

Greetings!

We are so happy that you are here with us at “A Taste of Limmud: Celebrating 150 Years of Shalom Aleichem” for Russian-speaking Jewish Americans. You are surrounded by hundreds of participants who - just like you - are in Westhampton Beach today with a deep interest in building community and exploring identity through knowledge, action and connections.

By being here, you are showing your commitment to being engaged and active members of not only the Jewish community, but of the world. The knowledge and insights you will absorb today, and friendships you will forge, will not only enrich you, but they will equip you to think big and to make a difference as leaders in the community.

For this, you should be proud. And we are proud of you.

As you will see, the Limmud model of learning and engaging is exciting, dynamic and energetic.

As in an open classroom, Limmud encourages participants to actively engage with the influential community leaders and educators who are here with us today, and to exchange ideas, opinions and concepts in a respectful, dignified and collegial atmosphere.

You will, no doubt, end this day with new perspectives and insights making you a more engaged, informed and thoughtful member of the Russian-speaking Jewish community.

We wish you a great experience!

Chaim Chesler, *Founder*

Sandra Cahn, *Co-Founder*

Mikhail Chlenov, *Co-Founder*

Dear Friends,

A warm welcome to “A Taste of Limmud: Celebrating 150 Years of Shalom Aleichem” for Russian-speaking American Jews.

We are dedicating this day of Jewish learning and engagement to one of the greatest Jewish writers and the pride of our community, and I am so very pleased that you are joining me here in Westhampton Beach.

I look forward to meeting you and joining you during this fascinating day of programs, lectures, sessions and informal gatherings as we move forward together to deepen our involvement in Jewish community and our collective future.

I wish you the best of experiences.

Matthew Bronfman, Chairman
International Steering Committee, Limmud FSU

The background features a collection of Hebrew letters in shades of orange and teal, scattered across the page. There are also several teal stars of various sizes, some of which are arranged in a circular pattern on the right side. The overall aesthetic is clean and celebratory.

Dear Friends,

We welcome each of you to “A Taste of Limmud: Celebrating 150 Years of Shalom Aleichem” and we thank you for taking the time to participate in a day of learning, thinking, discussing, and engaging in your community and its future.

During this day of educational programming and socializing, you will meet new people, think new thoughts, and connect to your community and your Russian-Jewish heritage in unique and new ways.

We are proud to be honorary chairmen of today’s event and to be part of the Limmud model of learning and engagement. And we are sure your experience today will be most fulfilling.

Best wishes for a great success, and we look forward to meeting you today.

Feliks Frenkel and Jerry Levin,
Honorary Co-Chairmen “A Taste of Limmud”

Dear Friends,

Since the launch of Limmud nearly 30 years ago in the United Kingdom, Limmud has been a key player in transforming the British Jewish community – pushing the boundaries of Jewish education forward, engendering respect and tolerance across the Jewish community, reaching out to the unaffiliated and developing a culture of volunteerism and activism.

Limmud is now no longer simply a UK success story; the Limmud model is now leading a revolution in global Jewish education, and its impact is helping to reshape world Jewry.

Inspired and supported by Limmud International, Limmud's unique model of volunteer-led, cross-communal, multi-generational and transformational

Jewish experiences has now been taken up by over 45 Jewish communities around the world: from Melbourne to Moscow, from Turkey to Toronto, from California to Colorado, from Argentina to Atlanta, from Philadelphia to Poland, from the Netherlands to New York, from the Galil to Glasgow and from Johannesburg to Jerusalem... and now, as a Taste of Limmud in the Hamptons!

In the last year alone, an additional 15 Limmud International communities have been created. Today, nearly 3,000 grass-roots volunteers from all around the Jewish world are actively involved in creating a Limmud event in their own community. Sharing core values and principles around the world, activists have discovered that Limmud reaches all types of Jews and reflects the diversity of their own communities, creating cross-communal and cross-generational experiences, accessible to all.

It is a source of great pride to the international Limmud community that our friends in Limmud FSU have chosen to run a Taste of Limmud in the Hamptons – building on the success of events across the Former Soviet Union and in Israel. We have watched the progress of Limmud FSU (from near and afar!), and have continually been inspired by everything achieved – and offer our particular thanks and congratulations to the co-founders, Chaim Chesler and Sandy Cahn as well as to the local activists who have put this occasion together. We both treasure our relationship with Limmud FSU, and we sincerely hope to strengthen these bonds over the coming years – and to continue learning from and with each other.

We are delighted Avraham Infeld, Limmud International's Roving Ambassador and Kevin Sefton, the Limmud Director with responsibility

for Limmud International, are able to join you among representatives of the international Limmud community of activists.

May this occasion give you a taste for Limmud, and we look forward to seeing you at many more Limmud activities around the world.

Elliott Goldstein,
Limmud Chairperson

Andrew Gilbert,
Limmud International Chairperson





Limmud for Russian-Speaking Jewish Americans



Limmud for Russian–Speaking Jewish Americans – International Steering Committee

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Yigdal Yasinov | World Vice Chairman, Keren Kayemet Israel

Michael Yedovitsky | Director of the FSU Division, Jewish Agency

Generous Funders

We thank the following organizations and individuals who have made “A Taste of Limmud: Celebrating 150 Years of Shalom Aleichem for Russian-Speaking Jewish Americans” possible.

Generous Funders

Matthew Bronfman

The American Jewish Committee

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

Andrea and Charles Bronfman Fund at Brandeis University

Samuel & Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation.

The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore

The AVI CHAI Foundation

CAF

The Cahn Family of New York

The Chais Family Foundation

Shalom Jacob Fisher, philanthropist

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

Aaron Frankel, president, Lloyd’s Group of Companies

Feliks Frenkel, philanthropist

Genesis Israel

The Hampton Synagogue

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

Israel Discount Bank

The Israeli Ministry of Tourism - USA

Jewish Agency for Israel

Keren Kayemet Lelsrael KKL

Carol and Jerry Levin, philanthropists

Limmud International

Alexander Maschevitz

The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

The Ministry of Culture

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The Pearl and Ira Meyer Fund

The Pincus Fund
Vadim Rabinovich
Mark Tsesarsky, philanthropist
UJA-Federation of New York

Wilf Family Foundation
Diane Wohl, philanthropist
The World Jewish Congress

And Special Thanks to ...

Rabbi **Avraham Bronstein**, for his invaluable insight and support and outreach within the Jewish community

The **Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre**, for providing entertainment and clarinetist

The **Frenkel Family**, for their generous sponsorship and providing transportation to participants

Yaron Harel and **Gadi Goldman**, for their expertise and assistance

The **Hampton Synagogue**, and Rabbi **Marc Schneier**, for hosting Shabbat dinner

The **Israel Discount Bank**, for underwriting backpacks

The **Israeli Ministry of Tourism – USA**, for providing the luncheon on Sunday, August 9th

Stuart Katz, project manager, for his skills, insights and counsel

Carol and Jerry Levin, for their generosity and hospitality in hosting Motze Shabbat party

Dima Krasney, for invaluable advice, support and commitment

David Roitman, for his friendship and sage advice

Rabbi **Marc Schneier**, for his generous hospitality in providing the venue for “A Taste of Limmud,” and for his commitment to and support of the Limmud community

Mark and Robin Tsesarsky, for providing the festive barbecue dinner and party on Sunday, August 9th

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Limmud FSU and its International Partners

Introduction and Background

Since 1999, Limmud has been spreading at an unprecedented rate throughout the Jewish world. Inspired by their visits to Limmud conferences in the UK, hundreds of activists have returned to their home communities enthused and invigorated by Limmud's unique model of cross-communal, volunteer-led, dynamic Jewish education – and sought to replicate some of the Limmud magic in their own community. Indeed, as the Jerusalem Post astutely observed in 2000, “wherever there are Jews, there should be a Limmud.”

