



VILNA GAON STATE JEWISH MUSEUM OF LITHUANIA

NEWSLETTER 14

Dear Friends of the Jewish Museum in Vilnius/Vilne,

5771 Shana Tova! Mazl Tov!

We are happy to have the opportunity to talk to you today, at the eve of Rosh ha Shana and congratulate you with this Holy day.

Dear friends and partners of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum,

Before the sounds of the shofar announce the coming of Rosh ha Shana, we are happy to greet you and share with you the highlights of our journey through the last year. As every journey, this one was full of discoveries, new ideas and insights, besides daily processes, which are necessary to take one from point A to point B of one's destination.

Our friends and visitors from abroad have always been a very important part of our ties to the world. However, as one of the most important goals of our work we see winning interest of local society to discover the rich layers of the Lithuanian Jewish history and culture. We want to “catch” them into the excitement of this discovery, seeing our museum as open space for young and for old, for a Lithuanian and for a Jew, as Jewish culture was inseparable and so important part of Lithuania's life for centuries. We want people to return back. Like the seven years old schoolgirl, who had put the stone of memory in the memorial for perished Lithuanian Jewish children at the exhibition “Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah”. One week later she asked her mom, when shall they visit the memorial for

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The newsletter was compiled by Lukas Dünser and Sebastian Pammer, based on museum staff texts and edited by Rachel Kostanian.



these killed children again...

Let me share with you some highlights of our last year journey. Last September after the Rosh ha shana we officially opened the permanent modern exhibition-educational center "Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah", which was the result of the long and scrupulous work of the Department of the Rescuing of the Jews and Commemorating the Memory (headed by Danutė Selčinskaja). Several weeks after the opening, we were highly honoured by the visit of the President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė to the Tolerance Center and her support in our work. Also we are proud to share with you, that at the end of 2009, for the result of this exhibition Danutė Selčinskaja was granted the Award of the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture for the Museology Achievements.

We appreciate that our relations with embassies and cultural centers as well as with the Jewish museums of foreign countries become closer in creative and well-wishing collaboration. As you will be reading this Newsletter, the walls of the Tolerance Center will be hosting the exhibition of graphic works of Lasar Segall (1891-1957) – the Vilnius born Litvak artist-modernist who is world known from Paris till Sao Paulo. His graphic works were kindly lent to our museum for 3 months by the Parisian Museum of Judaism History and Art.

This year we were happy to witness the new book, continuing publication about the rescue of Jews in Lithuania, called "Hands Bringing Life And Bread", vol. 4 (compiled and edited by D. Selčinskaja), published in Lithuanian and English.

Much more happened during the course of the year in all our departments, and we present our activities more in detail in the following pages of the Newsletter.

As in every journey, there are short-term goals and achievements, as well as long-term, daily thorough work. At the end of September we will open the renewed exhibition of our committed team-work on the Holocaust research and education at the „Green House“ – the Holocaust Department, headed by Rachel Kostanian. At the end of 2010 we are looking forward to open two exhibitions – the audio-video exhibition "An Instance with the Yung Vilne", prepared by the curator Ilona Murauskaitė, and the exhibition "Symbols in the Traditional Art of Lithuanian Jews. Portraits, images, texts" prepared by the curator Dr Aistė Niunkaitė-Račiūnienė. The exhibition on the Yung Vilne, the assembly of the Jewish avant-gardes writers and artists (1929-1943), from the collections of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum will also present the fragments of poetry fixed in the audio record in the languages of original, Yiddish, Lithuanian and English.



The scrupulous work on the new concept of the exhibition at the museum's subdivision in Druskininkai health resort, dedicated to the world-known sculptor, Druskininkai-born Jacques Lipschitz, is being continued, and we hope to open it in two years.

Therefore, looking towards the future with hope and striving for the improvement of our work in all the directions, we wish happy, healthy, and successful New Year for you and your loved ones. The Museum appreciates your involvement, miscellaneous support and friendship.

Cordially,

Kamilė Rupeikaitė,
Deputy Director for Research

September 2010

Shana Tova/ Some words from Rachel Kostanian

I greet you all with the approach of our wonderful Rosh ha Shana. Wonderful because we are alive, Israel is strong and „am Isroel chai“.
Like everywhere in the world, life became more difficult and revealed previously hidden problems. So it is again a fight against old ghosts in the name of our history, of our ancestors.

Le Haym!
Yours,
Rachel Kostanian



The Holocaust Exhibition (The Green House)

It is more than one year that the Holocaust Department's staff is working on the renovation of our "Catastrophe" exhibition. During this year, a lot of plans have been created, abandoned and changed. Whereas the original plan was just to renew the subtitles and smaller things, it soon became clear that we were going to make more essential changes including new panels, new texts in English and Lithuanian, additional photographs and



documents as well as the design itself. The major difficulty was to maintain the strength and authenticity of the old exhibition and still provide more additional information and easier understanding for individual tourists.

The rooms about Vilnius and Kaunas expanded a lot and due to our good relations with the USHMM, we are able to present a bigger number of authentic pictures taken by Kadushin to our visitors. Also in the other rooms the exhibition expanded and there will be new panels about the ghettos in Vilnius district, as well as the Siauliai ghetto. More information we provide about the Forts where over 40.000 Jews have been killed.

In the new room about Resistance, we established an audio installation which gives visitors the opportunity to listen to Yiddish songs such as the "Partisan Hymn" or "Shtiler, Shtiler".

