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apd

# bridges



december 2004

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL





*I wish  
each and every one  
of you  
a happy and blessed  
Christmas  
and  
a New Year filled with  
peace, good health and  
happiness.  
May God shower you  
with His blessings.*

### *Letter from the Editor*

*Doesn't it seem strange that when we are young time seems to stand still? We were always waiting for something: birthdays, graduations, weddings, careers, and any number of other things to happen. And yet, as we age it seems time has grown wings and regardless of how hard we try, we can't slow its pace.*

*We are quickly approaching Christmas and another year will soon be over.*

*And again it is time for gratitude to so many people. I thank Gema for all she has done. She has truly done an exceptional job. My heartfelt gratitude to the writers who are the heart and soul of BRIDGES. We are grateful to Vytis Travel for their loyalty to BRIDGES. Thank you to Rimas and Danute Gedeika for giving us two more sets of eyes to proof read the articles and to Ramas Pliura who spends so many hours working on the mailing process. I am especially grateful to you, the readers, for your letters and emails with your kind words and compliments. My biggest thank you goes to my husband, Tim, for his help and patience. Patience is the key word right now. This morning I went for a haircut and was chewing on my nails while worrying about meeting the December deadline for BRIDGES. I guess I should have been watching the stylist because I ended up looking like the Dutch boy on a can of paint. I have been moaning and groaning since I walked in the door only to be told by my patient husband that it will grow back. Easy to say when it's not your hair. No more haircuts at deadline time.*

*Gloria O'Brien translated "Christmas in Lithuania" for our enjoyment while Henry Gaidis shared the story of the "Insurrection". Although this is a joyful season for us we must never lose sight of how our people suffered through out history. Sister Margarita reminds us that there are no holidays from vocations. Millie Helt introduces us to the Amber Roots Club; a group who is ever so proud of their Lithuanian Heritage. Terese Gecys's focus is the Vilnius Quartet. The Samburis Dancers in their colorful costumes make us want to start dancing. To the parishioners of St. George Church in Shenandoah, thank you for sharing your history. I wish I could have printed all eleven pages. It was fascinating! Akvile reminisces about her final Christmas Eve in Lithuania. If you are ever in Philadelphia during the Christmas season you must visit the beautiful outdoor manger at St. Andrew Church. Father Peter Burkauskas writes the details of it in his article. Ramune Kubilius has provided a wealth of information for future articles as well as sending along items of interest. A sincere thank you to anyone who has in any way contributed to BRIDGES with events, news, articles, press releases, and recipes.*

*Jeanne Shalna Dorr*  
Jeanne Shalna Dorr

**BRIDGES**

Lithuanian American News Journal  
USPS 017131 – Published 10 times per year  
(Jan./Feb. and Jul./Aug. combined).  
Address of publication is:

**LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,**  
1927 West Blvd.,  
Racine, WI 53403

BRIDGES is the official publication of the  
**Lithuanian American Community, Inc.,**  
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THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR  
HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS.

Collects and provides information from  
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1927 West Boulevard  
Racine, WI 53403

Subscription rate is \$18.00 annually  
(US Mail serviced subscribers).  
Subscriptions to other addresses are  
(US \$28.00), payable in advance (US funds).  
Periodicals postage paid at Racine, WI;  
and additional locations.

Contact us on the Internet at:  
[www.javlb.org](http://www.javlb.org)

Postmaster: Send any address correction  
and/or changes to

**LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,**  
1927 West Boulevard  
Racine, WI 53403

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\* Cover Illustrations by Sestet Mercedes SSC. from the booklet "ROZINIS".

\* Christmas Illustrations by A. Korsakate-Sutkuviene from the book "Our Parents Home".



Press Release from the Lithuanian Embassy

## AMBASSADOR VYGAUDAS USACKAS GAVE A SPEECH AT THE AWARD CEREMONY IN CHICAGO, HONORING PROFESSOR VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS.

On November 6, 2004, Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas gave a speech at the award ceremony in Chicago, honoring Professor Vytautas Landsbergis. In 2004 the Lithuanian Foundation honored Professor Vytautas Landsbergis with the Foundation's Dr. Antanas Razma's award for exceptional service for the country's independence.

*"I am very pleased to be able to participate in this event today", said Mr. Usackas.*

Professor Landsbergis is known today among the most famous Central European leaders, such as Vaclav Havel and Lech Walesa. In the times when Lithuania was experiencing its first whiffs of freedom, and the fear and uncertainty about the future were enveloping the country, Mr. Landsbergis was "the right person in the right place at the right time". He did not wait passively for the most beneficial circumstances, but he himself decisively shaped the political environment.

While several governments alongside with the political atmosphere were changing in Lithuania, Mr. Landsbergis remained faithful to his political and moral principles. He was sure of Lithuania's chosen path, and was working relentlessly to

achieve the country's admittance to NATO and the European Union.

"I remember very well our first visit to Chicago in 1996 with Professor Landsbergis", said Mr. Usackas. "At that time, Lithuania's goal to join NATO seemed unrealistic to many. But the decisive and memorable statements of Mr. Landsbergis, along with his strong faith and Lithuania's consistent political position changed the Western capitals' negative view towards Baltic states membership in NATO".

Today, when Lithuania is back in its place in Europe where it historically belongs, representation of the country by Professor Landsbergis in the European Parliament is especially important. Membership in the European Parliament (EP) enables us to have the parliamentary control over the billions of euros of EU aid to Lithuania. EP gives a good opportunity to help the new EU neighbors in the East on their chosen path of democracy and freedom. Equally important, EP provides an excellent platform for the strengthening of strategic EU-US relations. Again, Professor Landsbergis is "the right person in the right place at the right time", said Ambassador of Lithuania, Mr. Usackas.

### **New Address**

**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

***The Email address of the Lithuanian American Community Office has been changed.***

**Please email us at:**

**LithuanianUSA@yahoo.com**

**or  
info@lithuanian-american.org**

**Please update your records as  
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has been deactivated.**

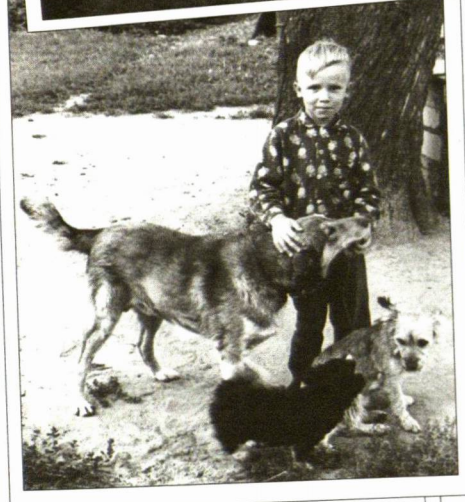
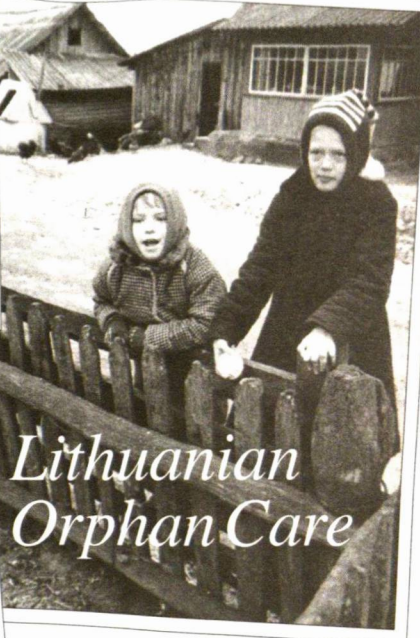
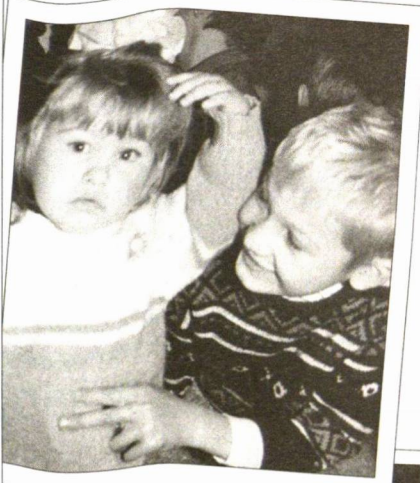
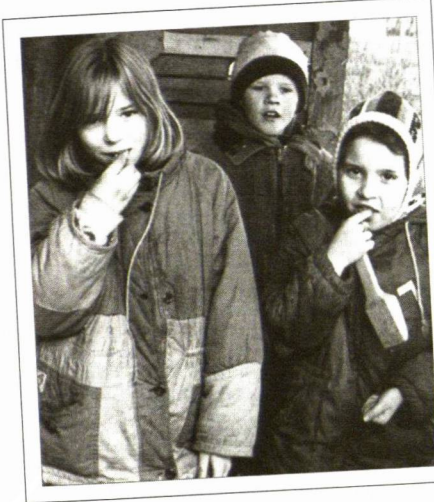
**Thank you.  
Sincerely,**

