



Limmud
INTERNATIONAL

LIMMUD INTERNATIONAL
ANNUAL REVIEW 2014

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

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|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ARAVA | CZECH REPUBLIC | LIVERPOOL | OTTAWA |
| ATLANTA | DURBAN | LOS ANGELES | PERU |
| BALTIMORE | FRANCE | MANCHESTER | POLAND |
| BALTICS | GALIL | MELBOURNE | ROMANIA |
| BARCELONA | GERMANY | MEXICO | ST PETERSBURG |
| BAY AREA | HAIFA | MIAMI | STOCKHOLM |
| BEER SHEVA | HAMBURG | MODI'IN | SYDNEY |
| BELARUS | INDIA | MOLDOVA | TURKEY |
| BOSTON | ISRAEL (FSU) | MOSCOW | UKRAINE |
| BUENOS AIRES | ITALY | NETHERLANDS | VANCOUVER |
| BULGARIA | JOHANNESBURG | NEW ORLEANS | VIENNA |
| CANADA (FSU) | LEEDS | NEW YORK | WINNIPEG |
| CAPE TOWN | LIMMUD CONFERENCE | NEW YORK (FSU) | YEROHAM |
| CHICAGO | LIMMUD IN THE WOODS | NEW ZEALAND | |
| CHINA | | ORESUND | |

DAVID HOFFMAN

Limmud International has had another strong year of growth and development and it is a pleasure to be able to share this with you in the second edition of the Limmud International Annual Review, a chance to catch up with groups all round the world.

As I reach the end of my two year term as Chair of Limmud International, I am delighted to be able to hand over Limmud International in such a strong state. It is a great pleasure to be able to report that Limmud International is continuing to grow in every way!

In 2014 there were **80 LIMMUD GROUPS IN 41 COUNTRIES**

LIMMUD AROUND THE WORLD

Limmud International supports all the Limmud groups outside the UK in producing a whole range of events and community learning activities. I am delighted that this year has seen so many successful Limmud events across the globe, with over 50 outside the UK.

These included first time events from Limmud communities in Barcelona, Czech Republic, FSU Canada, Haifa, Italy, Miami and Vancouver and a whole range of events on six continents. Plus we have new groups in Arizona, Chile, FSU Australia, FSU West Coast, Perth, Queensland, Tel Aviv and Uruguay looking to hold events in the next year or so. We are most certainly building toward the goal of a Limmud wherever there are Jews.

LIMMUD INTERNATIONAL IN 2014

Limmud International has been able to support Limmud communities this year in a number of ways. We have held three very successful regional Training on Tour volunteer and leadership development and networking seminars, in Berlin, Buenos Aires and Sydney. There are more details of these elsewhere in this Review. In particular, we are now routinely translating at least some of our training materials into different languages, and used translators for the first time in Buenos Aires to enable greater engagement and connections to be made.

We had a very successful programme at Limmud Conference 2013 and are expecting to do just as well, if not better, at Limmud Conference 2014. We have also been working on developing a wider team of international volunteers to support the work of Limmud International, and help us reach out to more Limmud teams with training, visits to events and ongoing contact. We held two successful volunteer training events in the UK to support this.

As a goal for 2014-2016, Limmud International adopted the aim of visiting every group within this three year period for a support and development visit from Limmud International – whether to get started, for volunteer development or to attend an event. With over 40 visits having taken place this year using more than 25 Limmud International volunteers, we are making good progress towards meeting our target. These visits to Limmud groups around the world are one of our most important activities, to provide you with support and development and to help generate and sustain volunteer enthusiasm.

We also now have a Limmud International Administrator at the Limmud office in London to support the Limmud International Coordinator in all of these activities. We also led the revision of the Limmud International values, so that there is a fuller expression of these for use by communities around the world.

In 2014 there were **62 LIMMUD EVENTS RUN BY 3,000 VOLUNTEERS WITH 28,500 PARTICIPANTS**

We have continued regular communication with Limmud communities, including monthly e-bulletins, sending all Limmud communities copies of last year's first Limmud International Annual Review, and conducting a second Limmud-wide survey of communities to support this year's Review.

We maintain online resources through the Limmud International Resources Directory to encourage the sharing of documents with and between Limmud communities online and with the Limmud International Online Forum for discussions of topical issues, which is now on Facebook as well as a Google group.

If you are a volunteer with a Limmud community, do make sure that your community has access to available resources – especially the online Resources Directory and Forum – and please make sure that you receive our emails (and that we receive yours!). Please do also keep us posted with the dates of your events in advance so we can add them to the Limmud International online calendar, and do share reports of your events afterwards for the Limmud International blog.

THANKS...

Of course, all of this is very much a team effort, relying on the hard work of a whole host of volunteers and professionals. The Limmud International Steering Group this year has been a valuable forum for discussion and actively helped drive activities forward: thanks to **Toby Axelrod**, **David Bilchitz**, **Shep Rosenman** and **Shoshana Waskow**. I would also like to thank those who helped with any of the planning or training of any of our activities, most especially Training on Tour, and the Limmud Board of Directors under the enthusiastic leadership of **Kevin Sefton**, for their support of the activities of Limmud International.

Our volunteers are in turn complemented by key Limmud professionals – most notably **Clive Lawton**, Limmud's Senior Consultant, who has continued to mentor and train Limmud communities around the world, and **Dani Serlin**, the Limmud International Coordinator, whose organisational skills, dedication and enormous hard work make possible so much of what Limmud International does, now ably supported by **Suzy Margulies** our Limmud International Administrator, who has allowed us to expand our support for teams around the world. My thanks also to **Shelley Marsh**, Limmud Executive Director, and the Limmud Office team for all their

assistance and work throughout the year, and to **Sara Averick** who has continued to ensure that Limmud's profile is expanding worldwide.

The work of Limmud International is also made possible by the generous support of many organisations and individuals, but in particular the **Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe**, the **Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation**, **Pears Foundation** and **The Natan Fund** as well as the **American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee** which directly supports many Limmuds around the world.

And of course, all of this would be meaningless without the hard work and dedication of all the many thousands of people around the world who generate Limmud communities and create Limmud events. To **all of you**, my thanks, and congratulations on all the plentiful and various results of your labours.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be Chair of Limmud International and I am sure that Limmud International will continue to go from strength to strength in the future.

DAVID HOFFMAN
CHAIR, LIMMUD INTERNATIONAL
DECEMBER 2014



Building on the success of Limmud International's regional development and networking seminar and responding to the needs of Limmud activists, this year saw our return to Europe with a strong programme and growth in participation.

We are also proud to have introduced the seminar to two new regions: Latin America and Africa, Asia and Australasia; providing key opportunities for shared learning and facilitating the creation of supportive regional relationships.

EUROPE

Limmud International's first Training on Tour seminar of the year was in Berlin in May. This brought 33 Limmud team members together from 14 Limmud communities across Europe. Although conducted in English, printed materials including workshop activities were also provided in German, Russian and Spanish.

Throughout the weekend-long participants shared their experiences of growing and developing Limmud communities and events. They discussed the Limmud values and the volunteer experience as well as a range of issues which face any Limmud group. Shabbat included our own Kabbalat Shabbat or a chance to attend a range of local synagogues, or chavruta learning.

The seminar closed with participants offering and requesting Limmud gifts from each other in the form of knowledge, skills and experience to share with their teams back home.

LATIN AMERICA

In Buenos Aires in July, Limmud International held its first Training on Tour seminar for the Latin America region, bringing together volunteers from Mexico, Peru and a new group in Uruguay, as well as from Buenos Aires.

Large parts of the seminar were conducted in Spanish, which was the common language, with translators who very much became part of the seminar, even joining in the discussion! Sessions also included discussion of the Limmud values, how Limmud groups share issues and where they differ. And there was only a slight pause for the World Cup with Argentina in the quarter finals...

TRAINING ON TOUR



The seminar concluded by everyone participating in Limud Buenos Aires, which was a very successful event and great fun.

AFRICA, ASIA & AUSTRALASIA

Completing the series of seminars for 2014, 28 volunteer activists from 11 Limmud communities in Asia, Africa and Australasia came together for the first such seminar in this region.

Over a long weekend in Sydney, participants learnt together, shared their knowledge, experiences and challenges, and developed connections, building a strong network of support and shared resources going forward. Highlights included grappling with what it means to be a Limmud volunteer and balancing a diverse Limmud programme within a community context and the opportunity to spend time with other motivated and enthusiastic Limmud activists outside of their own community.

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 Israel, North America and Europe in 2015!

BY **DANI SERLIN (COORDINATOR)**
& **DAVID HOFFMAN (CHAIR)**

LIMMUD INTERNATIONAL



AFRICA

Limmud SA Cape Town

WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.ZA

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 22 – 24 AUG 2014

NEXT EVENT: AUG 2015



2014 was an exciting year for Limmud Cape Town. With a particular focus on nurturing new volunteers and attracting new Limmudniks, we ran a series of successful "Bite of Limmud" events in the first half of the year. These events gave participants an opportunity to experience the different Limmud tracks and get a taste of what to expect at our annual conference. Events included a viewing and Q&A of an Israeli film, a chavruta session facilitated by international scholars, and a dynamic Shavuot Tikkun Leil developed around Limmud International text sources.

As a result of these mini-events, some innovative marketing, and Limmud's growing reputation in Cape Town, we were thrilled that our 8th annual Conference, held in August, was a sold-out success, with over 520 Limmudniks passing through the gates of the Protea Hotel Technopark in the beautiful surrounds of Stellenbosch. Our 80 presenters, of whom 59 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 it exhausted, after taking one step further on their Jewish journeys.

Our Conference chairs, Craig Nudelman and Jackie Maris, 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 were also thrilled by the many young adults who attended and helped contribute

to the buzzing atmosphere over the weekend. Finally, our programming team 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 GABI NUDELMAN

Limmud SA Durban

WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.ZA

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 25 – 26 AUG 2014

NEXT EVENT: AUG 2015



Durban has a small but active Jewish community and Limmud has been an annual event here since 2008.

This year we held a highly successful Taste of Limmud in April with two consecutive sessions and a literal 'taste' of delicious Israeli food which went down very well.

Our main event was held in August with 12 international presenters from the USA, UK, and Israel, as well as 10 South African presenters including the Israeli Ambassador, giving 38 sessions over two evenings.

There were approximately 140 participants on both nights at the historic Durban Jewish Centre, a great turnout for a mid-week event.

We've received many positive comments from both presenters and participants particularly regarding the intimacy of the event with smaller groups facilitating discussions, as well as sense of community and a relaxed atmosphere.

