

NEWSLETTER

The Commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day – 27th of January

#WeRemember



Alytus district Daugai Vladas Mironas gymnasium

• COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY AT AN ART CONFERENCE IN ARIOGALA

On 27 January, an artistic conference "Narration of Stories..." took place in Ariogala, Raseiniai district. The event was dedicated to commemorating the International Holocaust Remembrance Day – the 27th of January. The conference, which started with an artistic performance by 50 students from Ariogala Gymnasium, brought together Tolerance Education Centre communities (teachers and students) from 16 schools.

At the beginning of the conference, Arvydas Stankus, Director of Ariogala Gymnasium, welcomed the fact that that was the sixth year that the event took place in Ariogala and that Ariogala had more and more historical markers. One of them is a monument as of 2021 marking the former synagogue site in Ariogala.

Ronaldas Račinskas, Executive Director of the International Commission, reminded on the date of January 27 and stressed that it was essential to be aware of the events that had taken place. Still, it was also important to prevent evil in the future. Andrius Bautronis, Mayor of Raseiniai Municipality, and Modesta Lukoševičienė, Head of the Education and Sports Department of the Raseiniai Municipality Administration, were present at the conference and welcomed the participants.

The conference's theme in 2022 was the people's stories related to Lithuania: the stories of one person or family who survived or perished in the Holocaust, the stories of Jewish rescuers.



Director of Ariogala gymnasium A. Stankus

The participants watched the feature piece "Don't Let Me Forget" based on the diary of Yitzchok Rudashevski, listened to an excerpt from the works of Grigorijus Kanovičius, and watched four video stories: about the Jews of Šeduva, a rescuer of the Jews of Kupiškis, the fate of the Jews of Dotnuva, and the stories of the Holocaust surviving children in Kaunas.



Ariogala gymnasium

An artistic composition was presented telling about the Jews of Vilnius and their love for the town and the land, who lived in Vilnius before the Second World War. The conference ended with a joint creative project of six Tolerance Education Centres in Alytus – an artistic composition "Our Home".

Participants and guests of the conference joined the global initiative #WeRemember.

The event was organized by the Secretariat of the International Commission in cooperation with the Tolerance Education Centre of Ariogala Gymnasium, which is named after Janina Tarapaitė-Šliburienė, the Righteous Among the Nations.



The artistic composition of Alytus Tolerance Education Centers



#WeRemember



Kalvarija gymnasium

• COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY AT THE TOLERANCE EDUCATION CENTRES:

International Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in many Tolerance Education Centres. Teachers organized lessons to commemorate the date, film screenings, school conferences, and presentations of the projects on the Holocaust.



The exhibition of photographs "Jews then and now..."

Some of the related events at the Tolerance Education Centres:

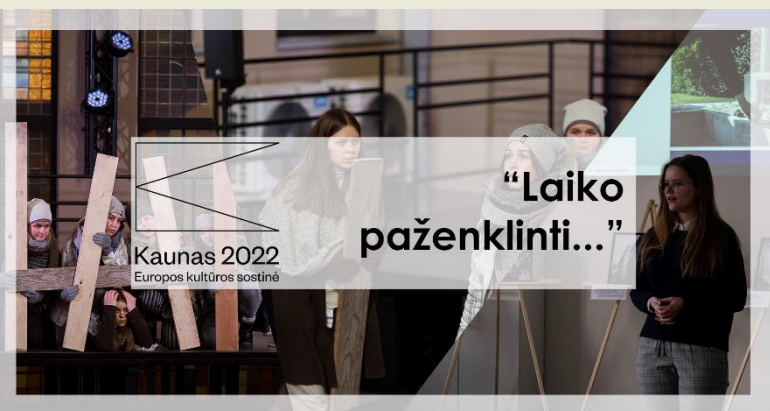
On 28 January, a conference was held at the Lizdeika Gymnasium in Radviliškis to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

During the event, teachers shared their experiences on the projects and activities implemented related to Lithuanian Jewish history and the Holocaust. They talked about the "Road of Memory" project, implemented in 2021, and the open-air museum of the Jewish shtetl in Šeduva that is under preparation. The conference introduced an exhibition of photographs prepared by the Jewish Community of Šiauliai County "Jews then and now..." The event was attended by the community of the Lizdeika Gymnasium in Radviliškis, teachers and academic staff from the Vaižgantas Pro-Gymnasium in Radviliškis, the Marcelinas Šikšnis Gymnasium in Radviliškis, the Gražina Primary School in Radviliškis, and the Radviliškis Culture Centre. The conference was honored by Justinas Pranys, Deputy Director of the Radviliškis Municipality Administration, Sania Kerbelis, President of the Jewish Community of Šiauliai County, with members of the community, and Ingrida Vilkiene, Coordinator of Education Programmes at the International Commission.