**Jurate Mikseniene  
Office Manager  
Lithuanian American Community, Inc.**



Jeanne Dorr

On behalf of the  
 Lithuanian  
 Orphan Care Committee  
 and the families we serve  
 we wish you a  
 Very Merry Christmas  
 and a  
 Happy New Year  
 filled with good health  
 and happiness.  
 May 2005 bring to the  
 children of the world a year of  
 peace and love.  
 Jeanne Dorr



Lithuanian  
 Orphan Care





## Christmas Eve

December... the very first month of the winter. All the leaves have already fallen off the trees and now it looks sad. Cold weather bites your nose outside. Then it starts to snow. It is most beautiful when you see only a little bit of snow on the ground in the woods. You see little rabbits hopping around, going to their home, to their families, where you know you are so safe, you feel loved, and you know how everybody needs you by their side. This happens not only to rabbits, but also to all the people in the world. Christmas is the time when all families come together. It is time for peace, forgiveness and love. It is the best time to say "I'm sorry" and also for the words "I love you".

The last Christmas that I spent with my family was so special... I didn't know yet that soon I would have to leave all these people who were always by my side, all these people full of love. On December 24th, the day of Christmas Eve, as every year, my father goes out to get the Christmas tree. While he is out, my mother and I have time to get ready the food for our supper. There always has to be 12 dishes on a table including the holy bread from church. My father also goes to the church for holy bread. We have a little deal in our family: my father takes care of the Christmas tree and holy bread, my mother and I are taking care of the food. It is always so exiting to get ready. There are so many things to do and you have only one day to do them all. I have to clean and decorate the house, to find the best place for the Christmas tree and to help my mommy in the kitchen. The biggest part of the food is salads and fish because you cannot eat meat this evening. The favorite thing that I like to do is to make cranberry jelly drink and to prepare one special dish. They are called Kuciukai. They are small pieces of baked bread with a lot of poppy seeds in them. All those bread pieces are in poppy-milk. It is like soup. And it is so tasty. When all the dishes are ready, I have to prepare the table, put a white table cloth and some hay underneath it. It's a tradition to put a little cross and a candle on the table. Then we put all the dishes on the table. When father comes back home with the Christmas tree, we are usually done with food and we can start decorating the

tree. We take out all the colorful little toys and garlands. My father puts the top on the Christmas tree after the tree is decorated. Then, all my family gathers around; my grandmother and grandfather, my mother and father, my cat and me. We settle down around the Christmas table, and my mother starts the prayer. After the prayer we all share the holy bread and start having supper.

Afterwards, the best part of Christmas: time to give presents. Doing this you express your love and yourself. All my family members get something, even my cat. Then we just sit together listening to Christmas carols and sharing memories of good times. Remembering all the other Christmas Eves that we spent together, willing that it's going to happen next year, willing that we all going to sit together by the same table again.

This will be our first Christmas Eve in America and I have brought my memories with me.

I want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Linksmu Sv. Kaledu  
ir  
Laimingu Naujuju Metu!

*Akville Dudonyte lives in Philadelphia and is a high school sophomore. She is also a member of St. Andrew's Lithuanian choir, "Laisves".*





## Bridges Passages

Bridges  
December 1986  
Christmas Cards

An underground press which operated for seven years in Gargzdai, Lithuania, has been shut down by Soviet authorities.

Five culprits were caught in an illegal printing operation. They were tried, convicted and sentenced to prison for one to three years each for their role in manning an illegal printing press, a photo enlarger and duplicator, which they were using to print Christmas cards.

Bridges  
December 1987  
Juozas Bagdonas  
Holy Eve

It will soon be midnight in Lithuania. Neighbors crowd into several cars and speed towards town to attend Shepherds' Mass. Suddenly the cars turn off into an obscure road and enter the dark depths of a forest. They come to a halt near a tall pine tree on which somebody sculpted three crosses. In the biting air, under luminous stars, they bend their heads in fervent prayer. They are offering their gratitude to the brave Freedom Fighters who, during the USSR invasion of Lithuania, hid in the forest, fought the enemy, and gave their lives for their homeland and people.

Today, Lithuanian children are taught in school that the Freedom Fighters were not heroes but "bandits—a disgrace to their country." The group of neighbors finishes praying and proceeds to the Mass in town.



*All was taken away from you: white dresses,  
wings, even existence.  
Yet I believe you,  
messengers.*

*There, where the world is turned inside out,  
a heavy fabric embroidered with stars and beasts,  
you stroll, inspecting the trustworthy seams.*

*Short is your stay here:  
now and then at a matinal hour, if the sky is clear,  
in a melody repeated by a bird,  
or in the smell of apples at the close of day  
when the light makes the orchards magic.*

*They say somebody has invented you  
but to me this does not sound convincing  
for humans invented themselves as well.*

*The voice—no doubt it is a valid proof.  
As it can belong only to radiant creatures,  
weightless and winged (after all, why not?),  
girdled with the lightning.*

*I have heard that voice many a time when asleep  
and, what is strange, I understand more or less  
an order or an appeal in an unearthly tongue:  
day draws near  
another one  
do what you can.*

Czeslaw Milosz





# Christmas Day

Christmas, the ancient festival of the return of the Sun, was known in most pre-Christian European nations. It celebrates victory over the winter's darkness, the virtual start of the New Year. Beginning with Christmas, the days begin to lengthen in Lithuania. The dark gloomy days of November and December (and the even darker nights), begin to end. When the festival of the Sun's return was changed to the feast of Christ's Nativity, Lithuanians adopted it with the same enthusiasm and celebrated it with equal solemnity. Yet, in today's Christmas, we still find many old customs, especially charms and predictions.

In earlier times, Christmas was celebrated for three days. This was quite feasible in a farming nation for work decreases in the middle of winter, only the household and the livestock need care. All other labor can easily be postponed. The first day of Christmas was so sacred that only the most necessary work was allowed. There was no visiting, no cooking: only food prepared in advance was served. On Christmas morning, even before breakfast, the family sang holy Christmas hymns, then exchanged Christmas greetings and finally ate breakfast.

In the country, early on Christmas morning, the hay was removed from the Christmas Eve table and taken to the livestock. The person removing the hay examined whether many seeds - grain - had fallen from the hay. Many seeds signified a good harvest the following year. The hay from the supper table was fed to the cows, oxen and sheep. Horses were excluded because the Bible does not mention the presence of a horse in the stable at Jesus' birth.

After going outdoors, people closely examined the Christmas weather. If Christmas was white, Easter would be green. If it happened that the snow had not yet covered the ground at Christmas, it would certainly snow at Easter. People also tried to remember if they owed anyone anything. All debts had to be repaid by Christmas; otherwise much debt would be incurred all year long.

In more recent times, people stirred from their homes even on the first day of Christmas though they never forgot this was the feast of Christ's Nativity. Neighbors

assembled at the home of a larger landowner, sang Christmas carols and other hymns, prayed together and only then did the musicians make their appearance. The homeowners were the first to dance thus launching the festivities. This signaled the official end of Advent, for entertainment during Advent was shunned or even forbidden.

