דער פֿינפֿטער װעלט ליטװאַק־קאָנגרעס 5³⁵⁵ Pasaulio litvakų kongresas the 5th World Litvak Congress הקונגרס הליטווקי העולמי החמישי



PASIMATYMAS | A DATE su | with



PROGRAM

דער פֿינפֿטער װעלט ליטװאָק־קאָנגרעס 5^{asts} Pasaulio litvakų kongresas the 5th World Litvak Congress הקונגרס הליטווקי העולמי החמישי



THE PROGRAM of the 5th WORLD LITVAK CONGRESS

Monday, May 23rd

Opening of the 5th World Litvak Congress. A Conference at the Lithuanian Parliament Constitution hall, Gedimino ave. 53, Vilnius

Patron of Congress – Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament VIKTORIJA ČMILYTĖ-NIELSEN

THE PROGRAM

- 9:30 10:00 Registration of participants
- 10:00 10:30 Opening of the Lithuanian Jews (Litvaks) exhibition "Chronicle of XXI century Litvak culture" Venue: Lobby of the constitution hall

Beginning of Conference:

- 10:30 10.35 Welcome speech Patron of World Litvak Congress - Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen
- 10.35 11.40
 Welcome speech
 Katherina Von Shnurbein Coordinator of AntiSemitism Department in the European Commission
 (pre-recorded)

11:40 - 11:55

"30 year history of the LJC, problems, challenges" Faina Kukliansky – Chairwoman of the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community

11:55 - 12:00

Mickey Kantor – Chairwoman of the Association of Expatriates from Vilnius and the Vilnius Region in Israel

12:00 - 12:05

Arie Ben Grodzensky – Chairman of the Lithuanian Association of Jewish Emigrants in Israel

12:10 - 12:20

"Memory of the Shoah"

Prof. Violeta Davoliūtė – Professor at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University

12:20 - 12:35

"Overview of the resolution of restitution claims and related issues over the last twenty-five years - what has been achieved and what remains unfinished" Rabinas Andrew Baker – Director of the Department of International Affairs of the American Jewish Committee

12.35 - 12.45

"Vilna – the Jerusalem of Lithuania, the History of YIVO" Dr. Jonathan Brent Director of the YIVO Jewish Research Institute in New York

■ ■ 12.45 – 13.20 LUNCH ■ ■ ■

13.20 – 13.30

"Litvaks, Israel and Historical Memory" Yossef Levy – Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the State of Israel to Lithuania

13.30 – 13.40

"The school of the future: what is it like?"

Dr. Ruth Reches – Head of Vilnius Šolom Aleichem

ORT Gymnasium, Doctor of Psychology

13.40 - 14.00

"What is a Litvak?"

Dr. Ben-Tsiyon Klibansky – Researcher of the Lithuanian Jewry, lecturer in MA course at Efrata College in Jerusalem about the History of the Lithuanian Jewry

14.00 - 14.15

"Jews in Lithuania: a common history not yet discovered or already lost?"

Vytautas Bruveris – political reviewer, journalist

14.15 - 14.25

"Non-invasive Holocaust Investigation in Private Land-plots: Past and Future" Dr. Richard A. Freund – Head of the Center for Jew-

ish Studies, University of Hartford (remotely)

14.25 - 14.40

"Human Rights, Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Its Expression"

Irwin Cotler – Professor Emeritus, Head of the Raoul Wallenberg Human Rights Center in Canada, Former Canadian Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Longtime Member of the Canadian Parliament

14.40 - 14.55

"Recording the features of Lithuanian Jewish culture" Prof. David Fishman – historian, lecturer, professor of Jewish history at the American Seminary of Jewish Theology (remotely live)

14.55 – 15.15

"The Litvak Story at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews"

Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Ronald S. Lauder Chief Curator, Core Exhibition, POLIN Museum (remotely live)

15.15 - 15.30

"Šeduva Museum of Jewish History "Lost Shtetl": history, purpose, process" Milda Jakulytė – Chief Curator of the "Lost Shtetl" Museum Exhibition

The conference is moderated by Aurimas Švedas – a cultural historian, writer, radio and television presenter, deputy director of the Lithuanian Institute of History

* Upon arrival to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, it is necessary to have an ID card or passport.