On 27 January, Kaunas Veršvų Gymnasium hosted an event commemorating the International Holocaust Remembrance Day titled "Marked by Time..." The event featured a performance "Young people talk about the war." The play's plot is based on the memoirs of Fruma Kučinskienė, a Kaunas Holocaust survivor, and Bella Shirin, a Kaunas resident of Jewish origin. The event also featured the presentation of the project "Traces of Jewish Culture Marked by Time," which was implemented at the Veršvų Gymnasium. Students from grades 5–10 presented an artistic composition based on the book of Holocaust survivors' memories, "Hands that Carry Life and Bread." The participants of the event joined the global initiative #WeRemember. The event was honored by the Chairman of Kaunas Jewish Community Gercas Žakas, guests from LHSU Gymnasium, and former students of the school.



A Memory Lesson was held at Darbėnai Gymnasium in Kretinga district. During an online meeting-lesson, the students of the Darbėnai Gymnasium class IIIIG discussed with Dr. Christoph Dieckmann, a German historian and member of the International Commission for the Assessment of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania. Their discussions were on the Holocaust and people's choices.

A lesson was held at Jeronimo Ralio Gymnasium in Jonava. The students learned about the life of the Jewish community of Jonava between the wars and the tragic fate of this community. Giedrė Narbutaitė – Kontrimė, a museologist, told the young people the touching stories of Jewish families. The lesson took place in an unusual space – the newly opened Tolerance Education Centre.





The International Holocaust Remembrance Day was commemorated at **Antano Giedraičio – Giedriaus Gymnasium in Jurbarkas** on 27 January. The community of the Gymnasium commemorated this date by organizing integrated lessons in the Gymnasium and participating in events in the town of Jurbarkas.

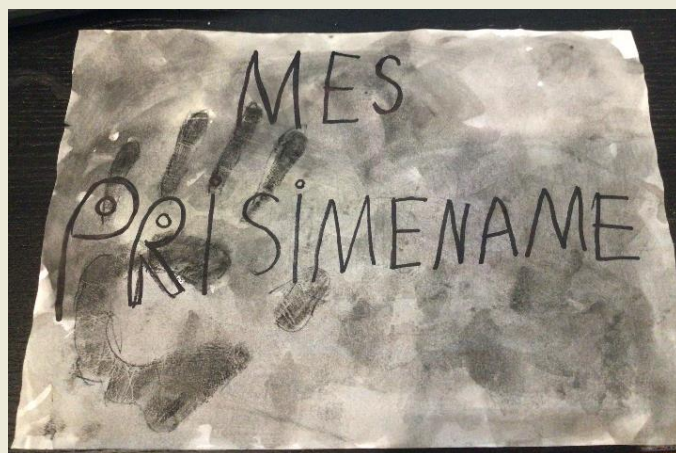
History lessons were held at **Antano Vienuolio Progymnasium in Vilnius** to remember the history of the Holocaust and to honor the victims of the Holocaust. The students addressed the events of that time and drew posters under the title "We Remember" to express their civic approach against hatred acts and to honor the victims of the Holocaust.



The staff of Kupiškis Ethnographic Museum at the monument to the Jews victims of Holocaust



"We Remember" event was held at the **Ryto Progymnasium in Kėdainiai**. It focused on reading memories of Jewish people from Kėdainiai and Jewish music, thus introducing a large Jewish community living in Lithuania before the Holocaust.



The **Kupiškis Ethnographic Museum**, which hosts a Centre for Tolerance Education, prepared a virtual exhibition, "Moments of the Kupiškis Jewish Community." The museum staff online presented photos they had collected about the Jews who lived in Kupiškis.





Antano Vienuolio Pro-Gymnasium in Vilnius

Integruota chemijos-biologijos pamoka "ŽENKLAI"



Alytus Putiniai gymnasium



Kaunas Art gymnasium



Government of the Republic of Lithuania, photographer
Laima Penek

• ONLINE LECTURES FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL STAFF

Teachers and educational staff of Tolerance Education Centres have been invited to join online lectures. The lectures will be given by lecturers, historians from the Lithuanian Institute of History, Vilnius University, and other institutions. Some of the courses will be delivered by lecturers from the Yad Vashem – International School for Holocaust Studies. The topics of the lectures are related to the themes of the historical studies carried out by the historians of the International Commission and the evaluation of historical events. The lectures have been running since the beginning of February and will continue until June.



MORE INFORMATION:

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