



September 1998

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*Dear Friends,  
dear Colleagues !*

It is our great honour and pleasure to congratulate you with **Rosh Hashanah** and wish you a very **Happy New Year**.

It is also our great pleasure to present to you **our museum's second newsletter**. It was an active year full of events, achievements and losses.

The main and most meaningful event for us on the Jewish street was the seminar for Yiddish language, which took place in the auditoriums of the old Vilnius University. It was inspired and directed by a wonderful Jewish character -Dr. Dovid Katz from Great Britain, who is a quite often visitor to our places coming to perpetuate the last Jews of the "shtetl" by videotaping their memoirs. We are happy to have participated in the organisation of this seminar, and that our staff members worked as scientific lecturers for these courses.

It became possible mostly because of *us*-the Jews who are still living and working in this place today, and by that keep the light of Jewish continuity alive. Our presence on nowadays' map of Jewish civilisation stipulated the organisation of the Yiddish course here, where many people abroad considered Jewish life to be dead. The seminar shows that the Nazis did not succeed in extermination of Jewish culture in Lithuania. They killed the majority of our people physically, but could not defeat us spiritually.

As Hirsh Glik wrote: "... *es hert zich unzer trot, mir zeinen do* "

Much of our museum's activities is due to you, **our dear friends**, to your moral and financial support.

*Further in this newsletter we would like to present you the **main events in our work** for the period of September 1997 to September 1998.*

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## 1) Vilnius Ghetto: Lists of Prisoners

*(1997, VOL. 2, VILNIUS, 236 PAGES, COMPILED BY IRINA GUZENBERG)*

By that a quite important and significant work was finalized; it embraces not only the lists of the Vilnius Ghetto inmates, but has also lists of the Jews from five camps around Vilnius, all organized in an alphabetical order. It contains a glossary of the prisoners' professions, photographs and maps concerning the subject, scientific articles and other data. The books got high evaluation among Jewish professionals. The work was sponsored by the Claims Conference, USA.

## 2) Hands bringing Life and Bread

*(1997, VILNIUS, 111 PAGES)* .

It is a memorial to the Righteous Gentiles who risked their own and their families' lives to rescue their Jewish neighbours.

The book was compiled by Michael Erenburg and Viktorija Sakaite.

Allmost all copies are sold out already. 300 of them were given to the Ministry of Education for teacher and school usage.

The book was sponsored by the US Embassy to Lithuania and America Center.

### 3) “The book of Sorrow”

(1997, Vilnius, 224 pages)

That is one more book, in publishing of which the museum took part, concerning the Holocaust-the destruction of Lithuanian Jewry. It gives a panorama of the big tragedy expressed in photographs of memorials put up in the places of mass destruction. The book contains articles and photographs in four languages, also a directory on appr. 200 places of Jewish residence in Lithuania, where these people have been murdered. The book was compiled by

Josif

Levinson, a coworker of the Museum, who headed the work for arranging and putting into order these horrible spaces.



### 4) Synagogues of Lithuania

(1997, Vilnius, 46 pages).

A booklet, compiled to follow the exhibition under the same title, by E.Potalujas, chief editor R. Kostanian

## Exhibitions

### 1) “Spiritual Resistance”

showed 39 original posters which survived from the Vilnius Ghetto. The posters testify to the high spirituality and vitality of our people in the unbearable conditions of facing everyday humiliation and annihilation.

It was prepared by J.Guzenberg, E.Biber, R.Kostanian, J.Rozina, S.Shatalova, architect J.Razumiene

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### 2) Synagogues of Lithuania

Few from many of hundreds of synagogues survived the Shoah. After the Second World War they have been used as storages, sport halls, warehouses, cinemas, etc. By now the buildings are desolated, worn out and will quite soon vanish. The research and collecting of material on the survived and destroyed synagogues was perpetrated by M.Rupeikiene.

The design and organisation of this big and beautiful exhibition was done by J. Razumiene and E.Potalujas.

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### 3) The Righteous Gentiles

The museum staff opened a travelling exhibition under this title in the Seimas (parliament) of Lithuania.

It will travel to assist in courses for teachers of Lithuania, students and other centres of education.