The Christmas season lasts until the Feast of the Epiphany. During this period every evening was considered a time for recreation. It was a perfect opportunity to go visiting, take refreshments, make merry because heavy toil was not required, the season was too holy for that.

In Lithuania, it became accepted to decorate Christmas trees only during the period of independence (especially the second decade). The custom and most of the tree decorations came from Germany. The decorations were mostly made of glass: angels, various figures, soldiers, balls, etc. Candy in shiny colored wrappings, red apples and pretty cookies were also hung on the tree. After Christmas, the children were allowed to "pick" the goodies off the tree, while the decorations were put away for next year. Because the trees were lit with real candles, these were lighted only once, after dinner on Christmas Eve. Later, the tree's branches were already too dry and people were afraid the candle flames could cause a fire. In Germany, it was customary to decorate the tree for Christmas Eve, then remove the decorations and discard the tree on the first day of Christmas. Lithuanians did not adopt this custom and the tree remained in the home until the Epiphany (the official conclusion of the Christmas season).

The custom of decorating trees and holding Christmas programs was promoted through the schools and the press. The schools prepared Christmas plays, programs, music and Christmas caroling. The straw Christmas tree ornaments we currently use and cherish were unknown at the time. Straw ornaments made from real wheat or rye straw were used by farmers to decorate their cottages for weddings or other holiday occasions.

### Reprint

Source: Bridges

November/December 1989

From "Lithuanian Customs & Traditions" by Danute Brazyte Bindokiene, published by the Lithuanian World Community, Inc., 1989, Chicago, Illinois.

Translated from the Lithuanian by

Vita Matusaitis.

Used by permission.





## *Sambūris*

*Boston, Massachusetts*

*The Lithuanian Folk Dance Group of Boston, Samburis, was founded in 1937 by Ona Pivoriunaite - Ivaska who after 67 years is still very active.*

*Samburis has participated in all of the Lithuanian dance festivals in North America since 1958 and also participated in the 1994, 1998, and 2003 dance festivals in Lithuania.*

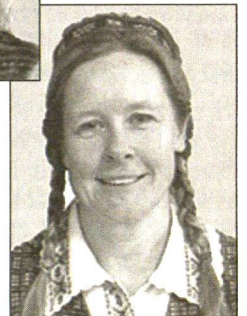
*Currently Samburis consists of four dance groups taught by Naida Snipaite, Samburis director, Daiva Veitaite Neidhardt and Ruta Mickuniene.*



*Ruta Mickuniene*



*Naida Snipaite*



*Daiva Veitaite Neidhardt*



**"Kuciu Vakaras" — "The Day and Evening Before Christmas"****Christmas in Lithuania  
Folklore and Tradition**

George Soros, the American millionaire and philanthropist for emerging Europe, supported and encouraged, among a great many other endeavors, the reform and expansion of education and ethnic culture. The "Open Lithuania Fund", which he supported, produced a book in 1996 called "Lietuviu Folkloro Chrestomatija" (Lithuanian Folklore Reading-book), an amalgam of stories, folk music, traditions and vignettes collected over many years by scores of Lithuanian ethnographers and volunteers. The following is from that source, collected in 1887 in Simkaiciu kaima, and is titled:

**"Kuciu Vakaras" — "The Day and Evening Before Christmas"**

The day before Christmas was celebrated in Zemaitija with great ceremony. People took great care about the kinds of work they would undertake that day, and what they would avoid. They believed that day had a powerful effect over all of the coming year, over hard work and easy, good luck and bad, life and death. They did their best to influence fate by comporting themselves in an exemplary way.

One took care to avoid lending anything to a neighbor, as one's luck for the entire year could be lent along with the item.

That day, if a chance visitor happened to be a man alone, they said, "Now all our ewes will bear only males, and we will have no females at all!" And if the chance visitor was a woman alone, they said, "Now look, all our ewes will bear only females." (Obviously, lone visitors should stay home, and only couples should undertake to visit anyone on that day!)

If a person weaves footwear for himself that day, from hemp or flaxen fibers, his ewes will bear speckled lambs.

And if one twists thread or spins that day, their flax and hemp will not grow well in the coming year.

If one sews embroidery, or sews a patch on clothing, then their flax will be ruined at the root.

Housewives should not feed their chickens all that day, so that during the coming summer, they would not dig in the gardens, and cause no damage to vegetables.

If it snows that day, with big flakes, that would be a great blessing for bees, and honey will be abundant and cheap. But if there is no snow, nor any rain, then they say the summer will be too dry for the bees and honey will be expensive.

That day, beekeepers do their best to give at least a spoonful of honey to all the poor, hoping thereby that their bees will multiply, and they will always have plenty of honey.

Each farmer does his best that day to split and store up as

much firewood as possible, and to store at least three days' worth of fodder for his livestock. They say that if one has enough to carry one through these holidays, then he will always have enough throughout the coming year.

And the entire family gathers on the evening of Kucios, the "gaspadorius" (head of the household) having first bathed, washed his hair and dressed in his church-going clothes, and all other family members having done the same after him.

The table is covered with a thick layer of straw, and then spread with a clean white cloth. The farmer brings in all his horses' halters and stows them under the table, at the end closest to the stove, because they say that this helps to prevent sickness, accidents and bad luck.

As the family, dressed in their Sunday clothes, seat themselves at the table, the "gaspadorius" makes certain that any poor person who is nearby, or any poor relation who lives in some small corner of the house, is invited to join them at the table, because all, great or small, must celebrate Kucios together.

If the "kisielius" (cranberry pudding) isn't very presentable, and cracks or separates on top, the "gaspadine" (housewife) is disappointed, and fears it may be a sign that the family fabric will "crack" or separate during the coming year. But if the top is smooth and nicely finished, everyone is pleased that all will stay the same.

The Kucios meal is eaten in silence; no one speaks unless the "gaspadorius" addresses them. Everyone turns around and tries to see his own shadow, afraid that it will have no head. If that happens, they know they are fated to die in the coming year.

The "gaspadorius" and "gaspadine" share an apple, each eating one half, so that their household will be successful during the coming year.

When the meal is finished and everyone leaves the table, then the young girls and lads hurry outside and listen to hear from which direction the dogs can be heard barking. Well, from that direction, with the coming autumn, the girls can expect their cavaliers to arrive. And the single young men will know where to find the maiden of their choice.

Later that evening, they all go outside and each grabs a stick from the woodpile. Returning to the house, they match the length of their sticks, one with the other, and those that match well, signify perhaps a romantic pairing next year. And if one is left out, with no matching partner at all, the unlucky fellow feels as though fate has dealt him a blow, and is left the butt of everyone's jokes.

*Gloria Kivytaitė O'Brien is a frequent contributor to Bridges.*



## Treasures Among Us



# St. George Church

## Shenandoah, PA

***"I call upon Lithuanian to stand by Lithuanian,  
And living heart by living heart,  
That, unperishing in the midnight dark  
They might arise to live and flourish in the morn!"  
Bernardas Brazdionis, Chronicle of the Catholic  
Church in Lithuania No.79 September 8, 1988***

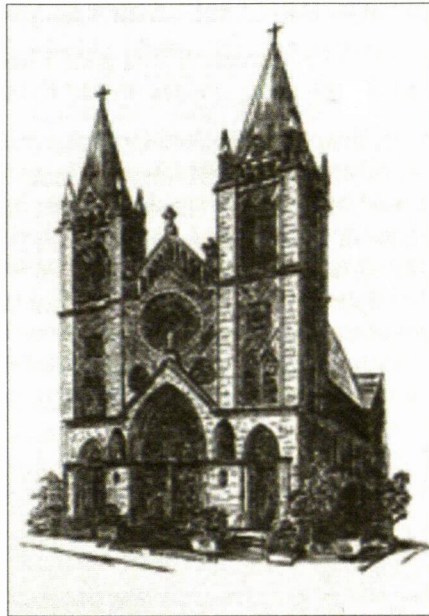
John E. Usalis

There are many reasons why Saint George Lithuanian Catholic Church has lasted 100 years: its members' faith, determination, zeal, ethnic pride and maybe even a little bit of stubbornness thrown in for good measure. Whatever the case, the church, with the oldest Lithuanian parish in the United States as its lifeblood, has existed through a century of joys and sorrows, births and deaths, fire and water damage, renovations, graduations, marriages and ordinations.