Today, Limmud is proud that Limmud events have been run around the world. Limmud is also delighted to be working to assist the development of new Limmud events in Russia, Ukraine and other parts of the FSU in conjunction with Limmud FSU.

Chaim Chesler and Sandy Cahn created Limmud FSU. In the past few years, the organization has grown organically across the FSU with local and national committees of activists planning events in various cities – all carefully created in the Limmud way with training provided by Limmud International.

Limmud International's primary role is to develop, support and continue to grow our portfolio of UK programs – Limmud fully recognizes its responsibility to support the spread of our success story globally – thus helping other communities benefit from our experience. Limmud has therefore formed “Limmud International” to fulfill our international mission.

Specifically, we look to spread the messages: a. generating, facilitating and utilizing a culture of volunteerism and empowerment; b. producing exciting, dynamic and cutting-edge Jewish programmatic activity; and c. cross-communality.

Limmud recognizes the dual opportunity and concern of multiple groups around the world. This specific formula that has made Limmud the success that it is requires understanding, nurturing and transmitting in a sustained way in order to ensure this can be recreated to fit local circumstance.

Limmud International provides Limmud FSU:

- a. Mentoring, support and training as required at FSU and international venues.
- b. An international framework, support network and access to Limmud materials.
- c. Representation on the Limmud International Board.

Limmud FSU guarantees Limmud International:

- a. To be the guardian of the Limmud ethos, quality, standards and branding within the FSU region.
- b. To develop a strategy for the expansion of Limmud in the FSU.
- c. To also have an open invitation to local initiatives, which accept the ethos and quality standards, to be embraced by the Limmud FSU family.
- d. Prior to launching their activities will send their leadership to visit a UK Limmud Conference.
- e. To play their part in nurturing and maintaining the contact between Limmud FSU groups and other Limmud groups throughout the world particularly maintaining the relationship of groups with the Limmud Annual conference in Britain.
- f. Limmud FSU will utilize the Limmud International professional and volunteer team for training, mentoring and support for their national and local activities.
- g. Limmud FSU will encourage all groups to extend their funding base such that no group is funded by any single funder for more than 50 percent of its funding.
- h. Limmud FSU will invite a representative of Limmud International to be on the Steering Committee of Limmud FSU.

Mentoring Consultancy and Support

Limmud's professionals and experienced volunteer activists, in coordination with Limmud FSU local organizers, will facilitate training programs to develop (or launch) new Groups. Training seminars will be designed to meet the needs and requirements of the local communities. We would anticipate one professional and/or volunteer, conducting training seminars, to be determined upon mutual evaluation within the terms of this partnership.

The Partnership

The partnership between Limmud International and Limmud FSU will strive to create Limmud initiatives based on Limmud's core values – which fully coincide with the Limmud FSU's values – and at the same time be responsive to local culture and needs.

At every local Limmud where Limmud FSU and Limmud International are partners, both Limmud International and Limmud FSU will make sure this partnership is properly acknowledged on all communications materials. This partnership will first be established for a two-year period beginning in July 2008. Renewal will take place upon evaluation and agreement of both parties at the closure of this period.

What is Limmud?

Limmud – the volunteer driven Jewish learning experience – began in Britain 27 years ago. Since then, Limmud has spread to Jewish communities around the world.



The first Limmud Conference took place in England, inspiring hundreds of activists who returned home full of enthusiasm for the unique Limmud model. This resulted in the idea of organizing local Limmud events. The Jerusalem Post reported in 2000 that “Every place that has Jews should have its own Limmud.”

Limmud is a dynamic, pluralistic gathering of Jewish learning. For nearly three decades, Limmud seminars and conferences around the globe, from Canada to Australia, Switzerland and Turkey, as well as Israel, have attracted Jews of all ages and backgrounds, including Jews who have studied Jewish subjects and those who have very little knowledge about exciting, intense learning experiences.

Built on a unique model, seminars, lectures, workshops, and discussions focus on an enormous range of topics, from social and political trends within Jewish communities and around the world to Israeli politics, from questions of ethics to Jewish cooking, from traditional texts to Yiddish theater.

Some lecturers are prominent academics and journalists; others discuss their hobbies and inspire with their enthusiasm. Presenters of one topic become participants in other workshops. All participants are equal; all choose topics of interest to them and select the sessions they wish to attend. All organizers, lecturers, and presenters are volunteers.

Our greatest achievement has been that today, conferences built on the Limmud model are held all over the world. We are happy to have had the opportunity to develop and implement Limmud conferences in Russia, the Ukraine, and other countries of the Former Soviet Union.

For example, Limmud FSU, founded by Chaim Chesler, Sandra Cahn and Mikhail Chlenov, has grown organically across the Former Soviet Union. Seeing its potential, philanthropist Matthew Bronfman joined as chairman of the Steering Committee of Limmud FSU. Limmud International has assisted local and national committees of activists in planning events in numerous cities.

The primary mission of Limmud International is to develop, support, and continue to grow programs throughout the world. We fully recognize our responsibility to support the spread of Limmud's global success story, helping other communities benefit from the conference's vast experience.

150th Anniversary Year of the Birth of Shalom Aleichem

"Gentlemen! Don't you see the terrible jargon peril just floating in the air above us... Where are our beloved young educated, aficionados of our ancient language? How has everything become carried away by the wind fleeing from the cursed jargon, that confused and loathsome language."

This is a quote written at the beginning of the last century in Hebrew, not Yiddish (the jargon referred to) by Shalom Aleichem himself, and is part of an ongoing controversy between Yiddishists and Hebraicists. It is interesting to note that Shalom Aleichem himself was writing for a Hebrew newspaper "HaMelitz" - the Advocate at the time. The details of the controversy have long been forgotten as have the general rivalry between the two languages. Shalom Aleichem's biting comments have somewhat lost their sting.

So how is Shalom Aleichem faring nowadays in our own Jewish State, where the ascendancy of Hebrew over Yiddish reigns and is clear to all, where there is little memory of the former rivalry and where Israel's founders who did read Shalom Aleichem's stories in their Yiddish original have all but passed on?

It is well known that Shalom Aleichem is more

appreciated outside Israel. It is enough to mention “Fiddler on the Roof,” (though it did star Israeli actor Topol as Tevye). Even though Shalom Aleichem wrote many other stories though none became famous musicals, they have been translated into many languages.

Once, every Jewish house in Russia contained the works of Shalom Aleichem. Above all, the popular author symbolized the Jewish People’s literature. Its not that Jews in the former Soviet Union kept up their Yiddish more than Jews in Israel and around the world did. He was mostly read in Russian translation – but people did read him. I myself read him in Yiddish though.

However, it is intriguing to ask why has Shalom Aleichem been somewhat pushed aside in Israel. The answer lies in the fact that as opposed to the two other giants of Yiddish literature – Y.L. Peretz and Mendele Mocher Seforim – Shalom Aleichem wrote few works in Hebrew. Israeli readers can only read him in translation – in translations that have been criticized as being too “lofty” and not able to convey his trademark immediate authentic voice.

For example, Tevye’s Hebrew quotations present special problems for the translator. In the original

text, Tevye speaks a fluid, colloquial Yiddish that is punctuated by frequent allusions to Hebrew sayings. When Tevye’s spoken language is already Hebrew – these interlinguistic inserts lose much of their effect. In fact in Hebrew translation, or in any other language, the reader misses the disparity between Tevye’s Yiddish speech and his Hebrew quotations. The translator may employ quotation marks, italics, or resort to an archaic style in the language, but the true linguistic resonance is lost.

“It sounds better in Yiddish” is in fact true and one might add it sounds better in English and in Russian.

Shalom Aleichem is thought of as coming from the Galut – the Diaspora – when in fact he was a member of the early Zionist movement “Hovevei Zion.” He attended two Zionist Congresses as a delegate, and wrote two fervently Zionist articles – “Why Do Jews Need a Country of Their Own,” and one entitled “Dr. Theodor Herzl.”

