



# Newsletter

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## The civic initiative "The Memory is alive because it testifies" called for commemoration of a historic victory in January of 1991

On the morning of 13 January, for the thirteenth time, the civic initiative "The Memory is alive because it testifies" was taking place. In marking of the civil victory over the aggressor twenty-nine years ago, at 8:00 a.m., in the windows all over Lithuania, candles of memory, unity and victory were lit for ten minutes.

More than 1000 schools, state institutions, establishments and organizations in Lithuania and abroad responded to the call to action by the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania to participate in the civic campaign "The Memory is alive because it testifies". This year, the patron of the initiative, President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda invited to join the civic initiative and to commemorate the historic victory. The President of the Republic of Lithuania lit candles together with the pupils and teachers of Vilnius Ryto progymnasium.

Candles, traditionally lit across all over Lithuania, symbolize the fires of freedom defenders at the parliament, the light of defended freedom and the victory over a brutal force, memory and concentration in honor of the dead and victims.

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### **New Tolerance education center was established**

On 27 January a new Tolerance education center was established in **Radviliskis Culture center**. It is the 147th Tolerance education center.



Moments from the civic initiative at  
Vilnius Ryto progymnasium



Moments from the events in Lithuania



Vytalius Judickas photography

## [Commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day at an artistic conference in Ariogala](#)

On 27 January the Culture center of Ariogala, Raseiniai dstr., hosted a national artistic conference "The silence, wandering on the street...". The traditional event, held for the tenth time, was dedicated to commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The event was attended by teachers and pupils from 20 Lithuanian schools: Alytus, Ariogala, Balbieriškis, Daugai, Gargždai, Kalvarija, Kaunas, Klaipėda dstr., Kupiškis, Marijampolė, Panevėžys and Vilnius. The pupils introduced by means of artistic expression the stories of Lithuanian Jews, who had resided in towns and cities, and the mass killings of the Jews - the Holocaust, which began in 1941.

The conference was attended by a large number of guests: members of Kaunas Jewish community, a representative from Kaunas dstr. municipality, Mayor and administrative staff of Raseiniai dstr., museum staff from Kaunas 9th Fort museum as well as guests from various institutions. Participants and guests of the conference joined the "We Remember" campaign, initiated by the World Jewish Congress.

The national artistic conference was organized by the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania together with Ariogala gymnasium.

[More](#)

## [#WE REMEMBER](#)

#WE REMEMBER campaign was joined by more than 50 Lithuanian schools, where Tolerance education centers are functioning.

[More](#)



## [Projects, initiated by the International Commission, for Tolerance education centers for the year of 2020:](#)

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania declared 2020 to be the year of Vilnius Gaon and the history of the Jews of Lithuania. The Secretariat of the International Commission invites Tolerance education centers and mainstream schools to participate in the projects:

- ✓ National competition for artistic expression in art works **"Getting to know the Jewish cultural heritage"**
- ✓ Project **"Once you open the pages of the Jewish literature"**

More information on these projects and the terms and conditions of participation can be found [here](#).

## **EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A seminar for teachers **Getting to know the history of the Jewish nation**, will be held on 17-18 February 2020 in Kaunas
- A project for schools **The living flower of the nation** to commemorate the 11th of March - Independence Day of Lithuania (all across Lithuania)
- The national song festival **Songs from the exile** will be held on 25 March 2020 in Varėna Culture center. A traditional event to commemorate armed resistance battles, their participants, and to remember the loss of the Lithuanian population - mass deportations.

