ACTION PSJ IN ACTION;
REPORTING FROM UKRAINE:

During Action's annual trip to Ukraine, the team, visited 11 communities and met with over 100 people, bringing money, food, Jewish connections and hope. p. 02

FROM LEGACY GIVING TO
CLOTHING TO SOUP BAGS:

A bequest from a donor to partnering to create soup bags as part of Mitzvah days, to sending 6,186 lbs of clothing p. 03

ANTISEMITISM UPDATE;
SAFETY AND SECURITY:

A newly elected Jewish President of Ukraine, concerns about building over a mass killing site in Poltava. p. 04

WE BELIEVE ... IN THE SPIRIT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE
WE INSPIRE ... OTHERS TO GET INVOLVED
WE TAKE ACTION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

CHECK OUT ACTION PSJ'S NEWLY UPDATED WEBSITE AT WWW.ACTIONPSJ.ORG
JOIN APSJ TO SUPPORT OUR WORK.
APSJ in Action — Reporting from Ukraine

Judy Patkin, past Executive Director, Debbie Kardon, Executive Director, Galina Zilberstein, Associate Director and translator and Barbara Karchmer, APSJ Board President embarked on a 15 day tour, visiting 12 communities served by APSJ. In each community, we met with the care coordinator and visited with a few of the Adopt Bubbe/Zayde participants. In communities with a Warm House we enjoyed a home hosted lunch with the Warm House cohort.

We also visited Synagogues and Jewish Community centers and offices in the few communities that have these.

We visited several older people who had fled the 2014 war which Putin began in eastern Ukraine. There is still fighting and dying going on in the villages near Donetsk, so there is no incentive to return. Many fled in a hurry with few possessions and they are struggling to begin life again. President Volodymyr Zelensky has promised to do what he can to bring it to an end.

The Ukrainian economy is still in terrible shape. People complained about the rising cost of food. Even common items like potatoes and onions recently doubled and tripled in price. Before the Maidan revolution, which began in 2014, we used to exchange 8 hrv. to the American dollar. Now the exchange rate is over 26 hrv. to the dollar. That means the pensions the elderly depend upon have lost 2/3 of their value.

Although many of the people we visited had some in home help for at least a few hours a week, the over-all health care options are limited. In a country with out standards of health insurance, most services are self-paid. There is little to none rehabilitative services such as physical or occupational therapy. Many of the Adopt a Bubbe/Zayde participants have not been outside their homes in years.

My dear unknown friends,

On behalf of the clients of the Uman Chesed, I would like to express my great appreciation for the good deeds that your organization brings to us. Our elderly can hardly survive for their pensions: the money is hardly enough only for food and medications. It is impossible for them to purchase footwear and clothing, instead of already unusable ones. More of them are completely alone. Your help is not only clothing; for many it is the hope that they are not alone; that you are being thought about and helped! Thank you ever so much! Wishing all of you good health, happiness, and great success of your deeds.

“May the hand of the giver get not empty” (Solomon’s Parable 28 Z.K.)
Lubny Adopt-a-Bubbe visit with Raisa Grigorievna Shevchenko. Raisa’s pension is 2,300 hrv. ($88)/month. She receives a SmartCard from Chesed for 2,500 hrv. ($96)/month. Half of it is spent on medicine. Raisa has glaucoma in one eye and no vision in that eye. The other eye has a cataract, but they don’t want to do surgery because it’s her only seeing eye. She also has arthritis in her hip and takes a course of injections to lubricate her hip. She broke her arm two years ago and it has affected her hand. A patronnage worked from Chesed comes very weekday for three hours. She manages on her own over the weekend. As Raisa said, she can use her telephone if she needs help. Raisa told us that 12 people got together for a Pesach Seder at a local Community Center.

FROM LEGACY GIVING TO SOUP BAGS-ACTIONS TO SUPPORT APSJ

Giving happens in many forms and all are needed to continue to support and grow the work of APSJ. This past year APSJ received its first Legacy gift. This gift was used to ensure APSJ not only continues to exist; it continues to thrive. The smooth transition in leadership was achieved as a result of this bequest. Contact Debbie at actionpsj@gmail.org if you would like information about legacy giving.

The top picture is from BJEP’s (Boston Area Jewish Education Program) mitzvah day. 150 soup bags were made, enough to feed 1,500 people! The soup bags have a high nutritional value and include a recipe in Russian, Ukrainian and English, along with a note from the volunteer packer. These soup bags are shipped to Ukraine in the clothing boxes we send to all of the communities served by APSJ.

