



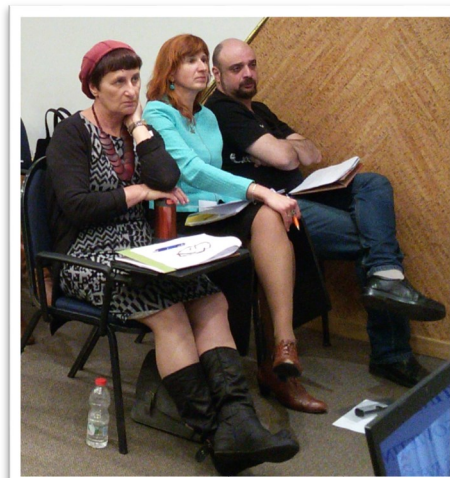
NEWSLETTER

May, 2015

Seminars on the Holocaust education conducted by the Israeli and the International Commission experts

17–19 and 19–21 May some teachers and educators who are interested in Lithuanian Jewish history and organize various activities related to the topic of the Holocaust, participated in a seminar on the Holocaust education at school. The seminar was conducted by the Israeli experts Noa Sigal, Frederik Drachinsky and the International Commission Secretariat Deputy Director I. Vilkieinė.

At the seminar held on 17–19 May seminar 36 educators presented their activities related to the Holocaust, and they were introduced to the possibility to participate in an international seminar at Yad Vashem the International School for Holocaust Studies. Seminar participants gain some valuable insights on the Holocaust education: why and how should this painful topic be discussed with students. The participants went deeper into the Vilnius ghetto Judenrat leadership dilemmas, trying to understand the complexity of decision-making and analysed the ambiguity of the Vilnius Jewish ghetto police chief Jacob Gens personality evaluation.



The lecturers: Noa Sigal, Ingrida Vilkieinė, Frederik Drachinsky



Seminar 17–19 May. The educators are sharing their experience.





The second seminar, 19–21 May, was attended by 45 teachers and employees of educational institutions, who participated in a seminar at Yad Vashem in 2014 and in the previous years. They presented their new activities, telling about the ways they use information and materials acquired in Yad Vashem. Seminar participants watched and discussed a documentary film, visited Paneriai Memorial and “Saulėtekis” secondary school where watched a wonderful artistic presentation “Memory about the lost.”

Active participant involvement into methodological activity Righteous among the Nations was required. During the seminars it was intended not only to provide new, valuable information, but in particular to promote cooperation, sharing of ideas and experiences.



The Head of one private school at the beginning of a school year used to send such a letter to the new teachers:

“Dear Teacher,

*I am a survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no man should witness. Gas chambers built by
LEARNED engineers, children poisoned by EDUCATED physicians; infants killed by TRAINED nurses,
women and babies shot and burned by HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE graduates.*

*So I am suspicious of education. My request is: help your students become human. Your efforts must never
produce monsters, skilled psychopaths, educated Eichmann's.*

Reading, writing and arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more humane.”

Haim Ginott “Teacher and Child” 1972

LOOKING BACK AT THE HISTORY

12 May Ingrida Vilkiene a Coordinator of Education Programmes at the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania together with Litvaks Abel and Glenda Levit from Israel, visited several schools in the South of Lithuania where the TECs are established: Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas Gymnasium in Alytus and Balbieriskis Basic School of the Prienai Region. The guests visited the Holocaust victim memorial in Vidzgiris forest and synagogue building in the town, explored school museum exhibits and the TEC activities.

Vitas Rymantas Sidaravicius, the coordinator of Balbieriskis Basic School TEC and the school principal Stasys Valancius met the guests and introduced them with the history of the town and Balbieriskis Basic School and made a presentation on the new exhibition in TEC on the pre-war Jewish life in Balbieriskis.



CREATING HISTORY TOGETHER

14 May Alytus Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas Gymnasium students visited Vilnius and participated in a cognitive activity of the project “Creating History Together”, which aims to familiarize students with ethnic minorities in Lithuania, their heritage in Vilnius and promote tolerance towards people of different national and religious background. The students explored Polish and Russian heritage in the Old Town and Užupis.



The educational visit to Vilnius was organised by a teacher of History Giedre Shkamuliene and a teacher of ethics, EDC coordinator Meile Platukiene.

A student's impressions

<http://vanagogimnazija.lt/2015/05/19/dalyvavome-projekte-istorija-kuriame-kartu/>





WHERE THE SUN OF THE NORTH JERUSALEM SET?

28 May Kalvarija Gymnasium students participated in a project of the International Commission "Where the Sun of the North Jerusalem Set?" The students explored Vilnius Old Town places associated with Jewish history and culture. The main part of the tour is based on the memories of Fania Brantsovskaja. The International Commission has issued a publication, "Sightseeing tour in Vilnius old city. History through Ghetto witness's eyes" The tour based on the Fania Brantsovskaja memories and the map of Vilnius Old Town places associated not only with the Vilnius ghetto, but also with the pre-war Vilnius is issued. Fania Brantsovskaja - 93 years old lady from Vilnius, a Jew, who survived the Holocaust. In 1943, before the Vilna Ghetto liquidation, she managed to escape.

Documentary film: "Fania's Vilnius"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdAPERwibkc>



YEARNING MEADOW

Throughout Lithuania general education schools organize Mourning and Hope Day commemoration. Part of the schools will get involved into organized commemorative campaign "Yearning Meadow," the students are going to create handmade flowers and in a chosen symbolic place to form their own "Yearning Meadow" The idea of "Yearning Meadow" evolved from the memories of one deportee who lives in Alytus: "in my memory not cornflowers ("vosilkos") are associated with the deportations, but poppies, bright red flowers reaching to the sun, swung by the wind, seemingly vulnerable, but growing in the most unexpected and rather not suitable places such as railroad tracks or on the waysides, disturbingly reminding drops of fresh blood and wounds of living memory. It is impossible to miss poppies: they attract the looks by their bright redness - it is enough just a few poppies, and the field of cornflowers, or the whole chamomile field would gain a new meaning. Fragile poppy is like fragile peace, bright red blossom like a drop of blood."



Commemoration of the Day of Mourning and Hope in Vilnius

14 June

12.30 Holy Mass in Vilnius Cathedral Basilica

14.00 Concert, Vilnius Cathedral Basilica (free admission).

16.00 Commemoration of the Day of Mourning and Hope Concert, Church of Sts Johns (free admission).

15 June

12.30 Commemoration ceremony to pay tribute to the memory of the victims of Soviet occupation, genocide and repression in front of the Monument to Soviet Occupation Victims former political prisoners, deportees and partisans in Aukų str. "Yearning Meadow".

14.00 Memorial hour at Naujoji Vilnia train Station.

16.00 A Monument to those who died for freedom of Lithuania is unveiled in Antakalnis cemetery.

16.00 Memorial hour – concert at the patio of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (Didžioji str.. 17/1, Vilnius)