Lithuanians first arrived in Shenandoah in 1869. With the increasing Lithuanian population in the area, and the need to have a Lithuanian speaking priest to care

for the spiritual needs of the ethnic group, the first Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church in America was built: St Casimir Church. The year was 1872 and the first Lithuanian pastor was Rev. Andrew Strupinkas who spoke both Lithuanian and Polish. He is buried in the Old St. George Cemetery.

During a legal search of archdiocesan and civil records, an "error" was found. The church had been registered in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in Philadelphia as a Polish Church instead of Lithuanian. Many Lithuanians left St. Casimir Church to build a new church when the second pastor was appointed who could only speak Polish. After much opposition to build a new Lithuanian



Church, permission was finally granted in 1889.

On Sunday, October 25, 1891, it must have seemed that the entire population of the area came out to gather and witness the laying of the cornerstone of St. George Church. Over 5,000 came to Shenandoah to observe the beginnings of the "new" Lithuanian Church. On May 12, 1894, the church was blessed, and within a short period

of time, the parish could boast a membership if 1,200 families. The growth of the parish soon taxed the size of the church and another Lithuanian Church was proposed. However, alterations and renovations to St. George Church started in 1901. Another addition to the general improvement to the church in 1907 was ten large bells, weighing a total of almost six tons.

A fire in the early morning hours of March 1, 1938, caused extensive damage to the church, with firemen having to battle fatigue, frigid temperatures, and the structure of the church itself. The damage was found to be extensive, with estimates reaching \$35,000.

After a leaking roof had caused extensive damage to the interior walls of the church in the early 1980's, plans for specific repairs were expanded to include an overall renovation to the entire interior and portions of the exterior. Parishioners donated more than the cost of the repairs and improvements and it has always remained debt free. In addition, the parish has five cemeteries. The parish has been blessed with a richness in vocations. The Lithuanian heritage of St. George Church has been preserved throughout the century of its existence; mostly through the great pride its parishioners have for those that came before, and the indomitable will that has kept

*Continues to page 19*



# O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

St. Andrew's Parish in Philadelphia...Keeping Christ in Christmas.



## Christmas.

A wonderful time that wraps us in the sights and sounds of celebration. It is also a time when controversy surfaces as news stories report the efforts of some to ban the beauty of the season.

The tug-of-war between the rights of Christians to continue the custom of displaying the Christmas nativity scene on public property and the fight of activists from civil liberties unions to ban such religious symbols from display has helped turn a religious Holy Day into a secular holiday.

More than ever do we, as Christians, need to proclaim the Christmas story to the world.

Troubled by the banishment of the Holy Family, and the disappearance of the Three Kings, shepherds and angels from the public eye in many cities and towns, I took the sentiments of the statesman Edmund Burke to heart: *all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is not that bad men do bad things, but that good men do nothing.*

Last year I decided that our Lithuanian parish would display an outdoor Christmas manger to inspire all who would pass by. The side of our church, located in a historic district and city neighborhood, is also along a busy bus route. It would certainly be noticed!

But to accomplish this goal, I knew that the design of the stable to house the large statues would have to be BIG and UNIQUE.

In November I asked Henryk Jozefowski (a young and gifted artisan in woodwork from Warsaw who is married to one of our parishioners) if he could build a large outdoor stable in the Lithuanian folk art style. He was delighted to help! I also contacted our electrician to run a line outside the church so that the Christmas scene could be illumined at night. He liked the idea so much, he donated his services. I appealed to the generosity of those who attend Mass at our church to be a part of this project by donating the needed statues. Within two weeks all the figurines had donors - even the huge camel (by someone who said she loved animals).



So, on the last Sunday of Advent, followed by a large procession, I had the joy of blessing the new Christmas manger in our church yard. It had

*Continues to page 21*



Sister Margarita Bareikaite



Sister Laimute and Margarita at the end of a busy day.

These days a life dedicated to the service of God and of His people in the Church seems almost an anachronism – something belonging to the distant past. Yet Jesus calls individuals to follow Him in a special way in every age and place. We understand this call as a vocation as opposed to a career which a person chooses for himself or herself according to his or her abilities or inclinations. The call to consecrated celibacy is not an imposition, but a choice to dedicate all one abilities to the Kingdom of God. It is not an abandonment of human love but rather an invitation to stretch our hearts to encompass everyone.

Speaking to young people, Pope John Paul said: “Christ calls you to conform yourselves to Him, the one who for the sake of love became obedient, poor and chaste.” Even in this day and age Christ continues to invite young people to dedicate themselves with passion to announcing and promoting the Kingdom of God. As in the past, religious have a mission in today’s world. Our specific commitment is to help others in

# GOD MAY BE Calling YOU

every possible way on their journey to God, a journey that we are making along with them, our brothers and sisters.

Most often God calls us to evangelize people with whom we can easily identify, whose culture is familiar to us. The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Poor have, since their foundation in Lithuania in 1918, always taken a humble pride in their Lithuanian heritage. Both in Europe and the USA they have found creative ways to share their faith through ministries involving religious education, summer camps, Lithuanian culture for children, various youth and families, parish ministry, retreat living and sharing the Gospel message within their own communities and reaching out to those in need, especially caring for the sick and the aged.

Along with young women who come to join our Community, we also accept Associates, who join us in prayer and help with our apostolic work, which serves both the materially and spiritually needy.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, whose center in the USA is in Putnam, Connecticut, cordially invite young and older women who are interested in such a dedicated life, to contact us and arrange for a suitable time to come

and visit us and to get acquainted. The Founder of our Community, Blessed George Matulaitis, was very much a man of his times – as a priest and bishop he was open to every person seeking the Lord, a deep trust in divine Providence and a burning desire to follow Jesus Christ in every way.

In his Journal, written at the beginning of the 20th century, Blessed George Matulaitis often speaks of his trust in God’s Providence in the middle of trials and difficulties. At the close of the century his words can be taken as prayers of trust helping us to face our future peacefully.

We believe that the Blessed Virgin of the Immaculate Conception, to whom we were dedicated by our Founder, accompanies each of us to the encounter with her son, Jesus.

Sister Margarita Bareikaite

For more information please contact:

Sr. M. Bernadette  
600 Liberty Hwy.  
Putnam, Ct. 06260

*Sister Margarita Bareikaite belongs to the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, CT. and is a regular contributor to Bridges.*



# News and Views

Please visit the website of the parishioners of St. Peter's Church.

The parishioners are working to keep their parish from closing.

The website is [WWW.SAVESTPETER.ORG](http://WWW.SAVESTPETER.ORG)

reviews and a long list of book signings for his mystery book, "Hidden" (Free Press) published this past summer.

Submitted by: Ramune Kubilius

## VERSLO ZINIOS

The daily summarised the ranking of Lithuania in the Global Competitiveness Report under the headline "(Not) Front-Runner". This year Lithuania moved up by four notches to 36th place among 104 economies of the world rated by competitiveness. The paper carried an interview with Remigijus Simasius, vice-president of the Lithuanian Free Market Institute", who pointed out the country's low inflation as a big advantage. The analyst states that many negative factors barring Lithuania from climbing higher were related to public administration, primarily the tax-



*St. Peter's has its own "Hill of Crosses".*

The Chicago Tribune Travel section on Sunday, October 24, had a big story on Lithuania that began on p. 1. The author, who is of Lithuanian descent, was a member of a group of instructors participating in a Lithuanian alcoholism and substance abuse prevention program for teens "Snowball". The travel section story describes some of her side trips and experiences.

