

International seminar

Sugihara, Zwartendijk and Wallenberg- civil courage role models relevant for the modern world

Kaunas, October 23, 2024, 15:00, Ažuolynas Library, Radastų g. 2, ground floor

Vilnius, October 24, 2024, 15:00, The Museum of Culture and Identity of Lithuanian Jews, Pylimo street 4A, Educational café, 1st floor, Vilnius

Organized by Sugihara Diplomats for Life Foundation and Swedish Embassy in Lithuania,

Sponsored by Swedish Institute

Working language – English

Admission – Free

Kaunas, October 23, 2024, Ažuolynas Library, Radastų g. 2, ground floor

15.00 – 15.10 – Welcoming speeches

15.10 – 15.30 – HE Lars Wahlund, Ambassador of Sweden in Lithuania “Role of diplomacy in today's world and lessons from distinguished diplomats – prominent, forgotten, unknown”

15.30 – 15.40 – klezmer music

15.40 – 16.00 - prof. Bengt Jangfeldt (Sweden), author of the book *The Hero of Budapest: The Triumph and Tragedy of Raoul Wallenberg*,

16.00 – 16.20 Arlette Liwer (Netherlands), granddaughter of Sugihara – Zwartendijk survivor Abraham Liwer,

16.20 – 16.30 – klezmer music

16.30 – 16.50 – Hikari Bun (PhD Student at Heidelberg University, (Japan)

16.50 – 17.20 resumptive discussion dr. Linas Venclauskas (Lithuania)

17.20 – 17.40 klezmer music

Vilnius, October 24, 2024, The Museum of Culture and Identity of Lithuanian Jews, Pylimo street
4A, Educational café, 1st floor, Vilnius

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16.50 – 17.20 resumptive discussion dr. Simonas Strelcovas (Lithuania)

17.20 – 17.40 klezmer music

About the panel participants:

Lars Wahlund is Swedish diplomat, his posts include Balkan desk, Swedish delegation to NATO, Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania, Turkey, Ireland as well as heading positions in various Swedish MOF departments, from 2023 he is Ambassador to Lithuania.

Bengt Jangfeldt is professor of Slavonics, researcher and author of number of books and biographies. His biography on Axel Munthe, *Axel Munthe: The Road to San Michele*, was published in 2003 and won the Swedish Academy's prize for biography. A further large-scale biography, about the myth-garlanded Russian poet Mayakovsky, was published in 2007 and was awarded the prestigious August-prize for the best Non-fiction title of the year.

Biographies of Joseph Brodsky (2010), and Raoul Wallenberg (2012) followed, in 2023 he published Nobel family biography: *The Nobel Family: Swedish Geniuses in Tsarist Russia*.

Arlette Liwer – is family history researcher, her grandparents and aunt were saved by Sugihara and Zwartendijk, when after WW 2 broke out they came to Lithuania from Poland and were trapped here by Soviet occupation. Arlette had spend dozens of years reconstructing and researching her family story.

Hikari Bun – is PhD candidate at Heidelberg University, Germany, her research topic is Remembering for ‘never again’: meanings of Holocaust memory and lessons from the Second World War for the Japanese in the post-witness era. As part of her research, she interviewed approximately 50 Japanese visitors to Sugihara House Museum in Kaunas.

Dr. Linas Venclauskas is historian, teaching at Vytautas Magnus University's Department of History (Kaunas), he also works for Sugihara Diplomats for Life Foundation, which runs Sugihara House Museum – former Japanese Consulate building in Kaunas. His research interests are Antisemitism, Holocaust, WW 2 refugees in the region.

Dr. Simonas Strelcovas is historian, the director of Vilna Gaon Museum of Jewish History, author of monographs on WW 2 refugees in Lithuania, rescue efforts of Ch. Sugihara and J. Zwartendijk.