

Curriculum Vitae

Personal

Name: Shlomo Mate KÖVES
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Nationality: Hungarian
Date of birth: May 18, 1979



Shlomó Köves is the executive rabbi of EMIH Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation since its founding in 2004

Köves was born in Budapest, in 1979 into a typical secular Jewish family. Growing up in a socialist country – although he always knew he was Jewish – his parents did not have the opportunity to provide him with a Jewish Education. At the age of 11-12 as a young child he had unordinary interest in spiritual and religious thoughts and philosophy. As a 13 year old child he made a decision to leave Hungary on his own to study overseas in religious Jewish schools, yeshivot. The following close to ten years he spent studying Judaic Studies in Israel, France and the United States. He also became a certified sofer and mohel.

Upon his return to his homeland he became the first orthodox rabbi ordained in Hungary since the Holocaust. The president of the Hungarian Republic and the chief rabbi of Israel were also presented at this ceremony in 2003.

Upon his return he also continued his secular studies in history at the University of Debrecen, where he received his PhD in Hungarian Jewish history in 2007. His thesis was also published in a book by Noran Publisher in 2008.

He took a very active part in reorganizing the Statusquo Jewish community, which in 2004, elected him as the first executive rabbi of the Congregation.

In 2003 he founded – with help from many local civil activists – the Open University of Jewish Studies (Zsidó Tudományok Szabadegyeteme), an institution created to give Jewish education to adults wanting to learn traditional Jewish Studies. The Open University has been very active ever since its founding, and has attracted close to 3000 participants, over the course of 30 semesters all together.

In 2004 he was asked (together with 3 Christian counterparts) to start a weekly spiritual TV program on the HírTV news channel.

Between 2003 and 2009 he took part in publishing Haggada for Pesach, Siddur for Shabbat and many other classical Jewish books as an editor and translator.

In 2009 he and his congregation succeeded in arranging an official visit for Nobel laurel Prof. Elie Wiesel. The visit included a special event in the Hungarian Parliament with the participation of Hungarian PM Gordon Bajnai.

In 2010 he and his congregation garnered much local and international support to reopen the neglected 200 years old Grand Synagogue in Obuda. In the inauguration took part the chief rabbi of Israel, Zsolt Semjen deputy PM of Hungary, Peter Erdő cardinal of Hungary and over 2000 participants of the Jewish Community.

In 2011 he founded the first Hebrew-Hungarian bi-lingual kindergarten and elementary school.

In 2012 he was ordained the chief Jewish chaplain of the Hungarian Defense Forces.

In 2012 he initiated the foundation of the Action Protection civil rights movement.

In 2015 he founded the CEDEK social welfare organization.

In 2017 he founded the bi-lingual Maimonides Jewish High School in Budapest.

He lives with his wife and five children in Budapest.

EDUCATION

2005-2007	University of Debrecen, Faculty of history Name of degree: Phd. Main subject: history Classification: University
1998-2004	Yeshiva Tomchei Tmimim Lubavitz, New York Rabbinical College Name of degree: Rabbi Main subject: Jewish law and philosophy Classification: University
2002 – 2003	The Chief Rabbinate Of Israel – Vaada Lemohalim Name of degree: Mohel, sofer Main subject: Circumcision, reproduce of Torah
1995-1998	Institut Superieur D'études Rabbiniques et Talmudiques, Brunoy, France, Rabbinical College Main subject: Jewish philosophy and history
1994-95	Yeshiva High School, Pittsburg, USA

TUTORIAL ACTIVITY

2003	ELTE – ÁJK Faculty of Roman Law 1053 – Budapest, Egyetem tér 1-3. Guest lecturer Jewish philosophy and practical theology instructor
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2001-2002	ORZSE College of Judaic Studies 1075 Budapest, Síp u. 12. Guest lecturer
2003-2004	Open University of Judaic Studies 1124 Budapest, Tamási Á. u. 41. Lecturer
2001-2004	Pesti Jesiva 1075 Budapest, Wesselényi u. 4. Lecturer

LANGUAGES

Hungarian (native)

English
Hebrew
Yiddish