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4) The museum has a branch in **Druskeninkai**, the native town of **Jack Lipschitz**, after who this branch is named. This year the museum opened there an exhibition „*The tune of Jewish art*“-of museum owned artefacts: sculptures of **M. Kopelowicz**, member of the known group of Jewish writers, poets and artists „Jung Vilne“, portrait Jewish actors. The other part consists of several paintings of **Adomas Jacovskis**-a young, contemporary, very talented Jewish artist. Simultaneously water coloured paintings of a noted Lithuanian artist **P. Stauskas** were exhibited for the first time. The name of the exhibition is “*Israel today*”; the author painted Israel in a very warm way.

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5) **Paintings of Solomon Teitelbaum**, a young 24 year old Jewish artist from Kaunas. “we have a young Van Gouge” was written about him by Mark Zingeris.

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6) Our good friend from Salzburg Joyce Rohrmaser exhibited photographs reflecting “*moments of Jewish life*”- a Jewish wedding, brith-mila, Jewish studies, etc. The exhibit was supported by the city of Salzburg and Salzburg-Lithuania society.



Paauigis, Teenager, 1978  
Craie, oleu, Oil on canvas, 37x41

-**Exhibition “Lithuanian Jews in fighting nazism”**, armed resistance of Jews against fascist occupiers on the war fronts, in Ghettos and in the rear of the enemy is reflected, as well as their bravery and heroism.

-**“Spiritual resistance”**, catalogue on 65 original posters, revealing various activities in Vilnius Ghetto supported by the Antidefamation League.

### Furthermore.....

The museum participated in organizing the days of **Chaim Soutine**, initiated by a young Lithuanian artist **Alexandras Vozbinas**. A number of professionals and good friends from France have been in the rows of this great event with papers: Suzanne and Yves Plasseraud, Jankel Kekoin and Yves Kobry- they brought an unforgettable colour to these days. A number of Lithuanian professionals also participated with papers: Ms. Laima Atkociuniene, dr. Leonarda Jekentaite, prof. Kuzmickas, Al. Vozbinas. Very helpful was Donatas Valancauskas from the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania, and Milda Paskauskaite from Lith. Junesco group.

The museum plans to take part in the **days of Jacques Lipschitz** in Druskeninkai in September

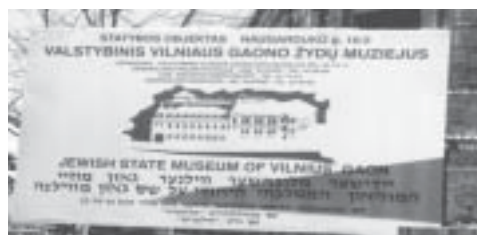
-work on the book “**Synagogues of Lithuania**” is to be developed. An important memorial to the almost vanished world.

-**“The Jewish museum”**- second museum almanac-a collection of articles and essays on Lithuanian Jewry.

-**“The Holocaust in Lithuania**- a collection of archival documents, articles and essays

We are very glad to share the news, that by now the Reconstruction of the *new building for the museum* is taking place on *Naugarduko str. 10/2*, previously premises of a cultural centre for Vilna Jewry, the so called Philharmonical society.

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*Last but not least we would like to name the **main sponsors** of the museum for this period to express our great gratitude:*

- 1) ADL, Mr. Avrom Foxman- President;
- 2) Claims conference- executive director- Mr. Saul Kagan;
- 3) Embassy of the United States and America centre to Lithuania- Ms. Lisa Helling;
- 4) Lorna Strassler (Barrington Foundation);
- 5) G. Shekhtor;
- 6) Linda Collins;
- 7) Carl F. and Ruth L. Baron;
- 8) Karl Zeff (Carmel Companies);
- 9) Baron De Ratafia;
- 10) Sidney Miller;

*We want to thank particularly **prof. Dov Levin** (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) for his constant advice and help with materials*

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### ***In memory to Dimitry Gelpernas***

Those who remember him will share with us the big loss of Dimitrij Gelpernas, survivor of the Kaunas Ghetto and one of the leaders of its Antifascist Fighting Organisation. Mr. Gelpernas was full of life and energy and intellect-a wonderful friend to everyone who knew him. He was among the initiators of the movement for revival of Jewish culture here in the eighties. He also worked for our museum. The Memory of him will always be kept alive.



**PS:** *We hope that you will stay our friend, and would like to be in contact with us during the following year too ....*

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