Submitted by: Ramune Kubilius

Former Fullbright Scholar in Lithuania, first time author (and Indiana native) Paul Jaskunas, is enjoying good

tion policy, a major barrier to business and business competitiveness. Other factors, according to Simasius, are corruption and bureaucracy, which place the country in 76th place. By industrial relations, Lithuania ranks 79, and by spending on agriculture it is 84th. The analyst therefore affirms that the farming sector is a big burden for the nation.

The vice-president of the economic think-tank could not forecast when Lithuania would improve the business climate and said that the developments would depend on the new government.

Source: Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians



**VAKARU EKSPRESAS**

Klaipėdos Baldai, a leading furniture maker in Lithuania, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Eimuntas Jankauskas, the company's chief executive officer, says that presently the major customers are the Swedish concern IKEA and the Belgian company Sodium. Klaipėdos Baldai employs about 700 people. The furniture producer this year expects sales to grow 15.4 percent to 118 million litas (34 million euros).

*Source: Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians*

**VAKARU EKSPRESAS**

After joining the EU, Lithuania attracted plenty of tourists in the preceding summer. During the tourist season, visitors from 96 countries spent \$38.2 million in Visa card payments alone in Lithuania. This is an increase of 32 percent from 2003. The payment agency Visa International reports that the biggest (\$14.2 million) spending with Visas by foreigners was recorded in August, compared to \$13.9 and \$10.1 million in July and June respectively, the regional daily Vakarų Ekspresas announced.

*Source: Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians*

**Vice-speaker asks Russian intellectuals to help return cultural values to Lithuania**

Moscow/Vilnius (ELTA) - Česlovas Juršenas, the first

vice-speaker of the Lithuanian parliament is visiting Russia's capital city Moscow. The vice-speaker asked the Russian intellectual community to assist Vilnius in recovering the Lithuanian language values stored in overseas archives.

On Thursday, Juršenas inaugurated an international scientific conference "History of Lithuanian Writing" in Moscow. The first vice-speaker of the Seimas heads a commission in charge of celebrations of the centenary of regaining the Lithuanian press in the Latin alphabet.

The official of Lithuania told the conference that the Lithuanian language values were significant not only from the perspective of language but also that of a wider cultural heritage.

"By being consistent and having gained membership in the European Union, we must find new opportunities in terms of quality to resolve the national heritage issues... Much of what had been created in our country has been saved abroad throughout a number of occupations and political upheavals. Our concern is to make these values available and return them to Lithuanian society and scientists so that they see them. In this sense the support of Russia's intellectuals would be very significant," Juršenas said.

*Source: Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians*

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# cultural (and other) tidbits

## The Vilnius String Quartet



Photo courtesy of "DRAUGAS"

The Vilnius String quartet is the best known Lithuanian chamber music group outside of Lithuania. Since its debut in 1965 it has performed in 50 countries and earned accolades as well as prizes for its masterful rendition of works by world composers. In 1972 the Quartet won the top prize in the Liege, Belgium competition of string quartets. In 1973 the quartet became officially known as the Vilnius String Quartet. In 1979 the Quartet received the coveted national prize and in 2003 the U.S. based Lithuanian Foundation awarded the Vilnius String Quartet its Antanas Razma Prize.

Every year the Vilnius String Quartet performs up to 80 concerts in Lithuania. It also participates in music festivals throughout the world thus becoming cultural ambassadors of Lithuania. They have played in such venues as New York's Merkin Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Leipzig's Gewandhaus, Vienna's Musicverein (which we see on the annual PBS New Year concerts), Munich's Bayerische Redfunk, Toronto's Glen Gould Studio, Grenoble's Salle Olivier Messaien, Salzburg's Mozarteum, Bonn's Lyan Beethoven Haus. In 2003 the Quartet performed a series of concerts called "Chamber Music Evenings of the European Union Countries". Because of its wide repertoire of over 450 compositions, the Quartet receives numerous invitations from recording studios of many countries. They have over 40 CD's recorded in Lithuania,

Great Britain, the United States, Russia, Germany, France, Finland and Sweden. The musicians have performed all 88 of Haydn's string quartets and all W.A. Mozart's quintets. They have resurrected from oblivion and performed all of Ciurlionis quartet compositions. The Quartet is an active proponent of modern international chamber music of contemporary composers. More than thirty years of creative musical tradition has evolved into a distinct interpretative style.

First violin - Audrone Vainiunaite is the daughter of acclaimed Lithuanian composer Stasys Vainiunas. She has been with the Quartet since 1965. She has studied at the Lithuanian Music Academy with Prof. Viktor Rodavicius and at Moscow Conservatory with David Oistrach. She has been awarded the Grand Duke Gediminas medal. Second violin - Arturas Silale has studied at the Lithuanian Music Academy with Prof. Jonas Urba. He has been playing with the Quartet since 1999. Viola - Gindutis Jakaitis has been with the Quartet since 1996. He studied in Lithuania with Prof. Petras Radzevicius and in Salzburg with Prof. T. Riebl. Augustinas Vasiliauskas plays the cello and has been with the Quartet since 1970. He studied at the Lithuanian Academy of Music with Prof. Domas Svirkis and at the Moscow Conservatory with Prof. Aleksej Zybcev. He also has been honored with the Grand Duke Gediminas medal.

All members of the Quartet perform individually and with other musical groups and orchestras. A. Vainiunaite and A. Vasiliauskas are music professors at the Lithuanian Academy of Music. All four were in the United States in November with concerts at University of Akron School of Music, Cleveland Museum of Art in Ohio and at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, Illinois. (Summarized from an articles in Draugas, 10/21/04 and Dirva, 10/19/04)

~~~~~

### *And more from Lithuania...*

The M.K. Ciurlionis National Museum in Kaunas was the setting October 12 for the start of a series of concerts to last until September 22, 2005, the 130th birthday of composer and artist Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis. The concert series was initiated and organized by pianist Rokas Zubovas, great grandson of the composer. The



concert hall in the newly refurbished Ciurlionis wing of the museum is an ideal setting for the concerts. During the summer, some of the concerts will be performed in the courtyard of the Ciurlionis (family home) Museum in Druskininkai. The series will conclude with a symphonic concert at the Kaunas Philharmonic. During the Ciurlionis commemoratives works by contemporaries of Ciurlionis also will be performed. The series will include lectures and visual presentations of art works by Ciurlionis and the environment in which he worked and composed.

**A postscript on Ciurlionis.** According to Stasys Gostautas, Ph.D., (a former editor of **Bridges**) writing in October 30 edition of "Amerikos lietuvis", Ciurlionis is coming to Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art. In 2005, from February 13 to May 22. Ciurlionis' triptych "Kibirkstys" (Sparks) (1906) will be shown in an art show called "Visual Music". Also in 2005, June 17 to September 11, in Washington, DC. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (part of the Smithsonian Institution) will show Ciurlionis' "Sonata Nr. 6 Zvaigzdiu Sonata" (Sonata of the Stars). A rare opportunity to see the art of Ciurlionis in the United States!

"**Shrek 2**" is the first animated film dubbed in the Lithuanian language. The precedent setting event is both a cultural and commercial coup. Lithuanian cinema audiences can expect to hear cartoon dialogues in most future such releases.

The Lithuanian version of "**Shrek 2**" is the result of collaboration between Lithuanian recording studio "UP Records" and Hollywood studio "Dream Works SKG". The original English version of the animated film features the voices of Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Julie Andrews, Antonio Banderas, Rupert Everett and others. In the Lithuanian version the role of Shrek is spoken by Aidas Giniotis, Fiona by Neringa Varnelyte, the Donkey by Algirdas Dainavicius. Other leading Lithuanian actors heard on the soundtrack are Sigutis Jacenas, Jurga Kurauskaite, Andrius Kaniava, and Kostas Smoriginas. The individual actors were selected by American representatives of Dream Works, but the dubbing director was Lithuanian film maker Algimantas Puipa. The actual dubbing process took two months to complete. Dream Works representatives were pleasantly surprised by the results and, especially, by the musicality of the Lithuanian language.

The dubbed "**Shrek 2**" is expected to draw much bigger crowds into the theaters than the original "**Shrek**" seen with Lithuanian language titles. Now parents and chil-

dren will be able to enjoy the film without having to read and explain the titles to younger viewers. The success of the first effort will boost future cooperation between Hollywood producers and their Lithuanian counterparts.