1 Yiddish, which was derided as a corrupt German Jewish jargon.

*by **Velvel Chernin**, poet, Yiddish expert, and lecturer at Bar-Ilan University in Israel*





Sessions & Speakers

Sessions and Events: What, Where And When?

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Noon to 1:30 pm			
Opening Ceremony	Jerusalem	We gather – hundreds of us – to launch “A Taste of Limmud” and an exciting and engaging day of learning, community building, socializing and entertainment. We are Russian-speaking Jewish Americans and we take pride in our culture, our history, our community, and ourselves. And we take pride in Shalom Aleichem, a son of our heritage, in the year of his 150th birthday. His dedication to writing and learning and expression inspires us to create a strong and proud community.	Rabbi Marc Schneier of The Hampton Synagogue Matthew Bronfman, Chairman, Limmud FSU International Steering Committee Sofa Landver, Israeli Minister of Immigrant Absorption Bel Kaufman, Granddaughter of Shalom Aleichem Asaf Shariv, Consul General of Israel in New York ... and a special multi-media presentation!

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
1:30 – 2:30 pm			
In Each Other's Crosshairs: Israel and Iran	Tel Aviv	Iran continues its march toward nuclear capability. Ahmadinejad calls for the destruction of the Jewish state. The world tries diplomacy, while Israel contemplates a military strike. Where is this all heading, and how alarmed should we be?	<p>Moderator: David Kislin, President, Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations</p> <p>David Harris, Exec. Director, American Jewish Committee</p> <p>Malcolm Hoenlein, Exec. Vice Pres., Conf. of Presidents of Major Amer. Jewish Organizations</p> <p>Michael Schneider, Secretary General, World Jewish Congress</p>
I Can Name that Tune! A Jewish Sing-a-long	Jerusalem	Join the famed and majestic New York Synagogue Choir, led by the celebrated Izhak Haimov, in song and some of the exuberant melodies and compositions that are the threads of our collective history and existence.	Izhak Haimov, Conductor, and The New York Synagogue Choir
The Subbotniks: Jewish or Not? (<i>Beit Midrash</i>)	Modiin	They say they're Jewish. Others say they're not. So, are the thousands of remaining Subbotniks, descended from Russian peasants who converted to Judaism two centuries ago, really Jewish? And either way, what is their fate? An inside view from the chief rabbi of Moscow.	<p>Moderator: Kevin Sefton, Limmud International Director</p> <p>Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi of Moscow</p>

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Staying Unique within the New York Melting Pot: The Bukharian Jews	Haifa	The Bukharian Jews of New York, concentrated in Queens, face a challenge common to Jews and other minorities – integrating into American society without losing their rich heritage, culture, and traditions. A panel of experts examines the compromises faced by this unique community within the boiling melting pot of New York City and America.	Moderator: Rafael Nektalov, Editor, Bukharan Times Aron Aronov, Director, Museum for the Heritage of Bukharian Jews David Mavashev, President, Isaac Mavashev Foundation Imanuel Rybakov, President, Association of Bukharian Jewish Youth of the USA
Men Welcome! Women at the Helm of the Jewish Community: Their Impact and Perspective	Tiberias	Women of power! They are climbing the ladders of leadership in the Jewish community and control an increasing amount of philanthropic dollars. What is the unique perspective of women from America and Israel, and how is their increasing power and visibility changing priorities and the Jewish communal landscape? Repeat: Men are welcome too!	Moderator: Sandra Cahn, Co-Founder, Limmud FSU Marina Kovalyov, President, Russian American Foundation Fania Kirshenbaum, Member of the Knesset Anna Rachmansky, Board Member, UJA-Federation of New York
Let My People Know! From the Soviet Underground to Brighton Beach	Ein Gedi	It's more than just intriguing recent history. Out of the Soviet Underground came real leaders, and survivors and teachers, who became influential in dark and oppressive circumstances. From them, we can learn to make our own lives more powerful and meaningful, as we ourselves become leaders and advocates and leading Jews of our generation. History and insights from one who made the journey, Rabbi Aryeh Katzin.	Moderator: Betty Ehrenberg, Executive Director, World Jewish Congress Rabbi Aryeh Katzin, Former Refusenik and Jewish Activist in Moscow and Publisher

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Songs of Then, Songs of Now	Akko	Israeli music is a window into the soul and psyche of Israel. In an interactive workshop, we will examine Israeli classics adapted anew by contemporary Israeli artists. The combination of the old beloved songs, with their modern interpretations, prompts a discussion about the changes Israel itself has undergone over time. We'll use You Tube videos, English translations and other background materials. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or Israeli culture is required.	Moderator: Igor Dodin, Board Member, Russian-Jewish Chapter, American Jewish Committee Ilan Wagner, Director, JAFI Department of Education in North America

2:45 – 3:45 pm

Post-Madoff: What's the Future of Philanthropy?	Tel Aviv	The Madoff scandal rocked the foundations of Jewish philanthropy and institutional life, with long-lasting practical and psychological effects. Prominent philanthropists and observers discuss the future of Jewish philanthropy as we pick up the pieces, assess the damage, and move on.	Moderator: Alex Budnitsky, Chief Operating Officer, Marks JCH of Bensonhurst Dan Brown, Founder, ejewishphilanthropy.com Matthew Bronfman, Chairman, Limmud FSU International Steering Committee Feliks Frenkel, Chairman, Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations David Kislin, President, Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations Jerry Levin, Chair of the Board, UJA-Federation of New York Diane Wohl, Member, Hillel International Board of Governors
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Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Jazz Up Your Prayers: From Koussevitzky to Matityahu	Jerusalem	The music of our observance and people is at once constant and ever changing. Two giants of Jewish music discuss and demonstrate the evolution of what we sing.	Cantor Netanel Hershtik, The Hamptons Synagogue and The New York Synagogue Izhak Haimov, Conductor of The New York Synagogue Choir
Jewish Gangsters of Old Odessa: A Cultural Phenomenon	Modiin	The mystique lives on. What happened in Odessa during the Shalom Aleichem epoch? What are the truths and myths of the Jewish gangster culture of Old Odessa? Just how dark is the dark side of Odessa's Jewish history? And what exactly was Isaak Babel's role in creating the Odessa gangster legends? Reflect on these questions with Yigal Kotler, an expert of Jewish education and history and a doctoral student at JTS.	Moderator: Inna Goryachkovskaya, Associate Executive Director, EZRA USA Yigal Kotler, Jewish education expert and doctoral student, Jewish Theological Seminary
A Snapshot of Ourselves: The Present and Future of the Russian-Speaking Jewish Community	Haifa	We are a significant part of the local Jewish community, yet are we part of it, or apart? A topical discussion about our acceptance and influence within the larger Jewish community, and what the future holds as we balance assimilating with maintaining our special and unique qualities.	Moderator: Sam Kliger, Director of Russian-Jewish Affairs, American Jewish Committee New York State Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny Mark Levin, Executive Director, National Conference on Soviet Jewry Gene Rachmansky, Member, Board of Directors, UJA-Federation of New York Lawrence Weinberg, President and Publisher, Novoye Russkoye Slovo

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Paradoxes of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust	Tiberias	The darkest period of our modern history forever overwhelms us and continues to raise old and new questions alike. Even the smallest stories are too huge to grasp, let alone the larger issues of humankind that stare us in the face. Join a prominent Holocaust scholar in taking even a tiny step forward.	Moderator: Michael Gorn, Madrichim, EZRA USA Igor Kotler, President, American Council on the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance
The Worldwide Wave of Russian Immigration	Ein Gedi	Waves of Russian Jews have settled in the United States, Israel and other places. The effects on them, their new homes, and the places they left behind are significant. And some are yet unknown. A panel of experts and émigrés give thought to a huge and ongoing phenomenon.	Moderator: Boris Kerdimun, Project Director, Commission on the Jewish People Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi of Moscow Igor Gutelmacher, Association of Jewish Students (Germany) Jenny Kapelyan, Member, Young Russian Leadership Division, UJA-Federation of New York Yasha Moz, International Division of Hillel Anna Vainer, Emissary for FSU Emigres, Jewish Agency for Israel