A monitor for video clips as well as a projector, that we got as a donation thanks to the efforts of the British Embassy and Lord Janner, for the last room will complement our plan to bring history nearer to the visitors and provide interviews with survivors and partisans like Rachel Margolis, who also was a founding member of the museum and herewith stays a part of the exhibition.

Unfortunately, our time schedule forced us to close the exhibition at the peak of the tourist season in August but now the renovation works come to an end – thanks to the tireless work of our young historians Neringa Latvyte-Gustaitiene and Milda Jakulyte-Vasil and our wonderful Austrian volunteer Lukas Dünser. He got very deeply involved in developing the material, the visual images and the copyright issues. Besides, thanks should go to Galina Zirikova, Zoja Lukjanenko, Jurij Greisman and Eugenija Sedova. R. Kostanian was checking all texts, besides the other work. We hope you visit us soon and enjoy the changes!

Rachel Kostanian

Vilnius, August 28



Paneriai

The Paneriai Memorial Museum is a small building outside of Vilnius 16 kilometers away from the city center.

In 1940 on the eve of WWII the Soviet military authority ordered a military base established here. Seven deep pits were prepared for holding liquid fuel. The Nazis who occupied Vilnius in June, 1941, saw that Lithuanian units were already shooting Jews there and therefore established it as the biggest mass execution site in Lithuania where approx. 100,000 people, among them mainly Jews but also other ethnicities, have been murdered.

In 1960 the Museum opened and in 1962 the Paneriai Museum was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Museum of the Revolution. In 1985 a new museum building was built and the exhibition overhauled. The territory was also renovated under architect Jaunutis Makariūnas—the small roads were asphalted, the burial pits were renovated and commemorative stones with Russian and Lithuanian inscriptions were erected. After Lithuanian independence on the initiative of Jewish community member Adomas Jacovskis the first memorial stone with inscriptions in Hebrew, Yiddish, Lithuanian and Russian announced that 70,000 Jews were murdered here.



In 1991 the Paneriai Museum was transferred to the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum. Last year, 2009, eight parts of its exhibition were renovated. New panels were installed: the Vilna Ghetto and its "actions", the work of the body burners brigade, the unique escape of twelve body burners and information about the murderers.





The Tolerance Center

Located in the former Jewish theater, our Center of Tolerance is the venue for many events associated with Jewish life and history. It is visited by children and adults and provides guided tours, hosts conferences and exhibitions.

Exhibitions

“Surviving History: Portraits from Vilna” (2009 09 10 – 10 09) – the educational exhibition, prepared by the Living Imprint organization (United Kingdom) and presented by the Embassy of Ireland in Vilnius, the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Vilnius, the Vilnius Yiddish Institute and the Tolerance Center of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum. Multimedia exhibition, made of photographs, videos, documentary screening, visual biographies and art installations presented the history through the eyes of the ten individuals from Vilnius today (among them two from the museum staff) who, against



tremendous odds, survived the WWII. Through their inspirational and often harrowing stories, they offer a glimpse into the heart of the Jewish Lithuania. During the opening event the documentary “Surviving History” created by Dr. Shivaun Woolfson and Frances Tay directed by Jesse Quinones and Daniel Quinones was presented. It was followed by the performance of the renowned Yiddish singer Polina Shepherd. The exhibition travels a lot.

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Permanent exhibition – educational center **“Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about SHOAH”** was opened on the 22nd of September, 2009, in the Tolerance Center. The opening of the exhibition was dedicated to the Day of Commemoration of the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews (23rd of September) and to the 20th anniversary of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum. The exhibition “Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah” is comprised of the memoirs, videos, documentaries and pictures of Holocaust witnesses. Our goal is to tell the society of Lithuania – and especially the young generation – about the Holocaust not from textbooks but from the stories told by living people. Unique and authentic material speaks about the Holocaust which took place on Lithuanian soil during World War II, about the loss of loved ones and miraculous salvation and about the





feelings, stress and fear of persecuted children that accompanied them throughout the entire war. **The exhibit is dedicated to the memory of Lithuanian Jewish children that were killed during the Holocaust.** A unique accent of the exhibit is an interactive memorial dedicated to the memory of perished Lithuanian Jewish children.

The unique installation of light, video and sound, designed exclusively for this exhibition, interactively involves the visitors. Each guest can pick up a stone and leave it the memorial to honour the dead according to the Jewish tradition.

“The Heritage” (2009 11 09 – 2010 01 31) – the exhibitions of the art-works of the Jewish descent scenographer, **Michail Percov** (1919-2001). He created hundreds of scenographies for the stages of Lithuanian theatres. He worked as the professor in the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theater for twenty years. M. Percov was named the Honoured artist in 1965 and he was awarded the 5th degree Order of Merit of Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas in 1999.

Michail Percov created not only works of scenography, but also painted and drew various compositions, caricatures, portraits and landscapes. The exhibition “The Heritage” was devoted to the 90th birth anniversary of the artist. The set compositions for Shakespeare’s tragedies and comedies dealing with the issues of the human origin, graphic works on the subject of traditional Jewish trades, cartoons and the artist’s last works – stucco bas-reliefs, which also depict motifs of traditional trades and professions were displayed in the Tolerance Center.