~~~~~  
Starting with the fall of 2004, Lithuania has a new ticket agency providing its services electronically on line or by phone. **Bilietai.lt** has been launched by a Rubicon Group subsidiary Tiketa. Tickets to all major events can be ordered by phone or on the internet using electronic banking systems. Once payment is received, tickets can be printed off computers. Those who do not have printing capabilities, can upon payment, receive a special code and pick up ordered tickets at designated locations. **Bilietai.lt** initiated its services by selling tickets to David Copperfield's Magic Show opening at the new Siemens Arena in Vilnius December 11.

~~~~~  
..... and finally several notable dates in December (from an annual list of important Lithuanian dates compiled by the Cultural Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.)

December 4, 1905 the Great Vilnius Seimas (Council) convened, presided by Dr. Jonas Basanavicius. The Seimas initiated the political movement toward Lithuania's independence.

December 6, 1864 - the death of Simanas Daukantas, the first truly Lithuanian historian.

December 17, 1884 - the birth of Kazys Grinius, the third president of Lithuania.

December 24, 1798 - the birth of poet Adomas Mickevicius.

December 26, 1920 - establishment of Lithuanian Drama Theater.

December 31, 1858 - the birth of Vincas Kudirka, author of the national anthem of Lithuania.

December 31, 1920 - establishment of the Lithuanian Opera, which until last New Year's Eve traditionally performed **Verdi's La Traviata on this date.**

*Terese M. Gecys is Fourth term member of LAC Board of Directors, 2000-2003 secretary of LAC National Executive Committee and past as well as current president Philadelphia Chapter of LAC.*



*Treasures Among Us*

# Amber Roots

## *Lithuanian Heritage Club*



*Aldona Page decorating the Christmas tree for our December Kucios evening.*

The Amber Roots Lithuanian Heritage Club met for the first time on May 19, 1992. It began as a language club. Mr. Bronius Krokys taught us the basics of our beautiful language and encouraged us to form a club. However, we soon found that we had many other interests besides the language. The club slowly evolved into what it is today. At first the members were those whose grandparents were born in Lithuania around the turn of the century. As time went by we acquired members from all three waves, even non-Lithuanians. Our common bond is our love for Lithuania and all it stands for. We all have true Lithuanian hearts.

What do we do at our meetings? We are a relaxed group. However, we do follow a format. After opening the meeting with a prayer in Lithuanian we divide the meeting into four parts. These are: news from our local LAC Community and from Lithuania, a cultural item of interest, language participation and singing of our folk songs. We have refreshments before we sing. The meetings are conducted in English.

We are not primarily a club with outside interests. We have, however, sponsored ping pong tournaments and literature contests for schools in Lithuania. We helped a school obtain new ceramic stoves for their kitchen so the children could have a hot lunch. This year we will once again hold a "Sing-A-Long". The donations from this will be given to the Lithuanian Music Hall in gratitude for our use of the hall. Stacy Utkus joins her beautiful voice and talent with Michael and Thomas Dura to lead us into a fun filled evening. Mr. Krokys still does a magnificent job leading us in "Girioj". Aldona Page and others help us with translations.

We have no dues, only donations. We enjoy giving this small amount to our LAC radio program to advertise our club. We also do not have a president. We came up with an idea that works for us. Millie Helt is our coordinator. With her guidance and schedule the club selects a moderator each month to lead the future meetings. It also prevents all the responsibility from falling on one person. Each person really contributes. This is evident when we celebrate Kucios in December. Ausra Maknys always leads that evening but everyone is involved. Ausra enjoys taking notes which is definitely an advantage.

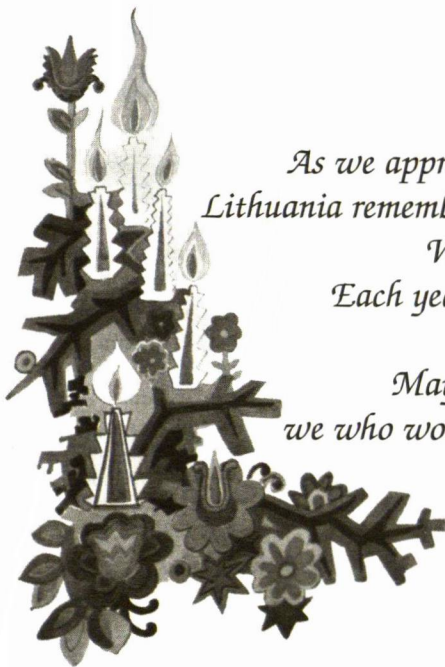
We always seem to have a genealogy expert on hand. At present, Richard Gostautas, president of the Lithuanian Global Genealogy Society, has joined us. It is impossible to name all the members. They each are a jewel, making our meetings special. They bring interesting stories, news, cultural items, food and good conversation. Mostly, we found a way to enjoy being Lithuanian with others who share this special love of ours. Come and spend an evening with us. I know you will enjoy it.

*Millie Helt*

Coordinator of Amber Roots  
Lithuanian Heritage Club  
For more information contact:  
**Milliemarks@aol.com**

*Millie Helt is the coordinator of the Lithuanian Heritage Club, Amber Roots. She is a member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community.*





*Greetings*  
*from*  
*Mrs. Grazina Landsbergis*  
*and*  
*Lithuanian Orphan Care*

*As we approach this holy season of Christmas, the children of Lithuania remember their friends and benefactors from far away America.*

*We are very dependent on your good will.*

*Each year you provide the children with Christmas gifts through your generosity.*

*May God reward you for your good works, and we who work with the children offer you our sincere gratitude.*

*Grazina Landsbergis*  
*Lithuanian Orphan Care Committee*  
*Vilnius, Lithuania*

*St. George Church Continues from page 11*

the Nation of Lithuania alive through all of the many attempts to extinguish its national identity.

Sources:  
 John E. Usalis

100th Anniversary Booklet (1991)  
 St. George Parish

Editor's Note: It is with sadness that I must tell you that St. George's pastor of nineteen years (Lithuanian background) has been reassigned to minister to two smaller parishes in the same area. St. George Church, with its rich history, magnificent architecture and contributions to the area, has been reduced to one Saturday Mass that cannot accommodate the number of faithful parishioners. Two Sunday Masses were eliminated by the new pastor.

I am the granddaughter of coal miners in northeastern Pennsylvania and I grew up in that beautiful area. I am very familiar with the sacrifices these early immigrants made to build their churches and preserve their Catholic faith. I well remember the miners in their ill fitting Sunday suits attending Mass as well as the elderly women walk-

ing long distances with flowers from their gardens to be placed on the altar. In the other hand were the precious coins for the collection wrapped tightly in their freshly laundered handkerchiefs.

We are all aware of the struggle of our people in Lithuania from the time of the Russian czars, the Nazi regime, and through communism to keep their faith: beatings, deportations, and even loss of lives. And yet I have to wonder if there are more ominous storm clouds gathering over St. George Church. It has been financially stable, well maintained, and the largest parish in Shenandoah. Will the oldest Lithuanian community have its heart and soul torn from it? St. George celebrated its 100th anniversary at the same time Lithuania celebrated its restoration of independence in 1991. It reminds me of the song, "Is That All there Is?" I certainly hope not. Again, read the words of Bernardas Brazdionis and ask yourself if there is anything you can do to help these parishioners save St. George Parish and Church:

"I call upon Lithuanian to stand by Lithuanian,  
 And living heart by living heart,  
 That, unperishing in the midnight dark  
 They might arise to live and flourish in the morn!"



# The Lithuanian 1863-1864 Insurrection

This year marks the 140th anniversary of the Polish-Lithuanian Insurrection of 1863-1864. During these years, Poles and Lithuanians rose up in revolt against the forced incorporation of their homeland into the Czarist Russian Empire. No where was the fighting more bloody, fierce, or prolonged than in Lithuania. Oddly enough the two most descriptive records of the Lithuanian struggle were preserved by an Austrian and a Pole. The Austrian, Arthur Grottger, produced a series of drawings of events and an anonymous Pole a detailed written account of his joining Reverend Antanas Mackevicius' (Mackiewicz) Lithuanian rebels fighting in Samogitia.