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
4:00 – 5:00 pm			
Anti-Semitism: Is it Real or Imagined?	Tel Aviv	From the United Nations to university lecture halls to the Arab street, anti-Semitism's evolving forms and virulent effects are widespread. A panel of top players on the world stage discusses why this is and what we all can do about it.	<p>Moderator: Sasha Krasny, Senior Project Manager, Genesis Philanthropy Group</p> <p>Malcolm Hoenlein, Exec. Vice Pres., Conf. of Presidents of Major Amer. Jewish Organizations</p> <p>Deborah Lipstadt, Professor, Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies, Emory Univ.</p> <p>Gregory Schneider, Exec. Vice Pres., Claims Conference</p> <p>Michael Schneider, Secretary General, World Jewish Congress</p>
Inside the Missionary Mind	Jerusalem	It takes one to know one, as the saying goes. A former Christian missionary, Moshe Fendo tells of his dramatic journey back to Judaism and his advocacy for the Russian-Jewish community, shedding light along the way into Christian missionary strategy to recruit Russian Jews and how you can withstand it.	<p>Moderator: Stuart Katz, President, Tal Tours and Project Manager, "A Taste of Limmud"</p> <p>Moshe Fundo, Former Seventh Day Adventist Preacher</p>

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Russian Olim: The New Elite of the Jewish State?	Modiin	Are Russian Israelis becoming the new political elite in Israel? And if so, what does that mean for the Russian-Jewish community and the Jewish state? See the view from the top, as prominent Russian-Israeli members of the Israeli Knesset and others make sense of the mix of nationalities within the government and what it all means for policy, peace and the future.	Moderator: Dr. Misha Galperin, Exec. Vice Pres. and CEO, Jewish Fed. of Greater Washington Dmitry Apartsev, Director General, Israeli Ministry of Absorption Yoram Dori, Senior Advisor to Israeli President Shimon Peres Zeev Elkin, Member of the Knesset Fania Kirshenbaum, Member of the Knesset Leon Litinetsky, Former Member of the Knesset
Faith in Fashion	Haifa	A look at the Jewish role in the development of the fashion industry, from the majestic priestly vestments to today's most glamorous runways.	Moderator: Valerie Khaytina, Deputy North American Representative, World ORT Tobi Rubinstein Schneier, Founder, The House of Faith N' Fashion
Why Are We Still Laughing? The Anatomy of Comic Stories	Tiberias	Why are we still laughing? A look at the anatomy of professional storytelling – how to see what is funny in our lives, and how to tell about it and laugh about it. Funny!	Moderator: Vika Elkin, Limmud FSU Director Mark Galesnik, Founder, Beseder!, Israeli humor magazine
The Allure of the Jewish Kitchen, from Avraham Avinu to the Second Avenue Deli	Ein Gedi	Bring an appetite, because your senses will be teased. The tastes and aromas of the Jewish kitchen have been a constant for generations, and are an essential part of our heritage, perseverance and collective story. Learn and taste why.	Moderator: Rika Gorn Larissa Frumkina, Food Historian

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Do I Really Look Like That? The High Art of Caricature Drawing	Akko	Amusing, somewhat exaggerated, but always dead-on. The caricature appears to be art lite, but take a closer look, and you'll see that it's a clear window into a subject's soul and essence. This interactive workshop explores the aesthetic of a socially important art form.	Moderator: Olga Barskaya, Madrichim, EZRA USA Tatiana Belokonenko, Israeli Caricaturist and Artist
5:15 – 6:15 pm			
Questions for Answers (<i>Beit Midrash</i>)	Tel Aviv	The Jewish tradition is based not necessarily on providing answers, but the costs on the road to them.	Moderator: Walter Ruby, Journalist Dima Zicer, Educator and Director of INO (Institute of Informal Education)
Existing Together: A Jewish-Muslim Dialogue	Jerusalem	From conflict and suspicion, to coexistence and cooperation, the challenge for the Jewish and Muslim communities is definite and defined. But through conversation, dialogue and mutual understanding, progress can be – and is being – achieved. Join two – a prominent Jew and a prominent Muslim – navigating the road to a common place.	Moderator: Michael Schneider, Secretary General, World Jewish Congress Rabbi Marc Schneier, President and Founder, The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding Imam Shamsi Ali, The Islamic Cultural Center of New York

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Real or Fake? Democracy in Israel	Modiin	Just how democratic is the Jewish State? It's a matter of debate. And the answer depends on who's doing the talking. A panel of prominent Israeli government officials offers some views on a heated matter.	Moderator: Roman Shmulenson, Exec. Dir., Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations Yoram Dori, Senior Advisor to Israeli President Shimon Peres Zeev Elkin, Member of the Knesset Fania Kirshenbaum, Member of the Knesset Leon Litinetsky, Former Member of the Knesset Asaf Shariv, Consul General of Israel in New York
Holocaust Survivors: The End of an Era	Haifa	There are still over half a million Nazi victims alive, but their numbers decrease by the year and we approach a time when there will be none living amongst us. What does this mean for the Holocaust story, the memory of all who perished, the move for restitution, and our own moral mandate, as a younger generation, to keep their voices and legacies alive?	Moderator: David Roitman, Executive Director, EZRA USA Ernest Michel, Executive Vice President Emeritus, UJA-Federation of New York Gregory Schneider, Executive Vice President, Claims Conference
Jewish Jokes and God's Gags: Russian-Jewish Humor	Tiberias	How are Russian Jews changing Israel? Humor! A look at the best features and caricatures from Beseder? – the wildly popular Russian-Israeli weekly humor magazine.	Moderator: Nika Gelfand Mark Galesnik, Founder, Beseder!, Israeli humor magazine

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Truth, Through Jewish Movement: A Otiyot Hayyot ("Living Letters") Workshop – Part I	Ein Gedi	Embody Hebrew letters through lyrical movement, weaving them choreographically into a graceful and meditative body chant and opening the way to Truth for ourselves, our loved ones, and our world. By relaxing our bodies, calming our emotions, clearing our minds and centering our spirits, we will enhance our well being and enter a sphere of creativity, calm and truth. All levels welcome!	Rabbi Reuben Modek, Certified Instructor of Otiyot Hayyot Judith Rose, Certified Instructor of Otiyot Hayyot
The Jewish View of the World, 2009 and Beyond	Akko	What are - and should be – the most pressing issues, priorities and goals of the Jewish people today? Prominent and influential Jewish movers and shakers from America and Israel discuss today's global Jewish agenda and why it matters to you.	Moderator: Dr. Misha Galperin, Exec. Vice Pres. and CEO, Jewish Fed. of Greater Washington Dmitry Apartsev, Director General, Israeli Ministry of Absorption Moshe Vigdor, Director General, The Jewish Agency for Israel Avraham Infeld, President Emeritus, Hillel International
I Like It --- Move It ... Move It!	Shalom Aleichem Way	Take part in a Jewish tradition of community and movement and expression and enjoy an hour of reconnecting with the past through Israeli Folk Dancing! Learn several famous circle and line dances that you'll never forget. Participants of all dance levels are welcome!	Elvera Baron and Gayle Squires, Israel Folk Dancers