BY HELENE LEVITAN, CHAIR



Limmud SA Johannesburg

WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.ZA

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 29 – 31 AUG 2014; 19 OCT 2014

NEXT EVENT: AUG 2015



2014 saw Limmud SA Johannesburg (JHB) hold four successful events. Limmud SA JHB was also privileged to work with Limmud International to make sure that three of our volunteers could attend the Limmud International Training on Tour seminar in Sydney.

Over 200 participants attended our first ever Taste of Limmud in Greenside. Greenside is an area which historically used to have a large Jewish community, but is somewhat off the beaten track of the Johannesburg Jewish community today. We had a great turnout of Limmudniks and people who live in and around the area. We always base our Tastes of Limmud around the visit of international presenters. We also repeat some of the more popular sessions from the Conference before.

There was a great evening of learning during the first ever Limmud SA JHB Shavuot Tikkun Leil. The event was hosted by a core Limmud family, and after various successful sessions, we are sure that this event will become an annual fixture on the Limmud SA JHB calendar.

We had our fourth and largest ever residential conference with over 500 delegates coming together for an incredible weekend, and a special Shabbat. We also had a

very big turnout on the Sunday. Many venues were simply too small to handle the scrum of delegates wanting to attend certain sessions. We had a great Limmud Live party on the Saturday night.

We had 18 international presenters join us for the weekend, with spouses and partners also presenting, giving our Limmud a strong international flavour. One of the areas that we would like to improve on is our panels, as some were too big and some too pareve.

Over 80 Limmudniks took part in the inaugural Limmud SA JHB quiz. The event was successful on three levels: it saw new volunteers run an event with little oversight and executive interference. It affirmed our ideas that Limmudniks are quite bright(!), and we were also able to raise some funds for the organization.

2014 has been a great year for Limmud SA JHB. Onward to 2015!

BY WAYNE SUSSMAN, ADINA ROTH, BRETT WILKS,
DANIEL BARNETT & HINDA MENDELOW

LIMMUD SA JHB 2014 CO-CHAIRS

Limmud China

WWW.LIMMUDCHINA.ORG
INFO@LIMMUDCHINA.ORG
LAST EVENT: 1 – 2 APR 2014



This year Limmud China proudly held its third annual event, returning to its beginnings outside Beijing along the great wall of China and expanding to include approximately 160 participants. Although physically located in China and alternating annually between Beijing and Shanghai, Limmud China provides a crucial opportunity for Jewish learners throughout different communities and countries in Far East Asia to engage with each other and provide ongoing support for each other in the development of each of their Jewish communities. Limmud China is excitedly planning for its next event in Beijing in May 2015.



Limmud India

CONTACT VIA FACEBOOK
LAST EVENT: 23 – 24 OCT 2014
NEXT EVENT: 11 – 12 NOV 2015



We had our very own Limmud India, dedicated to Jewish learning in all its variety, on the 23rd and 24th of October 2014. The event was led and run by a core committee of volunteers who had visited Limmud China in the past three years and were also assisted by a group of ten youth who are a part of the JYP. The core group raised funds, planned sessions, arranged transportation, coordinated printing, food and other logistics to run the event.

The venue for the event was Shahani Holiday Home in Lonavala which had a very pleasant climate. The Limmud had 18 exciting and innovative sessions powered by learning and were facilitated by Indians as well as foreigners. There was a special Cafe Dilemma session and also an optional “Booze and Shmooze” session during the event.

A parallel “Young Limmud” was also planned for kids aged 5–12 years. The theme was “Bereshith”, which was organized and led by Kimberly and four Indian Madrichim who were a part of camp Szarvas last year.

There were a total of 92 participants from Mumbai and Thane who attended the two day Limmud across all ages, from the youngest being a year old to the oldest in their 80s!

BY SALOME ABRAHAM



Limmud Fest Melbourne

LAST EVENT: 22 – 24 NOV 2013



After a second successful Limmud Fest Melbourne in 2013, the leadership have this year been working on reaching out to new volunteers and considering their plans for 2015 whilst alternating with Limmud Sydney who are hosting Fest this year.

Limmud FSU Australia

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG
WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG.AU (UNDER CONSTRUCTION)
LIMMUDFSUAUS@GMAIL.COM
NEXT EVENT: 6 – 9 MARCH 2015



Limmud FSU has held its preliminary planning retreat in September 2014 in Melbourne for the first Limmud FSU Conference for Russian speakers taking place in Australia next year! The 25 volunteer members of the Planning Committee were joined by Roman Kogan, Executive Director of Limmud FSU.

Of the approximately 120,000 Jews living in Australia, nearly 30,000 are themselves or their parents immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The upcoming Limmud FSU events will be the first in Australia primarily aimed at Russian speakers and will take place in Sydney (short version) and in Melbourne (long version) in March 2015. The aim is to mount biannual conferences – with the major event alternating between the two cities. Some 400 participants are expected to take part in the March conferences. Reaching out to the young Russian-speaking Jewish population across the vast country, the young Aussie participants can be sure of an exciting experience rooted in Jewish culture, values, traditions, and identity in a warm, egalitarian and pluralistic atmosphere, in Russian, English and Hebrew.



The Limmud FSU Australia 25 strong volunteer planning committee is chaired by Sasha Klyachkina, with volunteers from the Russian Jewish community, as well as young adults from leadership programmes run by the ZFA and JAFI (“Kangaruski”) and is deep in preparation for next year’s ground-breaking gathering following a preliminary planning retreat. The committee is working with Tania Shvartsman, the Limmud FSU Australia Project Manager, on the development of a rich programme of lectures, and all other aspects of the upcoming events.

“At Limmud we can be as Jewish as we want and help others connect to their Jewish selves and provide the opportunity to follow their passion while following our own,” said Tania Borodach, Melbourne, member of Limmud FSU Australia organizing committee.

BY LIMMUD FSU

Limmud Melbourne

WWW.LIMMUDOZ.COM.AU
INFO@LIMMUDOZ.COM.AU
LAST EVENT: 7 – 9 JUN 2014



“The best Limmud Oz that Melbourne has produced so far” is how one long-time Limmudnik described this year’s Limmud Oz festival. With more volunteers than ever, more participants than ever, more performances than ever, and more fun than ever, Limmud Oz 2014 continued to draw widely on Melbourne’s diverse Jewish community. Over the traditional June long-weekend at the convenient Caulfield campus of Monash University, orange-clad Limmud Oz volunteers greeted over 900 participants.

They came to teach and learn, to entertain and inform, to argue and listen, to engage and enrage and together they created a buzz that never stopped. It began at the hugely successful Saturday night opening event of four classic Limmud sessions followed by Expressions, five captivating local performances. The next two days were filled with almost 200 lectures, panel discussions, performances,

and film screenings on wildly varied Jewish themes. With ten sessions running simultaneously, the biggest problem of the weekend was deciding which session to attend in any given hour.

The organisers, all volunteers themselves, were weary but euphoric as the event ended. "We were thrilled with the wonderful feeling of communal connection and participation that the event created," said Mandi Katz, who co-chaired this year's event. When she and co-chair, Annette Charak, were asked whether they'd be doing it again in 2016, they looked at each other and smiled: "maybe if Mandi does, I will" said Annette, "but first I need to kvell a little and get to know my family again. Then we can talk."

BY ANNETTE CHARAK, CO-CHAIR

Limmud NZ (New Zealand)

WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.NZ

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 16 – 17 AUG 2014



This year Limmud NZ celebrated its fifth successful Limmud conference, representing a significant event in the annual calendar of the Jewish community and reaching a wide audience across the New Zealand Jewish community. In 2015 Limmud NZ will be working on its leadership succession and will potentially pilot a Limmud Fest event. Watch this space!

Limmud Sydney

WWW.LIMMUD-OZ.COM.AU

LIMMUD@SHALOM.EDU.AU

LAST EVENT: 15 JUN 2014; 28 – 30 NOV 2014

NEXT EVENT: 6 – 8 JUN 2015



Some 350 pre-schoolers, kids and adults enjoyed an invigorating day at Yom Limmud in June. Presenters included Middle East analyst Avi Melamed, Holocaust scholar Deborah Dwork, Bible scholar Everett Fox, entertainer Sam Glaser, Pardes scholar Meir Schweiger and Jewish educator Cherie Koller-Fox. Participants also enjoyed a number of contentious local panels, including discussions on the value of Jewish day schools; Jews, Muslims and hate: a realistic response; Jewish lobbying in Australia; and more.

While the adults expanded their minds, our Young Limmud program allowed kids to enjoy a breadth of fun activities under the Noah's Ark theme. This included a petting zoo, sport, krav maga, cupcake making, a first aid course and craft. For the first time we also offered a morning preschool program for the under 5s who loved the animal themed day.

The third Limmud Fest took place in the Central Coast, about 90 minutes from Sydney. The weekend provided an opportunity to relax, enjoy the sunshine, learn, dance, sing and unwind over a diverse Shabbat experience which allowed for both camping and indoor accommodation. Visiting Middle East analyst Hagai Segal updated fascinated participants on the latest developments in the Islamic world and its implications for Israel. There was a wide range of inspiring sessions and presenters on offer for the multi-generational crowd with everything from film, meditation, theatre, sports, Hebrew Café, comedy and even platonic speed dating available.

The Young Limmud program for primary age kids made the most of the site and engaged in tree planting, sports, Israeli dancing, bushwalking, cooking, friendship badge making, scavenger hunts, drama, tie dying and challah cover making. They were joined by a small, but growing number of under 5s, accompanied by their parents who enjoyed socialising together and participating in activities including playdough therapy, carnival races and cooking.

Everyone volunteered over the course of the weekend, contributing to a wonderful atmosphere, combined with delicious food.

BY SHARON BERGER, COORDINATOR



Limmud Barcelona (Limud Barcelona)

WWW.LIMUDBARCELONA.ORG

LIMUDBARCELONA@LIMUDBARCELONA.ORG

LAST EVENT: 1 JUN 2014



Limud Barcelona's first event was an exciting new initiative for the local Jewish population, bringing together over 200 registered participants from different Jewish communities across the city. Throughout the day participants engaged in a choice of sessions based on the themes of Israel, identity, yesterday and today, amongst others, with plenty of activities for children and teenagers to enjoy. Participants were talking about Limud Barcelona long after the event and the team are planning for the next event in 2015.

Limmud Czech Republic (Limmud CR)

WWW.LIMMUD.CZ

INFO@LIMMUD.CZ

LAST EVENT: 7 – 11 MAY 2014

NEXT EVENT: 29 APR – 3 MAY 2015

With a small team and for their first event, Limmud Czech Republic ambitiously held a five day residential event for 150 participants. The enthusiasm that sold out places early to participants from both Czech and Slovak Jewish communities, especially families with children, carried on throughout the event, making it a great experience for all. Many people want to come back next year and to make this happen many participants also offered to join the wider planning team as volunteers.