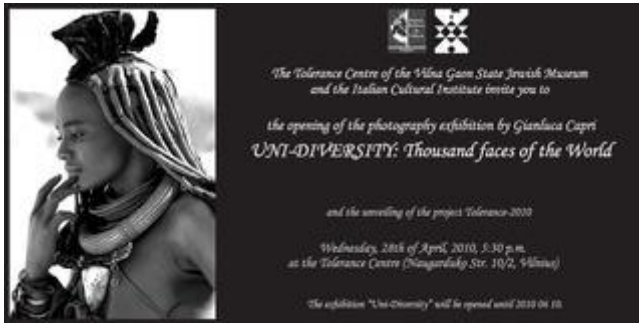


“Silent cinema” (“The Painted Bird”) (2010 02 19 – 04 23) – The Tolerance Center of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum, Polish Institute and the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Poland presented the exhibition “Silent Cinema” (“Painted Bird”) of the graphic works of the Polish artist **Wieslaw Rosocha**. W. Rosocha (born in 1945) is a famous Polish graphic artist: first prize winner in the Poster Biennale in Finland, bronze medal winner in the International Poster Triennale in Japan and the gold medal winner in the International Art Directors Club Exhibition in New York, USA.



The core of this exhibition were the works of W. Rosocha, inspired by the ambiguous Jerzy Kosinsky's (1933 – 1991) book *“The Painted Bird”* (Now three works from this cycle were kindly donated by the author to the permanent collections of our Museum). This book approaches the Holocaust issues in Poland. Prof. Dr. Andrzej Zieniewicz from Warsaw University was participating in the opening of the exhibition and presented J. Kosinsky's autobiographical book „The Painted Bird“.

“UNI-DIVERSITY: Thousand faces of the World” (2010 04 28 – 2010 06 10) – The Italian Cultural Institute and the Tolerance Center presented the exhibition of the Italian photographer Gianluca Capri. This exhibition was the first event of the project



“Tolerance – 2010”, initiated by the Italian Cultural Institute in Vilnius. The cultural centers and the foreign embassies residing in Vilnius participated in this three months long project. Series of concerts, exhibitions, dance performances all were linked by the main theme – tolerance, which is essential for developing cognition of an “alien” cultural traditions. During the

opening ceremony of the project and the exhibition, pieces by Sergei Prokofiev and Gioachino Rossini were played by the “Chordos” string quartet and musicians from Italy – Angela Chiofalo (piano), Ugo Gennarini (clarinet).

Photo exhibition by Jose Antonio de Lamadrid (Spain) **“The Others. The National Minorities of Christians, Jews and Muslims in the Mediterranean region”**. (2010 06 15 – 2010 07 23), presented by The Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Vilnius and the Tolerance Center (part of the project “Tolerance – 2010”).

The everyday life of the people belonging to the different religious minorities and living in the three different countries is presented in these photographs. They are Jews in Morocco, Christians in Turkey and Muslims in Spain. While visiting Casablanca, Istanbul and Talayuela, Jose Antonio de Lamadrid has stopped the moments of the everyday life: the faith, the happiness and the sorrow, as well as habitudes of communities' life is reflected in these photos. At the same time photos reflect the uniting idea of humanity: our differences are overcome by our overall human feelings.

The reinstalled exhibition **“If I Forget Thee...”** (2010 07 26 – 10 15), presented by the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum. The exhibition “If I Forget Thee...”, devoted to the memory of Butrimony's Jewish Community, is based on Riva's Lozansky-Bogomolnaya remembrance and collected photos. The doom of the Jews of this little town is a particular microcosm and a mirror of the war crimes, committed by nazis in their seized territories.



New Books

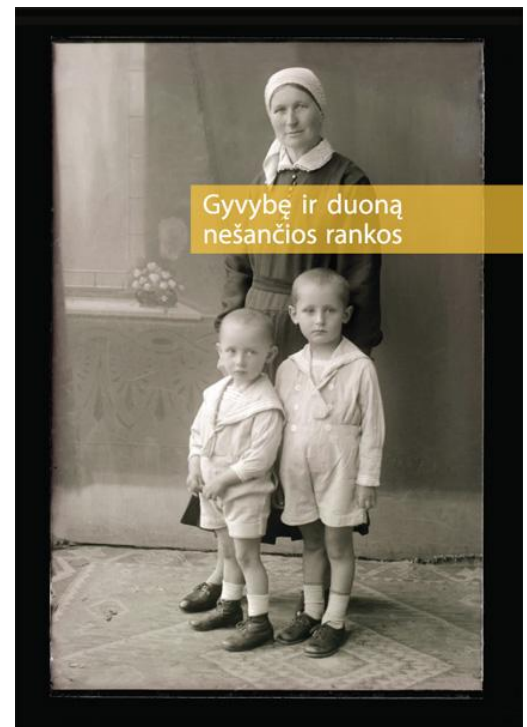
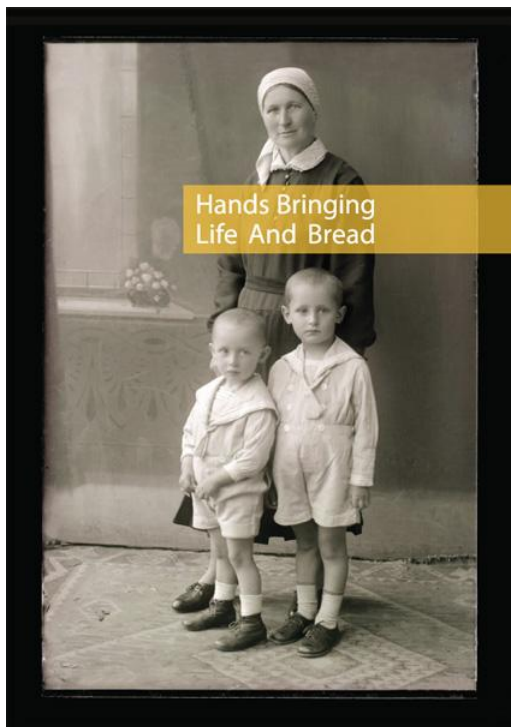
This year the museum has published this book:

Hands Bringing Life And Bread

To commemoration of Sofija Binkienė, Righteous Among the Nations and editor of the first Lithuanian book about Rescuers of Jews in Lithuania *Unarmed Fighters (Ir be ginklo kariai)*. Compiled and edited by Danutė Selčinskaja. 280 pages. ISBN 978-9955-767-06-0

The Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum makes grateful acknowledgements to: *Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, USA; American Jewish World Service (AJWS), USA; Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, USA; Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania* for the financial support

This book has also been published in Lithuanian with the title **Gyvybę ir duoną nešančios rankos**.





Other publications

Article *Beyond Text and Music: Semantic Interpretation of the Kinnor in Lithuanian Translations of the Bible* – by Dr. Kamilė Rupeikaitė. *Before and After Music. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress on Musical Signification. Acta Semiotica Fennica*, ed. E. Tarasti, 2010.

Vilma Grandinskaitė "The New Artistic Expressions in the First Half of the 20th century: Synthesis of National and Modern Jewish Art," *Jewish Culture: History and the Present*, Vilnius, 2009, p. 207–216, in Lithuanian.

Vilma Grandinskaitė "Jewish Artistic Life in Lithuania," *Visnik (Вісник)*, No 2, Kharkov, 2009, p. 180-190, in Russian.

Vilma Grandinskaitė "Modern Jewish Art in Lithuania," *Jews in Lithuania: History, Religion, Heritage*, Vilnius, 2009, p. 245-249, in Lithuanian.

Kamilė Rupeikaitė „*To interpret the text is my task*“. The conversation with the cantor Joseph Malovany in cultural weekly „*7 meno dienos*“. Nr.32 (861), 2009-09-1

Kamilė Rupeikaitė "*The classic of Yiddish literature*" The article in memoriam of A.Suckever in cultural weekly „*7 meno dienos*“ Nr.4 (880), 2010-01-29

Participation in conferences

Paper *Leyzer Volf's "Shwartzte perl": symbiosis of genre and colours* – by **Ilona Murauskaitė**, presented at the 17-th International Judaica Conference "Sefer" in Moscow. January 2-4, 2010

Paper *Mark's Antokolsky's bas-relief „Spanish Inquisition Attaks Jews Celebrating Pesach: Inspirers and Followers.*" by Vilma Gradinskaitė, presented at Ninth EAJS (European Association for Jewish Studies) Congress *Judaism in the Mediterranean Context* in Ravenna. July 2010

Paper *From shofar to clarinet... The peculiarities of identification of musical instruments in Lithuanian translations of the Tanach since the 16th century* - by Dr. **Kamilė Rupeikaitė**, presented at the 20th IOSOT (International Organization for Study of the Old Testament) Congress in Helsinki, Aug 1-6, 2010



In The Department of

Rescuing of the Jews and Commemorating the Memory

On 23 September 2009, on the 20th anniversary of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum and Day of the Remembrance of the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews, a new permanent modern exhibition titled "Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about the Shoah" was opened at the Museum's Center for Tolerance (Naugarduko g. 10/2).

The remembrances of the victims of the Holocaust, video films, documentaries, and photographs are exhibited.

Daiva Osipovaitė and Renata Kripaitė, historians of the Department of Rescuing Jews and Immortalising of the Memory, and the museum expert Ana Bogatyriova acquaint the excursions of schoolchildren and students, museum experts, and visitors from abroad with the exposition and the numerous information materials in the computer terminal. The video clips and excerpts of the documentaries are shown to the visitors.

The book "Gyvybę ir duoną nešančios rankos" (Hands Carrying Life and Bread), Part IV (edited by Danutė Selčinskaja) has been published. The book is dedicated to the memory of Sofija Binkienė, who was awarded the title Righteous of the Nations and was the editor of the first book about the rescuers of the Jews "Ir be ginklo kariai" (Fighters without Weapons). **The memoirs by many of the authors of the book are on display at the exhibition.** The book carries remembrances by the writer Icchok Meras and his sister Janina Meraitė-Geršienė, Tamara Lazersonaitė-Rostovskaya, Kama Ginkas, Tobius Jafet, Jehoshua Šochat, Jakov Gurvičius, Ranana Malchana, Sergey Korablikov-Kovarsky, Grigory Šeršnevsky and by many other Holocaust survivors.

The department workers carried out extensive research into separate cases of the rescuing of the Jews in cooperation with Yad Vashem; they also worked with the Holocaust survivors. As a consequence of this work, fifty rescuers of the Jews were nominated for the Lithuanian state award Life Saving Cross (most of them posthumously); the text of a booklet entitled "Gyvenimą dovanojusios širdys" with information was prepared for the awards ceremony.

As every year, commemorating the victims of the Holocaust in Lithuania takes place on 23 September, the rescuers of the Jews, The Lithuanian Righteous of the Nations, are also honoured. The award giving ceremony to the Jews' rescuers takes place at the Lithuanian President's Office. (Information about the ceremony will be placed on the museum's internet page.)