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
6:30 – 7:30 pm			
The Holocaust: Deny it Now, Repeat it Later?	Tel Aviv	In 2000, a British court ruled that writer David Irving was a Holocaust denier, liar, anti-Semite and racist. What did this famed and highly charged case mean for the struggle against Holocaust denial? And what is the lasting impact of this case, nearly 10 years later?	Moderator: Ernest Michel, Executive Vice President Emeritus, UJA-Federation of New York Deborah Lipstadt, Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies, Emory University
At Your Fingertips: Reaching the Younger Generation of Russian-Jews	Jerusalem	Engaging and giving purpose to the younger generation is one of the biggest challenges facing the Jewish community, and the young generation of Russian-Jews is no different. What are the obstacles, how do we overcome them, and what can you – as committed leaders in the community – do to engage this up-and-coming generation.	Moderator: Biana Shilshtut, Co-Chair, Organizing Committee, “A Taste of Limmud” Avraham Infeld, President Emeritus, Hillel International
What is Limmud? Everything You Always Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask	Modiin	It’s the most extensive and influential worldwide organization for the Russian-speaking Jewish community. So, what more do you need to know about it and why should it be important to you? Limmud officials and veterans will tell you, and you’ll like what you hear.	Moderator: Sandra Cahn, Co-Founder, Limmud FSU Chaim Chesler, Founder, Limmud FSU Vika Elkin, Limmud FSU Director Karen Radkowsky, Founding President, Limmud NY Kevin Sefton, Limmud International Director Dima Zicer, Educator and Director of INO (Institute of Informal Education)

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
"They Call Me": The Power of Music in Russian-Jewish History and Culture	Haifa	A dramatic and moving performance exploring the suppression and awakening of Jewish culture and identity in the former Soviet Union, as told through the music and songs of Natasha Hirschhorn, a Kiev-born musicologist, composer, performer and Reform cantor. Join her in a musical journey as you sing along with old melodies from Ukraine, beloved songs from the underground, the Jewish compositions of Schostakovitch, and new music too.	Moderator: Olga Henkin, Madrichim, EZRA USA Cantor Natasha Hirschhorn, Music Director, Congregation Ansche Chesed
The Russian-Jewish Diaspora: A Unique Identity?	Tiberias	It's a common tension, between assimilation and separateness, experienced by émigré communities around the world. But how does this play out for us, as Russian-Jews, as we build lives, professions, and identities as part of the Diaspora?	Moderator: Michael Nemirovsky, Dir. of Russian-Speaking Community Outreach, JCRC of NY Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi of Moscow David Roitman, Executive Director, EZRA USA
Faith, Through Jewish Movement: A Otiyot Hayyot ("Living Letters") Workshop – Part 2	Ein Gedi	Embody Hebrew letters through lyrical movement, weaving them choreographically into a graceful and meditative body chant and opening the way to Faith in ourselves, our loved ones, and our world. By relaxing our bodies, calming our emotions, clearing our minds and centering our spirits, we will enhance our well being and enter a sphere of creativity, calm and faith. All levels welcome!	Rabbi Reuben Modek, Certified Instructor of Otiyot Hayyot Judith Rose, Certified Instructor of Otiyot Hayyot

Session	Room	Description	Speakers
Our Music, Ourselves: The Enduring Legacy of Songs from Eastern Europe and Belarus	Akko	The rich Jewish musical legacy of Eastern Europe and Belarus is only now being preserved and appreciated as a key part of Jewish history and culture. Hear it and learn why in a penetrating presentation by ethnomusicologist Dmitri Slepovitch, who will open the door to these rich compositions both intellectually and in performance.	Moderator: Radmila Yordanova, Program Coordinator, Russian Division, AJC Dmitri Slepovitch, Ethnomusicologist, Clarinetist, Pianist, Composer, Conductor

7:30 – 10:00 pm

Celebrate Limmud: a festive barbecue, music and dancing!

Off Premises

Join your fellow Limmud participants in a festive evening of food, music and dancing, as you visit with friends and cement the new relationships you made during the day. Celebrate heritage. Celebrate learning. Celebrate friendships. Celebrate Limmud.

Who's Speaking?

Imam Shamsi Ali

is the Imam of the Islamic Cultural Center of New York, the city's largest mosque. He is also the Director of the Jamaica Muslim Center in Queens and Chairman of Masjid Al-Hikmah in Astoria, New York. Well known in the interfaith community, Ali has lectured in churches and synagogues and other institutions around the nation and the world. He participated in the International Conference of Imams and Rabbis for Peace in Spain in 2006 and the first National Summit of Imams and Rabbis of North America in 2007. He received a 2009 Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award for his works on building bridges between religious communities in New York City.

Dmitry Apartsev

is Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Absorption. Born in Lithuania, he was head of delegation and Aliyah shaliach in the southeast Ukraine for The Jewish Agency for Israel.

Aron Aronov

arrived in the United States in 1988 and works as a liaison to the Bukharian Jewish community for the New York Association for New Americans (NYANA). He is a leader in the movement to preserve Bukharian history and culture and is director of the Museum for the Heritage of Bukharian Jews.

Elvera Baron

has been dancing since childhood and has experience in ballroom, modern and Israeli folk dancing. She participates in other sports activities and enjoys teaching. She recently performed in New York with Nishmat Hatzafon, a Jewish women's dancing company.

Olga Barskaya

is a madrichim with EZRA USA, a progressive youth movement for young Russian speakers in America.

Tatiana Belokonenko

is a famed and respected painter and caricaturist in Israel, whose works of art are soulful interpretations of her subjects. She was born in 1969 in Odessa and attended Odessa Pedagogical University. She immigrated to Israel in 1999. Many of her works are in private collections in Russia, Israel, Germany, and the U.S.

Matthew Bronfman

is a prominent New York-based businessman and philanthropist and serves as Chairman of the Limmud International Steering Committee. He is Chairman and CEO of BHB Holdings, whose portfolio includes Israel Discount Bank and Supersol. In addition, he controls the IKEA franchise in Israel and has numerous real estate holdings there and in the United States.

Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny

is a member of the New York State Assembly, representing the 46th District. He immigrated to the U.S. from the former Soviet Union in 1989. In 2001, he became the founding Executive Director of the Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations

(COJECO), the central coordinating body for dozens of community-based, Russian-speaking émigré organizations in New York.

Dan Brown

is the founder of ejewishphilanthropy.com, a widely read website covering trends and developments within Jewish philanthropy. He has long been involved in the Jewish communal world both in America and in Israel as immediate past director of the American Friends of the WUJS Institute, a former national board member of ARZA, a member of the Assembly of The Jewish Agency for Israel, and member of the Steering Committee of Presentense in Jerusalem. In addition to managing ejewishphilanthropy.com, he consults with non-profits and academic institutions on developing new audiences and supporters.

Alex Budnitsky

is a veteran reporter who received a Gold Quill Award for independent journalism in the FSU. He has worked in the Jewish communal field for 12 years and currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the Marks Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst. He holds a Master's Degree

in Journalism and Social Work from Columbia University. Alex is one of the leading consultants on various Jewish community development projects for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in the FSU.

Sandra Cahn

is co-founder of Limmud FSU and serves on the boards and committees of numerous high-profile Jewish organizations worldwide. She is co-chair of the Taskforce on the FSU for Hillel International and is on its Executive Committee. She is a member of the Board of Directors of UJA-Federation of New York and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, among other affiliations.

Chaim Chesler

is founder and chairman of the International Executive Committee of Limmud FSU. He is former treasurer of The Jewish Agency for Israel, former head of its Aliyah Department, and former head of the JAFI Delegation to the FSU. He now serves in a number of positions, including chairman of the FSU and Eastern European Committee of the World Jewish Congress, chairman of the Claims Conference Oversight Committee of "Hessed" in the FSU, and

vice chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, among many others.

Igor Dodin

is an attorney in New York and New Jersey and is a board member of the Russian-Jewish chapter of the American Jewish Committee, Vice President of the American Association of Russian Speaking Attorneys and board member of the World Congress of Russian Jewry.