Limmud France (Limoud France)

WWW.LIMOUD.ORG

INFO@LIMOUD.ORG

LAST EVENT: 28 FEB – 2 MAR 2014

NEXT EVENT: 27 FEB – 1 MAR 2015



The 2014 national Conference of Limoud France took place over three days in the beautiful setting of Parc Hotel Coudray Montceau, 35 km south of Paris. This was the 8th national Conference and, as the previous ones, it was a great success.

550 participants joined the Conference from all over France with a further 50 joining us from other countries (including Israel, USA, Spain, Sweden, Norway, UK), our best international reach so far! We also initiated a special exchange program this year with two madrichim from Limmud UK who joined our Young Limoud volunteer team.



The program consisted of 160 activities, including sessions in English, and a special program for children and youngsters. We had all types of activities (culture, history, Torah, leadership, community, Israel, etc.), and a special highlight: India (with lectures covering the history of Indian Jews and also art, music, literature, and Bollywood dancing of course!). We had a beautiful photographic exhibition and hosted a very stimulating debate between the Indian ambassador and the Israeli ambassador about the perspectives of the relationship between the two countries. We also organized sports activities (walks in the park, krav maga, tai-chi), flamenco and salsa lessons, concerts, plays, and games. Three different Shabbat services took place (Orthodox, Masorti, and Liberal) and Limoud is probably the only place in France where this is possible.

As usual with Limmud France, the thrill was not only in the activities, but also in the wonderful atmosphere that developed over the three days, and which enabled many encounters, unexpected discussions, and even improvised concerts in the lobby of the hotel. The food was also great, especially for Shabbat dinner with a fully packed dining room singing together Kiddush and various songs. Half of the participants were coming for the first time and several of them are already enthusiastic and ready to come back!

Once again, the organization of this big event went on (almost) smoothly, thanks to the amazing team of 60 volunteers. We are already starting to plan the Conference for next year!

BY ELIE LOBEL, PRESIDENT

Limmud FSU Belarus

WWW.LIMMUD.BY / WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG

GALINA.RYBNIKOVA@GMAIL.COM

LAST EVENT: 12 – 14 SEP 2014

NEXT EVENT: JULY 2015



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. This year 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 was 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 5 – 8 lectures at the same time, old friends meeting at 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 at the lobby – I would call it an ideal Limmud start.

It wouldn't be Limmud if there was no Shabbat celebration. As always the participants can choose the ceremony or the lecture that they want. The Shuk presents a musical Kabbalat

Shabbat. Moreover, it is already the Limmud tradition to have intellectual games on Friday night. It's the best time for communication and new acquaintances.

Saturday was the apogee of Limmud. Lectures, workshops, book presentations, discussions, round tables, dramatic performances. Israel, USSR, Yiddishkeit, Jewish art and humor – there are no limits of topics at Limmud. The participants are grateful for this choice. Natalia Kravchenko, a participant from Gomel, Belarus, is a first time Limmudnik: "Limmud is a meaningful Jewish event for my personal education and for staying tuned with the local and international Jewish community."

Interviewing Natalia Gurevich, a volunteer from Minsk, my question about coming to Limmud as a volunteer for the first time ever was met with amusement: "It's much more fun! It is the opportunity to take an active part in Limmud and not being passive."

BY LARISA POPOVSKAYA

Limmud FSU Moldova

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG

GALINA.RYBNIKOVA@GMAIL.COM

LAST EVENT: 23 – 25 MAY 2014

NEXT EVENT: MAY 2015



Building on the impact of the first Limmud FSU Moldova event in 2012, this unique educational experience revolutionizing pluralistic Jewish engagement and strengthening Jewish identity, Limmud FSU Moldova returned with a festival of Jewish learning in 2014.

The event opened modestly. Blue and orange balloons, a blue ribbon and a lone firework marked the opening of the second Limmud FSU conference in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. Without the mass of people in New York, without the sparkle of Moscow and without the intellectual spirit of Odessa, but nevertheless, with a great



deal of excitement and loads of welcome - people here smile at you, not just as a welcoming gesture but simply because that is the way they are. The fact that Moldova is the poorest country in Europe, changes nothing. An atmosphere of goodness pervades the air.

In our hotel human engineering is somewhat lacking: the shower curtain doesn't reach the floor and you end up surrounded by a small lake. The rooms have no telephone and the TVs have no remote control. But the rather spartan conditions reflect the spirit of Limmud. There is no falsity but rather a sense of modesty and avoiding any sense of hierarchy. There are no commanders and no soldiers, everyone is at the same eye level.

350 Moldavians paid 40 dollars each in order to crowd together in basic conditions, to get one hard-boiled egg for breakfast, but also to choose between the 80 different presentations and lectures on offer. In a country where the average pension is 50 dollars a month, a decision to invest 40 of these is irrefutable evidence of the desire to draw closer to Judaism and to share in the Israeli dialectic.

Yulia Sheinman works for a company that prints books and posters. It is important for her to volunteer at Limmud: "Limmud expands your knowledge, not just for Jews and young people. Elderly people also find their place here."

BY MORDEHAI HAIMOVICH

Limmud FSU Moscow

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG / WWW.LIMMUD.RU

PM@LIMMUD.RU / INFO@LIMMUD.RU

LAST EVENT: 24 – 27 APR 2014

NEXT EVENT: 16 – 19 APR 2015



For the first time since 2007, Limmud FSU Moscow provided kosher food for all the participants, which this time included the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia who attended Limmud as a presenter with all his family. He said, "Limmud Moscow is the educational flagship of the FSU; it is a bright and glowing event for Moscow Jewry with its special local atmosphere and its enormous number of presenters and participants and its varied content. Limmud Moscow is young and its atmosphere is also young."

The organizers of Limmud FSU 2014 managed to cram 180 lectures and presentations in the three days, covering a wide variety of topics, from history, art, refuseniks,

righteous gentiles, the Jewish festivals, eco-volunteering, Israeli politics, to Wikipedia.

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, President of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews attended Limmud FSU for the second time. He has been working with Russian-speaking Jewry for 15 years, helping Jews to immigrate to Israel and fundraising for local Jewish organizations. Rabbi Eckstein sees the aim of Limmud FSU as building a new generation of Jews who will be proud of their Jewish identity and traditions. "Religion is a fundamental part of Jewish identity. I want to promote the feeling of Jewish tradition and continuity in Limmud."

People from many different backgrounds and professions attend Limmud. Lev Sandjuk, member of the Klezmeisters, a klezmer band in Moscow, came as a presenter. "It is a great tradition to gather together in April in this wonderful Jewish setting. Limmud FSU is a democratic and interesting event, where there may be four or five lectures that you would like to hear, taking place at the same time. The only thing I would wish for is more time and space for musicians."

Together with Limmud old-timers there were newcomers and people who are not actively involved in Moscow Jewish life. Elena Andreeva found out about Limmud FSU from her friend who went on the Birthright program. "It is my second Limmud. I have many friends here and we arranged to come here in advance, I even asked my husband for a three-day leave," she smiles. "What I like at Limmud is meeting new people of different ages and being able to share a table at meals with lecturers."

BY LARISA POPOVSKAYA



Limmud FSU St Petersburg

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG / WWW.LIMMUD.SPB.RU
CONTACT VIA WEBSITE / LIMMUDSPB@GMAIL.COM
LAST EVENT: 28 – 30 NOV 2014
NEXT EVENT: NOV 2015



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.

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. Mendelevich 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.

Also speaking at the event was Lea Koenig, often called "the First Lady of Israeli Theatre," who celebrated her 85th birthday with a special party arranged by Limmud FSU.

BY LIMMUD FSU



Limmud FSU Ukraine

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG / WWW.LIMMUD.ORG.UA
GALINA.RYBNIKOVA@GMAIL.COM
LAST EVENT: 6 – 9 NOV 2014
NEXT EVENT: OCT 2015



Ukraine is rich in Jewish history – all forms of Jewish worship, ritual, and culture. Today, throughout Ukraine, the revival of interest, especially among younger generations, in Jewish learning is burgeoning at annual Limmud FSU conferences and festivals.

Beginning in Yalta in 2008, annual Limmud FSU festivals in Ukraine have become a tradition and central to the resurgence of Jewish life. Inspiring festivals of Jewish education have been held in Odessa (three times), Truskavetz, Uzhgorod, Vinnitsa and Yalta, moving between cities to draw in different communities.

This year in Lviv, despite an uncertain geopolitical situation, over 600 people took part in the 7th annual Limmud FSU Ukraine conference.

Lviv's Mayor, Andriy Sadovyi, a rising political figure widely seen as a contender for the Russian presidency, attended the opening ceremony. Other distinguished guests included Israel's Ambassador to Ukraine, Eliav Belotserkovsky, and local Jewish communal leaders. The Israeli envoy, noting an exhibition about Ukrainian Jewish history on display during the conference, said the community can serve as a "human bridge" to help build ties between Israel and Ukraine.

"The key to Limmud's success, its longevity and popularity, is a successful combination of education, recreation and communication, which is harmoniously combined in the unique Limmud atmosphere," said Limmud FSU Founder Chaim Chesler.



Among other Limmud FSU Ukraine participants were presenters Sasha Okun, a well-known Israeli artist; Roman Bronfman, former Knesset member, businessman and social activist; historian Igor Shchupak and many others. Limmud FSU Ukraine also offered a variety of programs on music, literature, theater and the arts, with presentations by distinguished artists including Alexander Volodarskiy; a writer, playwright and screenwriter; Valeriy Khait, a distinguished writer from Odessa and show host editor; and Igor Irten'yev, a Russian-Israeli poet and one of the representatives of the so-called ironic trend in contemporary Russian poetry.

After Limmud, Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger, an author, historian and professor in the Faculty of Law and the Center for German and European Studies at Haifa University, visited the childhood home of her great-grandparents, guided by her father Amos Oz's book about their family and Jewish life in the city of Rovno. Fania Oz-Salzberger was among the Limmud FSU presenters, speaking about "Jews and Words," the recent book she wrote jointly with her father.

BY LIMMUD FSU



Limmud Germany (Limmud.e.V.)

WWW.LIMMUD.DE/EN
INFO@LIMMUD.DE
LAST EVENT: 29 MAY – 1 JUN 2014
NEXT EVENT: 30 APR – 3 MAY 2015



This year saw Limmud Germany's 7th festival, which attracted 400 people from all over Germany, Europe, the US and Israel. Participants were able to choose from more than 180 sessions and we occasionally encountered a shortage of rooms during the festival! Yet we were able to accommodate all presenters, and we were especially glad to see more than 80 participants volunteer during the festival itself.