Aside from art works of universal value, there sometimes appear drawings and photographs that have great significance to an individual or nation. Arthur Grottger's drawings had that significance to the Polish and Lithuanian nations. His first two series of drawings, entitled "Warsaw I" and "Warsaw II", were produced before the outbreak of the 1863 insurrection upon receipt of the first reports of street demonstrations and clashes with Czarist police. Two months after the outbreak of the insurrection, Grottger traveled to Lvov while in an advanced stage of tuberculosis. He hoped to observe first hand the fight for freedom, but his friends convinced him of his unrealistic desire. Grottger's drawings were made following detailed discussions with individuals involved in the insurrection.

Grottger then started a new series of drawings, entitled "Polonia" which was widely circulated before the final suppression of the insurrection in 1865. His last two series, entitled "Lithuania" and "War", were likewise

completed before the last partisan units were suppressed in Augustove, Sandomierz, and Samogitia. Grottger's heroes in the last two series are Lithuanian guerillas fighting and dying for their homeland. He meticulously drew his romantic guerillas in native hunting jackets and ammunition belts. Every picture is a blend of faith, a desire for liberty, and love of country.

Grottger's drawings became widely familiar to both Pole and Lithuanian alike and precious symbols of the insurrection. Looking at his drawings became a ritual in the same manner as listening to Adam Mickiewicz's poems about Lithuania. The artist died a few months after completing his last series at thirty years of age, yet his name will be forever linked with the Lithuanian struggle for freedom. Grottger's drawings have since been converted to paintings which are now displayed in museums around the world. Several paintings based on Grottger's Lithuania series are displayed with this article for our readers' appreciation.

Though his name has been lost to history, an anonymous Pole's account of his hazards encountered in joining the Lithuanian rebel "Order of Combatants for Independence" confirms the accuracy of Grottger's drawing. The following abridged passages are extracted from an original account published in the Polish newspaper *Niepodleglose* (Independence), on August 23, 1863, and more recently in English in Dr. Constantine R. Jurgela's *History of the Lithuanian Nation* (1948). One wonders if he would have been willing to make the sacrifice required of these heroes.

"...Do you have a family? Write them to weep for you – no one

departs from our ranks on a leave unless into a grave. You will never see them again! Tell me, brother, have you made peace with God and men, because I do not want to mislead you. You are marching to meet death. Tell me without superfluous words, are you prepared to die at any moment for your country? Think it over; there is time yet to retreat. I will facilitate your return back across the Nemunas – service in your country is easier...

"There shone on his face, when he said that, the peaceful resignation typical of the Lord's martyrs. I felt instinctively that these were no mere words – this was his faith and with faith alone can one enlist in the "Order of Combatants for Independence". In spite of myself, a battle went on inside me. My vision was troubled with the fleeting scenes of my childhood, the beloved figures of my family and friends, our home in Praga, and my old reveries of a peaceful and busy future. Alongside these visions, in recrimination of my conscience, I saw the noble figures of our martyrs, the terrible recollection of the murders committed by Muscovy... With tears flooding my eyes, I looked up at the figure of the crucified Savior. In a quiet prayer I bid farewell to everything dear to my heart. Turning to my host, I spoke in quiet voice – Brother, I am ready. I believe you. Swear and let's go...

"In less than half an hour we heard from the far side of the clearing the soft murmur of the rustling branches and careful foot-falls, accompanied the characteristic hooting sound that was to serve as our password. The old man answered. Shortly thereafter we saw several figures move into the open from behind the trees, evidently the vanguards. All men were dressed in long grey coats



reaching to the knees and tied with a leather belt. All sported four cornered caps, carried double-barreled shotguns in hands, and hatchets thrust under their belts. Each man carried a fairly bulky sack of crude linen and a hunting horn.

"...Finally emerged the Reverend Mackevicius, the detachment's leader, dressed in a priest's frock with tucked-in tails, a sword at his side and a pistol thrust under his belt. He came in a circle of a group of young officers wearing fur caps – this was evidently his whole staff. All marched on foot. There was not one horse in the camp, no food reserve, except the foodstuff carried by each in his linen bag.

"...My guide spoke to the leader and introduced me, relating all of my past. Finally he added "Leader, this is, it seems, a robust Mazur. During this conversation, I was able to observe closely the face of Father Mackevicius. His face was sun-burned, features clear cut, a long

dark beard, thick eyebrows, a wrinkled face composing one sullen whole, full of energy and power that command respect.

"...The officer bowed and led me to my squad, already seated around a log fire... Our squad was made up of four peasants from Ignatavas, three burghers from Panevezys, a son of a well – to-do gentleman from Siauliai, a teacher from Kaunas, and myself... I learned that all of the attacks are executed at night, while the days are spent in resting, unless the Muscovites are sitting hard on our necks. Tonight they covered more than 20 American miles and therefore intended to rest all day in the clearing.

"The sun had come up, when there was an echo of a horn and an order was shouted – The Prayer!... It was an inspiring sight of these several hundred men, tried in battle, kneeling with bared heads. In front of us, before a Crucifix and the picture of Our Lady on the detachment's

banner, knelt Father Mackevicius and intoned....Around us was the pristine native forest – our forest. Above us was God and our future."

Space precludes printing a detailed account of the many heroes and brave deeds preformed during the Lithuanian insurrection of 1863-1864. History documents that the Russian Army employed 144,786 soldiers plus Cossacks in the suppression of the Lithuanian insurrection alone. These rebels never compromised their ideals. They fought, died, and when captured, chose Siberia rather than to submit to the oppressor.

Reverend Mackevicius was eventually captured, and unrepentant, was hung by the Russians. A fitting closure to this article can be taken from the final Latin phrase uttered by another Lithuanian insurrectionist leader, Louis Nabrut, while dying in this native forest, "How sweet it is to die for one's homeland..."

*Continues from page 12*

become a parish project that shared in the mission of the angels on the first Christmas night in Bethlehem... proclaiming the message of Christ's birth to the world.

I watched during the holiday season as mothers stood with their young children by the manger, explaining to them the story of Christ's birth. Busy city buses, rushing to stay on schedule, braked as passengers looked with awe at the beautiful Christmas manger. But the best comment came in January from a young man who was passing by while we were outside dismantling the manger. "Ya takin it down?" he asked in a sad tone, "its so nice ta look at, I was hoping you'd keep it up all year!"

All of us need to help in the effort to keep Christ in our Christmas celebrations. Our world needs to know that the Prince of Peace was born for us...

**"O Come, let us adore Him!"**

Rev. Peter Burkauskas

Father Peter Burkauskas is the pastor of St. Casimir and St. Andrew Churches in Philadelphia.





