



No. 6, Oct. , 2025

NEWSLETTER



SEMINAR ON PEOPLE'S LIVES AND FATES, USING THE CENTROPA COLLECTION

On October 16-18, a seminar entitled "The World We Must Remember: Teaching about Lithuanian Jewish History and the Holocaust" was held in Vilnius at the Vilna Gaon Jewish Historical Museum, also known as the Samuel Bak Museum. The Centropa organization presented participants with archival materials such as biographies, photographs, films, and methodological resources. In addition to attending a lecture by historian Dr. Stanislovas Stasiulis on the Holocaust in Lithuania, participants visited the Paneriai Memorial.



They also explored Vilnius's Old Town, guided by Centropa's audio guide, which highlights local objects and history. During practical activities, four teachers shared their classroom experiences and presented ideas for lessons using Centropa materials. Over the course of three days, twenty-five teachers, museum professionals, and librarians engaged in the seminar. Centropa organized the event for the Lithuanian educational community in partnership with the Secretariat of the International Commission and the Vilna Gaon Jewish Historical Museum. [Read more.](#)





ACTIVITIES WITH VILNIUS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMAGINE PROJECT

In October, the Secretariat of the International Commission began activities related to the international IMAGINE project. This year, students from the Faculty of Communication at Vilnius University are implementing the project activities. The first session took place on October 8 at the Paneriai Memorial. Organizers introduced students to the history of the Paneriai Memorial and facilitated discussions and analysis of stories about people whose family histories and fates connect to this tragic place. The students worked in groups, searching for answers in the inscriptions on the memorial monuments and information stands. [Read more.](#)



The second session took place on October 22 in Vilnius' Old Town. Students attended lectures on pre-war Vilnius and the life of the Jewish community, as well as on the Holocaust, the Vilnius ghetto, and the fates of Vilnius Jews. After the theoretical lectures, the university students were invited to participate in an educational tour to learn about the history of the Jewish quarter, its buildings, and the Vilnius ghetto period, discussing which places and buildings are related to the stories of women who survived the Holocaust.

The main coordinator of the international IMAGINE project is the Centropa organization, and the project is funded by the European Commission. The project is being implemented in seven European countries. [Read more.](#)

TRADITIONAL STUDENT RECITATION COMPETITION AT THE KAUNAS IX FORT MUSEUM

On October 17, the Kaunas IX Fort Museum hosted its traditional event – the recitation competition "Tylios sienos žodžių paliestos" (Silent Walls Touched by Words). As every year, the event was attended by a large group of reciters together with their teachers who had prepared them for the competition. The students had to memorize two works related to the complex and painful experiences of the Soviet occupation, the Nazi occupation, and the Holocaust period. The competition was organized by the Kaunas IX Fort Museum together with the Secretariat of the International Commission, in cooperation with the Kaunas Jewish community. [Read more.](#)





FILM SCREENING "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE JAEGER REPORT" TOGETHER WITH THE TOLERANCE EDUCATION CENTER COMMUNITIES

On October 28, the Palanga Kurhaus hosted a screening of the film "In the Footsteps of Jäger's Report" (director Boris Maftsr, Israel) for the educational community, focusing on the Holocaust in Lithuania. Historian Dr. Stanislovas Stasiulis introduced the event with an account of Carl Jäger and his gruesome report on the murder of Jews in Lithuanian towns in 1941. The screening was attended by students and teachers from five Tolerance Education Centers in Palanga, Kuliai (Plungė District), Klaipėda, Pagėgiai, and Šilutė. The event was organized by the Secretariat of the International Commission with the Palanga Jewish Community and the Palanga City Municipality. [Read more.](#)

THE PROJECT 'THE STORY OF ONE PHOTO' AWARDED PARTICIPATING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.

On October 20, the final event of the project "The Story of One Photo" took place in Vilnius at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library. The project was initiated by Vilnius Simonas Daukantas Gymnasium. Two years ago, it carried out project activities with the gymnasium community. The aim was simple yet unique: find a unique photo in the albums of grandparents, great-grandparents, or parents, and learn and describe the story behind it. Twenty-four schools and more than 60 students participated. The project ran from 2024 to 2025. The secretariat of the International Commission, a project partner, is delighted that this project, which cherishes historical memory, was born at Simonas Daukantas Gymnasium in Vilnius, which has a Tolerance Education Center. [Read more.](#)



GETTING TO KNOW THE HISTORY OF PANEVĖŽYS JEWS – DURING A WALKING TOUR



On October 24, Panevėžys Šaltinio Pro-Gymnasium organized a walking tour. Students visited places in Panevėžys and the surrounding area that recall the history of the Jewish community. About 120 seventh and eighth-grade students participated in the walk. Teachers from the school accompanied them.

During the route, the group stopped at sites known as stations, including the former ghetto area, the old Jewish cemetery, the synagogue building, and the former Jewish school or gymnasium.

During the educational walk dedicated to International Tolerance Day, participants walked 11-12 kilometers. The route was designed to familiarize them with the Jewish community of Panevėžys. The walk ended in the Kaizerlingo Forest in Panevėžys district, where part of the Jewish community was murdered in 1941. The educational tour was organized by the Tolerance Education Center of Šaltinis Pro-Gymnasium in Panevėžys. [Read more.](#)

KAUNAS VILEIŠIAI SCHOOL COMMEMORATED THE GREAT ACTION, WHICH OCCURRED IN 1941 AT KAUNAS IX FORT.

October 29 marks the Great Action, one of Lithuania's most brutal Holocaust events in 1941. On that day, 2,007 Jewish men, 2,920 Jewish women, and 4,273 children were shot in Fort IX. Most Kaunas ghetto inhabitants—women, children, and the elderly—were murdered. This was one of the most tragic days for Lithuanian Jews. On this day, students from the Tolerance Education Center at Kaunas Jonas and Petras Vileišis School visited Fort IX to learn about the historical context, evolution, and consequences of this event. They walked around the extermination site's perimeter, observed locations where the killings occurred, and heard authentic testimonies about the horrors from that time. During the educational program, students listened to these stories and reflected on the importance of preserving such memories today. [Read more.](#)



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