

NEWSLETTER

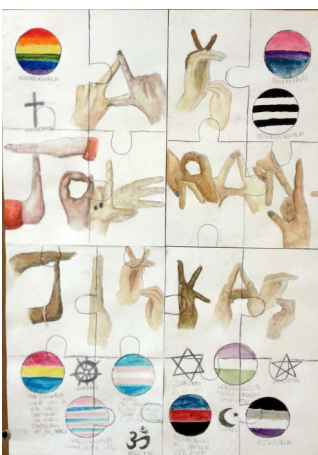
2015, NOVEMBER



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

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE

The International Day for Tolerance has been marked in Lithuania for 13 years in a row by the incentive of the International Commission. This year the participants were encouraged to create Tolerance Mosaics using different materials. More than 800 educational institutions joined the incentive.



THE REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPANESE EMBASSY VISITED JONUCIAI AND KALVARIJA GYMNASIUMS

In October 2015 the International Commission initiated a national project “Who was Chiune Sugihara?” The representatives of Japanese Embassy kindly agreed to join the project as partner institution. The project activities were already gaining momentum, and on the 16th of November the representatives of Japanese Embassy Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka and Ms. Keiko Nakata and Director of Sugihara House Simonas Dovidavicius visited Jonuciai Gymnasium. The II Gymnasium grade students introduced eleven creative works: Chiune Sugihara portraits, news reports, animation, performances.

On the 19th of November Japanese Ambassador to Lithuania, His Excellency Mr. Toyoei Shigeeda visited Kalvarija Gymnasium and got introduced with the project activities being implemented by Kalvarija Gymnasium and Balbieriskis Progymnasium Tolerance Education Centres (hereafter TEC). Students' creative work expositions were introduced to the guests: “Visas for Life”, “Ch. Sugihara Way”, “Haiku”, creative workshop “The Last Minute Offer – Possibility to Remain Human” art works. The guests were honoured by the possibility to give the final touch to the student project “The Last Sakura Blossom”, the tree was decorated with 2132 pink blossoms – the number of registered visas issued by Chiune Sugihara.



“HUMAN CHOICE WITHIN THE WHIRLWINDS OF HISTORY”



On the 12th of November Radviliskis Culture Centre held an event “Human Choice within the Whirlwinds of History”. The event was aimed to the audience of students, teachers and town community. The films on antisemitism, intolerance, the tragedy of the Holocaust were introduced, watched and discussed during the event. The event was attended by the students of 5 schools of Radviliskis town and district. The students actively joined discussions on human behaviour and choices in certain circumstances. At the end of the event the students

were offered to join the project – to look for the stories of live witnesses, which unfold the positive human deeds in the threat of danger.

The event was co-organised by the Secretariat of the International Commission and Radviliskis District Baisogala Gymnasiums TEC.

“DIFFERENT BUT SIMILAR”

On the 5th of November the students of Radviliskis J. T. Vaizgantas Progymnasium “Tolerance School” and Vilnius Naujamiestis School “Tolerance Club” had a project meeting to finalise the implementation of the project “Different but Similar”. The second project meeting “Nine Trades” was held in Radviliskis. Both project participants introduced Russian and Lithuanian folk song and dance concert programmes, Russian and Lithuanian craft workshops, some discussions and evaluation of project activities also took place.



NEW TOLERANCE EDUCATION CENTRES

In November the network of active Tolerance Education Centres joined two Lithuanian general education schools: Baisogala Gymnasium, Radviliskis district and Kaunas district Karmelava B. Buracas Gymnasium. Congratulations!

PROJECT MEETING “UNITED BY DIFFERENT CULTURES” AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE



On the 11th November Klaipeda Gedminai Progymnasium had a project meeting of regional integrated educational project “United by Different Cultures”. Students – representatives of Klaipeda Ieva Simonaityte Progymnasium, Herman Zuderman Gymnasium, “Santarve” Basic School, J. Kacinskas Music School, Klaipeda Children Free Time Centre, Priekule Ieva Simonaityte Gymnasium and Gedminai Progymnasium introduced their schools and attended creativity workshop “Tolerance Mosaic”.

The common goal of the activity was to mark the International Day for Tolerance, and talk about the diversity of nations, and cherish tolerance towards different cultures and each other.

PRESENTATION OF A PUBLICATION “JEWS ON THE MAP OF LITHUANIA. BIRŽAI”

On the 13th of November a book “Jews on the Map of Lithuania. Biržai” was introduced to the community. This book is a result of the project “Maintenance of Old Jewish and Karaite Cemetery in Biržai”, which was initiated by a teacher of History Vidmantas Jukonis, who worked as a TEC Coordinator. The project was supported by Biržai municipality, joined by several school communities, in the course of time the partners from Germany and Russia joined the project as well.

The book reveals some information about former Biržai Jewish community, their social status. The book contains a lot of articles enriched by the memories of local citizens, statistical data, and rare photographs. There is a list of Jews who were massacred in Pakamponys, the map of old Jewish cemetery and a list of people buried there, in the book. Israeli ambassador His Excellency Mr. Amir Maimon who was a honourable guest at the book introduction, noted, that he himself travels through Lithuania and sees the current condition of Jewish cemeteries, and Biržai cemetery is being maintained pretty well. The introduction of the book was attended by the project partners from Russia, some guests from Israel, a representative of the Secretariat of the International Commission, local community: students, teachers and town community. Some representatives of Panevezys Jewish Community, Panevezys Rozynas Progymnasium, Prienai Balbieriskis Basic School, Vabalninkas B. Sruoga Gymnasium, Biržai District TECs also attended the event and expressed their joy for the work done.



A CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO MARK 150 ANNIVERSARY OF SACHNEL ABRAHAM MER AND UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE



On the 13th of November Margarita Rimkevicaite Technological School in Panevezys, Panevezys Jewish Community and Panevezys Municipality held a conference dedicated to mark 150 anniversary of a prominent community member, doctor Sachnel Abraham Mer and to commemorate 85th anniversary of his death. After the conference the memorial plaque of Sachnel Abraham Mer was unveiled on the wall of former Jewish hospital.

COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTIMS OF 1941 MASSACRE IN KAUNAS IX FORT

In a chilly morning of the 25th of October at the massacre field next to Kaunas IX the victims of 1941 massacre were commemorated. The commemorative event was attended by Israeli Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Y. Gidron, Attaché of Russian Federation Embassy, Kaunas vice-mayor Vasilijus Popovas, members of Kaunas Jewish Community, employees of Kaunas IX Fort, Kaunas Versvai Secondary School TEC representatives, teachers and students. Students read poetry about hope, faith, desire to live and create.