In addition, in 2014, for the third year in a row, a Day Limmud was held in Hamburg. This event, too, was a big success, not only for Jews directly living in Hamburg but also for participants from many smaller communities in the region of northern Germany.

In May, Limmud International's Training on Tour program was held in Berlin, which allowed a significant part of the German team to take part and to connect with other international Limmud volunteers as well as to learn and discuss with them various important Limmud issues. Limmud Germany was also invited to share its knowledge and experience regarding volunteer work as a best practice model during a roundtable meeting for Jewish activists in Germany, organized by the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

Regarding the year 5775/2015, we're looking forward to many new things coming up. We will try out a new location for our festival, up in the northwest by the sea; we are glad to welcome many new volunteer team members; and generally we see new challenges ahead, as well as new opportunities to cooperate, to learn and to grow.

BY JONATHAN MARCUS, BOARD CHAIR

Limmud Hungary (Limmud Magyarország)



Limmud Hungary has used the past year to regroup and find new ways to contribute to the community. We are looking for opportunities in which Limmud can work together with other Jewish organizations and at the same time bring a unique option to the already colourful Jewish life of Hungary. We hope to restart public events by the end of this year with smaller events building up to a bigger plan with neighbouring communities.

BY RÉKA ESZTER BODÓ, BOARD MEMBER

Limmud Italy (Limmud Italia)

WWW.LIMMUD-ITALIA.IT
CHAIR@LIMMUD-ITALIA.IT
LAST EVENT: 1 – 2 JUN 2014



The first Limmud Italia Day took place in Florence at the 'Centro Internazionale Studenti Giorgio La Pira', located in the city centre.

Attendance was beyond our expectations, with over 110 people registering and participating in presentations and off-site activities, all in a very enjoyable and cooperative atmosphere. This was mostly due to the devotion and hard work, passion and enthusiasm of the steering group, but also to the cooperation of the many volunteers that gave their time to help in the various tasks, from the reception table, to the catering, etc.

The programme began on Sunday with the opening of an exhibition of didactic panels by Sandro and Silvia Servi, about Jewish Life in Florence. The morning was divided into three slots, with ten presentations in total. These included "The expression 'lo tov' in Torah", by Rabbi Puntarello, "1664, a new Sephardic community in London", by Myriam Silvera, and a panel of five women recounting their experience in the study of sacred texts.

After a delicious lunch on the terrace, the afternoon programme was divided into four session slots, for a total of 15 presentations. There were musical sessions about

piyyutim and Rossella Tercatin spoke about "The social networks and us".

In the evening, the participants took a leisurely walk through the Florence city centre, from the Centro La Pira to the Jewish Community of Florence, where an aperitif and a festive dinner were served. After dinner a theatrical presentation by Miriam Camerini and Manuel Buda, "One womb, two nations, many souls", words and music of the Italian Jews was performed to the Limmud Italia participants as well as Jewish Community members, with over 150 people attending the show.

Monday's program offered a Jewish walking tour of Florence by Giovanna Bossi Rosenfeld, whilst back at the Centro La Pira the morning was divided into three session slots, for a total of six presentations. Amongst others, there was Israeli dancing and a session on antisemitism in education.

BY SANDRO SERVI, LIMMUD ITALIA CHAIR

Limmud Keshet Baltics

WWW.LIMMUD.EU
CONTACT VIA WEBSITE
LAST EVENT: 14 – 16 FEB 2014; 14 – 16 NOV 2014
NEXT EVENT: 20 – 22 FEB 2015



Лиммуд Балтик (Литва, Латвия, Эстония) - это был юбилейный - 10 Лиммуд, на 600 участников - 550 участников, 20 волонтеров и 20 лекторов. Этот Лиммуд был как бы закрывающим круг, с лучшими лекторами из разных годов, с традиционным Шабатом и ностальгическим настроением. И возвращением к нормальным цифрам участников.

This year we made significant change by using two hotels and we cut the number of participants staying in hotels. This encouraged participants from Vilnius to participate without sleeping in a hotel and the number of participants grew. We organized one day participation for senior community members, which gave a possibility for 40 seniors to be part of Limmud. We increased the price for children's participation, with less older children and more small children. It was the first time that we tried to cut the number of lectures that run at the same time, and had a more adequate number to relate to the number of participants. For the first time we also used a professional teacher for the small children.

A highlight was a very special Friday Shabbat event, very warm, not official, but a nostalgic event, with traditional

Shabbat elements, and remembering people that are not with us, to celebrate our 10th anniversary.

For next year, we have to review our price policies, because this year families with children couldn't participate because a very big price for them. The atmosphere was great, because the number of participants came back to a normal setting. People can see each other and it was better communication, and not a crowd like it was when we came to numbers like 1,000.

Top presenters were Inna Krotov, Alexander Vasiliev, Efraim Zuroff, Yuri Tabak.

All together there were about 550 participants, 20 lecturers and about 20 volunteers.

BY JUNONA BERZNITSKI

Limmud Keshet Bulgaria

WWW.LIMMUD.INFO
INFO@LIMMUD.INFO
LAST EVENT: AUG 2014
NEXT EVENT: 1 – 6 SEP 2015

This August the 9th Bulgarian Limmud conference was held in Borovetz (100 km from the capital Sofia). After problems with previous venues in terms of logistics and halls for programs, we found the best venue for the event, and it was very successful. We had 500 participants and around 80 volunteers.

One of the things we are most proud of is the Tikkun Limmud program – we organized 4 different causes that people can choose from and volunteer in: cleaning the old synagogue in the city of Samokov, making path roads in the mountains, cleaning the river and the river bank in the mountains and renewing a playground in the nearby village. Most of the participants of Limmud 2014 decided to participate and volunteered to be part of these activities. Tikkun Limmud had a really great influence on our community.

BY DARIA MELAMED, CHAIRPERSON



Limmud International Annual Review 2014

Limmud Keshet ExYu

WWW.LIMMUD-KESHET-EXYU.ORG
CONTACT VIA WEBSITE
LAST EVENT: 7 – 10 NOV 2013
NEXT EVENT: MAR 2015

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 this year, the team are planning for their next Limmud event in Serbia for March 2015.

Limmud Keshet Poland

WWW.LIMUD.PL
LIMUD@JEWISH.ORG.PL
LAST EVENT: 21 – 23 NOV 2014



Another eagerly anticipated annual Limmud event in Poland drew a crowd of around 700 participants, with accommodation places selling out by 4am on their first day – online registration opened at midnight! Everyone had a great time. The event was very successful and included most of Poland's rabbis! Creating a vital space for Jewish learning and connection, Limmud continues to play a major role in the development of Jewish life in Poland.



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. 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 are working on expanding their volunteer capacity, development and planning processes for a future event.

Limmud Netherlands (Limmoed Nederland)

WWW.LIMMOED.NL
INFO@LIMMOED.NL
LAST EVENT: 23 FEB 2014
NEXT EVENT: 8 NOV 2015



This year's Limmoed event introduced a new format for Jewish learning and getting to know other people in a fun environment through a pub quiz and attracted fresh participants. Drawing on shared learning from the Limmud International Training on Tour development programme for European Limmud volunteers in May, the team are reviewing the structure and direction of the organisation and planning for their event in late 2015.



Limmud Oresund (Ö / Øresundslimmud)

WWW.ORESUNDSLIMMUD.ORG
CONTACT VIA WEBSITE
LAST EVENT: 9 MAR 2014
NEXT EVENT: 28 FEB – 1 MAR 2015



Oresundslimmud Limmud 2014 was our largest, most diverse event yet.

Over 200 participants joined in our tri-lingual programme, which featured sessions in Swedish, Danish and English. Topics ranged from the serious, such as the current debate over circumcision and Holocaust memory studies, to the absurdly entertaining. The latter was highlighted by our tri-lingual Purim spiel, rehearsed during a double-session and performed at our closing assembly. Several sessions focused on text study and others on Israel and the current state of Diaspora-Israel relations. A very popular session included a panel of young (under age 30) Jews discussing their vision of a Jewish future in Sweden and Denmark.

Our Limmud is currently the only adult education programme that encourages cross-communal dialogue amongst the various Jewish groups in our region. We are also unique in crossing the bridge of the Oresund (hence our name) to create cooperation amongst Jewish groups on both the Swedish and the Danish sides of the sound. After holding three increasingly popular Limmud days in Sweden, for 2015 we will be crossing over to Copenhagen. Our event on February 28 – March 1 will include a Saturday night gathering and a full Sunday. At least one third of our sessions are always in English.

BY REBECCA LILLIAN, PROGRAMME CHAIR

Limmud Stockholm

WWW.LIMMUD.SE
CONTACT VIA WEBSITE
LAST EVENT: 15 – 16 NOV 2014
NEXT EVENT: 14 – 15 NOV 2015

LIMMUD STOCKHOLM Limmud Stockholm's motzei Shabbat and Sunday annual winter event attracted a record number of 1,000 participants this year from Sweden and beyond, making the volunteer team jump for joy! They had 100 session holders and 100 sessions covering a number of areas. This year they introduced a Jiddisch track with great success e.g. Shane Baker presenting the much acclaimed Waiting for Godot show and background to it.



Sharing some quieter reflective time before the crowds gathered, the team, their families, local and international presenters came together for a Shabbat dinner over

Limmud Shabbat, drawing on the Limmud Shabbat book as a resource. The team are already enthusiastically planning for November 2015!

Limmud Turkey

WWW.LIMMUDTR.ORG
LIMMUDTR@GMAIL.COM
LAST EVENT: 16 NOV 2014



Limmud Turkey proudly celebrated its 10th anniversary with an event drawing over 1,200 participants, continuing to shine as a beacon of Jewish learning, a place to debate and connect.

Limmud Vienna

WWW.LIMMUDDANUBE.ORG
INFO@LIMMUDDANUBE.ORG
LAST EVENT: 25 MAY 2014
NEXT EVENT: JAN OR FEB 2015

The latest incarnation of Limmud Vienna took place on Sunday May 25, 2014, at the offices of the Jüdisches Institut für Erwachsenenbildung (JIFE), in Vienna (a part of the Wiener Volkshochschulen).

Our incredible team put the event together in about six weeks from conception to the day of the event. It was a success with over 12 sessions (in both German and English), and 65 participants from the community. We would like to again thank our sponsors, JIFE, Austrian Union of Jewish Students, and Hafner Wine.



The community was very excited about the event and we expect a much larger event next time. The next event is planned for late January or February 2015. The exact date is still to be determined, but this will be a larger day and a half event with an expected 120 participants.

