The Mitzvah Project: the Collaborative Initiative of the AJL librarians to Help the Vilnius Jewish Public Library with Collection Development.

Olga Potap, Librarian (Boston University, Boston, MA)
Lynn Waghalter, Librarian (Beldon Library, San Antonio, TX)

Association of Jewish Libraries 52nd Annual Conference
New York, NY
June 19, 2017
The Mitzvah Project

Description

Purpose

Tasks
Scope of the presentation:

- Individual reports
- Summary of experience & the challenges
- Proposals for future project development
Lynn Waghalter’s Report

- Collection of books for the Vilnius Jewish Public Library
- Fundraising campaign
- Advertisement of the Mitzvah Project
5,751 miles
• The Mitzvah Project that the Beldon Library has with the Vilna/Vilnius Jewish Public Library in Lithuania is ongoing. They are in the process of building up their children’s section. Donations of new or gently used children’s books with Jewish content are being accepted. Contact Lynn Waghalter for more information on this humanitarian project.

The Jewish Journal, a publication of Jewish Federation of San Antonio, TX posts announcements and updates of status of the Mitzvah Project

ARTS & CULTURE

OFF THE SHELF WITH THE BELDON LIBRARY

Book discussion November 5
Jewish Federation’s Partnership with the Western Galilee is sponsoring a Partnership Book Club program at the Beldon Library, located on the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. Diana Blatter, National Jewish Book Finalist, will present a discussion of her book, A Remarkable Kindness, on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter, at (210) 302-6805 or Partnership Coordinator Lauren Abraham, at (210) 302-6970.

Rebuilding Vilnius Jewish Library
The Beldon Library is honored to assist the Vilnius Jewish Library in Vilnius, Lithuania in rebuilding their Jewish library. Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter heard about their plight at a session at the Association of Jewish Libraries Conference this past June. The Vilnius Jewish Library was destroyed by the Nazis during the Holocaust. The Lithuanian Jewish community is trying to rebuild and restock this library with Jewish books. The Beldon Library is in the process of sending them books that have been selected from the library’s collection as well as some donated books. Monetary donations for shipping costs are welcome.

“This is our mitzvah project for the New Year,” said Waghalter.
Books from the Beldon Library

Lynn Waghalter sends a great gift to our little readers

Entries by date

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RSS Newsfeed

If you want to quality receive information about our latest posts in your RSS reader, please visit: [RSS Feed](#)

Post: Tagged with Beldon library, Beldon bibliography, book donations, books for kids, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, knygų vokatorai, knygų darbai, Lynn Waghalter, San Antonio žydų federacija, virtuvas žydų, virtuvas biblioteka, vki, v2v4

The Matzo Ball Boy

Lynn Waghalter sends a great gift to our little readers

On October 12th, 2016 Vilnius Jewish Public Library received a great gift from a librarian Lynn Waghalter, who works at the Beldon Library, which is a part of Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

It took a while for the last box from her to arrive due to complicated route it had to make, but finally these nine books are here!

This collection is dedicated to our little readers. Children will be able to enjoy a large selection of books as well as wide range of topics. We invite our visitors to get a sneak peek and look around in the virtual gallery below.

Post: Tagged with Beldon library, Beldon bibliography, book donations, books for kids, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, knygų vokatorai, knygų darbai, Lynn Waghalter, San Antonio žydų federacija, virtuvas žydų, virtuvas biblioteka, vki, v2v4
“The highlight of the 2016 AJL Conference in Charleston, SC for me was meeting Žilvinas in person!”
Olga Potap’s Report

Collection of books for the Vilnius Jewish Public Library

Fundraising through www.gofundme.com

Advertisement of the Mitzvah Project
Books from STH community at Boston University

Association of Jewish Libraries Conference Proceedings June 2017
Gifts to the library

Dedication translated into Lithuanian
Author’s Donation

In Search of Sugihara

Hillel Levine

International Center for Conciliation

August 12, 2015

Dear Mr. Belauskas,

My distinguished student, Oiga Potap, has brought to the attention of the academic, research, library and archival communities developments in Lithuania and particularly the efforts of the Lithuanian people to better understand its Jewish minority that flourished for so many centuries and to come to understand the long history of anti-Semitism and how Lithuanian Jews, during the Shoah, were systematically and brutally destroyed. Recently she made a well-received presentation on a wholly unique institution, the Vilna Jewish Public Library, that you continue to run.

The murder of Jews was also accompanied by the destruction of the extraordinary Jewish culture, particularly its literature that flourished on Lithuanian soil. A post-World War II generation of Lithuanians has little opportunity to engage that past and to reconcile themselves with the very few descendants of the murdered Jews who continue to live in Lithuania. How could anyone that a man like you would suddenly appear and direct the institution of a civilization that is irretrievable. How could one imagine that a man like you would suddenly appear and direct the institution that you have managed from where did you receive the audacious imagination, how did you find the energy, how did you gather the resources to create this great institution, imaging the library through the Kabbalistic phrase, “being- of manifest greatness and beauty -out of nothingness,” out of the ashes of a civilization that is irretrievable.

We thank Mr. Potap for bringing us this wonderful news in a world in which there continues to be loss of destruction but little renewal. We will follow your institution, as it will get built by the efforts of young Lithuanians to remember their past, to reconcile themselves with Jews who live among them, and beyond, and to seek the creativity and beauty.

I, as the descendant of Lithuanian Jews, thank you for your singular devotion. Ms. Potap will commend us on our behalf to your great collection. I hope myself to be able to graduate of your many others, for your heroic accomplishment.

Most cordially,

Hillel Levine

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Books sent via Lithuanian Embassy
The Mitzvah project commenced during the summer 2015 at the initiative of Ms. Lynn Waghalter, a librarian from Beldon Library, San Antonio, TX and Olga Potap, a librarian from School of Theology Library at Boston University. The main purpose of the project was to help the Vilnius Jewish Public Library with collection development.

The Vilnius Jewish Public Library, the first Jewish library in Lithuania since World War II, opened in 2011 thanks to the initiative of Mr. Wyman Brent and many joint efforts and lucky coincidences. The library mission is to establish a cultural institution for Jews and non-Jews that would admit and accommodate contamination.
The Vilnius Jewish Public Library announced the receipt of books
Donations from USA
Proposals

To clarify the mission, vision and values of The Mitzvah Project

To organize the coordinating committee to manage the project

To promote the The Mitzvah Project through ha-Safran network

To recruit volunteers among members of the AJL to help with collecting and selecting books for the Vilnius Jewish Public Library

To allocate a separate restricted fund at AJL or other non-profit institutions for fundraising campaign to support The Mitzvah Project
• Olga Potap - opotap@bu.edu
• Lynn Waghalter - lsrw4@satx.rr.com