Conferences, concerts, lectures, presentations, seminars, commemorations and meetings

2009 08 25 - Righteous Among the Nations Award Ceremony and the preview of the exhibition "Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah", as well as the presentation of the new Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum's expositions, dedicated to the Museum's 20th Anniversary. *Righteous Among the Nations Award Ceremony* was proceeded in the frames of the 3rd World Litvak Congress and organized by The Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum, The Embassy of Israel to Latvia and Lithuania and The Lithuania's Jewish Community.

2009 09 11 – the history workshop "**Everything Speaks: the Inner Life of History**", organized by the „Living Imprint” foundress Dr. Shivaun Woolfson. Two day seminar (the next day workshop took place in the Yiddish Institute of Vilnius) was dedicated to the teachers and the cultural workers to present the educational exhibition „*Surviving History: Portraits of Vilna*”, exhibited at the given time in the Tolerance Center. Partners: The International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania.

2009 09 24 - On 24 September 2009 **Tom Vraalsen**, the chairman-ambassador of the Task Force for the International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research under the Norwegian Chairmanship and Steinar Gil, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway visited the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum. The guests met with the director of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum J. Markas Zingeris and the head of the Center for Tolerance Ieva Šadzevičienė. The guests saw the permanent show "*The Lost World*" and visited the new permanent multimedia exhibition "*Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah*" which was launched on 22 September 2009. Danutė Selčinskaja, head of the Rescuing of the Jews and Commemorating the Memory and the exhibition curator, told the guests about the project. She also expressed her sincere gratitude to the Task Force for the International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research for the financial support for this project. The chairman-ambassador Tom Vraalsen wrote in the visitors' book of the exhibition "*Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah*": "I'm impressed at what you have succeeded in the museum's present aspects of the Holocaust. This is a vital contribution to the education of students and other people about the Holocaust. I congratulate you on your achievement."



Tom Vraalsen visited also the Holocaust exhibition "*The Catastrophe*" and met with Rachelé Kostanian, the deputy director. She showed the visitors around and told them about the plans to renew the exhibition.

2009 10 02 - LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT DALIA GRYBAUSKAITĖ'S VISIT

to the Tolerance Center of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum. President Dalia Grybauskaitė visited the museum on 2 October 2009. The main aim of the visit which lasted for an hour was to see the new permanent multimedia exhibition "Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah". Upon the arrival the president was met by the director of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum J. Markas Zingeris and the head of the Center for Tolerance, Ieva Šadzevičienė.



Dalia Grybauskaitė met the Head of the Righteous Gentiles Department, Danutė Selčinskaja, who is also the curator of the new exhibition. Selčinskaja showed the president the successfully implemented museum's project "Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah", which had been opened a few days before.

The Lithuanian president also saw the other exhibitions at the Center for Tolerance. At the end of the visit Dalia Grybauskaitė wrote in the visitors' book of the exhibition "Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah": "The experience of the Holocaust is a lesson testifying to the fragility and inimitability of human life. We have to protect it, whatever the historical circumstances."

2009 10 27 – Educational seminar for the cultural workers, teachers, historians and museum workers: the presentation of the development of the multimedia exposition "Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah". Presentation co-organized with the design company "Terra media", the creators of the design and the technical side of the exposition.

2009 11 16 – "A Better World": the commemoration of **The International Day of Tolerance**, the 16th of November. During this event we were presenting the documentary outline "Creative Accuracy: the Scholars Speak" (2006). In the documentary, scholars present Ridley Scott's feature film "Kingdom of Heaven" (2005). In "Kingdom of Heaven" the director focuses on the half-forgotten Kingdom of Jerusalem in the XII century, when a fragile peace was kept between Muslims, Christians and Jews and how quickly this world can be led to destruction. Graphic works by Ieva Šadzevičienė, inspired by this film, were also exhibited during the event. The International Day of Tolerance was commemorated together with the Embassy of Ireland in Vilnius.



2009 12 03 – Musical Festival of the Religious Minorities in Lithuania (part of the project “Vilnius – Capital of Culture 2009”): evening dedicated to the **Lithuanian Jewish musical tradition** took place in the Tolerance Center. Prof. Dr. Leonidas Melnikas gave the lecture about the Lithuanian Jewish cantorial tradition. The concert was performed by the opera singer Rafailas Karpis.

2009 12 10 – the Lithuanian premiere of the award-winning documentary “To My Great Chagrin: **The Unbelievable Story of Brother Theodore**” (2007). The documentary was presented in cooperation with The American Center. “To My Great Chagrin” attempts to reconcile the cryptic, oddly comic fury of **Brother Theodore’s** performing persona with the stranger-than-fiction chronology of his life. He is considered to be one of the most significant links in the history of comedy, admired by such people as Woody Allen, Eric Bogosian, Christopher Guest, and Harlan Ellison. His television appearances have spanned from Dick Cavett to David Letterman. His long-running show in New York was hailed as “diabolical genius”. He is **Brother Theodore**. Jeff Sumerel, producer & director of the film was in attendance for a brief, informal discussion after the screening. Sumerel and Spontaneous Productions have been exhibited and awarded at venues including the Museum of Modern Art – New York, The Silent Movie Theater – Los Angeles, Filmkunstfest – Schwerin, Germany, and International Public Television Conference – Warsaw, Poland.

