

“Training teacher-trainers: European Holocaust History, Human Rights, and Tolerance Today”

June 13 – June 17, 2011

Kaunas Hotel

Funded by the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research, and the U.S. State Department

Organized by the United States Embassy in Vilnius, the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum, Vytautas Magnus University, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Opening of the Seminar

Welcoming remarks (Ambassador Anne E. Derse, U.S. Embassy; Ambassador Douglas Davidson, Office of Holocaust Issues; Minister of Education Gintaras Steponavičius; Asta Skaisgirytė-Liauškienė, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania; Markas Zingeris, Director, Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum)

Historical Issues for Lithuanian Teachers: Dual Narratives in Lithuanian History

Dr. David Cesarani, Royal Holloway College, University of London

Dual narratives of occupation, persecution, and mass murder in Lithuania and Eastern Europe.

Historical Concepts: The Holocaust in Europe/The Holocaust in Lithuania

Stephen Feinberg, USHMM, Washington DC

An overview of the importance for historical accuracy and understanding historical methodology when discussing the Holocaust in Europe and, in particular, in Lithuania.

Working Lunch: Catholic Jewish relations in Lithuania

Faina Kukliansky, Jewish Community of Lithuania and Sigitas Tamkevičius, Archbishop of Kaunas

Location: Kaunas Hotel

The Holocaust in Lithuania

Dr. Anthony Polonsky

An overview of Holocaust-related issues will be addressed.

European Historical Structure for teaching about the Holocaust

Prof. Saulius Sužiedėlis, Millersville College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Vytautas Magnus University

Dr. Sužiedėlis will give an in-depth historical overview of the Holocaust, beginning in 1933 and ending in 1945. Again, emphasis will be on the European nature of the history, while placing the Holocaust in Lithuania in its proper historical perspective.

Lithuania and YIVO

Prof. Jonathan Brent, Executive Director, YIVO, New York

Anti-Semitism in Lithuanian History

Prof. Liudas Truska, Professor of the Department of the History of Lithuania, Vilnius Pedagogical University

Participants will gain knowledge in this fundamental area which is essential for understanding the Holocaust.

Breaking Down Contemporary Stereotypes

Prof. Dr. Sarūnas Liekis, Dean, Political Science and Diplomacy Faculty, Vytautas Magnus University

An examination of the sources and purposes of prevailing political stereotypes in contemporary Lithuania.

Lithuanian Collaborators during the Holocaust

Dr. Arūnas Bubnys, The Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania

Dr. Bubnys will explore the role of the “Lithuanian Security Police” and the Holocaust in Lithuania

Using Local Resources: Visit to the Ninth Fort and the Chiune Sugihara Museum

Guides: Jūratė Zakaitė, Director, Ninth Fort Museum and **Simonas Dovidavičius**, Executive Director, Sugiharos Namai (Sugihara House)

Lithuanian Identity and Historical Understanding

Prof. Dr. Egidijus Aleksandravičius, Vytautas Magnus University

Dr. Aleksandravičius will examine the connection between national identity, exploration of the past, and the teaching of the Holocaust in Lithuania.

Dinner and Presentation on Lithuanian Righteous

Location: “Seneji Rūsiai” Restaurant

Fruma Kučinskienė and Julijana Zarchi will share their testimonies

Holocaust Denial in Europe

Stephen Feinberg, USHMM, Washington, DC

The work on this topic of the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Research, and Remembrance will be highlighted.

Oral History and Holocaust Teaching

Ina Navazelskis, USHMM, Washington DC

Testimonies and History

Dr. Dan Leshem, USC Shoah Foundation Institute

“The Hidden History of the Kovno Ghetto” and other Electronic Resources for Teaching about the Holocaust

Stephen Feinberg, USHMM, Washington DC

Participants will be shown Internet resources that will allow them to greatly expand their historical knowledge and impact future teachers

Effective Methods and Principles in Holocaust Education: Experience of the International Historical Commission

Ronaldas Račinskas and Ingrida Vilkienė, International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Regimes in Lithuania

The presenters will explain the history and work of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Regimes in Lithuania.

Instructional Materials for teaching about the Holocaust

Rimantas Jokimaitis, Ministry of Education and Science

Mr. Jokimaitis will share information on the latest instructional materials available to teach this history.

The Kovno Ghetto

Dr. Linas Venclauskas, Vytautas Magnus University

Dr. Venclauskas will explore the history of this large ghetto.

Anti-Semitism in Europe Today

Hannah Rosenthal, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, U.S. Department of State

Reflections from the Vilnius program of December 2010

Several participants from the Vilnius program of December 2010 will share their experiences since the program.

Closing Session - The Future of Holocaust Education in Lithuania

Prof. Saulius Sužiedelis, Millersville College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Vytautas Magnus University

Teaching the Holocaust in Lithuanian schools and the role of teacher training Institutions; the next stages of “Training teacher-trainers in European Holocaust History” program.

Presentation of Certificates

Hannah Rosenthal, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, U.S. Department of State; **Zigmas Lydeka**, Rector, Vytautas Magnus University, **Markas Zingeris**, Director, Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum

[Note: last two events will be open to the media and public]