Each year APSJ sends much needed support to every community served. Over 2000 people received food, clothing, and medicine from your generosity. This past year, APSJ shipped 6,186 lb or 2.8 tons of clothes, shoes and blankets. As the Ukrainian currency and economy continues to struggle, this much needed support is crucial.

Helping;

Dear Bostonians,

I am Raisa Shevchenko, born in 1937. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help (food parcel). Your support is not just a practical help, it also gives me light in my life and it also helps me to keep my spirits up. When I hear from you, I don’t feel forgotten. It gives me energy, makes me forget about my poor health. I have my own motto - while the person fights she can change her own destiny.

Truly grateful,

Raisa Shevchenko,

FROM LEGACY GIVING TO SOUP BAGS-ACTIONS TO SUPPORT APSJ

Giving happens in many forms and all are needed to continue to support and grow the work of APSJ. This past year APSJ received its first Legacy gift. This gift was used to ensure APSJ not only continues to exist; it continues to thrive. The smooth transition in leadership was achieved as a result of this bequest. Contact Debbie at actionpsj@gmail.org if you would like information about legacy giving.

The top picture is from BJEP’s (Boston Area Jewish Education Program) mitzvah day. 150 soup bags were made, enough to feed 1,500 people! The soup bags have a high nutritional value and include a recipe in Russian, Ukrainian and English, along with a note from the volunteer packer. These soup bags are shipped to Ukraine in the clothing boxes we send to all of the communities served by APSJ.

Each year APSJ sends much needed support to every community served. Over 2000 people received food, clothing, and medicine from your generosity. This past year, APSJ shipped 6,186 lb or 2.8 tons of clothes, shoes and blankets. As the Ukrainian currency and economy continues to struggle, this much needed support is crucial.

Helping;

Dear Bostonians,

I am Raisa Shevchenko, born in 1937. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help (food parcel). Your support is not just a practical help, it also gives me light in my life and it also helps me to keep my spirits up. When I hear from you, I don’t feel forgotten. It gives me energy, makes me forget about my poor health. I have my own motto - while the person fights she can change her own destiny.

Truly grateful,

Raisa Shevchenko,
Antisemitism Update

During our recent Ukraine trip, Action’s ED Debbie Kardon gave an interview, in Poltava to support the work being done by a grassroots group of community members to preserve the sanctity of this area. At Action for Post-Soviet Jewry we work to provide kavod (respect) and dignity for all Jews in the FSU. We continue to support Jewish connections, especially in small communities and we continue to monitor and address antisemitism.

For more information check out this article:

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS RAMPANT IN RECENT WEEKS ACROSS UKRAINE

Three Holocaust memorials have been desecrated over the last few weeks.

BY ILANIT CHERNICK SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

A Holocaust memorial commemorating the murder of some 900 Jews in Golovanevsk, Ukraine was vandalized on Tuesday.

Desecration of Holocaust memorials, Nazi salutes at a football game and threats against Jewish leaders – including newly elected President Volodymyr Zelensky – are just some of the antisemitic incidents that have taken place across the Ukraine in the last few weeks.

https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Antisemitism/Antisemitic-incidents-rampant-in-last-few-weeks-across-Ukraine-602102

HALF OF FSU JEWS IN RURAL AREAS HAVE EXPERIENCED ANTISEMITIC ATTACKS

According to a study by the Institute for Euro-Asian Jewish Studies, 47% of Jews who live in small towns or rural areas have experienced antisemitic attacks first hand.

BY JERUSALEM POST STAFF JULY 19, 2019

Almost half of the Jews who live in small towns or rural areas across the Former Soviet Union have experienced antisemitic attacks first hand, according to a study by the Institute for Euro-Asian Jewish Studies (IEAJS). The study was presented on Wednesday at the Oxford Summer Institute run by the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, which describes itself as the first academic research center on antisemitism in North America.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation as allowed by law payable to Action for Post-Soviet Jewry.

NAME____________________________
ADDRESS_________________________
CITY__________________ STATE_____
ZIP CODE __________________
E-Mail ___________________________

Please charge my donation to:
[ ] VISA      [ ] MasterCard
[ ] American Express    [ ] Discover

Acct#______________________________
Exp. Date mm/yyyy_________________
Signature _________________________

[ ] $5,004 [ ] $1,080 [ ] $540 [ ] $180
[ ] $72 [ ] $36 [ ] Other ________

Thank you for your continued interest and support of APSJ

Action for Post Soviet Jewry
Assisting Jews and Supporting Jewish Connections in the FSU since 1975

A portion of funding for Adopt-a-Bubbe is made possible by the Dnepropetrovsk Kehillah Project of CJP of Greater Boston

SUPPORTED BY CJP