2010 01 25 - Educational event, dedicated to the Commemoration of the International Holocaust Day, organized by the Embassy of Israel to Latvia and Lithuania and the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum in cooperation with The International Historical Commission and the Jewish Community of Lithuania took place in the Tolerance Center of Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum. Main accent of the event was the documentary film “**My Sister Tikva**” (53 min.), presented by the Embassy of Israel. The guided tour to the thematically related educational exhibition “Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah” took place afterwards. Vitalija Krivickienė (Gecevičiūtė), the daughter of Adomas Gecevičius and Bronislava Gecevičienė – husband and wife, who saved Tykva Jeral from Kaunas ghetto and were hiding her during the war – was participating in this event too. During the guided tour to the “Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah” exhibition, students had a chance to ask her questions, and to see that history is still alive.

2010 01 26 - The International Holocaust Day (January 27th) was marked at the Center for Tolerance of the Vilnius Gaon State Jewish Museum. This year the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp was commemorated. Sometimes laughter and irony, which were the cornerstones of spiritual resistance in Jewish ghettos, were the only way to survive and not to lose



human dignity. Charlie Chaplin's comedy **"The Great Dictator"** (a 125-minute-long film), made in 1940, was shown. The exhibition "Spiritual Resistance in the Vilnius Ghetto" organised by the Vilnius Gaon State Jewish Museum was on display.

2010 02 24 – evening dedicated to the 100th birth anniversary of the theater director **Leonidas Lurje**.

2010 03 04 - on the 4th of March, 2010, the Tolerance Center of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum had hosted the concert **"Hatikva"**, presented by the „Shalom“ association from Italy. The program of the concert was prepared by the association "Shalom" presenting the projects of the Jewish culture and working on the dialogues between cultures. Organizers of the event – *Instituto Italiano di Cultura* in Vilnius.



2010 04 18 - Annual B. Dvarionas 10-year music school's children concert, dedicated to Pesah.

2010 05 05 – Deputy Director Dr. Kamilė Rupeikaitė and the Head of the Tolerance Center Ieva Šadzevičienė gave interview for the National Lithuanian radio (LRT) program "Ryto garsai", presenting the project "Tolerance-2010" and the evening's concert, performed by cantor from Vienna Shmuel Barzilai in the Tolerance Center.

2010 05 05 - Performance "Jewish bel canto" by cantor **Shmuel Barzilai** from Austria. Partner: Embassy of the Republic of Austria in Vilnius. (Part of the project "Tolerance – 2010").

Shmuel Barzilai was born in Jerusalem in a family of renowned cantors, graduated from the Institute of Music and cantoral singing in Tel Aviv and studied with world famous cantors like Moshe Stern, Naftali Herstik, Shmuel Taube and others. Since 1992 Sh. Barzilai is Chief Cantor of the Vienna Jewish Community. His repertoire includes liturgical cantorial music, Jewish music, Hassidic and Klezmer music, Israeli and classical songs, as well as opera arias.

2010 05 19 - Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, Chicago concert. Partner: The American Center. (Part of the project "Tolerance – 2010"). In 1983 the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, founded by Lori Lippitz, spearheaded the Midwestern Klezmer Revival. Named for Chicago's old Sunday morning Jewish marketplace, Maxwell Street has a bustling, upbeat sound that evokes American Jewish life with infectious enthusiasm and humor. Maxwell Street is a regular at festivals in the US and Europe, including the Barbican Centre in London and Carnegie Hall.

2010 05 20 - Concert of Klezmer band **'Rzeszow Klezmer Band'**. Partner: Polish Institute in Vilnius. (Part of the project "Tolerance – 2010"). The band RZESZOW



KLEZMER BAND, created in 2004, has performed above 100 concerts all over Poland, participated in many contests and festivals, gave their records to Rzeszów Polish Radio and Polish Television.

2010 06 07 – Two members of the Israeli Parliament, The Knesset, Mr. Zeev Bielsky and Mr. Gideon Ezra, accompanied by the Israeli Ambassador to Latvia and Lithuania, Mr. Chen Ivri Apter, and the Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Liat Wexelman visited the Tolerance Center. They have met with the Deputy Director, Dr. Kamilė Rupeikaitė, and the Head of the Tolerance Center, Ieva Šadzevičienė. The parliamentarians were given the tour within the Tolerance Center and they visited the new multimedia exhibition „Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah“ and „The Lost World“.

2010 06 09 – lecture, dedicated to life and works of composer **Ernest Bloch**. The music of Ernest Bloch (1880 – 1959), one of the most prominent composers of the 20th century, reflects the identity of Mediterranean high intelligentsia society. Lecture on Bloch was given by musicologist and pianist, professor of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance **Dr. Zecharia Plavin** (Israel), who together with violinist, Professor **Raimondas Butvila** (Venezuela) presented also Blochs' music. Both Dr. Plavin and Prof. Butvila were born and studied in Lithuania.

2010 07 16 – Mr. Avigdor Lieberman, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and his delegation visited the Center of Tolerance, accompanied by the Head of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Mr. Emanuelis Zingeris and the Ambassador of Israel to Latvia and Lithuania, Mr. Chen Ivri Apter.