17.00

Bar|Bat mitzvah ceremony Venue: Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) community Pylimo str. 4. J. Heifetz Hall

As every year, the Lithuanian Jewish community together with the students of the 7th grade Sholom Aleichem ORT Gymnasium celebrates the Bar|Bat mitzvah ceremony. On this day we will celebrate Jewish adulthood - children of Jewish descent will attend rites for the first time and read the Torah

The ceremony is led by the Rabbi of Progressive Judaism, Nathan Alfred (Israel)

20.00

Concert in the Vilnius Choral TAHARAT HA-KODESH synagogue, Pylimo str. 39, Vilnius

The famous Jewish liturgical music performer, tenor-cantor Joseph Malovany (USA), is participating along with pianist Doron Burstein (Germany) Registration required by e-mail rsvp@lzb.lt

Tuesday, May 24th

The 4-day program of the 5th World Litvak Congress will include visits to historical sites and various cultural activities dedicated to the Jewish heritage in Lithuania and the achievements of the Litvaks in the world



A DATE WITH VILNE

A walk around Jewish Vilnius

During this tour we will travel around the lost Jewish city, talk about people and their destinies, everyday life and holidays, see the surviving buildings. We will start our journey through the historical places of Jewish Vilnius in the Cathedral Square

- We will try to discover the figures of Jewish history on the facade of the Cathedral.
- We will find out where the fist places of settlement of Jews were in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and specifically in Vilnius
- We will stop by the Presidential palace to talk about the fate of Jews in Tsarist Russia
- We will head towards Žydų Street, to the Jewish Quarter, where we will find out why Jews settled here, how long the community has existed, and what else can be found in the walls of this medieval quarter. Jewish shops, courtyards, gateways and, of course, people of Mėsinių, Šiaulių, Žemaitijos and surrounding streets
- We will stop at the monument to one of the most famous Jewish sages Vilnius Gaon
- We will visit the site of the former Vilnius Great Synagogue, remember its glory, about which stories spread to the most remote corners of Europe
- We will continue the trip on Vokiečių Street, visit the courtyard of the Judenrat (Jewish Council), remember the ghetto leaders and their controversial decisions
- We will go to the Vilnius Ghetto Theater and find out why it was the only one in the whole of occupied Europe
- In front of the ghetto library we will learn about the spiritual and cultural life of the ghetto prisoners

- We will end the tour at the Beigeliu krautuvėlė, where you will have the opportunity to taste probably the most delicious traditional bagels in Vilnius and other Litvak delicacies
- Start of tour: 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Square clock tower
- End of tour: ~ 1 p.m. at Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) community, Pylimo str. 4

Registration required by e-mail rsvp@lzb.lt

Leo Ray at AP GALLERY

We invite you to visit the exhibition of the latest paintings of the Lithuanian painter Leo Ray, who was born in Vilnius and emigrated to Israel, at AP GALLERY, Polocko str. 10 in Vilnius

17.00

Opening of the SAUL KAGAN Welfare Center in the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) community (event by invitation only)

A memorial plague commemorating SAUL KAGAN will be unveiled by adv. Faina Kukliansky, Chair of the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community, Arie Bucheister, The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Julia Kagan Baumann, daughter of Saul Kagan, Yossef Levy, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the State of Israel to Lithuania

"Fajerlech" Jewish Song and Dance Ensemble performing (director L.Vyšniauskienė)

Venue: Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) community, Pylimo str. 4

Discussion Club #ŽydiškiPašnekesiai

Moderated by writer, actor and publicist Arkady Vinokur

Discussion topic "Jewish theater and dramaturgy: why are there no Jewish comedies in today's Lithuanian theaters?"

Directors, actors and playwrights participating in the discussion

Venue: Beigelių krautuvėlė, Pylimo str. 4, Vilnius

19.00

BALKANIGHT!

Authentic Israeli street food, good music and cosmopolitan culture are what we invite you to enjoy on Tuesday night in the gastrobar CVI PARK

Venue: former P. Cvirkos sq.

Music: Balkan Beat, Klezmer, Gypsy

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, has historically been a large cauldron in which the influences of Baltic, Gudian, Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, Jewish, German, Tartar, Karaite, British and Roma cultures have intertwined for centuries. In the courtyards, where the legendary violinist Jasha Heifetz, the son of a poor klezmer musician, was born and fresh secular music flourished from the east, a Baltic Balkan project was launched to combine contemporary dance music rhythms with the region's diverse musical heritage. This musical and performance project was inspired by Yugoslavian punk rock, many interesting group performances seen at European festivals, and films that reveal the true spirit of the Balkans (as well as the Baltics)

Wednesday, May 25th

The 4-day program of the 5th World Litvak Congress will include visits to historical sites and various cultural activities dedicated to the Jewish heritage in Lithuania and the achievements of the Litvaks in the world



TRIP TO KAUNAS

Meeting place: Cathedral Square parking lot, Vilnius Departure time: 9 a.m

PLAN OF THE TRIP:

After an hour's bus ride, we will start our visit to Kaunas 2022 – the European Capital of Culture

