

NEWSLETTER

2015 DECEMBER



The International Commission
for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

“MEMORY IS ALIVE THROUGH TESTIMONY”

Civic campaign “Memory is Alive through Testimony” held on the 13th of January – Day of Freedom Defenders is dedicated to commemorate the unity of nation striving to defend the restored independence of the country, and to pay a tribute to those killed during the armed attack by the Soviet army in Vilnius on January 13, 1991.

On the 13th of January all schools, bureaus and organisations are kindly invited to put out light for ten minutes and light the candles in the windows and commemorate those who sacrificed their lives for freedom.



27 JANUARY, 2016 A CONFERENCE IN ARIOGALA GYMNASIUM

On the 27th of January, on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, the International Commission together with Ariogala Gymnasium TEC are organising a conference “The Rescue of Another is the Highest Human Virtue” for the communities of TECs. This year during the conference the topic of the rescuers of the Jews will be covered.



“THE RESCUE OF ANOTHER IS THE HIGHEST HUMAN VIRTUE”

In January 2016 a new project “The Rescue of Another is the Highest Human Virtue” for TECs is going to start. The project theme is a human being and his/her behaviour willing to rescue another person during the Holocaust in Lithuania. This project with the help of teachers seeks to encourage students to inquire senior citizens in their close vicinity and find still unknown stories when someone was trying (successfully or not) to rescue a person.

The project aims to involve school communities into a search of some positive examples and to show, that according to a historian Raul Hilberg,

each person had a choice and each choice made was different. This project also aims to encourage a young generation to understand that everyone is responsible for his or her actions, that good deeds and noble actions reveal high moral and spiritual value of a person.

The project is co-organised by the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania and Vilnius Jewish Public Library, Baisogala Gymnasium, Radviliskis district and Utena Aukštakalnis Progymnasium.



INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS OF TECs

VILNIUS UZHUPIS GYMNASIUM. INTRODUCTION OF CREATIVE WORKS AND ACTIVITIES, IMPLEMENTED DURING THE PROJECT “WHO WAS CH. SUGIHARA?”

On the 16th of December Vilnius Uzhupis Gymnasium hosted an event, where students and teachers introduced their creative works and activities, implemented during the project “Who was Sugihara?”

The event participants were welcomed by 6000 Japanese origami cranes, which were created by Gymnasium community. The principal of the Gymnasium Virginija Navickiene reminded the audience, the reason why this project is so important for the Gymnasium. It is a reminiscence of former cooperation with Japan (2000-2010).

During the event the project activities which took place in September-December were introduced: thematic lessons, creative works not only about Ch. Sugihara, but also related to the Japanese history, culture and traditions.

Japanese Ambassador to Lithuania, His Excellency Mr. Toyoei Shigeeda expressed his gratitude to the community of Uzhupis Gymnasium for participating in this project, for being interested in history and great deeds which were done by Japanese consul Ch. Sugihara with the help of the

diplomats from the other countries.

The Executive Director of the International Commission Ronaldas Racinskas expressed his delight that each student had contributed to the implementation of the project by making Japanese origami cranes. He noted that: “learning the history of the world we have look for things uniting us, not those separating.”

The event in Uzhupis Gymnasium revealed students’ perception of the period of Ch. Sugihara’s work in Lithuania. The artistic creations clearly proved that history might be expressed by different means of art.

The project “Who was Sugihara?” is being implemented in 12 general education schools in Lithuania. The project initiated by the Secretariat of the International Commission seeks to encourage school communities to emphasise more the role of those people in the world history who proved that human life has the highest value.



PANEVEZYS “SAULETEKIS” PROGYMNASIUM CARRIES ON A PROJECT “OTHER NATIONS BESIDE US”

Panevezys “Sauletekis” Progymnasium (5-8 grades) have been implementing a project “Other Nations Beside Us” for three years and are interested in the life of different nations in Lithuania. At the end of 2015 the project participants visited Siauliai.

On arrival in Siauliai from Panevezys the eye is attracted by a newly reconstructed building –

Chaim Frenkel Villa which opens to the visitor multilayer Lithuanian and European heritage. The project participants were introduced with the life story of a prominent Jewish industrialist Chaim Frenkel, and some cultural and historical facts as well.



TOLERANCE EDUCATION CENTRE MOVED TO THE MULTIFUNCTION CENTRE

On the 10th of December, 2015 Vilnius Sauletekis School had its status changed and became a Multifunction Centre. The school and Naujininkai neighbourhood communities were introduced with the new activities created and implemented during the period of three month.

At the beginning of the event the school principal Reiza Zinkeviciene reminded the particularity of this school: it has been implementing artistic education for three decades already. The students of different artistic clubs have also actively been participating in the activities of the TEC. They have been creating performances and artistic compositions depicting former Jewish community

life in Vilnius. The TEC is going to continue its activities as an integral part of the Multicultural Centre.