2010 07 28 - Visit of the Israeli Defense Forces delegation. The visit of 185 Israeli army officers took place in the Tolerance Center in the framework of program “Witnesses in Uniform”. The purpose of the program is to educate young Israeli army officers about the rich heritage of the Jewish community in different countries of Europe, the tragic events of the Holocaust and to enhance contacts with the local Jewish community, residing in the country in the present time

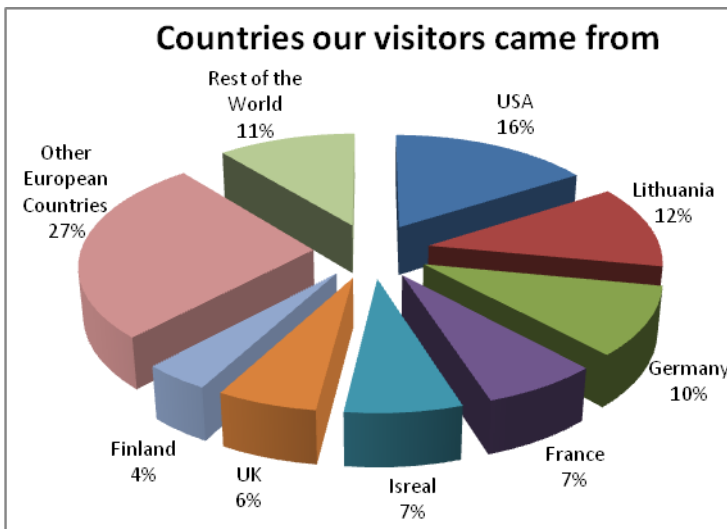
2010 08 11 – Professor **MAX STERN** (Israel) gave a lecture on “Influence of the Bible on Western Music” at the Tolerance Center, MAX STERN has created a rich genre of biblical inspired compositions blending East and West, ancient and modern. A recipient of prizes from Israel Composer's League, The Japanese Society for Contemporary Music and Epic music, his works are frequently broadcast in Israel and around the world. Stern has performed as contrabass soloist and under famous conductors Leonard Bernstein, Thomas Schippers, Arthur Fiedler and others. As arranger for the American Ballet Theatre he was commissioned to write arrangements for such luminaries as Natalia Makarova and Mikhail Baryshnikov. He is completing a book "Bible & Music" and has lectured on his research at conferences in South Carolina, Singapore, Edinburgh and Vienna. He is music critic for "The Jerusalem Post" and founded the music program at the Ariel University Center where he currently serves as Professor of Music.



Statistics

The statistics are based on registers made by our staff at the Green House - the Holocaust exhibition, the museum in Paneriai, at Pylimo 4 and Naugarduko 10/2 – the Tolerance Center.

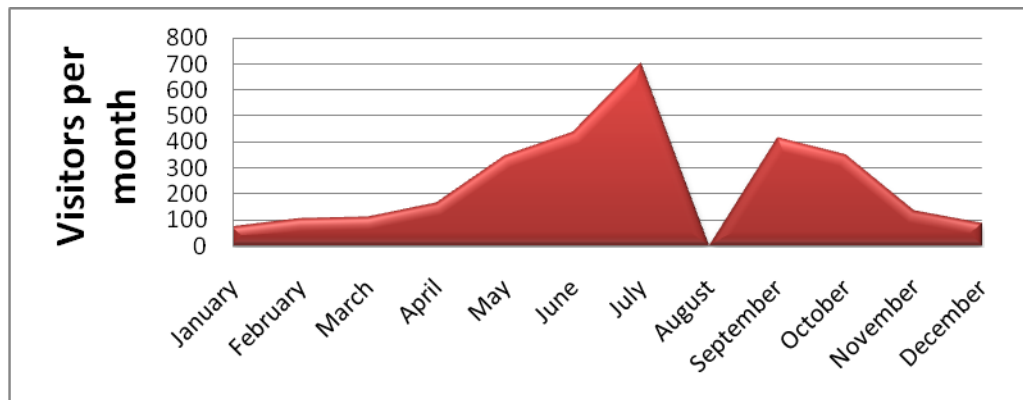
We are happy to announce that from September 2009 to August 2010 14 470 people from nearly 50 different countries visited the main branches of our museum. Unfortunately our time schedule forced us to close the Green House due to renovation in August, the peak of the tourist season, in which we estimate to have missed more than 800 people. For that reason the overall number of visitors in the Green House decreased significantly compared to last year, being 2 928 people. The mass killing site of Paneriai in the south of Vilnius was visited by 7 559 people this year. The branch at Pylimo 4 welcomed 900 visitors. The Tolerance Center reported 3 083 visitors.



In the charts you can see the distribution of visitors over the year and where they came from. These charts just deal with number of visitors from the Green House.

Compared to last year we saw a lower percentage of German and French visitors, whereas the percentage of visitors from other European countries increased by twelve percent. This development leads to the conclusion that people from a wider variety of nations visited our museum.

We happily recognize that Lithuanians comprise the second largest group of visitors this year, this is specially due to our efforts to invite school classes to the museum. Like each year, we also had quite a number of ambassadors, parliament representatives or foreign ministers visiting us and expressing their support.