- The first stop is Aleksotas observation (panoramic) site. Here we will find out why Jews call this place Mapu Hill and get acquainted with the history of Kaunas. From the observation deck you can see 3 main districts of Kaunas city, including Slobodka, the former Jewish quarter
- We will go to the still-operating Kaunas Jewish cemetery and visit the graves of the two most famous Kaunas rabbis Yitzhak Elchanan Spektor and Avraham Dov-Ber Kahana Shapiro
- Continuation of the tour in Kaunas Old Town, visiting the most impressive places, such as the City Hall, the Cathedral and many others
- Stop in Vilniaus Street near the intersection of Žydų and Mapu, at the corner of L. Zamenhofo street.
- ~ 1 p.m. lunch at the restaurant "Kauno bokštas", Kęstučio str. 86, Kaunas
- Afternoon on the pedestrian promenade Laisvės alėja. Getting acquainted with the story of a Lithuanian hero freedom fighter Romas Kalanta. Tribute to Dutch diplomat Jan Zwartendijk, who saved thousands of Jews during World War II
- A stop at the home of the famous Israeli poet Lea Goldberg

- From the center of Kaunas, the journey continues to Slobodka the old Jewish district, which was turned into the Kaunas ghetto during the Second World War. A short stop at the ghetto gate site, a walk through the ghetto streets. Introduction to the history of the Slobodka Yeshiva
- ~ 4 p.m. the bus departs from Kaunas to Žiežmariai. The formerly renovated wooden Synagogue of Žiežmariai will be visited in this former small Shtetl. We will hear the interesting history of the Jews of Žiežmariai, have herbal tea with honey and fresh Litvak bagels Planned return to Vilnius ~ 7 p.m.

Registration required by email rsvp@lzb.lt



TRIP TO PANEVĖŽYS

One of the educational destinations is a tour of the Jewish Panevėžys, Pakruojis and Šeduva

Meeting place: Cathedral Square parking lot, Vilnius Departure time: 9 a.m.

PLAN OF THE TRIP:

After an hour and a half of travel by bus we will start our introduction to Panevėžys

- The first stop is the Panevėžys Yeshiva, which nowadaysoperates in Bney-Brak, Israel. Here we will get acquainted with the story of Rabbi Kahneman and the traces he left in the city of Panevėžys
- We will visit the city's central market square, once filled with Jewish shops
- We will visit the building that used to be the Synagogue before the war
- We will go to the memorial plaque to Benjamin Zuskin, a victim of Stalin's repression

- We will visit the cemetery of the victims of the brutally destroyed Jews of the Soviet regime and pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust at the memorial of the "Sad Mother of the Jews"
- 11 a.m. a meeting at the Municipality with the Mayor of the city Panevėžys
- 12 a.m. we will go to the restored Pakruojis synagogue. Excursion
- 1 p.m. lunch at Pakruojis manor
- 3 p.m. we will visit the Jewish parts of Šeduva and the Šeduva Museum, the Jewish cemetery, and honor those who died at the site of the massacre *Planned return to Vilnius* ~ 7 p.m.

Registration required by email rsvp@lzb.lt

Opening of the exhibition of the painter Alexander Ganelin (Israel)

18.00

A. Ganelin graduated from the 1st Moscow School of Art, studied at the Russian State Institute of Cinematography, and later went to live in Israel. After graduating from the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem, he founded the Mannsohn House Gallery in Jaffa. The painter has participated in many group exhibitions not only in Israel, but also in Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Great Britain, Germany, the United States and India. His works are stored in private collections and museums around the world.

The artist's love for Lithuania was born after the discovery of M. K. Čiurlionis' works during his studies - since then the painter has been an active participant in plein airs, symposia and exhibitions organized in Lithuania

Venue: Jaša Heifetz Hall lobby, Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) community, Pylimo str. 4

Thursday, May 26th

11.00

Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony at the Paneriai Memorial. Kadish

Agrastų st. 15A, Vilnius

13.00

Visiting the tomb of the Vilnius Gaon. Prayer

Vilnius Jewish Cemetery, Sudervė Road 28

18.00

Closing concertof the 5th World Litvak Congress "A DATE with VILNE"

Venue: Youth Theater, Arkliu st. 5, Vilnius

Director Gintaras Varnas

Artists:

St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra
Artistic director and chief conductor
Modestas Barkauskas
Rafail Karpis (tenor)
Dalia Dėdinskaitė (violin)
Gleb Pyšniak (cello)
Darius Mažintas (piano)
Rūta Lipinaitytė (violin)
Cantor Yoni Rose

Pianist Adi Bar Soria
Material of the LRT archives is used in the event

^{*} The organizers of the event maintain the right to make changes to the program upon demand



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