

17 December (Monday)

NO SIMPLE STORIES II: LITHUANIAN JEWRY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

ADMISSION: free of charge, strictly by RSVP only to amb.uk@urm.lt or 020 7592 2841

VENUE: Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuania House, 2 Bessborough Gardens, London, SW1V 2JE

3.00 pm Registration

3.30 pm **Welcome speech by HE Mrs. Asta Skaisgirytė Liauškienė**, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania in the UK
Welcome speech by Mr. Vivian Wineman, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews
Welcome speech by Ms. Faina Kukliansky, President, Jewish Community of Lithuania (TBC)
Chaired by **Mr. Leonidas Donskis**, MEP

3.45 pm **Presentation by Dr. Darius Staliūnas – “Pragmatic Alliances”**

The book “Pragmatic Alliances” is published by the Lithuanian Institute of History and is dedicated to the political cooperation between Jews and Lithuanians in the beginning of the 20th century in establishing the Republic of Lithuania.

Discussion

4.35 pm **Presentation of “The Northern Jerusalem” initiative by Ms Anna Avidan**, CEO

4.50 pm Coffee break

5.10 pm **Presentation by Dr François Guesnet** – the conference proceedings of “No Simple Stories”: re-assessing Lithuanian –Jewish relations in the 19th and 20th centuries

Comments by Dr Lionel Kopelowitz (President, Board of Deputies of British Jews 1985-1991) and **Professor Evan Zimroth** (Queens College, The City University of New York)

Discussion

6.15 pm **Presentation of the future Centre of Litvaks Culture and Arts in Vilnius by Ms Neringa Latvytė-Gustaitienė** (Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum)

6.30 pm **Reception** and opening of the exhibition of Jewish Folk theater posters from Vilnius (all the food is kosher)

18 December (Tuesday)

JEWS AND NON-JEWS IN LITHUANIA: COEXISTENCE, COOPERATION AND VIOLENCE

ADMISSION: tickets (£12, concession – £6) must be purchased at <http://lithuaniaconference.eventbrite.co.uk>

VENUE: JZ Young lecture theatre, Anatomy Building, UCL, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT

10.00am–7pm **Welcome by chair Mr. Ben Helfgott** (Chairman of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies), **HE Mrs. Asta Skaisgirytė Liauškienė** (Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania in the UK) and **Sir Sigmund Sternberg** (President of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies)

Morning Session - What is a Litvak? Chaired by **Professor Michael Berkowitz** (UCL), speeches by **Dr Benjamin Brown** (Hebrew University, Jerusalem), **Professor Antony Polonsky** (Brandeis University) and **Dr Irena Veisaitė** (Open Society Fund Lithuania, Vilnius)

Afternoon Session 1 - Aspects of Lithuanian-Jewish Interaction in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Chaired by **Professor Antony Polonsky**, speeches by **Dr Darius Staliūnas** (Institute of History, Vilnius), **Dr Vladas Sirutavičius** (Institute of History, Vilnius) and **Professor Saulius Sužiedėlis** (Professor Emeritus of History, Millersville University of Pennsylvania)

Afternoon Session 2 - Contemporary Lithuanian-Jewish Relations in the European Context. Speeches by **Mr. Roger Cohen** (New York Times), **Dr Leonidas Donskis** (Member of the European Parliament), **Professor Šarūnas Liekis** (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas) and **Professor Andrzej Żbikowski** (Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw)

Conclusion: film “**Jewish Life in Vilna**” (Produced by Yitzhak Goskin, Poland, 1939, 10 minutes)

19 December (Wednesday)

DUO VERSUS CONCERT

ADMISSION: free of charge, due to limited availability strictly by RSVP only to amb.uk@urm.lt or 020 7592 2841

VENUE: Sandys Row Synagogue, 4a Sandy's Row, London, E1 7HW

7 pm Duo Versus Concert

DUO VERSUS is the pairing of two like-minded musicians (Abe McWilliams, violin, Martynas Levickis, accordion) who passionately explore the diverse repertoire possibilities of the union between the violin and the accordion. As well as arranging and performing transcriptions of sonatas for violin and piano, Duo Versus also delves into other genres and styles from tango, improvisation and folk music to commissioning contemporary works by living composers. Having performed in venues in both UK and Lithuania, notably with performances in the Christopher Summer Festival in Vilnius, Lithuania, August 2012, the duo has been praised for their captivating and creative playing, as well as their unique appearance on stage and innovative use of stage designs and costumes to create an effect which is different to most traditional ensembles.