BY JON GOLDBERG, CHEERLEADER

Limmud UK

WWW.LIMMUD.ORG
OFFICE@LIMMUD.ORG

LAST EVENTS: MANCHESTER DAY LIMMUD 2 FEB 2014
LIVERPOOL DAY LIMMUD 23 MAR 2014
LEEDS DAY LIMMUD 18 MAY 2014
LIMMUD IN THE WOODS 21 – 25 AUG 2014
LIMMUD CONFERENCE 28 DEC 2014 – 1 JAN 2015

NEXT EVENT: MANCHESTER DAY LIMMUD 1 FEB 2015

NEXT RESIDENTIAL EVENTS: AUG 2015 LIMMUD IN THE WOODS;
27 – 31 DEC 2015 LIMMUD CONFERENCE



2014 has been another busy year for Limmud in the UK, with three successful day events in the North of England – Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds – and growth in participation at the summer learning camping festival, Limmud in the Woods. The Limmud Conference team has been planning an exciting programme for a meaningful and enjoyable experience for thousands of UK participants and hundreds joining from overseas. The Limmud UK Executive has at the same time focused on some big changes, including tendering for a new Limmud Conference caterer, no easy task with over 2,500 mouths to feed! Many hours have also been spent on research and negotiation to identify and secure a new site for Limmud Conference 2015 to support its future expansion.



ISRAEL

Limmud Arava

WWW.ARAVA.CO.IL/MOATZA/MATNAS/LIMOD/LIMOD-ENGLISH.HTM
LIMMUDARAVA@ARAVA.CO.IL
 LAST EVENT: 13 – 14 FEB 2014

The weekend of 13-14 February 2014 saw 400 participants gathered in Mercaz Sapir in the Central Arava for a two-day Limmud experience which included study sessions, workshops, chevruta learning, a moderated panel discussion, performances and guided desert excursions - all in the special atmosphere which only the Arava region can offer.

The sixth annual Conference's success is due largely to the leadership of the Limmud volunteers, who bring the Arava spirit to the event, and building a unique program enabling an interchange of ideas revolving around a wide range of views of Jewish and Israeli life: identity, culture, society and evolving traditions. This year's Conference included 100 young participants - members of the Arava Leadership Academy and the "Hebrew Labour" program. They took an active part in the Conference sessions and in leading the "chevruta" study groups.

In keeping with the Limmud values, all of the presenters volunteered their time and expertise, ensuring the Conference's success. This year's Conference offered a range of presenters including Natan Sharansky and Benny Lau. The evening's entertainment starred a moving performance by pianist and singer Shlomi Shaban with the singer-psalmist David Menahem.

One of this year's innovations was the cooperation with the Israeli "Walla!" internet news site, which promoted Limmud Arava to thousands of viewers, and broadcasted live webcasts of conference sessions. Also featured in the Conference program



were field excursions to observe the unique lifestyle of the Arabian babbler, as well as a taste of the Arava's agriculture offerings.

Limmud Arava thanks the Jewish Agency's Arava-Australia Partnership Together, Matnas Arava and the Central-Arava Regional Council for their generous support.

BY GILA RAZ, CO-CHAIR

Limmud Beer Sheva

WWW.LIMMUDNEGEV.COM
 LAST EVENT: 1 – 4 JUN 2014

Over several days leading up to and on Shavuot, 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 Scolar. Altogether some 300 people participated.

Limmud FSU Israel

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG / LIMMUDFSU.ORG
 CONTACT VIA WEBSITE
 LAST EVENT: 11 – 13 DEC 2014
 NEXT EVENT: DEC 2015

Historical, cultural, spirited, and lively – Limmud FSU's Israel festivals offer outstanding Jewish learning, Jewish culture, Jewish connections, and Jewish food, music, and fashion, too.

Today, young Russian-Israeli Jews from diverse backgrounds come together to learn from one another, to develop a shared future, to heighten their sense of identity, and to make friends, sing, dance, and discuss important Jewish concerns together.



Becoming an integral part of the Jewish homeland with understanding and passion, these young, new Israelis feel it is important to deepen their knowledge and history of the Jewish people. Each year since 2008, Limmud FSU's annual conferences in Israel now reaching over 800 participants a year have inspired young Russian-Israelis with unique experiences and programming focused on their role and interests in the global Jewish world.

Limmud FSU Festival this year was held in Kibbutz Ginostat (at the Kinneret lake) and was devoted, among many other topics, to Rachel Bluwstein – Rachel Hameshoreret, who was born in the town of Saratov in Russia, but spent most of her literary life in Kvutzat Kinneret and is, of course, buried nearby. This in addition to the usual program of lectures, discussions, presentations, workshops and master-classes on many different subjects including Zionism, Jewish history, the Middle Eastern conflict, Talmud and Bible, the arts, literature, Arab-Jewish relations, Israeli music and dance, and much more, as well as a special program for the children of the adult participants.

At the opening in Beit Gabriel, participants mounted the first performance of a musical based on Rachel's poetry performed by students of the Beit Zvi Acting Studio.

BY LIMMUD FSU

Limmud FSU Global Leadership Summit

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG
ROMANKOGAN2010@GMAIL.COM
 LAST EVENT: 12 – 16 JUNE 2014

80 leaders of Limmud FSU (former Soviet Union) participated in the organization's bi-annual Global Leadership Summit in Jerusalem. In lectures and workshops the Limmud FSU key-activists from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Israel, USA, Canada and Australia, exchanged ideas, shared experiences and in general, enjoyed the atmosphere of Jerusalem. The program of the Summit traditionally comprised four major components: professional training, learning, team building and enrichment.

With the onset of Shabbat the youngsters swayed to the strains of Shabchi Yerushalayim and Shalom Aleichem played by the Shuk Ensemble and at the end

of Shabbat went on a night excursion to the capital's Old City. The participants visited the Israel Museum, the Knesset and met with the President of Israel Shimon Peres.

BY LIMMUD FSU

Limmud Galil

WWW.LIMMUDGALIL.COM
LIMMUDGALIL@WALLA.COM
 LAST EVENT: 22 – 23 DEC 2014



Limmud Galil has had a fruitful year of activities in 2014: Seder Tu B'Shvat in January, followed by the Shabbat Conference in March with the Purim theme of "Discovering the Megila". TiyulLimmud in May included hiking with stops for chavruta study on "Shmita" and the traditional barbecue dinner prepared by the participants. The Tu B'Av and Rosh Hashana events were hosted in the homes of volunteers with ample food, study and song typical of the Galilee. A day coach trip to Jerusalem ended the summer with tours in the Bible Lands Museum and the City of David.

Volunteer teams are now busy organizing the upcoming annual Limmud Galil Conference, which will take place December 22-23, 2014 at the Rosh Hanikra Holiday Village. This year's Conference incorporates the Limmud chavruta topic of "Food" with the theme "Provider for all the People of the Land", Genesis 42:6. The team Shabbat held over November 15-16 provided two days of preparation for the Conference, sessions and chavruta involving the topic of the December Conference and served to focus energies and enthusiasm for the busy month ahead.

Limmudniks from the Galil enjoyed the Limmud Arava Conference in February and are looking forward to attending the new Limmud events in Haifa and Tel Aviv.



Following a period of reorganization a new and larger executive team has been formed to plan and lead activities during the coming year. We're also proud to have 13 Limmud Galil representatives at the Limmud UK 2014 Conference.

BY MARY AZARIA (PUBLICATION DATE PRIOR TO EVENT)

Limmud Haifa

LIMMUDHAIFA@GMAIL.COM

LAST EVENT: 18 NOV 2014



Limmud Haifa took a unique approach. We began creating Limmud Haifa a year ago, meeting once a month for "A Taste of Limmud". In the true spirit of Limmud a group of 35 people taught ourselves, taking turns teaching and learning. In this way we reached out to different segments of the community and attracted a diversity of Jewish identities. As the understanding of the integrated learning opportunities of the Limmud approach strengthened, a core group formed within our growing Limmud community. This group then took upon itself to organize and run Limmud Haifa's first conference.

As a reward for our hard work we finally made our dreams into a reality, with over 200 people choosing from among 22 presentations over seven hours of learning. With offerings including music, art, lectures, workshops and more, many of the sessions were packed to capacity. From a lecture given by a member of Israel's parliament to Jewish wine tasting, Limmud Haifa created a unique meeting place, an open market of Jewish ideas. As the Deputy Mayor of Haifa stated; "Limmud Haifa embodies the creativity of the Jewish renewal we are striving for in this city."

BY MAYA WOLK & GOLAN BEN-CHORIN,
CO-CHAIRS



Limmud Jerusalem

WWW.LIMMUDJERUSALEM.ORG.IL

LIMMUDJERUSALEM@GMAIL.COM

LAST EVENT: 10 MAY 2012

NEXT EVENT: OCT 2015



After a successful one day Limmud event in 2013 drawing 500 participants from across Jerusalem and beyond, Limmud Jerusalem has taken some time to expand and develop its volunteer base. Exploring its vision for taking Limmud Jerusalem forward, the team are planning a long weekend of learning and interaction for the end of October 2015.

Limmud Jerusalem welcomes more team volunteers, presenters and voluticipators from Jerusalem and the capital's environs.

Limmud Modi'in

WWW.LIMMUDMODIIN.ORG

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 12 – 13 JUN 2014

NEXT EVENT: 14 – 15 MAY 2015



This year Limmud Modi'in celebrated its fifth annual event spread over two days. Participants could choose from sessions in English or Hebrew and explore Orthodox feminist narratives or shmitah amongst many other topics. Children had fun making rock music based on biblical stories with local bands. The team are already working on what Limmud Modi'in will do next year!



Limmud TLV (Tel Aviv)

CONTACT VIA FACEBOOK – FACEBOOK.COM/LIMMUDTLV

NEXT EVENT: 14 – 15 MAY 2015



Limmud TLV began laying the foundations for a Limmud community in Tel Aviv a year ago. Our first volunteer meeting was held on 11 November 2013 and we were privileged to host Clive Lawton at an important meeting for new volunteers shortly after (24 November).

In the past year, much has happened. We began by taking some time to understand the Limmud values and Limmud language. Following from that, we divided into working teams, led by the Core Team and began to shape our community and conference.

volunteers to get to know each other on a personal level and provided a taste of Limmud-style learning.

We are now working on the core of the conference in the lead-up to May. Our programming, logistics, finance and marketing teams are working hard to confirm speakers, confirm budgets and open our website.

As we work to develop Limmud TLV, we continue to grapple with the question of how to bring Limmud to what we see as the key Tel Aviv market: young, secular Israelis. This is a key goal which guides our planning efforts.

BY TAL GRUNSPAN, FOUNDING CHAIRMAN & CYGAL PELLACH,
CHAIR OF MARKETING TEAM



Limmud TLV has achieved a great deal in the last year. Some of the highlights are:

- We have set a date and location for our first conference: 14-15 May 2015.
- Our marketing and creative teams have produced a logo, a Save the Date video and a postcard which has been distributed across Tel Aviv and at Limmud South Africa.
- We have a very active Facebook page (nearly 500 likes at the time of writing) and continue to reach more and more people through that medium.
- Most recently, we have become an official Israeli non-profit.

