/](http://www.limmud.org/day/)

**FOR AN UP-TO-DATE LIST  
OF EVENTS GO TO:**

[WWW.LIMMUDINTERNATIONAL.ORG/CALENDAR](http://WWW.LIMMUDINTERNATIONAL.ORG/CALENDAR)

19 to 21 AUG – Limmud Cape Town  
[www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)

22 to 23 AUG – Limmud Durban  
[www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)

25 to 29 AUG – Limmud in the Woods  
<http://limmud.org/woods/>

26 to 28 AUG – Limmud Johannesburg  
[www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)

2 to 5 SEPT – Limmud Atlanta + SE  
[www.limmudse.org](http://www.limmudse.org)

TBC SEPT – Limmud Training on Tour Europe  
[www.limmudinternational.org](http://www.limmudinternational.org)

6 NOV – Limmud Liverpool  
[www.limmud.org/day/](http://www.limmud.org/day/)

19 to 20 NOV – Limmud Stockholm  
[www.limmud.se](http://www.limmud.se)

25 to 29 DEC – Limmud Conference  
[www.limmud.org](http://www.limmud.org)

**Wherever you find yourself Limmud will take you one step further on your Jewish journey...**

<b>AFRICA</b>		
SA Cape Town	Keshet Baltics	FSU West Coast
SA Durban	Keshet Bulgaria	Los Angeles
SA Johannesburg	Keshet ExYu	Mexico
	Keshet Poland	Miami
<b>ASIA</b>		
China	Netherlands	Michigan
India	Oresund	New York
	Stockholm	New Orleans
<b>AUSTRALASIA</b>		
Canberra	Tag Essen	Ottawa
FSU Australia	Turkey	Philadelphia
Melbourne	Vienna	Toronto
New Zealand	<b>ISRAEL</b>	<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>
Perth	Arava	Bogota
Queensland	Beer Sheva	Buenos Aires
Sydney	FSU Israel	Chile
	Galil	Mar del Plata
<b>EUROPE</b>		
Barcelona	Haifa	Peru
Belgium	Jerusalem	Uruguay
Czech Republic	Modi'in	<b>UK</b>
France	Sharon	Birmingham
FSU Belarus	Tel Aviv	Cambridge
FSU Europe	Yeroham	Conference
FSU Moldova	<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>	Harrow
FSU Moscow	Arizona	In the Woods
FSU St Petersburg	Atlanta+SE	Leeds
FSU Ukraine	Bay Area	Liverpool
FSU Volga-Urals	Boston	Manchester
Germany	Chicago	Scotland
Helsinki	FSU Canada	Thames Valley
Hungary	FSU New York	

### **Contacts / Resources**

To learn more, or to find a Limmud anywhere around the globe, visit [www.limmudinternational.org](http://www.limmudinternational.org) or email [international@limmud.org](mailto:international@limmud.org)

To join the Online Forum:  
<https://groups.google.com/d/forum/limmud-international-forum>

To access the Limmud International Resources Directory email  
[international@limmud.org](mailto:international@limmud.org)

 [TWITTER.COM/LIMMUD\\_INT](#)

 [FACEBOOK.COM/LIMMUDINTERNATIONAL](#)

 [YOUTUBE.COM/LIMMUDINTERNATIONAL](#)