Among Comments by our Visitors

The Green House “Catastrophe”

2010 05 09 If only all those who express anti-Semitic ideas here and anywhere else in Eastern Europe could see and feel all that happened. It was painful to see how a flourishing Jewish culture got destroyed here. But it's even more painful how much the majority of people still ignore the tragedy of the Shoah. Thanks for reminding.
Rita Beker-Deal, Hungry

2010 06 22 A memorable museum. May the rooms of this museum be filled with people learning the extraordinary history of the Holocaust in Lithuania.
Stephen Feinberg, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

2010 03 03 I am impressed by the scientific deepness of this moving exhibition.
Jean-Pierre Froehly, German Embassy

2010 04 26 As the child of a Holocaust survivor, I am so grateful for this wonderful museum – it is so moving and profoundly meaningful. Thanks you from the bottom of my heart.
Hannah Rosenthal, U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism

2009 11 15 Thank you for keeping the memory of what occurred here alive. Only an awareness of what happened in the past can allow us to improve the world. Your work here is very important and shows your dedication.
Mitchell Stein, United States

2010 07 26 Saša Cortés is impressed by the Jewish Museum of Vilne. I hope it will someday get the attention it deserves. Best wishes for a tolerant Lithuanian society.
Saša Cortés, “Gedenkdiener” in Theresienstadt/Terezín

Tolerance Center “Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about SHOAH”

For all the children both - gone and present – you are our memories and our future –
Shalom
Lydia Kualapai, Geri Henderson, Hal Schneider, Liliana Kualapai, Miles Kaneika Schneider

2009 09 24 I am impressed at what you have succeeded in the museum present aspects of Holocaust. This is a vital contribution to educate students and other people about Holocaust. I congratulate you and your achievement.
Chairman of the Task Force on International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, remembrance and Research.



This is a monumental, meaningful task that should be a permanent exhibit for inspiration and commemoration. A book? A special place in a museum worldwide? I know this will always have a special place in my heart. A BIG thank you to Danutė Selčinskaja and wonderful staff, as well as supporters. I will always remember today.
Rosian Bagriansky Zerner

2010 06 16 An excellent exhibition. The realization of the exhibition is executed via the scale and depth of the narration of the tragedy in general and individually.
Edvardas

2010 06 16 Students and teachers of the Tolerance Center of "Saulė" gymnasium in Plungė are thankful for the wonderful exhibition and explanations and stories. You do a wonderful and very important work. In name of the group leader, Danutė Serapinienė

Tolerance Center "Lost World"

2010 07 23 The beautiful museum that could stand anywhere. May our people and heritage be preserved for ever, so that our children would never forget. The Brazin family, South Africa/USA

2010 08 04 A miracle to be here and to see this priceless collection of our heritage.
Dorothy&Bob Movirsky

2009 09 17 Thank you for making me aware of my roots – both as an artist and a Jew (originally from Ukmergė, Lithuania). Thank you for preserving, providing and presenting such an accessible collection. Tamar Lewi Alaska-Cornwall-London-Israel

Newsletter publikuojamas kasmet žydų naujųjų metų Roš hašana proga ir išsiunčiamas Valstybinio Vilniaus Gaono žydų muziejaus rėmėjams, draugams, diplomatams, kitiems muziejams. Publikacijos paskirtis yra dvejopa — proga pasveikinti su Naujaisiais metais, šįmet 5771 pagal žydų kalendorių, ir taip pat pristatyti muziejaus metinę veiklą tiems, kurie palaiko ir remia Valstybinį Vilniaus Gaono žydų muziejų savo darbais, dovanomis ar žodžiais.



FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

We'd like to thank all our dear friends who have supported us so generously. Thanks to you we are able to continue our work.

In 2009-2010 (5771) the museum received many warm letters and gifts from supporters around the world. The following people and organizations donated books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, academic journals, photographs and other materials, but the list is only a partial one so apologies to anyone left out, your support is much appreciated even if your name didn't make it onto this list.

Yad Vashem (ISR), Library of Congress (USA), Shivaun Woolfson (UK), Zydowski Instytut Historyczny (POL), Muriel Chochois (FR), K. Shezlock (USA), Yehuda Wolfson (ISR), Werner Brockjan (GER), Adam Kempler, Oxford Journals, Oxford University Press, Yivo Institute, Carl Barzon, USHMM, London Jewish Cultural Centre (UK), Simon Malkes, Suzanne and Yves Plasseraud (FR), William S. Konecky, Christoph Jetter, K. Sherlock (USA), Mouller Jaime, Mme Levin, The Jewish Renaissance

Financial help came from our long-years' friends such as:

Gene Le Pere (USA), Phil Shapiro (USA), Louise Tijma-Maaskant (NL), Keith Kaye via American Fund (USA), Margol & Blumenthal via American Fund (USA), Ella Lidsky (USA), Amy Schachter (USA), Berel Lang (USA), Ada Ustjanaukas Gens (USA), Leza Kantorovich (ISR), Jelena Parasoniene (LT), Gladys B. Mayers (CAN), B. Gelberman (AUS), Ruvim Gandler (LT), Gordon Schochet, Raymond Fine (CAN), Judita Rozina (LT), S. Alperavičius (LT), Marija Krupoves-Berg (USA-LT), Mordechai Fiedman (ISR), Gajane Leononko (LT), David Satin (USA), Yevsey Tseytlin (USA), J. J. Delouvrier (FR), Janet Ades (USA), Reinhard Griesi (GER), Carole Anderman (USA), Howard Stave (USA), Kees Paradies (NL), Ruth & Martin Levit (AUS)



We express our sincere gratitude to the Society for Jewish Christians Cooperation in Lippe, Germany, for the 2 500 Euros it has given to the museum's projects (the renovation of the branch in Paneriai and the exhibition "Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about Shoah") which has enabled us to implement our ideas!

Once again: Mazl Tov!