In addition, we have held two successful Limmud TLV community events – one on the topic of Pathways and one on the topic of Music. Those events allowed

Limmud Yeroham

LAST EVENT: 24 DEC 2014

In honour of the Shmitah year and coinciding with the last day of Chanukkah (December 24th), Limmud Yeroham will focus on the theme of "a time to hold and a time to release." The Limmud event will go from the afternoon into the night, and representatives of the many groups in multi-cultural Yeroham will be among the presenters. Limmud Yeroham is delighted to be hosting the Shmitah Israelit tent, which is traveling around Israel.

Introducing a new initiative, they are working with colleagues in Miami, Yeroham's partner community, to include one or two sessions at the Limmud Yeroham event live-streamed from Miami, and one or two sessions at Limmud Miami in February 2015 live-streamed from Yeroham.

NORTH AMERICA

Limmud AZ (Arizona)

WWW.LIMMUDAZ.ORG
 INFO@LIMMUDAZ.ORG
 NEXT EVENT: 8 FEB 2015



We are very excited to be planning the first Limmud AZ (Arizona) scheduled for February 8 2015. Teams are already in place and meeting to make plans, our website is up and running, the venue has been selected and many presenters are already booked. We have received grants from a few agencies and are looking forward to receiving additional funding in donations and grants.

BY SUZANNE SWIFT, SANDY ADLER & ELANA KANTER

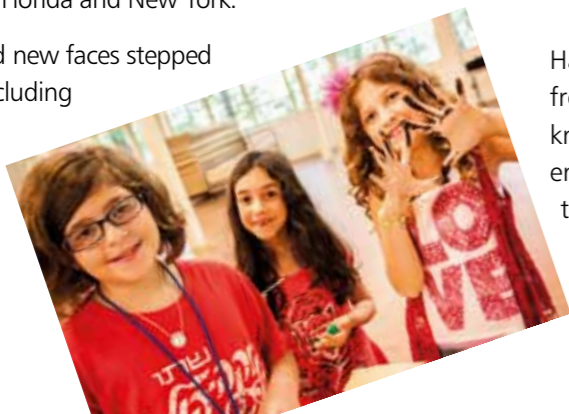
Limmud Atlanta+SE

WWW.LIMMUDSE.ORG
 INFO@LIMMUDSE.ORG
 LAST EVENT: 29 AUG – 1 SEP 2014
 NEXT EVENT: 4 – 7 SEP 2015



Labor Day Weekend 2014 was Limmud Atlanta+SE's 6th and largest residential conference ever – 352 people forged an unforgettable learning community at Ramah Darom in the north Georgia mountains. Our robust numbers included many families with kids, lots of first-timers, several octogenarians and Limmudniks from as far away as Boston, New Orleans, Florida and New York.

Many talented new faces stepped up to lead, including a cohort of 15 young adult YADS (Young Adult



Development Program), who were mentored all year by seasoned Limmudniks. All brought tremendous energy and vitality to Fest.

A dedicated Shabbat planning team elevated the kavannah and sweetness of our celebration. How cool was it on Shabbos afternoon to see a shtreiml-clad rabbi and his liberal colleague, talking Torah under a tree?!

For the second year in a row, adults with learning disabilities joined in with the rest of the community and fully participated in Fest through our Limmud L'am outreach.

There was an astounding range in session topics: the Kurdish dilemma, baking bourekas, the Tikkun-Olam Industrial Complex, the Shmitah year, Israel After Gaza, even a feminist analysis of Orange is the New Black.

Adding to the ruach, a couple married for 28 years had their Jewish wedding at Fest in the presence of children, friends and family alongside a shimmering lake. (It was actually a session in the program book.) Another couple, who'd been married the previous weekend on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, made LimmudFest their honeymoon location!

Billy Jonas appealed to all ages with his rhythmic orchestra of recycled bins, cans and drums. Straight from Jerusalem, Atlanta-born comedian Benji Lovitt was another crowd pleaser. As always, hundreds of wonderful conversations sprang up between generations in big rocking chairs on the porch of Mountainside Lodge.

BY NINA RUBIN, BOARD MEMBER

Limmud Baltimore

WWW.LIMMUDBALTIMORE.COM
 INFO@LIMMUDBALTIMORE.COM
 LAST EVENT: 7 SEP 2014



This year Limmud Baltimore celebrated its third annual event, coinciding with the Jewish month of Elul, combining reflection and curiosity in the lead up to Rosh Hashanah. Developing community educators, presenters from across the greater Baltimore area shared their knowledge and explored ideas with participants. Children enjoyed a sing-a-long session at Camp Limmud and story time with the international PJ Library.

Limmud Bay Area

WWW.LIMMUDBAYAREA.ORG
 CONTACT@LIMMUDBAYAREA.ORG
 LAST EVENT: 13 – 14 JUL 2014
 NEXT EVENT: 26 – 28 JUN 2015



This year Limmud Bay Area moved to a new location in Sonoma Valley, California, for its residential conference and some extra sunshine, encouraging both indoor and outdoor learning. As well as nourishing the mind, body and soul of the participants, Limmud Bay Area focused on the sustainability of the planet and tikkun olam. For each order of branded Limmud Bay Area canvas tote bags and reusable water bottles, a tree was planted on behalf of Limmud Bay Area.

Limmud Boston

WWW.LIMMUDBOSTON.ORG
 OFFICE@LIMMUDBOSTON.ORG
 LAST EVENT: 7 DEC 2014
 NEXT EVENT: 6 DEC 2015



We are deep into the planning of the 5th Limmud Boston conference on 7 December, with Limmud Boston presenters at area congregations on December 5 and 6 for what we call "Shabbat: the REST of Limmud." In addition to more than 75 sessions that the Program Team whittled down from 120 submissions, we have collaborated with other organizations. Our 20s/30s cohort is meeting separately for learning, food and planning. This group will offer at least one session per hour to the entire Limmud Boston community.

Rick Jacobs, President of the URJ (Reform Movement), is making a weekend of it. He will offer a text study session and is participating in a moderated discussion on ideal Jewish communities.

Two of the Jewish Storytelling Coalition's (JSC) most prominent tellers, Peninnah Schram and Danny Siegel are coming to Boston. The JSC is taking that weekend to hold special meet-ups. Storytelling is our Saturday evening entertainment, and there will be a two-session story fest during Sunday's conference.

Musician Sue Horowitz will perform in our mid-day concert, along with sign language interpreter EJ Cohen.

Our Camp Limmud kids (3–13) will be able to explore a Magen David Adom ambulance that will be parked in front

of the building all day. This ambulance, donated by a local family, will drive from Boston to the port of Baltimore before being shipped to Israel and put into service. Camp Limmud will be run by Keshet, the Jewish after-school program.

Jewish Spiritual Education (JSE) sessions will be offered for those interested in pursuing a 3-year certificate in Spiritual Education. Those who take part in their Sunday sessions may join the cohort.

The attendance of up to 300 Boston area religious school educators is underwritten by CJP, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, our local federation.

Limmud Boston welcomes Boston's first kosher food truck to our conference!

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

Limmud Chicago

WWW.IMMUDCHICAGO.ORG
 INFO@LIMMUDCHICAGO.ORG
 LAST EVENT: 15 – 16 NOV 2014



Expanding on its annual learning conference, which this year celebrated its fifth birthday with a move to the suburb of Skokie, Limmud Chicago introduced a series of evening learning sessions to provide Jewish learning opportunities year round. "GOAL", Go Out And Learn, drew on the international Limmud Chavruta resource, Money, produced in 2012, including both traditional Jewish and modern secular texts.

Limmud FSU Canada

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG / WWW.LIMMUDFSUCANADA.ORG
 ILA@LIMMUDFSUCANADA.ORG
 LAST EVENT: 24 – 26 OCT 2014
 NEXT EVENT: OCT 2015



Limmud FSU Canada launched its inaugural conference with 500 participants this fall in collaboration with UJA-Federation of Greater Toronto and the Jewish Agency for Israel. Canada is home to an estimated 70,000-plus Russian-speaking Jews, a significant proportion of its 330,000-strong Jewish



community. Toronto's Jewish community is considered the fourth largest in North America.

Included in its eclectic menu of topics were the Islamic State, the crisis in Ukraine, Jewish life in the Russian Empire, the Russian-speaking Jewish elite in Russia, and more light-hearted sessions such as "The Shadchan – the Art of Jewish Matchmaking" and a kosher wine workshop.

As in other international Limmud conferences, the whole family was invited and at the picturesque Canadian resort, nature walks, theater and programs for children were also on offer.

Jewish Canadian MP Irwin Cotler, who served as the honorary chair of Limmud FSU Canada, was joined by Israel's Minister of Culture Limor Livnat and Russian-Canadian businessman Marat Ressin who also presented at the conference.

The Co-Chair of Limmud FSU Canada, Leon Martynenko, said there were a few factors behind the organization's decision to also branch out to Canada. "The first is for the cultural and spiritual revival of Soviet Jewry. Limmud FSU is also a great opportunity to get to know people from the local community while contributing to this very community. Finally, it's all about Limmud. The format, the atmosphere and the diversity of topics that are being covered at every single Limmud conference form an invaluable experience," said Martynenko.

"We are tremendously excited to be holding the first Limmud FSU festival in Canada, with its rich Jewish history and growing Russian-speaking population," said Limmud FSU Co-Founder Sandra Cahn. "Limmud FSU Canada will provide an important and potentially historic opportunity to offer programs that address and engage this emerging community for generations to come."

BY LIMMUD FSU



Limmud FSU New York

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG / WWW.LIMMUDFSUUS.ORG
CONTACT VIA WEBSITE / INFO@LIMMUDFSUUS.ORG
LAST EVENT: 28 – 30 MAR 2014
NEXT EVENT: 27 – 29 MAR 2015



Celebrating a growing interest in Jewish learning and searching for their Jewish roots, Limmud FSU conferences in North

America, begun in 2009 in the Hamptons, are expanding exponentially, attracting hundreds of young Jewish adults of Russian backgrounds.

Dynamic and visionary, annual Limmud FSU New York conferences are forged with enthusiasm and genuine passion, helping young Russian-American Jews reconnect with their Judaic heritage, deepen their understanding of Israel, and develop their voice in the Jewish community.

Diverse programming, wide ranging lectures and entertainment offer a way to come together and to enjoy eclectic conversations, meaningful discussions, and heated debate.

"Limmud FSU New York allows us to write our own story, a story where everything that happens is a reflection of our unique experience, our heritage, and our passions. It gives us a voice in the very important contemporary American-Jewish conversation, and it helps us claim our name and place." Alina Bitel, Chair of Limmud FSU US.



