Program of events for September 17 to 25, 2014

These events are dedicated to commemorating the Lithuanian day for commemorating victims, the 70th anniversary of the liquidation of the Kovno (Kaunas) and Shavl (Šiauliai) ghettos and other important dates in Lithuanian Jewish history.

Seventy years have passed since the liquidation of the Kovno and Shavl ghettoes. The Lithuanian Jewish Community and partners have organized a series of special events to commemorate this anniversary and the Day of the Genocide of the Jews of Lithuania (August 23).

"Lithuanian Jews were, are and will be part of Lithuania's history. We must always remember important moments from the past and we may not erase from memory the painful things; rather we must speak about them in different languages, through different actions and in various forms. Our hope is that these events will bring together people of different generations and will aid in the search for our relationship towards what may be painful but which is for all of us a shared part of our identity," Faina Kukliansky, chair of the Lithuanian Jewish Community, said.

The events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liquidation of the Kovno and Shval ghettoes and Holocaust Victims Commemoration Day as well as other important dates begin September 17 in Vilnius. The series of events commemorating Lithuanian Jewish history, lasting over a week, will include participants from Kovno, Shavl, Klaipėda, Ponevezh (Panevėžys) and Yanishok (Joniškis) as well as from the Lithuanian capital. A concert by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Zubin Mehta and set to become the musical event of the year in Lithuania, was coordinated with Lithuanian Jewish Community events to commemorate the liquidation of the Kovno and Shavl ghettoes.

Most of the events are open to the public and free with no need for registration or an invitation. Organizers ask those wishing to attend the other events to register beforehand and/or acquire tickets.

A complete list of events is provided below.

These events are open to the public:

**September 18 (1:00 P.M.)** Ceremony to unveil sculpture of noted Shavl industrialist Chaim Frenkel in Šiauliai. Follows event at 11:00 A.M. at nearby Kužiai to commemorate Holocaust victims with wreath-laying ceremony at the former gates of the Shavl ghetto at 11:30 A.M.

**September 19 (1:00 P.M.)** New exhibit "Celebrating Jewish Historical Memory in the Joniškis District" to be opened at the Red Synagogue in Joniškis, with a conference discussing Jewish
cultural and historical heritage protection and recognition.

Vilnius (3:00 P.M.) “Bagel Shop” project tolerance awards to be held at the Lithuanian Government building for the first time. Event sponsored by Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius. Participants must register beforehand by email: beigelu.krautuvele@lzb.lt or julija.lipsic@gmail.com

September 21 (9:00 A.M.) Plaque commemorating celebrated Vilna Jewish leader Dr. Tsemakh Shabad to be unveiled at Kauno street no. 7 in Vilnius.

Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas, Gedimino street no. 53) will host the international conference "Medical Specialists of the Jerusalem of Lithuania" from 10: A.M. to 2:00 P.M. dedicated to the memory of the medical personnel of the Kovno and Shavl ghettos (registration required).

Presentation of the new Lithuanian Jewish Community calendar for 5775 featuring Jewish Lithuanian doctors by Maša Grodnikienė, deputy chair of the LJC. Tsemakh Shabad exhibit from the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York. YIVO executive director Jonathan Brent and director of development Suzanne Leon to participate.

6:00 P.M. Lithuanian Jewish Community (Pylimo street no. 4, Vilnius) to host an evening event from "the Likimai" [Destinies] series dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the cantor Mikhail Aleksandrovich.

September 22 (11:00 A.M.) Seventieth anniversary of the destruction of the Kovno ghetto to be marked at the Ninth Fort. Unveiling of portrait-frescoes of ghetto prisoner D. Shperling and heroic ghetto policeman Yuda Zupavich at 2:00 P.M (at Ožeškienės no. 21).

Evening (5:00 P.M.) the M. and K. Petrauskas Lithuanian Musical Museum to host presentation of the book "The Six Careers of Mikhail Aleksandrovich" commemorating the 100th birthday of the renowned cantor written by journalist and translator Leonid Makhlis.

Vilnius, 5:00 P.M. The Lithuanian Jewish Community (Pylimo no. 4) will host a presentation of Arūnas Bubnys's book "Kauno getas 1941–1944" ["Kaunas Ghetto 1941-1944"].

September 23 (10:00 A.M.) Vilnius The Lithuanian parliament will convene a special meeting to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liquidation of the Kovno and Shavl ghettos. Day of Commemorating Lithuanian Jewish Victims of Genocide ceremonies at the Ponar (Paneriai) mass murder site at 1:00 P.M. Day’s events culminate with free concert at St. Catherine’s Church (Vilniaus street no. 14) at 7:00 P.M. Vilnius municipal choir Brevis under Israeli
conductor Ronen Borshevsky to perform.

**Panevėžys** Events to mark Genocide Day to begin at Atminties square (12:00 noon) next to the Sorrowful Jewish Mother memorial. Followed by excursion to mass murder site in Kurganova Forest and Holocaust commemoration site in Žalioji Forest. Afternoon events at Sąjūdis section of the Panevėžys Regional History Museum (2:00 P.M.) and the headquarters of the Panevėžys Jewish Community (3:30 P.M.)

September 25 (5:00 P.M.) The book "Six Careers of Mikhail Aleksandrovich" by journalist and translator Leonid Makhlis to be presented to the public in Klaipėda. The event to mark the 100th birthday of the celebrated cantor Mikhail Aleksandrovich to be held at the Klaipėda Ethnic Minorities Cultural Center.

**Other events (by invitation or requiring tickets):**

**September 17** (5:30 P.M.) Ambassadors resident in Vilnius to gather to remember heroic members of the diplomatic services who rescued Jews during World War II, including consul Jan Zwartendijk of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and vice-consul Chiune Sugihara of Japan in Lithuania. Event organized by the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum in cooperation with the Santara-Šviesa Club of London. Tolerance Center (Naugarduko street 10/2, Vilnius).

**September 18** (7:00 P.M.) Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (conducted by Dr. Zubin Mehta) concert dedicated to the memory of Lithuanian Jewish victims of genocide at the Vilnius Opera and Ballet Theater.

**September 19** (11:00 A.M.) Lithuanian President's Office to award medals for the rescue of Jews during World War II, with Lithuanian president Dalia Grybauskaitė presiding.

6:00 P.M. Sabbath ceremony with Israel Philharmonic Orchestra musicians and guests from the United States. Conference center Dainava A.Vienuolio str. 4, Vilnius

**September 20** (6:00 P.M.) Twenty-fifth anniversary of the reestablishment of the Makabi sports club to be celebrated at the Old Town Hall in Vilnius.