Yoram Dori

is longtime and current senior advisor to President Shimon Peres of Israel.

Betty Ehrenberg

is executive director of the World Jewish Congress – United States and North America. She is editor of the WJC's Iran Update, a widely read analysis of Iranian affairs. She is a respected and quoted expert on international issues regarding the Middle East, Israel, Iran, the United Nations, anti-Semitism, and community, governmental and interfaith relations.

Vika Elkin

is a director of Limmud FSU and is responsible for planning, fundraising and special projects. She was project manager for the organization's conference in Jerusalem in July 2009. She has worked in the Zionist Education department at The Jewish Agency for Israel.

Zeev Elkin

is a Member of the Knesset, was born in Kharkov in 1971. In 1990, he was the Secretary General of the Bnei Akiva movement in the Soviet Union before making Aliyah.

Leon (Moshe) Fundo

was born in the Soviet Union in 1959 to Jewish parents, but made a remarkable journey away from his faith, becoming a preacher of the Seventh Day Adventists. Later, he made an equally remarkable transformation back to Judaism, and is now a member of Young Israel, an organization of Orthodox Jews. He currently works as a job counselor and vocational education teacher to students from the former Soviet Union at the Mercaz B'nos School in Brooklyn.

Feliks Frenkel

was born in Kiev and studied civil engineering at the Siberian Automobile and Road Institute in Omsk. He immigrated to the United States in 1972 with his family. He is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business and Stern Business School. He served for many years as a principal of Saturn Bio-Services, Inc. His philanthropic and Jewish community commitments are deep, and he serves as Chairman of the Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations (COJECO), as a member of the executive committee of UJA-Federation of New York, as President of the National Folksbiene Yiddish Theater, and as a Board member of FECS, Shorefront Y and several other Jewish organizations.

Larissa Frumkina

lectures and gives food demonstrations focused on the centrality of food to history, heritage and ourselves.

Mark Galesnik

is a satiric writer and journalist and founder of the wildly popular Israeli humor magazine, Beseder! He gives lectures and classes on journalism in Israel and abroad, and is the author of ten books.

Dr. Misha Galperin

is the executive vice president and CEO of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Prior to joining the Washington federation in 2001, he served as the chief operating officer of UJA-Federation of New York. Born in Odessa, Dr. Galperin emigrated to the United States in 1976. His resettlement was facilitated by federation agencies much like the ones where he went on to build his career: The Educational Alliance, the New York Association for New Americans (NYANA), the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, FECS and JCCs. He holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from New York University.

Ira Gendelman

is a madrichim with EZRA USA, a progressive youth movement for young Russian speakers in America.

Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt

is the Swiss-born chief rabbi of Moscow. He is the spiritual leader of the Moscow Choral Synagogue, the head of the rabbinical court of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and an officer of the Russian Jewish Congress. He represents

the Russian Jewish community politically as well and has advocated tirelessly for the rights and recognition and welfare of the community.

Michael Gorn

is a madrichim with EZRA USA, a progressive youth movement for young Russian speakers in America.

Inna Goryachkovskaya

is associate executive director of EZRA USA, a progressive youth movement for young Russian speakers in America.

Igor Gutelmacher

was born in Russia and lived in Germany for 20 years before moving to New York eight months ago. While in Germany, he was involved with the Association of Jewish Students. He works in the financial industry.

Izhak Haimov

is a celebrated name in the world of Jewish liturgical music. He holds a degree in Music from the National Music Academy of Tashkent, where he served as choral conductor of the Opera studio after his

graduation. After going to Israel in 1992, he served at the Great Synagogue in Tel Aviv and performed regularly and arranged liturgical pieces there. In 1995, he founded the renowned Renanim choir. In 2003, he was invited by Rabbi Marc Schneier to create a new choir for the New York Synagogue.

David A. Harris

is one of the Jewish people's leading advocates and most eloquent spokesmen. As Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee since 1990, he travels the globe meeting with world leaders to advance the well-being of Israel, combat anti-Semitism, monitor the condition of Jewish communities, and promote inter-group and inter-religious understanding. Among the highlights of his work, he was centrally involved in the emigration of over one million Jews from the Soviet Union and was described by the Washington Post as "one of the leading spokesmen" for the Soviet Jewry movement.

Olga Henkin

is a madrichim with EZRA USA, a progressive youth movement for young Russian speakers in America.

Cantor Netanel Hershtik

is the cantor at The Hamptons Synagogue and The New York Synagogue. Born in 1978, he is the son of famed Cantor Naftali Hershtik. Netanel has performed in concerts throughout Israel, Europe and America, and has been deputized for his father at the Jerusalem Great Synagogue. His rich and heartwarming tenor voice has been heard with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and the Symphonet Ra'anana, as well as with some of the finest choirs of the Jewish world, including the Jerusalem Great Synagogue Choir.

Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn

is an accomplished teacher, performer and recording artist dedicated to sharing the richness of Russian-Jewish music and culture. She is music director at Congregation Ansche Chesed in New York, conductor of two Jewish community choruses, and serves on the faculty at Jewish Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, and the Academy for Jewish Religion.

Malcolm Hoenlein

has served since 1986 as Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the coordinating body on international Jewish concerns for 50 national Jewish groups. He has traveled throughout the world meeting with world leaders and Jewish communities and has written and lectured across the U.S. and abroad on international affairs, Israel and the Middle East, Soviet and World Jewry, terrorism, the American Jewish community, and intergroup relations.

Avraham Infeld

is founder and director of a succession of innovative educational institutions. He President Emeritus of Hillel International and was President of the Chais Family Foundation. In the 1970s, he founded Melitz, a non-profit educational service institution that fosters Jewish identity rooted in a pluralistic understanding of Jewish life and the centrality of Israel. He also served as chairman of Arevim; director of the birthright Israel planning process; founding chairman of the San Francisco federation's Amutot in Israel; and chairman of the Board of Israel Experience.

Jenny Kapelyan

is a member of the Young Russian Leadership Division of UJA-Federation of New York and RGeneration.

Stuart Katz

is project manager for "A Taste of Limmud," is president of Tal Tours, a leading Kosher travel company, and is a former managing director of Israil USA. He is active as an organizer and volunteer for Jewish community causes from the local level to the international stage. He is on the Board of the Hebrew Academy of Five Towns and Rockaways and the Board of In-Reach, and is a past and current president of Young Israel of North Woodmere. He has received recognition from the Israeli government for his efforts in support of tourism to the Jewish state.

Rabbi Aryeh Katzin

was a Jewish activist in Moscow, teaching Torah and Hebrew in the underground movement from 1977 to 1981. When he was allowed to emigrate, he continued to study Torah in Israel. In 1987, he founded Sinai Academy High School in Brooklyn. For

15 years, Rabbi Katzin produced a weekly program for Voice of America, reaching millions of listeners in the former USSR. He publishes a weekly newspaper, Yevreiski Mir, and appears weekly on the Russian Television Network.

Bel Kaufman

is the granddaughter of the great Yiddish writer Shalom Aleichem and a beloved author herself, best known for her novel *Up the Down Staircase* and its film adaptation. Born in Berlin but having spent her early childhood in Odessa and Moscow, she considers herself a native of Russia, and Russian her native tongue. She studied education and spent three decades teaching in the New York City public schools. She is honorary chair of the Shalom Aleichem Memorial Foundation, which is dedicated to commemorating her grandfather and the world of Jewish literature and culture.

Roman R. Kent

is a prominent leader of the Holocaust survivor movement and has been a vocal advocate for survivors all over the world. Among his noteworthy affiliations, he is president of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, chairman of the American

Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, treasurer of the Claims Conference, and vice president of the International Auschwitz Committee. Born in Poland and a survivor of numerous concentration camps, he has been a confidant and advisor to presidents, senators, congressmen, ambassadors and foreign leaders while fighting for justice for all mankind, particularly his fellow survivors.