Presenters included Israeli author Lihi Lapid; Knesset members Ronen Hoffman and Omar Bar Lev; International Fellowship of Christians and Jews president Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein; celebrity rabbi Shmuley Boteach; philanthropist Feliks Frenkel; entrepreneur Eli Itin of Amdocs; Adam Schwartz, director of Technion-Cornell Innovation Institute; and Yoram Dori, advisor to Israeli president Shimon Peres.

"Limmud FSU has revolutionized pluralistic Jewish engagement of Russian-speaking Jews and is making a great impact in strengthening Jewish identity through a unique educational experience of Jewish history and culture," said Matthew Bronfman, chairman of the International Steering Committee of Limmud FSU, who delivered a session at Limmud. "This initiative also helps to strengthen Jewish

communal life among Russian-American Jews by inspiring our participants to be more active in their communities through volunteering."

Limmud FSU New York conferences attracted 800 participants from across the US and Canada and has subsequently inspired the creation of Limmud FSU teams in both Canada and the West Coast of the US.

BY LIMMUD FSU

Limmud FSU West Coast USA

WWW.LIMMUDFSU.ORG
SHUMAKH.NOAM@GMAL.COM
NEXT EVENT: 2015



An energetic group of young Jewish volunteers with Russian-speaking backgrounds seeks to explore their

historic Jewish roots and cultural heritage. Thriving in a modern economy, these Russian-Jewish West Coasters have generated many leaders in technology, social ventures, and entertainment. But, they want more!

Today, attracted by the successful Limmud FSU model, these Russian-Jewish volunteers are driving this expansion to the Pacific Coast. They have a desire to learn, to lead, and to become more involved with Jewish communal life and Israel. Limmud FSU West Coast USA hopes to inspire young people intellectually and spiritually and are enthusiastically planning for an event in 2015. The first volunteers retreat of Limmud FSU West Coast is scheduled for January 2015.

BY LIMMUD FSU

Limmud LA (Los Angeles)

WWW.LIMMUDLA.ORG
OFFICE@LIMMUDLA.ORG
LAST EVENT: 15 – 17 AUG 2014



LimmudLA had its second fabulous Fest in August of 2014! People of all ages gathered in the beautiful hills outside of Los Angeles for three days of singing, celebrating and learning with friends new and old. Since then, the steering group has decided to take its own version of a "shmita" year – a year to let the events lie fallow in order to grow bigger and stronger in the subsequent years. The plan is to do some mission, vision and values assessment and take a strategic look at the future of Jewish Los Angeles.

BY AKIKO YONEKAWA, STEERING GROUP PRESIDENT

Limmud Mexico (Limud México)

WWW.LIMUDMEXICO.COM
CONTACT VIA WEBSITE
LAST EVENT: 2 NOV 2014



Limud México es un proyecto que recién ha cumplido, en 2014, su tercer año de existencia. El evento "Día Limud" ha convocado a 180, 250 y 300 personas en sus tres ediciones. Con una mesa directiva renovada el 2 de noviembre se llevó a cabo el tercer día Limud que fue todo un éxito. Hemos ampliado la base de donadores y en 2015 buscaremos tener otras actividades como "Limud Express" con diferentes instituciones además de consolidarnos como Asociación Civil, gracias al apoyo de la fundación Natan en Nueva York y la Fundación Metta Saade en la Ciudad de México. Limud México es parte importante de Limmud International al ser un punto de encuentro con otros grupos Limud entre Latinoamérica, Estados Unidos y Canadá.

Limud México is now a consolidated project that in 2014 had its third one-day Limmud event. First having 180 and 250, the November 2nd event had 300 participants and tried to create a new atmosphere with a new steering committee, a more diverse span of local donors, and many more activities like "Limmud Express" (small tastes of Limmud with specific institutions within the Mexican Jewish Community). Limud México, A.C., will very soon be an official registered institution in Mexico thanks to the international support of The Natan Fund and the Metta Saade Foundation in Mexico City. Limud México is an important member of the global Limmud community and enthusiastically supports other Limmud groups around the world, especially in Latin America, the United States and Canada.

BY RENATO HUARTE CUÉLLAR, CHAIR OF LIMUD MÉXICO



Limmud Miami

WWW.LIMMUDMIAMI.ORG

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 23 MAR 2014

NEXT EVENT: 22 FEB 2015



Limmud Miami had its inaugural event Sunday March 23, 2014. Over 440 participants arrived and enjoyed a half day of learning at Limmud

Miami 2014. With over 40 presenters we were able to surpass our goal for number of participants (set at 200) and feedback from the community

was great. The initial plan was to host a 'Taste of Limmud Miami' which quickly became a Limmud Miami with over 15 presentations throughout the afternoon in addition to a Happy Hour sponsored by Jewish Young Professional organizations from Miami-Dade.

Our next event is taking place Sunday February 22, 2015 and we have expanded the hours of our event to be a full day event.

BY ROMINA NAPARSTEK & FRANCINE SAFDEYE,
LIMMUD MIAMI CO-CHAIRS

Limmud Montreal (Le Mood)

WWW.LEMOOD.CA

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 3 NOV 2013



Following on from a large one day Le Mood event in the last few years reaching over

1,000 participants each time and an evening Mini Mood event, the Limmud team in Montreal have been exploring more intimate parlour meetings as a format for diverse Jewish learning. LE MOOD continues to explore new formats for 2015. Stay tuned!

Limmud NOLA (New Orleans)

WWW.LIMMUDNOLA.ORG

INFO@LIMMUDNOLA.ORG

LAST EVENT: 7 – 9 MAR 2014

NEXT EVENT: 18 – 20 MAR 2016



Limmud NOLA introduced a Shabbat learning element to its previous Sunday offering, bringing the local community together in a way never seen in New Orleans before. The Reform and Conservative synagogues closed their buildings and offered Shabbat services under one roof where Orthodox services were also taking place. After the individual services, participants from all services came together for meals and other Jewish learning sessions.

Limmud NY (New York)

WWW.LIMMUDNY.ORG

INFO@LIMMUDNY.ORG

LAST EVENT: 14 – 17 FEB 2014

NEXT EVENT: 13 – 16 FEB 2015



Selling out early, Limmud NY's tenth annual conference was a resounding success. More than 800 participants gathered for the four-day celebration of Jewish life and learning in our new home in Connecticut. Highlights included sessions with Ari Shavit, author of My Promised Land; Abe Foxman, National Director of the ADL; and performances by musicians Naomi Less, George Mordecai and Tavche Gravche, and a cappella group Six13. Foodies enjoyed a variety of sessions with culinary historian Michael Twitty, chef and blogger Shannon Sarna, and Rabbi Mary Zamore, the first Reform mashgicha (kosher supervisor). Rooms overflowed for Israeli-American comedian Benji Lovitt; Rabbis Shai Held and Ethan Tucker of Mechon Hadar; and Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer and



Dr. Elana Stein Hain of the Shalom Hartman Institute. Participants included Senator Joe Lieberman and former U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer. At our final night gala, we celebrated one LimmudNY's 80th birthday and the 70 children in our camp program – an energetic joint program with Camp Ramah that we will continue next year – sang in a song they wrote, "We wish Limmud would NEVER end!"

In June we hosted our annual benefit, celebrating ten wonderful years of Limmud NY and honoring devoted LimmudNYkim Rabbi Leon Morris and Dasee Berkowitz, Abi Dauber Stern, and David Morris. We also held our second online auction. We were gratified as the community came together to celebrate our honorees, and to support the work of Limmud NY for the next ten years and beyond.

BY JENNIFER ALTMAN, BOARD MEMBER

Limmud Ottawa

WWW.LIMMUDOTTAWA.CA

LIMMUDOTTAWA@GMAIL.COM

LAST EVENT: 2 NOV 2014

NEXT EVENT: 18 OCT 2015



After months of preparations Limmud Ottawa's 2014 event exceed our expectations. The new venue at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre proved to be a welcoming new home. This year, partnering not only with the The Zelikovitz Centre (ZC) Jewish Studies Program at Carleton University but also with the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Hillel, Jewish Federation of Ottawa and other affiliates provided Limmud with a much wider access to the community.

This year we took advantage of the Schusterman Visiting Israeli Scholar list to ameliorate the program. Together with the ZC, Canada Israel Cultural Foundation and Embassy of Israel, we were able to bring in an Israeli musical trio – Tafillalt Ensemble who delivered a session at Limmud, a community and University concert and a post grad masterclass at Carleton University. In order to reduce costs, musicians were put up by families and were driven around town by volunteers.

Our volunteers had a wide variety of responsibilities. Aside from manning the registration tables and providing orientation for presenters, we were able to include high school age students by asking them to oversee the surveys that were handed out at the conclusion of each session

and then collected. Our technical advisors, photographers and the roaming klez group were all volunteers. Volunteers provided the catering of refreshments and lunch during the entire event all under the (volunteered) supervision and cooperation of Ottawa's Vaad Hakashrut. This year our presenters came from a variety of sources, those we invited and those who answered our call for session submissions in the local Jewish paper.

It was an ambitious program. We provided four (sometimes five) simultaneous sessions throughout the day. The new venue worked well and allowed us to keep most sessions on one floor. This provided an additional benefit for our audience to mingle in between sessions. The one area that requires improvement involves engaging more young adults and incorporating them into the program. We hope to develop a new strategy. As far as our numbers are concerned, we originally estimated between 200 and 230, but ultimately the numbers were higher – more than 330 had registered.

BY JENNY ROBERGE

Limmud Philly (Philadelphia)

WWW.LIMMUDPHILLY.ORG

CONTACT VIA WEBSITE

LAST EVENT: 26 – 28 APR 2013



After reaching its fifth annual event in 2013 and the sad passing of a key supporter and the inspiration for bringing Limmud to Philadelphia, Limmud Philly has taken time this year to think about its future direction. Experienced and new team members are focusing on outreach and building a wider platform of engagement.

Limmud Toronto

WWW.LIMMUD.CA

NFO@LIMMUD.CA

NEXT EVENT: 8 MAR 2015



Limmud Toronto is back after five years and hitting the ground running. We are working towards a Limmud Toronto event that will involve Jewish communities from all across the Greater Toronto Area and which will inspire them to become involved in the future of Limmud Toronto so it will continue for many more years to come.

We are currently in the process of preparing for our March 2015 event and our teams of dedicated volunteers are helping us create a diverse, inclusive and exciting programme for our participants to enjoy.