# Calendar of Events for December - January - February - March

Please verify all dates, times, and places as events are subject to change.

## DECEMBER, 2005

December 5, 2004 - 1pm  
Lithuanian Christmas Tree Luncheon  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Hall  
9728 W. Palmeras Dr., Sun City, AZ  
Traditional food, Christmas music, Christmas tree decorated with straw ornaments, Demonstration how to create straw ornaments.  
Arizona Chapter of Lithuanian American Community  
www.lithaz.org

December 5, 2004 - 12:30-4pm  
Christmas Party - Kansas City Lithuanian American Community  
Lake of the Forest Lodge  
North side of Hwy 32, 3 miles west of 435  
Kucios table, Potluck dinner, Aidas dance performance, Christmas sing-along, Father Frost  
www.aidasdancers.org

December 11 2004 - 5pm  
Kucios/Eglute Children's Program  
Latvian Hall  
5500 SW Dosch, Portland, OR  
For information:  
Vilius Zalpys 360-834-6988  
Zalpai999@aol.com

December 11, 2004  
Council 3, 20th Annual Kucios  
Immediately following 5 pm Mass  
St. George's Church  
3580 Salmon St., Phila., Pa. 19134  
For information:  
215-739-3102

December 11, 2004  
Knights of Lithuania, Mid-America District, Meeting and Christmas Party, Meeting at noon followed by Lunch and party.  
Sekyca Restaurant  
West 71st St., Chicago, IL. 60629  
www.knightsoflithuania.com

December 11, 2004 - 2pm  
Seattle Lithuanian Children's Christmas Party, EGLUTE, Hosted by Rasa Raisys and Steve Liffick.  
RSVP's are important:  
email rasaraisys@hotmail.com.  
Please bring a gift-wrapped Lithuanian book for Santa to present to your child and don't forget a generous potluck dish of finger food to share.

December 12, 2004 - 5pm  
Traditional Christmas Eve Dinner "Skautu Kucios" Sponsored by Detroit's Gabijos & Baltijos Tunto Scouts Divine Providence Lithuanian Cultural Center  
CONTACT: Saulius Anuzis sauliusanuzis@aol.com or Rasa Karvelis rasa@comcast.net

December 12, 2004  
Kucios, Sponsored by Lithuanian Scouts, Immediately following 10:30 am Mass, Church Hall  
St. Andrew Lithuanian Church  
1913 Wallace St., Phila., Pa. 19130  
Tickets must be purchased in advance.  
For information: laimab@aol.com

December 12, 2004 - 12:30pm  
& December 26, 2004 - 12:30pm  
Roman Catholic Mass in Lithuanian  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel  
55th Ave., Glendale, AZ  
(one block south of Glendale Ave)  
Mass will be followed by refreshments and fellowship.  
kvedaras@earthlink.net  
or www.lithaz.org

December 12, 2004  
Kucios  
Immediately following 10am Mass  
Blessed Virgin Mary of the Annunciation Church  
259 N. 5th St., Brooklyn, NY  
Sponsored by Lithuanian Affairs Committee and Lithuanian Scouts  
Maironis Lithuanian School will provide entertainment.  
Contact: SID100@aol.com

December 14, 2004 - 7pm-9pm  
Amber Roots Kucios  
Meatless buffet; everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, Lithuanian songs  
Lithuanian Music Hall  
Culture Center-enter through side door  
2715 E. Allegheny Ave. Phila., Pa. 19134  
For information contact:  
milliemarks@aol.com

December 18, 2004  
Christmas Holiday Basketball Tournament, Heitzman Recreation Center, Phila., PA  
Following tournament, the third Annual Christmas Dance at 7:00pm  
Lithuanian Music Hall  
2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., Pa. 19134  
For information contact:  
Joana Gaizelyte-Lacy  
gjaizelis@aol.com

December 18, 2004 - 5:30pm  
Kucios  
Eagle Heights Community Center  
Madison, WI.  
www.javlb.org  
refer to Madison, WI under chapters

December 19, 2004 - 1pm  
Ziburio Lithuanian School  
Annual Christmas Program w/Santa Claus  
Divine Providence Lithuanian Cultural Center  
CONTACT: Vida Pekoriene vpekorius@oxygen.com

## JANUARY, 2005

January 9, 2005  
SEATTLE DAUGHTERS OF LITHUANIA BLANKET DRIVE.  
The blankets are earmarked for the poor people of Lithuania and will be shipped on the next Providence Health System container of medical supplies early in 2005.  
Contact:  
seattledukterys@hotmail.com.

## FEBRUARY 2005

February 6, 2005 - 5pm  
Mid-America District 45th Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet  
Chateau Bu Sche Banquet Facility  
Alsip, IL.  
www.knightsoflithuania.com

February 12, 2005 - 4:30pm  
Latvian Hall  
11710 3rd NE, Seattle, WA  
ANNUAL LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMEMORATION  
The keynote address will be delivered by Danute Bindokas, editor-in-chief of "Draugas," the worldwide daily Lithuanian language paper published in Chicago. Entertainment provided by the Lietutis (adults), Linas (teenagers), and Lankas (children) dance groups. The traditional potluck dinner will be followed by dancing to live music provided by the band of Vidas Svagzdys and friends.  
For more information, contact lithseattle@hotmail.c

FEBRUARY 13, 2005 - 2:30pm  
Skiing  
Wilmont, WI  
For information:  
www.waukegan-lakecountyilb.org

FEBRUARY 13, 2005 - 1pm  
Lithuanian Independence Celebration  
Arizona Chapter Lithuanian American Community  
St. Elizabeth Seton, Parish Hall  
9728 W. Palmeras Dr., Sun City, AZ  
Program will include a commemoration of the Independence declarations of 1918 and 1990.  
www.lithaz.org

FEBRUARY 19, 2005 - 7:30pm  
(Saturday)-SPORTS EVENING  
Libertyville, IL  
For information:  
www.waukegan-lakecountyilb.org

FEBRUARY 20, 2005 - 2pm  
LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY AND FAMILY CELEBRATION  
Libertyville, IL  
www.waukegan-lakecountyilb.org

February 27, 2005  
Lithuanian Independence Day  
10:30am Mass,  
St. Casimir Church  
324 Wharton St., Phila., Pa.  
Mass will be celebrated and homily delivered by Justin Cardinal Rigali  
Program 2pm  
Lithuanian Music Hall  
2715 E. Allegheny Ave. Phila., PA  
For more information:  
215-765-2322

## MARCH 2005

March 5, 2005 - 5pm  
Lithuanian Independence Day  
Portland Lithuanian American Community  
Details to follow at a later date.  
Contact: Zalpai999@aol.com

March 6, 2005  
Independence Day and St Casimir's Day celebration  
St Cyril's Church and Hall.  
44 N Mill, Kansas City, KS  
For more information:  
www.aidasdancers.org

March 20, 2005  
LITHUANIAN EASTER EGG WORKSHOP  
Seattle Daughters of Lithuania  
Hosted by artist  
Nomedas Lukoseviciene,  
nomedas@msn.com.



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### CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVES

Rita Pencyliene..... tel: 708-923-0280 e-mail: [pencylar@comcast.net](mailto:pencylar@comcast.net)

SPECIAL: Hawaii Island Cruise - February 27, 2005

Call Rita for information and reservations

Brone Barakauskiene.....tel: 708-403-5717 e-mail: [mamabar3@aol.com](mailto:mamabar3@aol.com)

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All VYTIS representatives speak English and Lithuanian !!





# Lithuanian Kitchen

## Little Twigs- Zagareliai

6 egg yolks  
2 tbsp. sugar  
2 tbsp. sour cream  
1 tsp. vanilla or brandy  
1 3/4 cups sifted flour

Cream egg yolks and sugar  
Add vanilla or brandy  
Add sour cream  
Add enough flour to make a stiff dough  
Roll thin on floured board  
Cut into strips 6 inches long, 1 1/2 inches wide  
Slit center of each strip  
Twist one end through the hole  
Fry in deep fat, such as Crisco  
Drain on paper towel  
Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

*Anonymous  
Philadelphia*

## Cranberry Pudding - Spanguoliu Kisielius

2 cups cranberries  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup potato starch  
5 cups water  
Cinnamon, cloves, orange peel

Be sure cranberries are clean, cover with cold water and cook until the berries burst. Strain cooked berries. If a clear pudding is desired, do not force berries through a strainer. If not, force the berries through a strainer. Simmer spices in water separately. Strain, add to cranberries together with the sugar. When sugar is dissolved, divide liquid in half. Bring half of the liquid to a boil. Dissolve potato starch in the other half of the liquid, add to the boiling liquid, stirring constantly and bring to a boil. Pour into prepared mold and chill. Serve with milk or cream.

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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VOLUME 28 ISSUE 10



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