Boris Kerdimun

is the Project Director for the Commission on the Jewish People at UJA-Federation of New York.

Valerie Khaytina

is the Deputy North American Representative of World ORT, the world's largest Jewish education and vocational training organization. She represents the organization to Jewish federations, endowment funds and private funders. Valerie is involved in a number of volunteer activities with Jewish organizations in New York City, Ukraine, and Israel.

Fania Kirshenbaum

is a Member of the Knesset and is Director General of the Yisrael Beitenu Party. She is Deputy

Chairperson of the Israeli branch of the World Jewish Congress and sits on the board of the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora.

David Kislin

is co-founder of Sleepy Hudson, a real estate development and investment company. He is a member of the Russian Young Leadership board, as well as the board of the UJA-Federation of New York. He currently serves as president of the Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations (COJECO).

Sam Kliger

is director of Russian-Jewish Affairs at the American Jewish Committee. A former refusenik, he had previously founded the Research Institute for New Americans (RINA).

Igor Kotler

is a former Soviet refusenik who arrived in the U.S. in 1987. Formerly a senior historian at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, in New York City, and the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, he is currently President of the American Council on the Holocaust

and Jewish Resistance, and is a member of the Prakhin International Literary Foundation.

Yigal Kotler

is a native of Odessa and studied at Odessa State University. Upon graduation, he began a career as a teaching and research assistant. In 1994, he began study at the Jerusalem Fellows program for leaders in Jewish education, focusing on family education for the Russian-speaking Jewish community. He made aliyah, and upon graduation from the program, began work for the Russian Department of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, where he worked in FSU countries as a field office director and as a coordinator of Jewish educational and youth programs. He is currently in the doctoral program at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Davidson School of Jewish Education. His dissertation concerns Jewish education for the Russian-speaking community of North America.

Marina Kovalyov

is President of the Russian American Foundation and is highly regarded in the Russian-speaking communities worldwide as both a business and a cultural leader. Her expertise and global connections

are in constant demand and she has served as a consultant for many American and Russian corporations, elected officials and private individuals. She is a member of the boards of numerous community organizations including the United Jewish Appeal-Russian Division, Shorefront YM-YWHA, COJECO, and The Jewish Week.

Sasha Krasny

is originally from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is North America Senior Project Manager for the Genesis Philanthropy Group. In 2004, she joined UJA-Federation of New York as a Development executive. Utilizing her knowledge of the Russian-speaking community to cultivate and establish relationships with community leaders and high-level donors, she focuses at Genesis on developing strategies related to education, fundraising, and community building. She serves on the Board of the Russian Leadership Division of UJA-Federation of New York.

Sofa Landver

is the Israeli minister of Immigrant Absorption and is a Member of the Knesset. She was born in 1949 in Leningrad, Russia and immigrated to Israel in 1979. A speech therapist by profession, she holds

an M.A. degree. She has served as Chairperson of the National Association of Russian Immigrants, as a member of the Ashdod City Council, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Jerry W. Levin

is a prominent philanthropist active in Jewish community causes, is Chair of the Board of UJA-Federation of New York and is a past chair of the federation's annual campaign. He is actively involved in numerous UJA-Federation committees and initiatives. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he holds an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan and is a trustee of The Hampton Synagogue and a member of Central Synagogue. His public service includes director on the boards of Hillel International, the New York Philharmonic, the Auburn Theological Seminary, and the Council on Graduate Schools of Business and the University of Chicago.

Mark B. Levin

is executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), is one of the organized Jewish community's leading experts on national and international political and legislative issues, and has

led the community's effort in supporting financial and technical assistance to the new independent states of the former Soviet Union. He represents NCSJ and the Soviet Jewry advocacy movement in travels around the world.

Deborah E. Lipstadt

is the Doro Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University. Her recent book, *History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving*, recounts her libel trial in London nearly a decade ago with a proven Holocaust denier and right wing extremist. She is one of the foremost voices today on Holocaust history and the severe dangers of Holocaust denial. Professor Lipstadt was a member of the official American delegation at the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, and was appointed twice by President Clinton to terms on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Leon Litinetsky

is a former Member of the Knesset, was born in Russia and made Aliyah in 1991. He served as a delegate in the World Zionist Congress and was one of the founders of the Shomer Israel cooperative society. He served in several positions

in organizations and departments focused on the welfare of immigrants in Israel.

David Mavashev

is President and Founder of the Isaac Mavashev Foundation, a non-profit institute that focuses on studying Bukharian Jewish heritage and culture in the Diaspora. The Foundation publishes articles and books, sponsors cultural events such as conferences, presentations and shows, and provides monetary awards for outstanding achievements in Bukharian Jewish literature, music, and poetry. He is the President and CEO of a global, high-tech company, Nastel Technologies, which he founded in 1994.

Ernest W. Michel

is a Holocaust survivor, author, lecturer and community leader who served as Executive Vice President of the UJA-Federation of New York from 1970 to 1989. He continues his active involvement in the organization as Consultant and Executive Vice President Emeritus. He was the initiator and chairman of the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Israel in 1981 and his critically acclaimed autobiography, *Promises to Keep*, was published in 1993.

Rabbi Reuben Modek

is founder and director of the Hebrew Learning Circles, a home study Jewish educational program for children. As a certified instructor of Otiyot Hayyot, he has taught workshops relating kinetics to Hebrew instruction and worship in America, the UK and Israel.

Yasha Moz

was born and raised in Ekaterinburg, Russia. He was actively involved in the Jewish Renaissance in post-communist Russia first as a Jewish camp counselor and then through his local Hillel center, where he coordinated numerous programs and eventually became the youngest-ever director. Since moving to the U.S. in 2006, he has been working at the International Division at Hillel's headquarters in D.C. He regularly volunteers at the Shalom Education Center – a Sunday school for children of Russian-speaking immigrants in Rockville, MD, where he conducts Jewish holiday celebrations and leads a teen program for alumni.

U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler

represents New York's 8th Congressional District, including part of Manhattan's Upper West Side,

lower Manhattan, and areas of Brooklyn including Borough Park, Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst. First elected in 1992 after serving 16 years in the New York State Assembly, he has championed civil rights, civil liberties and a host of progressive issues. He is a former member of the National Governing Council of the American Jewish Congress, a current member of the New York Board of the Anti-Defamation League, and is dedicated to supporting American Jewish community concerns and a safe, prosperous and peaceful Israel.

Rafael Nektalov

is editor of the Bukharan Times. He came to the U.S. in the early '90's from Uzbekistan, where he was a noted composer and professor of music.

Michael Nemirovsky

is Director of Russian-Speaking Community Outreach at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

Anna Rachmansky

is a freelance writer and editor and is active in the Russian Jewish community in various spheres. She is a member of the Russian Leadership Division of UJA-

Federation of New York, on the board of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, and in 2008 became president of the Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton- Manhattan Beach.

Gene Rachmansky

began his communal involvement as a legal intern at NYANA in 1995, where he worked primarily on political asylum applications for refugees. In 1997 he began his involvement at UJA-Federation of New York, starting as a volunteer in the Russian Division and later chairing it. He chaired the Cross-Divisional Task Force on Russian-Speaking Jewry and is a cabinet member of the Commission on Jewish Identity and Renewal at the federation, as well as a member of the Board of Directors. He attended New York University and Fordham University School of Law. He is a partner and principal of BDS Advisors.

Karen Radkowsky

is the founding president of Limmud NY and was co-chair of its inaugural conference. An avid Limmudnik, Karen has been an annual participant in Britain's Limmud conference since 2000. She serves on the board of Limmud International, and has advised Limmud groups across North America, and

in Moscow and Buenos Aires. After 20+ years in the corporate sector, she now utilizes her marketing and measurement background as a consultant to not-for-profit organizations.