BY JEREMIE, SAMARA & YSZI, LIMMUD TORONTO LEADERSHIP TEAM


Limmud Vancouver

WWW.LIMMUDVANCOUVER.CA

LIMMUDVAN@TELUS.NET

LAST EVENT: 9 FEB 2014

NEXT EVENT: 1 FEB 2015

 LimmudVan '14 was held on February 9, 2014. This was the first ever Limmud in Vancouver. Inspired by people who had visited Limmuds elsewhere in 2011, we had spent time creating a team of volunteers, attracting funding, figuring out the venue, logos, registration software, etc and, of course, attracting presenters. We cautiously aimed at 250 participants the first year and found ourselves, with three weeks to go before the event, shutting down registration at 275 because of building capacity.

The event was hugely successful due to the quality of the presenters, but also due to the "extras" – we had musicians playing in the corridors between sessions, we announced session start times with shofar blasts, we had outrageous art with Yiddish and Ladino proverbs along the walls, etc. It was an upbeat festival of local culture with a depth of study throughout. Next year, bigger and better ...

BY AVI DOLGIN, CO-CHAIR



Limmud Winnipeg

WWW.LIMMUDWINNIPEG.ORG

COORDINATOR@LIMMUDWINNIPEG.ORG

LAST EVENT: 1 – 2 MAR 2014

NEXT EVENT: 14 – 15 MAR 2015



After a fourth successful Limmud, the team has been busy planning for growth and independence in the next few years. Limmud Winnipeg 2014 brought together over 250 participants starting with a spectacular Havdallah event on Saturday night. There were three sessions followed by a short performance by a student Drum Line, Israeli and Jewish music, and of course a delicious nosh at a freilach reception. 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. Our newly designed website was very well received; and the schedule, which people were able to download to their phones was helpful for participants to select sessions and plan their own day at Limmud.

Pre-Limmud Shabbat programs exposed many more Winnipeggers to out of town talent at Shabbat dinners (Hillel, as part of a Shabbaton at a modern Orthodox synagogue and YAD), speaking engagements at a variety of synagogues (conservative, one reform, one modern orthodox), and through the media (Morning news on TV).

The content balanced Jewish issues with culture and the arts, covering diverse topics such as Jewish genetics, how Israel is portrayed in the news, holocaust memory, art workshops and Israeli dancing; plus a full day program for children including a PJ Library family program with a renowned childrens' author and storyteller. Artists for Israel completed the day with custom graffiti art made to order for all participants!

The 4th annual Limmud Winnipeg attracted new volunteers from different age groups and backgrounds to the planning team for the next event, and presenters are now being confirmed for March 2015.

PJ Library is planning to once more offer a parallel program to expose the whole family as an introduction to Limmud for young families.

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


Limmud Buenos Aires (Limud BA)

WWW.LIMUDBA.ORG

INFO@LIMUDBA.ORG

LAST EVENT: 6 JUL 2014; 21 SEP 2014

7mo Limud BA:

 En 6 de julio, 700 personas compartimos la séptima edición de "Limud BA", una jornada plena de emociones que renueva el compromiso de todos los que formamos parte de este proyecto por seguir enseñando, aprendiendo y reflexionando sobre lo judío en un marco de diversidad de propuestas.

Algunos números del 7mo Limud BA:

- Participaron 700 personas.
- Se llevaron a cabo más de 70 sesiones, incluyendo actividades para adultos, niños, muestras de arte y almuerzos temáticos.
- 90 voluntarios colaboraron activamente en la preparación y realización del evento.
- El 30% de los participantes fueron jóvenes.

Brindamos con todos ustedes por un nuevo evento en el que pudimos sentir y llevar a la práctica los valores de Limud de diversidad, respeto, pluralidad de voces y, sobre todas las cosas, mucha pasión e ideas para reflexionar.

Rosh Hashana Urbano 5775:

El 21 de septiembre llevaremos a cabo Rosh Hashana Urbano, un evento realizado en ocasión del año nuevo judío que incluye charlas, shows musicales, talleres, stands gastronómicos y propuestas artísticas. El evento, que tradicionalmente organizaba el American Joint pero luego se discontinuó, será organizado por primera vez por Limud BA, y tendrá a sus voluntarios como protagonistas.

A través de este festival, que se lleva a cabo en una plaza muy popular de Buenos Aires, nos proponemos recrear las tradiciones asociadas a Rosh Hashana y compartirlas con toda la sociedad, así como celebrar la vida judía y su impronta en la ciudad.

Se trata de una jornada abierta, con entrada libre y gratuita, en la que se ofrecen actividades para niños,

SOUTH AMERICA



jóvenes, adultos y familias, conformando un espacio cultural vibrante y multifacético. En las últimas ediciones, participaron alrededor de 30.000 personas.

BY ALEJANDRO WASSERMAN, COMMUNICATIONS VOLUNTEER

7th Limud BA:

On 6 July, 700 people shared the seventh edition of Limud BA, a full day of excitement and renewal of the commitment for all those who are part of this project of learning, teaching and reflecting on Judaism within a framework of diversity.

Some of the numbers from the 7th Limud BA:

- There were 700 participants.
- We had over 70 sessions, including activities for adults, children, art displays and thematic lunch sessions.
- 90 volunteers were active in the preparation and development of the event.
- 30% of participants were young people.

We share our joy with all of you about yet another yearly event where we were able to feel and bring into practice the Limmud values of diversity, respect, plurality of voices and, above all things, a lot of passion and ideas for reflection.

Rosh Hashana Urbano (Urban Rosh Hashana) 5775:

On 21 September we hosted Urban Rosh Hashana, an event commemorating the arrival of the Jewish New Year that included lectures, musical shows, workshops, food stands and art displays. The event, traditionally organized by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee but later discontinued, was organized by Limud BA for the first time, bringing together a large group of volunteers.

Throughout the festival, which took place in a popular square in Buenos Aires, we set out to make a recreation of the traditions associated with Rosh Hashana in a framework that was open for all society, as well as a celebration of Jewish life and its imprint on the city.

It was an open event, with no participation costs, with activities for children, youth, adults and families alike, creating a vibrant and multifaceted cultural space. We had over 35,000 people taking part in the event.

TRANSLATION BY KEVIN ARI LEVIN



Limmud Peru (Limud Perú)

LIMUD.PE@GMAIL.COM

LAST EVENT: 23 NOV 2014



Following its arrival in Lima's Jewish community scene in 2013, hundreds of eager participants came back for a second visit to Limud Perú this year, bringing their friends, family and children with them! Choice was the order of the day, with eight sessions on offer during each time slot and different food stalls reflecting Jewish culinary alternatives for lunch. The event ended with a great Rikudei Am show, where women of all ages participated.

Limmud Uruguay (Limud.uy)

CONTACT VIA FACEBOOK

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LIMUDURUGUAY

LAST EVENT: 16 NOV 2014



Limud Uruguay launched its first Taste of Limud on November 16, drawing 140 participants. It offered three simultaneous one-hour sessions followed by a one-and-a-half hour plenary session. The main topic was "Nosotros y los otros", "We and others". The objective was to place Limud on the community agenda and attract more volunteers. We didn't have a kids programme, but will work on this for our next event. It was cross-communal and was promoted by all major organizations: Sefardi, Ashkenazi, Orthodox, Secular, Masorti, Zionist Federation, Chabad, Bnei Brit, and Jewish day schools.

We were able to achieve this first success with a founders group of five people and no chair! Two of our members were inspired by their participation and learning at the Limmud International Training on Tour development program in Buenos Aires earlier in July, making helpful connections with Limmud volunteers from Latin America.

BY DAVID RAIJ, FOUNDING GROUP MEMBER

ABOUT LIMMUD

Limmud International is a project of the Limmud organisation. Based in the UK, the Limmud 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 Limmud groups outside the UK
- **Limmud University**, which supports Limmud volunteers' training and development

In addition there are other Limmud support teams for marketing, finance, fundraising and other central support activities.

The Limmud organisation thanks everyone in Limmud, all our volunteers, our small professional team, our presenters, participants and financial supporters, without whom none of this would be possible.

Thank you.

THANKS

Limmud International acknowledges the generous support of individuals and Jewish foundations and organisations who support us and our activities, 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



MISSION STATEMENT 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 2015 (THAT WE KNOW ABOUT SO FAR)

1 FEB – Manchester Day Limmud
www.limmud.org/manchester

1 FEB – Limmud Vancouver
www.limmudvancouver.ca

8 FEB – Limmud AZ (Arizona)
www.limmudaz.org

13 to 16 FEB – Limmud NY (New York)
www.limmudny.org

20 to 22 FEB – Limmud Keshet Baltics
www.limmud.eu

22 FEB – Limmud Miami
www.limmudmiami.org

27 FEB to 1 MAR – Limmud France
www.limoud.org

1 MAR – Limmud Oresund
www.oresundslimmud.org

6 to 8 MAR – Limmud FSU Australia
www.limmudfsu.org

8 MAR – Scotland Day Limmud
www.limmud.org/scotland

8 MAR – Limmud Toronto
www.limmud.ca

14 to 15 MAR – Limmud Winnipeg
www.limmudwinnipeg.org

15 MAR – Harrow Day Limmud
www.limmud.org/harrow

27 to 29 MAR – Limmud FSU New York
www.limmudfsu.org

16 to 19 APR – Limmud FSU Moscow -
www.limmudfsu.org / www.limmud.ru

29 APR to 3 MAY – Limmud Czech Republic
www.limmud.cz

30 APR to 3 MAY – Limmud Germany
www.limmud.de

4 MAY – Thames Valley Day Limmud
www.limmud.org/day

14 to 15 MAY – Limmud Modi'in
www.limmudmodiin.org

14 to 15 May – Limmud TLV (Tel Aviv)

28 to 31 MAY – Limmud International Training on Tour Israel
www.limmudinternational.org

6 to 8 JUN – Limmud Sydney
www.limmud-oz.com.au

14 JUN – Cambridge Day Limmud
www.limmud.org/day

25 to 28 JUN – Limmud International Training on Tour North America
www.limmudinternational.org

15 AUG – Limmud Cape Town
www.limmud.org.za/limmud-cape-town

15 AUG – Limmud Durban
www.limmud.org.za/limmud-durban

1 to 6 SEPT – Limmud Keshet Bulgaria
www.limmud.eu

3 to 6 SEP – Limmud International Training on Tour Europe
www.limmudinternational.org

4 to 7 SEP – Limmud Atlanta+SE
www.limmudse.org

18 OCT – Limmud Ottawa
www.limmudottawa.ca

1 NOV – Leeds Day Limmud
www.limmud.org/day

8 NOV – Limmud Netherlands
www.limmoed.nl

11 to 12 NOV – Limmud India

14 to 15 NOV – Limmud Stockholm
www.limmud.se

5 DEC – Limmud Boston
www.limmudboston.org

27 to 31 DEC – Limmud Conference
www.limmud.org

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