David Roitman

is the Executive Director of EZRA USA, was born in Odessa in 1979 and made Aliyah in 1990. At EZRA, he has been a forward-thinking leader and has implemented a series of innovative, community-building programs for Russian-speaking youth.

Judith Rose

is a published author, certified educator, educational consultant and award-winning poet. She is founder and director of Vital Movement™ and is a certified Otiyot Hayyot practitioner. Her workshops in Jewish spiritual practice guide participants toward development of their inner potential as they engage with Torah, wrestle with text, and stretch toward the sacred.

Walter Ruby

is a veteran journalist, writer and commentator on Jewish and Israeli issues, and has covered the

Russian Jewish community in the U.S. for the New York Jewish Week and other publications.

Imanuel Rybakov

is a researcher of history and culture of the Bukharian Jews, a member of the board of the Union of the Bukharian Jewish Writers and Journalists of the USA, and President of the Association of the Bukharian Jewish Youth of the USA, “Achdut-Unity.”

Gregory Schneider

is executive vice president of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference). He has overseen the creation and implementation of several Claims Conference individual compensation payment programs for Jewish victims of Nazism. Chief among these was the Program for Former Slave and Forced Laborers, which has paid \$1.4 billion to 174,000 Holocaust survivors in 87 countries. Mr. Schneider also oversaw the creation of Claims Conference programs to compensate victims of Nazi medical experiments, former refugees to Switzerland, and survivors of the Nazi occupation of Budapest. Mr. Schneider guided the Claims Conference’s Institutional Allocations Program since its inception in 1995.

Michael Schneider

has served as Secretary General of the World Jewish Congress since 2007. He was Executive Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee from 1987 to 2002, and in that prominent position directed some of the agency’s largest operations in the field of rescue, relief and reconstruction. Born in South Africa, he has had numerous overseas postings, including those in Iran, Ethiopia, Italy, and Israel. He is chairman of the Finance Committee of Limmud FSU.

Rabbi Marc Schneier

is founding rabbi of The Hampton Synagogue and The New York Synagogue and is a leading personality and spokesperson for the Jewish community. The Forward named him as one of the 50 most prominent Jews in the United States, and Newsweek listed him as one of America’s top 50 rabbis. A leader in intergroup and race relations, reconciliation and understanding, he is at the forefront of strengthening ties among the Jewish, African-American, Latino and Asian-American ethnic communities, as well as promoting dialogue and cooperation among the Jewish, Muslim, and

Christian faith communities. He is President and Founder of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU) and serves as Chairman of the World Jewish Congress American Section, as well as its Commission on Intergroup Relations. He serves on myriad boards and executive committees.

Tobi Rubinstein Schneier

is founder of The House of Faith N' Fashion and has enjoyed a 30-year career in the fashion industry working with high-profile companies. She is Vice President of Fashion Globalization, a division of The Design Factory, offering strategic brand development and placement in the global marketplace. She is on the board of Chabad's Children of Chernobyl and has served as chair of Steven Spielberg's Children at Heart Fantasy Auction. She is an active partner with her husband, Rabbi Marc Schneier, at The Hampton Synagogue.

Kevin Sefton

is the Limmud Trustee and Director responsible for Limmud International. He is based in London and owns and heads a niche management consultancy business specializing in the education sector. He has volunteered his time as part of numerous Limmud

teams and chaired the Limmud Conference 2007. He has trained Limmud teams around the world and views all Limmud volunteers, participants, presenters and supporters as part of the same family.

Asaf Shariv

became Consul General of Israel in New York in August 2007. Immediately prior to his appointment, he was the Director of Media and Public Affairs to Prime Ministers Ehud Olmert and Ariel Sharon. He was also the spokesman for various government agencies, such as the Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations (Mossad), the Atomic Energy Committee, the National Security Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Unit. He is committed to reaching out to the next generation of Jewish leaders in the tri-state area, particularly through the use of modern media, in order to prepare and encourage them to deal with the increasingly dynamic social and demographic landscapes that shape Israeli society.

Biana Shilshtut

is a native of Uzbekistan, came to the U.S. in 2002 to study at North Dakota State University. There, she founded and directed a Hillel chapter, the university's

first-ever Jewish student organization. In New York, she is a founding board member of RJeneration and serves on the boards of the New York Jewry Task Force and the Young Russian Leadership Division of UJA-Federation of New York. In 2009, The Jewish Week named her to its annual “36 Under 36” list of leaders and innovators. She works at Bernstein Global Wealth Management.

Roman Shmulenson

is Executive Director of the Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations (COJECO), a coordinating body in the Russian-Jewish community of New York that works towards successful integration of the Russian-speaking Jews into the American Jewish community and the larger society. He is a recipient of several awards for his commitment and dedication to the Jewish community, Jewish education and social causes. He is well-known and respected in the émigré and the mainstream Jewish communities.

Dmitri Slepovitch

is an ethnomusicologist, clarinetist, pianist, composer, conductor, and Yiddish singer, a founding member of the Minsker Kapelye (Minsk) and Tamevate Kapelye (New York) ensembles. In his

professional activities Dmitri Slepovitch combines performance, teaching, and research of Ashkenazi Jewish music and other Eastern and Central European musical traditions. Having moved to the U.S. in 2008, Dmitri Slepovitch brought with him his collection of Litvak musical folklore containing dozens of hours of interviews and region-specific musical material. He published over 20 articles and co-authored a book, “Traditional Jewish Music in Eastern Europe” (2007). He holds a Ph.D. degree in musicology (Jewish music) from Belarusian State Academy of Music (2006).

Gayle Squires

started tap, jazz and modern dance at the age of 9, once performing with the late Gregory Hines, and she can be found leading the pack at weddings, teaching those around her. Most recently, she performed in New York with Nishmat Hatzafon, a Jewish women’s dance company.

Anna Vainer

is the emissary for the FSU émigré community in North America at The Jewish Agency for Israel.

Moshe Vigdor

assumed the position of Director General of The Jewish Agency for Israel in 2005 after serving since 1992 as Vice President and the Director General of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Ilan Wagner

has since 2006 directed the work of the Department of Education of the Jewish Agency in North America and the MAKOM initiative in North America. He made Aliyah in 1986 and was a founder of the Keren Kolot seminar center. In 1996, he was sent by the Jewish Agency to the U.S., where he worked as national educational emissary for college students, and as Educational Director of Tel Yehudah. After moving to Jerusalem, he became the personal assistant to the Director-General of the Department of Education of the Jewish Agency and served as Director of the Department of Education's global student activities and as head of the Student Forum of the National Institutions in Israel. In September 2004 he served as the Jewish Agency's Shaliach to Hillel International and the Representative for Students in North America.

Lawrence Weinberg

is President, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Novoye Russkoye Slovo, the oldest and most widely read Russian daily newspaper in the U.S. Under his leadership, the newspaper played an important role in bringing democracy to the Soviet Union by supporting Russian dissidents and publishing their work. It has also played a major part in helping new immigrants adapt to life in the U.S. and understand American democracy. He is a prominent philanthropist in the Russian-American community and has been honored for his efforts to preserve Russian culture in America.

Diane Wohl

of Long Island, New York is a prominent philanthropist who is active in UJA-Federation of New York, Hillel International, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, JTS, List College, and Project Keshet, among many others. She is committed to the welfare of Russian-speaking Jews, and was the Honorary Chairperson of Limmud FSU Jerusalem 2009.

Radmila Yordanova

is Program Coordinator for the Russian Division of the American Jewish Committee. Born in Bulgaria, she has been in the U.S. since 2008 and is studying sociology at New York University.

Dima Zicer

was born in Leningrad and is an educator, lecturer, founder of educational programs and Director of INO (Institute of Informal Education). He is especially interested in pedagogical and educational technologies, and has worked with many Jewish organizations in the realms of Jewish education and training of personnel.



